



**NATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION**

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

2020 **ANNUAL** **REPORT**





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Executive Secretary

No country in today's world can attain sustainable human development, including democratic values built on respect for law, constitutionalism and high-level patriotism of its citizenry without according the enjoyment of human rights a prime place.

We at the Commission are determined to ensure that our society is imbued with a culture and ethos of respect for human dignity, fundamental freedoms, liberty and the realisation of all human rights.

Preface

The year 2020 was a very challenging one for the country in general. There was a rising wave of kidnappings, banditry, farmers/herders conflicts, as well as un-abating insurgency, which threw up a number of human rights challenges. The year also witnessed an increasing turbulence in the polity as a result of ethnic and nationalistic agitations by sections of the country, as well as the #EndSARS protests, coupled with the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

The year was particularly challenging for the Commission as the national institution for promoting and protecting the rights of Nigerians and residents, as all the aforementioned challenges had attendant human rights and humanitarian implications. The year was therefore a busy one for the Commission in spite of the lockdown and restriction of movements occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the face of the lockdown and movement restrictions, Management and Staff had to proactively resort to ICT, in compliance with COVID-19 rules and protocol, to ensure that the rights of the citizens and residents were protected and enforced in a safe manner. Accordingly, there were virtual meetings and training workshops using platforms like *Zoom and Microsoft Team*, while a software, UNSUB, was developed for human rights monitoring and reporting of complaints, especially Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, with the kind support of OSIWA and the Embassy of Switzerland in Nigeria. The Commission's Call Centre was also placed on a 24-hour service and assigned the following toll-free lines - 112 and 0806472428, through the support of EU-UN Spotlight Initiative and OSIWA. The Kukah Centre supported the Commission with a Mobile Platform, report.nhrc.ng.org, for online reporting of COVID-19 Regulations violations, with additional support from the Embassy of Switzerland. Kukah Centre is further supporting the Commission with electronic templates for documenting and analysing human rights violations.

Sequel to the #EndSARS protests, Panels of Inquiry were set up across the country with the Commission playing important roles in all of them, as our State Coordinators served as members of the Panels in their respective States. In the Federal Capital Territory, the Commission established an Independent Investigative Panel on alleged violations of human rights by the officers of the defunct Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), under the chairmanship of Honourable Justice Suleiman Galadima, JSC (Rtd), OFR, CFR. The Panel's sittings were slowed down by COVID-19 restrictions and it is yet to conclude its work as at the time of this report.

In the year under review, there was a spike in reports of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, which may have been due to the COVID-19 lockdown and/or due to an increased awareness of human rights. In response to this, the Commission, as part of the activities to mark its 25th year Anniversary, actively commemorated the *16 Days of Activism* in the 36 States and Abuja, in collaboration with EU-UN Spotlight Initiative and Civil Society Groups, to create awareness on the need to eliminate violence against women and girls in the country.

December 10 is celebrated annually as the International Human Rights Day to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the year 2020, the Day coincided with the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in Nigeria. The Commission held several activities in observance of this historic day, including Human Rights Awareness Road-Walks from Eagle Square, Abuja, to the Commission's Head Office in Maitama, as well as in all 36 States of the federation. There was also a Gala/Award night, the 2020 Human Rights Fiesta and numerous activities across the country.



2020 Annual Report

The total complaints received by the Commission in the year was 1,287,760 (One Million, Two Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty), out of which 190,520 (One Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty) were investigated and concluded, while 934,080 (Nine Hundred and Thirty-Four Thousand, and Eighty) complaints were ongoing, and at different stages of investigation at the close of the year under review.

The level of performance exhibited by the Commission in the year 2020, notwithstanding the lockdown and movement restrictions, was made possible with the kind support of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, who showed support for the promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria by increasing the Commission's budget. In addition, there was commendable support from the Chairman and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters and the House Committee on Human Rights. We must also express our sincere appreciation to our international and national partners who committed funds, material, technical and other support for the work of the Commission in the course of the year.

We look forward to a more robust human rights environment in the year 2021 and the cooperation of all, towards achieving a society built on a culture of respect for human rights and democratic principles.

Tony Ojukwu, Esq.
Executive Secretary

Executive Summary

The year 2020 was quite unique. Granted that every year poses some elements of difference from the preceding one, the year under review was full of challenges that seemed to overwhelm humanity in general. This Report is dotted with mentions of those challenges and how the National Human Rights Commission made efforts to overcome them and still deliver on its mandate. The various actions, strategies and innovations adopted by the Commission and its success stories are here presented in the 2020 Annual Report.

Chapter one of the Report enunciates the establishment and history of the Commission in the last 25 years, from its mandate at the inception in 1995 to the Amendment Act of 2010, which strengthened the powers and functions of the Commission. Also portrayed were the Vision, Mission, Core Values and the Organizational Structure which were designed to improve the visibility and accessibility of the Commission. The structure designed to achieve the mandate of promotion, protection and enforcement of fundamental rights of the people were also presented in this Chapter.

One of the strategic priorities of the Commission is to create a skilled and well-motivated workforce. This strategy was deliberately pursued through various means of thematic trainings and capacity building within the COVID-19 regulations and guidelines. Chapter two was devoted to these activities.

The Commission has been well aware that the work of promotion and protection of human rights anywhere cannot be achieved to a remarkable extent without a series of promotional activities geared towards sensitization and advocacy on issues of human rights. Chapter Three presents the scorecard of the Commission with respect to its various activities of Media Engagement, Courtesy Visits, Meetings and Human Rights Education. Others are Monitoring activities, Commemorations and Publications.

Chapter Four is the chronicle of partnership and collaborative activities of the Commission with local and international stakeholders, who share the same vision and passion for the promotion and protection of human rights. In the year under review, the Commission partnered with various Civil Society Organizations, Multinational Corporations, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Development Partners and the Diplomatic Community, to identify and implement programmes on human rights. Among these partners are: UNHCR on the project, 'Protection of Persons of Concern', to monitor the human rights situation of IDPs and returnees in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States; UNFPA to organize training workshop for its staff on the Human Rights Framework for Reporting Female Genital Mutilations (FGM) in Nigeria's Periodic Report to the various human rights treaty bodies. Moreover, a Special Investigation Panel on SGBV was organized with the support of Ford Foundation, UN-EU Spotlight Initiative, UNDP, EU and Amnesty International, including some NGOs with expertise in women and gender issues, to investigate alleged cases of SGBV and recommend appropriate redress for victims. UN Women Peace and Security collaborated with the Commission on a radio programme with the theme: Combating Online Violence Against Women and Girls. The Commission also collaborated with Embassy of Switzerland, OSIWA, FIDA, Nigeria Policing Programme, RoLAC, Amnesty International, CLEEN Foundation, PRAWA, CASER, RULAAC, CANs and Yar'Adua Foundation. Others include Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Council (FCCPC), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and National Communication Commission (NCC).

The main thrust of the Commission's mandate is the protection, promotion and enforcement of human rights. This three-pronged mandate was pursued through receiving and treating complaints of human rights abuses and violations. Chapter Five, therefore, presents the methodology for submission and treatment of complaints including data collection and record keeping. The Chapter also provides statistical data and illustrations of complaints received and treated by the Commission in 2020. It lays out the various classifications of human rights and disaggregates data to indicate the trend of complaints across the States, across gender and the status of complaints. It also shows the performance of the Commission over the years, from inception, with respect to the number of complaints received and treated.

In addition to its routine activities, the Commission undertakes special projects towards the acceleration of the process for enjoyment of human rights. Chapter six contains a summary of Reports of Key Projects embarked on by the Commission in 2020. At the end of each project, reports are compiled and published. In this regard, the Commission participated in the Monitoring of Elections in Edo and Ondo States in 2020; and Protection Monitoring of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Returnees in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. Furthermore, the Commission inaugurated an Independent Investigative Panel (IIP) on human rights violations by the defunct Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) and other units of the Nigerian Police Force and effectively carried out an Audit of Police Divisions in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The seventh chapter is a synopsis of the financial transactions of the Commission in 2020. The Federal Government is the major source of fund for the Commission. The fund is accessed under the First Line Charge of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation. Other sources of funding within the year were from Embassy of Switzerland, MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation and European Union. These funds were tied to specific human rights projects.

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, for his constant support and more especially, for the increment of the Commission's budget in the year under review. In his statement, he attributed this increment to the enormous task before the Commission in the promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria and acknowledged the challenges in the discharge of this mandate. This contributed immensely to the success of the Commission's work in 2020.

In the same vein, we recognise the support of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters as well as the House Committee on Human Rights. Their guidance, advice and oversight of the work of the Commission gave the needed impetus to discharge the mandate of promoting, protecting and enforcing human rights creditably within the year.

In 2020, the Commission received the support of a number of partners, most of whom have been long-time allies in the promotion of human rights in Nigeria. Our biggest support came from the United Nations System, through its Agencies; the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and UN Women Peace and Security. They supported programmes such as Training of Human Rights Defenders, Monitoring of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the North-East, Radio Programme on Combating Online Violence Against Women and Girls, monitoring activities for an integrated approach to peace building in Nigeria's farmers-herders crises and the production of a Manual on Integrating Female Genital Mutilation Indicators into Nigeria's Human Rights Treaty Reporting Template. There was also the project on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence sponsored by the United Nations Spotlight Initiative and the European Union.

We also enjoyed the support and partnership of international and local Non-Governmental Organisations to carry out some activities within the year. These Organisations include European Union Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC), Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), Ford Foundation, Amnesty International Nigeria, Medecins Sans Frontiere (MSF) Spain, Pillars of Hope Africa Initiative (POHAI), Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), CLEEN Foundation, HEDA Resource Centre, Kukah Foundation, Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA), Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre (RULAAC), International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Citizens Advocacy for Social and Economic Rights (CASER) and a number of other NGOs. The Commission also partnered with the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) to hold a Consultative Meeting on the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Nigeria. Our partnership extended to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and of special mention are the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development at the Federal and State levels, Ministry of Water Resources and the Nigeria Police Force.

We also acknowledge the support of the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) for its support in human rights education programmes, as well as support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). All these partnerships reflected in the work of the Commission, as they boosted its activities and contributed to the success recorded within the year.

We wish to appreciate the Media, both print and electronic, for always generating appropriate publicity and stimulating positive news coverage of the activities of the Commission. Of special

mention is the Nigerian Television Authority as well as the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria. The African Independent Television on whose platform the Commission's special programme, 'Silent Prejudice' is aired, is also worthy of acknowledgement.

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CHAPTER ONE

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Chapter One

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

25 Years Of Promoting And Protecting Human Rights In Nigeria

The National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria was established by the National Human Rights Commission Act 1995 (as amended), in line with Resolution 48/134 of the United Nations General Assembly which enjoins all Member States to establish independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. The Commission serves as an extra-judicial mechanism for the enhancement of the respect for and enjoyment of human rights. It also provides avenues for public enlightenment, research and dialogue, to raise awareness on human rights issues. The year 2020 marks 25 years of the existence of the Commission.

The Commission's enabling law was reviewed and amended vide the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act 2010. This was done to make the Commission independent and more compliant with the Paris Principles which is the guideline for the establishment of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). Prior to the amendment, the Commission operated as a parastatal under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice, and appointments of its members, including the Chairman and the Executive Secretary were at the pleasure of the President, through the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation. The implication was that the Chairman, Executive Secretary and members could be removed from office by the President.

The amendment Act addressed certain shortcomings in the National Human Rights Commission Act 1995, making the Commission more independent with the appointment of its members subject to Senate screening and approval. In the same vein, removal of members is subject to ratification by the Senate through a two-third vote. This gives security of tenure to the Executive Secretary who is the Chief Executive Officer with a 5-year tenure, and the Chairman who is Head of the Council, with a 4-year tenure. In addition, the amendment broadened the mandate of the Commission and gave it increased powers to discharge this mandate.

1.1 Vision

To be a foremost National Human Rights Institution in the world by entrenching a culture of respect for human rights and promoting national values built on principles of democracy, accountability and respect for rule of law.

1.2 Mission

The Commission is committed to prompt response to allegations of human rights violations, advocacy, education, and interventions that encourage national values built on the principles of respect for human and people's rights.

1.3 Core Values

- Equal opportunity
- Efficient and effective service delivery

- ### 1.3 Organisational Structure

Vis-a-Visibility



The Commission has been discharging its mandate assiduously and, in the year ended 31st December 2020, it became more visible and prominent in the discharge of its mandate nationally, regionally and internationally. For ease of operation, the Commission is structured into Departments, Units and State Offices through which it facilitates activities towards realizing its mandate. These Departments and Units deal with specific schedule of duties.

The Commission did not have a Governing Council in 2020 and as a result, its affairs were directly supervised by the Presidency through the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF). Despite this gap, the Commission was able to discharge its mandate creditably and enjoy much visibility and goodwill especially with its response to issues following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commission has a Corporate Headquarters at No. 19 Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, a Metropolitan Office in Karu-Abuja and Offices in all 36 States of the Federation. This has increased its accessibility to the public who are now able to file complaints in State Offices close to them, using the

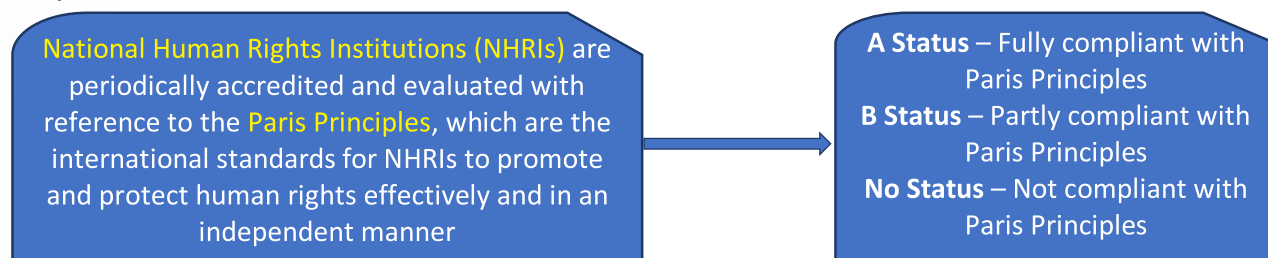
Walk-In Method. Apart from this method, complaints may also be filed via e-mails or telephone calls to the Commission's hotlines.

State Offices receive and treat complaints and send reports to the Headquarters on a monthly basis, while complaints received at the Headquarters that need any follow-up in the States are referred to the relevant State Offices. In addition to complaints treatment, State Offices carry out advocacy activities, media engagements, human rights education and promotions as well as monitoring activities.

The 2010 amendment of its Enabling Law gives the Commission the following powers:

- Conduct its investigations and inquiries in such manner as it considers appropriate;
- Make determinations as to damages or compensation payable in relation to any violation of human rights where it deems this necessary;
- Recognition and enforcement of awards and recommendations;
- Establish State Offices;
- Pay unscheduled visits to prisons and detention centres;
- Undertake human right compliance tests on existing legislation and propose legislative bills or bye laws as well as administrative provisions and
- Compel attendance of witnesses and production of witnesses.

The Commission has been accredited an 'A' status by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). This indicates that its operations have been adjudged as being compliant with the Paris Principles for the establishment of NHRIs, especially in terms of independence, structure, mandate, relevance and effectiveness.



1.5 Work Structure



The Commission has a three-pronged mandate to promote, protect and enforce human rights in Nigeria. Departments and Units are created for the effective and efficient discharge of this mandate. Although the Commission is a public service institution, its work structure varies slightly from that of the civil service.

1.5.1 Human Rights Promotion

The work of human rights promotion is done through human rights education, training, awareness creation, sensitisation, advocacy and other promotional activities.

The Commission undertakes studies and research as well as monitors violations of human rights, with reports published periodically. It also maintains a human rights library, collects

Building a Culture of Respect for Human Rights

data as well as disseminates information and materials on human rights.

The Departments charged with promotion of human rights are:

1.5.1.1 Human Rights Education and Promotion

Human Rights Education is crucial in the promotion and protection of human rights. It enhances the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour, towards building a culture of respect for human rights. The Human Rights Education and Promotion Department organises human rights education and awareness creation programmes. It interfaces with various target groups at the grassroots, schools, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and Market Men/Women groups, among others. It is guided in its work by the World Programme for Human Rights Education (WPHRE) and has been working with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders towards implementing Phases I and II of the WPHRE. It has also designed strategies to implement the third and fourth phases of the WPHRE.

1.5.1.2 Human Rights Institute

The Human Rights Institute is the in-house Research and Training centre of the National Human Rights Commission, focused on advancing human rights through training and research. The Institute carries out short courses on human rights for specific target groups. Some of these courses are certificated. It also engages in human rights publications as well as supervises the Commission's Library.

1.5.1.3 Planning, Statistics and Documentation

The department is a repository of records on the work of the Commission. It collates statistical data of complaints received by the Commission and disaggregated them along thematic areas of focus. It also documents activities of the Commission in other areas, including staff matters from the Human Resources Department and monthly funds profile from the Finance and Accounts Department. It has the responsibility of developing and coordinating the Strategic Plan of the Commission, derived from the respective work plans and activities of various Departments, Units and State Offices. It is also charged with monitoring and evaluating the activities of the Commission vis-à-vis its Strategic Plan.

1.5.1.4 Monitoring Department

The Monitoring Department has the responsibility to monitor human rights violations. Human rights monitoring activities include nation-wide audits of Correctional Centres and other places of detention; monitoring of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps; elections; and the state of human rights in Nigeria generally. The Department publishes annual reports on the State of Human Rights in Nigeria and other emerging human rights issues. Reports are written and disseminated to relevant stakeholders with a view to improving human rights situations and promoting human rights norms and values.

1.5.2 Human Rights Protection

The Commission has the mandate to monitor and investigate all alleged cases of human rights violations. There is therefore a complaints treatment mechanism whereby complaints are received by the Commission through various means, investigated and treated.

Part of the process is aimed at assisting victims of violations to get appropriate redress and remedies.

Complaints Treatment

The following Departments and Units are charged with human rights protection activities.

1.5.2.1 Complaints Registry

The Complaints Registry operates as a Unit and is responsible for managing Complaints files and monitoring of complaints as well as tracking of files on complaints. It provides services to the three Protection Departments on complaints treatment.

For accessibility and ease of communication, the Complaints Registry has a call centre at the Commission's Headquarters, Abuja, and can be reached on these phone numbers:

Mobile Toll free - **08006472428, 092903746, 09032192577, 08077091126, 07041678566, 07053529460, and 09088864332**

1.5.2.2 Civil and Political Rights

The department receives and treats complaints with respect to Civil and Political Rights. Other functions include the following:

- Contributes to policy formulations on Civil and Political Rights.
- Liaises with other Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on matters related to Civil and Political Rights
- Visits police stations and other detention centres in consideration of alleged cases of unlawful arrest detention and torture

1.5.2.3 Economic Social and Cultural Rights

The department deals with complaints that are related to the enjoyment and protection of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs). The complaints are in different categories namely:

- Right to health
- Right to education
- Right to adequate standard of living
- Right to food, water and shelter.

In addition, the department collaborates with relevant stakeholders including non-governmental organisations on the protection of ESCRs. It organises seminars to educate staff, stakeholders and the public on developments in Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

1.5.2.4 Women, Children and Vulnerable Groups

As one of the Protection departments of the Commission, this department deals with complaints on women, children and other vulnerable groups. They receive complaints on issues such as domestic violence, child custody and welfare, neglect, defilement, IDPs, Disabilities, FGM, Older Persons, discrimination and related matters, Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, Rape, Gender Based Discrimination, Harmful Cultural Practices, Forced Marriage, Sexual And Reproductive Rights, Inheritance, Denial Of Access To Children, Abandonment (Women), Women Trafficking, Child Custody, Access To Children, Child Labour, Child Marriage, Child Trafficking and Child Abandonment.

1.5.3 Enforcement of Human Rights

The mandate to enforce human rights is a major area added to the mandate of the Commission by the Amendment Act. Section 6 (p)(q)&(r) of the NHRC Amendment Act 2010 provides as follows;

Redress and Remedies

The Commission shall:

- p) refer any matter of human rights violation requiring prosecution to the Attorney-General of the Federation or of a State, as the case may be;*
- q) where it considers it appropriate to do so, act as a conciliator between parties to a complaint;*
- r) where it considers it appropriate, with the leave of the court hearing the proceeding and subject to any condition imposed by the court, intervene in any proceedings that involves human rights issues*

In the same vein, the powers of the Commission as contained in Section 7(1) of the NHRC Amendment Act 2010 include to:

- (a) Conduct its investigations and inquires in such manner as it considers appropriates;*
- (b) Institute any civil action on any matter it deems fit in relation to the exercise of its functions under this Act;*
- (e) Make determination as to the damages or compensation payable in relation to any violation of human rights where it deems this necessary in the circumstances of the case;*
- (f) Co-operate with and consult with other agencies and organizations governmental and non-governmental, as it may deem appropriate.*

The enforcement mandate of the Commission is coordinated by the Council through the Council Secretariat and the Legal Services and Enforcement Department.

1.5.3.1 Legal Services and Enforcement

The Legal and Enforcement Department is charged with carrying out the enforcement functions. The Department provides legal services to complainants and victims of human rights violations through its Public Interest Litigation Unit, in collaboration with the Nigerian Bar Association and some private legal practitioners. It represents the Commission in court when the need arises. The implementation of its duties is guided by the Commission's Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure (STORP). The Department is also charged with drafting Agreements, Terms of Settlement, Memoranda of Understanding, Contracts and all legal documents on behalf of the Commission.

1.5.3.2 Council Secretariat

The Council has a Secretariat which coordinates and serves as an administrative link between the Governing Council, the Office of the Executive Secretary and Management. The Executive Secretary is the Head of the Secretariat. In 2020, the Council Secretariat was not functional because the Council was not constituted.

1.5.4 Corporate Services

The mandate of the Commission would not be achieved without its Support Departments and Units. These Departments and Units are charged with day-to-day running of the Commission in the areas of human resources management, provision of efficient management of its budget, assessing the adequacy and reliability of internal controls through internal auditing, coordination of processes, management of the corporate image of the Commission and provision of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services. The Departments and Units are:

**Oiling the Wheel
of Progress**

1.5.4.1 Human Resources Management

This is a service department which deals with the daily routine of staff matters and general services. It handles establishment matters such as those relating to appointments, promotion, discipline, training, staff welfare and general services. It manages the assets and facilities of the Commission as

well as coordinates all the administrative functions of the Commission within defined regulatory frameworks which is guided by the Public Service Rules.

1.5.4.2 Corporate Affairs and External Linkages

The Corporate Affairs Department is saddled with the primary responsibility of promoting the corporate image of the Commission. It establishes and coordinates relations with MDAs, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners, Embassies and High Commissions. Its main thrust is the coordination of media engagements of the Commission to ensure that activities of the Commission are given adequate visibility. Special publications such as *Newsletters*, *About US*, and *Monthly Bulletins* are published by the department. It also manages the social media platforms of the Commission.

1.5.4.3 Finance and Accounts

This department is entrusted with managing the funds and accounting records of the Commission to allow for prudent and transparent financial transactions, for the achievement of its strategic objectives, within available resources. It ensures that receipts, disbursement and retirement of funds are in line with the relevant financial regulations and guidelines of government. It carries out its functions under the oversight of the Office of the Accountant General and the Auditor General of the Federation, respectively. The Annual Consolidated Financial Statements prepared by the Department is subjected to external audit by a firm of independent auditors approved by the Auditor General of the Federation.

1.5.4.4 Procurement

The department is charged with the task of managing the Commission's procurement processes. It carries out its responsibilities in line with the Procurement Act 2007 and other guidelines provided by Government Financial Regulations. It is supervised by the Bureau of Public Procurement which issues policy guidelines and carries out procurement audit on its activities to ensure that the Commission's procurement processes comply with the relevant procurement guidelines and laws.

1.5.4.5 Budget

The Unit is charged with the preparation and defence of the annual budgets of the Commission. It also liaises with the Budget Office of the Federation and Office of the Accountant General of the Federation for timely and appropriate releases of approved funds. In addition, the Unit prepares the Quarterly and Annual Performance Reports of the Commission for submission to the National Assembly and the Budget Office of the Federation.

1.5.4.6 Office of the Executive Secretary

The Office of the Executive Secretary coordinates the activities of Departments, Units and State Offices towards the realisation of the Commission's mandate. The Office is responsible for establishing and maintaining an effective and efficient corporate governance framework that ensures management accountability through improved mechanisms for controlling and directing management activities. The Internal Audit, Special Duties and ICT Units are under the Office of the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary also has a Special Assistant, a Human Rights Advisor and a Personal Assistant, to help in the smooth running of the Office.

1.6 Thematic Areas

The Commission has a broad mandate which covers all areas of human rights, including a wide variety of regularly emerging human rights issues competing for attention. For a country as large as Nigeria, this is a huge task. It therefore became expedient for the Commission to identify specific key thematic

areas, scale up programmes and interventions in such areas, while addressing all other areas of human rights as the needs arise. For each thematic area, three to four Focal Officers are appointed, to act as Programme Officers and coordinate work in their areas of focus.

The thematic areas of focus are:

- Women and Gender Related Matters
- Children
- Corruption, Election and Good Governance
- Prison, Police and Detention Centres and Regulatory Agencies
- Environment, Niger Delta and Development
- Education
- Freedom of Peaceful Assembly, Association, Religion, and Belief
- Torture and Extra- Judicial killings
- Law Reforms and Law Review
- Independence of the Judiciary and Access to Justice
- Labour
- Food and Shelter
- Terrorism and other Related Violence
- Health
- Freedom of Expression and the Media
- Human Rights and Business
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Refugees, IDPs, Migrants, and Asylum Seekers
- Human Rights Defenders



CHAPTER TWO

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Chapter Two

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Creating A Skilled And Well-motivated Workforce

2.0 Training and Capacity Building

To meet the professional needs of staff and position them for effective service delivery, the Commission set a benchmark in its Strategic Plan to train 50 per cent of its workforce within the year 2020. With all the challenges of the year, especially with respect to long months of lock-down occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, about 60 percent¹ of this goal was achieved. A major achievement in this area is that all Investigation Officers, across the country, participated in one training or the other within the year. The number of face-to-face trainings reduced considerably and gave way to virtual trainings. This was to ensure that the challenges posed by the restrictions placed by government do not affect staff development.



Staff Training Session at the Bukhari Bello Auditorium, NHRC Headquarters, Abuja – 24 November 2020

The Commission, on the 27th of February 2020, organized a training on **Effective Solid Waste Management as a Means of Ensuring the Right to a Healthy Environment**. The beneficiaries of the training included staff of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Department. There was also a virtual workshop on **Policy Brief Dissemination on Counter Terrorism Legislation in Nigeria**. In the same vein, a training on the **Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019** was organized by the Commission in

¹ Source: Review of the Commission's Strategic Plan carried out by the PSD Department of the Commission

collaboration with PRAWA and all relevant staff joined via *Zoom*. Another virtual training was organized for staff of the three Investigation Departments, on Complaint Treatment Mechanism. In addition, a virtual training was organized for the staff of Monitoring Department titled “**OSCOLA Reference Guide – Chapter Contribution**”.

Another important move by the Commission to develop the skills of its Officers was through a virtual training widely attended by Staff across all the State Offices. The training was on **Strengthening the National Human Rights Complaints Profile through Proper Documentation**, where Staff were taught the use of a new template developed for documentation and reporting of complaints received by the Commission. The training also covered and corrected common mistakes made by Reporting Officers in order to align the documentation of reports with international best practice.

The Human Rights Education Department organized a Two-Day Sensitization Workshop on **Mainstreaming the Safe Schools Declaration (SSD) into the Operations of the National Human Rights Commission**. Participants were drawn from all Departments of the Commission. This was held at the Bukhari Bello Auditorium, at the Commission's Headquarters on the 24th and 25th November 2020. Another training was organized for staff of Human Rights Institute on **Concept Development/Proposal Writing**.

More trainings conducted at the Headquarters and State Offices within the year include: training on the **Enforcement of Court Judgment and Fight against Corruption for Stakeholders**; a **4-day Men's Engagement Workshop to Improve Gender and Women Development in Bauchi State**; 3-day Workshop to **Develop Curriculum for Non-Formal Education for Life Skills** aimed at eradicating violence against women and girls, organized by Education Today for Sustainable Development, European Union and the United Nations.



Staff Training Sessions at the Bukhari Bello Auditorium, NHRC Headquarters, Abuja

Other trainings for staff include:

- Training on Legal Instruments for Culture and Religious Pluralism in Kaduna State.
- Early Warning System Orientation Workshop aimed at Identifying Early Warning Signals of Child Trafficking, Labour, Abuse and Violence against the Child, with Case Management mechanism for the victim.
- Virtual Trainings on Reporting Platform for Sex and Gender Based Violence.

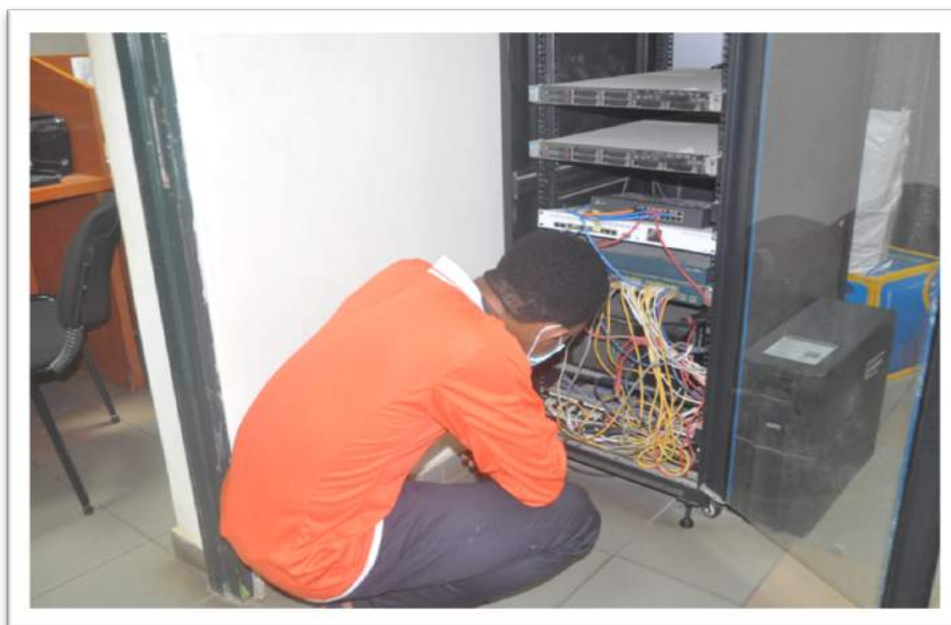
Relevant staff also participated in a UNFPA/UNICEF Joint programme on Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); Accelerating Change, and training for stakeholders on Gender Responsive

Budgeting hosted by FIDA, among others.

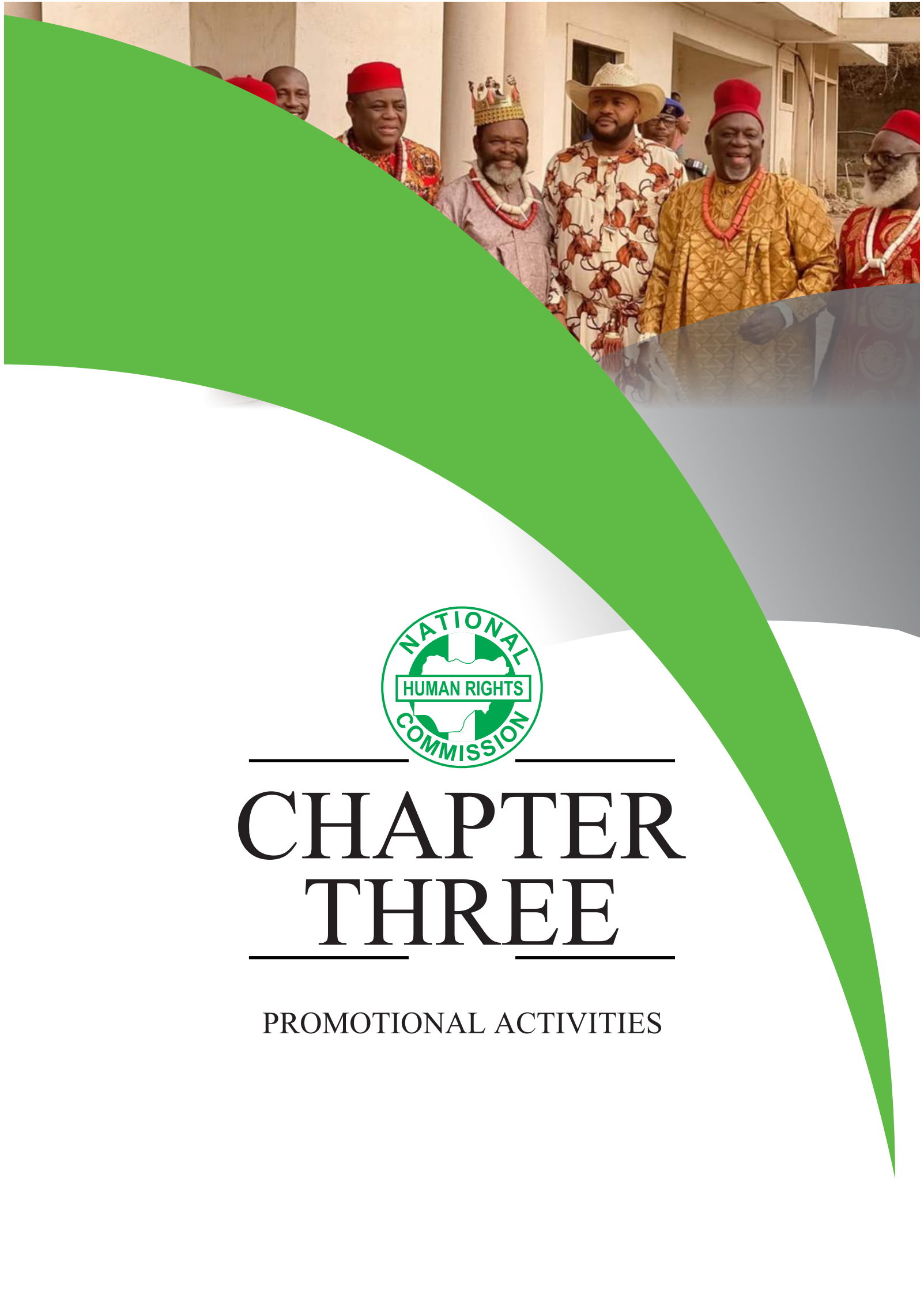
Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, a number of these trainings were conducted via virtual platforms, especially using *Zoom*. Unlike past years, staff were not able to participate in trainings outside the country due to travel bans and restrictions occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.1 Equipment and Facilities

In the year 2020, equipment and facilities were acquired to facilitate smooth operations and motivate staff to put in their best in the promotion and protection of human rights. The Commission registered a *Zoom* platform and paid subscription for the year, to enable it to participate and host a number of meetings and webinars. Computer hardware and software were procured to facilitate operations across Departments and State Offices. These include Cisco network, Data Bank, 2FT Wall Rack, Network Repeater, Wireless Radio, 45 Connector, Surge Projector, CAT6 Network Cable, Clips, Network Hub, Bluetooth Earpiece, UPS, CAT 5 Network Cable, 24 Port Cisco Switch, LaserJet Printers. These items enhanced the connectivity of the Commission's internet services. The Commission also procured 30 pieces of metal file shelves with five partitions, furniture, reflective jackets and consumables, amongst others which helped in running the activities of the Commission.



The ICT Control Rack



CHAPTER THREE

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Chapter Three

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Entrenching A Human Rights Culture

3.0 Preamble

The Commission carried out series of promotional activities within the year. These activities include Media engagements, Courtesy Visits, Meetings and Human Right Education. Others are Monitoring activities, Research, Commemorations and Publications. The number and frequency of these activities were greatly affected by the COVID-19 restrictions which started in March 2020. New and innovative methods were explored so that the promotional activities of the Commission would not be affected adversely.

3.1 Media Engagements

The Commission, by virtue of Section 6 (m) of the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act, 2010, is empowered to promote an understanding of public discussion of human rights issues in Nigeria. The Commission therefore partners actively with the media to achieve this. This is in line with one of its Strategic Objectives to ensure increased partnership with the media for awareness creation on human rights and effective dissemination of the work of the Commission. The year 2020 saw the Commission leveraging on this important partnership with the media to advance the work of the promotion of human rights in Nigeria.

3.1.1 Collaborations with the Media

One major achievement in this area was the collaboration between the Commission and African Independent Television (AIT) to air the weekly drama series, 'Silent Prejudice'. This is produced with the support of Pillars of Hope African Initiative (POHAI) and aired every Wednesday on AIT at 9pm. In addition, the Commission collaborated with the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) to launch an Advocacy Programme against rape on the 15th of October 2020.

3.1.2 Radio and Television Appearance

The Commission made several features and appearances on Radio and Television programmes in Abuja and across the country. This was led majorly by the Executive Secretary who was a regular guest of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Channels Television and other television stations as well as the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) and other radio stations. A number of these were invitational programmes, especially during human rights observances such as the International Human Rights Day. These appearances helped to educate the public on several human rights issues and increase awareness on the mandate and work of the Commission.

In the same vein, the Katsina State Office participated regularly in a radio public enlightenment programme in Hausa, AIKI SAI MAISHI, to discuss the mandate of the Commission, and also on Katsina State Television "DON IYALIMMU", to discuss the menace of rampant rape in the State. There were a

number of radio phone-in programmes in some states like Nasarawa, Edo, Adamawa, Ebonyi, Rivers, Bauchi and Imo respectively. This was to discuss issues such as Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Torture, Police Brutality, Right to Safe Water, Combating Online Violence Against Women and Girls, etc. One major issue that was widely discussed by a number of the Commission's State Offices was the enforcement of COVID-19 Protocols and Guidelines by Law Enforcement Officers and the need to maintain human rights standards during the enforcement of these guidelines. Rape and SGBV formed major topics as well, with about 25 radio discussions and 5 television appearances between the months of August and December alone. More than 50 percent of these were within the 16 Days of Activism observed in December.

3.1.3 Press Conferences

The Commission hosted two major Press Briefings in 2020. The first was on the 13th of May, 2020 when the Commission released the Guidelines for the Protection of COVID-19 Patients. The second Press Conference took place on the 25th of June, 2020. It was organised to seek Mass Media Advocacy for Human Rights Fund Activation. Both conferences took place at the Bukhari Bello Auditorium, NHRC Headquarters.



The Executive Secretary addressing the Press - 25 June 2020

Cast and Crew of the Movie "Silent Prejudice"



Press Statements and Releases

Within the year under review, the Commission issued the following press statements which were widely carried by print and electronic media.

S/N	Title of Story	Date
1.	NHRC Develops Human Rights Agenda for Nigeria	Feb 6 th , 2020
2.	NHRC to set up Panel on Alleged Police Brutality	Feb 10 th , 2020
3.	NHRC Felicitates with Nigerian Women on the Occasion of the International Women's Day	Mar 9 th , 2020
4.	Press Release: Bill on Regulation of Social Media	Mar 11 th , 2020
5.	Executive Secretary Condemns Police Invasion of NHRC Premises	Mar 23 rd , 2020
6.	NHRC Commends Govt on Covid-19, cautions against Impunity by Law Enforcement Agents	Mar 30 th , 2020
7.	Covid-19: NHRC issues Directives to Report Law Enforcement Agents Violating Human Rights during ongoing Enforcement of Covid-19 Regulations	April 1 st , 2020
8.	Condemns Alleged Torture, Rape of Lady by Kogi Govt. Official	April 3 rd , 2020
9.	Covid-19: NHRC Condemns Alleged Discrimination Against Nigerians and Africans in China	April 13 th , 2020
10.	Covid-19: NHRC Releases Report of Human Rights Violations across the Country	April 15 th , 2020
11.	Report of Alleged Human Rights Violations recorded between 13th April to 4th May, 2020 following the Extension of the lockdown period	May 10 th , 2020
12.	Children's Day: NHRC Felicitates with Nigerian Children	May 27 th , 2020
13.	Culprit of the Murder of University of Jos Student, Handed Over to the Police for Prosecution	May 28 th , 2020
14.	Almajiri: Human Rights Commission Calls for a Programme of Action	May 29 th , 2020
15.	Statement by the National Human Rights Commission on the Occasion of the 2020 day of the African Child	June 17 th , 2020
16.	NHRC Secures Arraignment of Alleged Violator of 11-Year-Old Girl in Ebonyi State	July 9 th , 2020
17.	Minimum Wage: NHRC Explains Non-Payment Of New Minimum Wage and Enhanced Investigation Allowances	July 13 th , 2020
18.	Ojukwu Condemns Impunity, Says Law Enforcement Agents must obey Court Orders	July 15 th , 2020
19.	Woeful Failure of Proposed Strike Action by National Civil Service Union NHRC Unit	July 17 th , 2020
20.	Nelson Mandela Day: NHRC calls for more commitment to Equality and Social Justice	July 19 th , 2020
21.	Goodwill Message on the Inauguration of the Inter-Ministerial Management Committee on the Eradication of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence by the Executive Secretary, National Human Rights Commission, Tony Ojukwu, Esq., on the 23rd Of July 2020	July 24 th , 2020

S/N	Title of Story	Date
22.	Southern Kaduna Killings: Sit Up, stop the Blame Game---Ojukwu Charges Police, other Security Agencies	July 25 th , 2020
23.	2020 Int'l Day Against Human Trafficking : NHRC Calls for more Sensitization, Speedy Trial of Offenders	July 29 th , 2020
24.	Ojukwu Expresses shock over Child Abuse as Commission Rescues Minor In Kebbi	Aug 12 th , 2020
25.	IYD: NHRC seeks more participation of Youth in Governance	Aug 14 th , 2020
26.	NHRC seek more participation of Youths in Governance	Aug 14 th , 2020
27.	'Be Human Rights Advocates': Human Rights Chief charges Nigerian Youths	Aug 18 th , 2020
28.	World Humanitarian Day: NHRC Advocates better Security, Protection, Improved Working Conditions for Humanitarian Workers	Aug 19 th , 2020
29.	Keynote Address of the Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission, Tony Ojukwu Esq During Policy Brief Dissemination on Counter-Terrorism Legislation in Nigeria, Held Virtually Via Zoom, Abuja on Wednesday 19th of August, 2020	Aug 19 th , 2020
30.	Int'l Day Of Remembrance of Victims of Slave Trade: NHRC Seeks End to All Forms of Modern-Day Slavery	Aug 22 nd , 2020
31.	Castration of Rape Offenders: Ojukwu urges El-Rufai To withhold Assent, says Kaduna State Assembly Amendments Negate Human Rights Principles	Sept 21 st , 2020
32.	IGP'S Ban on FSARS: A Reminder to Revisit NHRC'S Panel Report on Squad	Oct 6 th , 2020
33.	Press Statement by Tony Ojukwu, Esq Executive Secretary, National Human Rights Commission on the Determination of the Federal Government to put an end to gross Human Rights Violations by SARS/Police Operatives	Oct 11 th , 2020
34.	Ojukwu Urges African Leaders to ensure protection of Human Rights as the Continent Celebrates 2020 African Human Rights Day	Oct 22 nd , 2020
35.	Alleged Attacks on Law Enforcement Personnel Callous, Unacceptable---Ojukwu	Oct 27 th , 2020
36.	NHRC Rescues 2-Year-Old Child Abandoned in Katsina by Father	Nov 10 th , 2020
37.	Poor Funding, Conflict Situation Major Setback to Child's Rights Protection—Ojukwu	Nov 21 st , 2020
38.	NHRC joins the Global Fight Against SGBV	Nov 26 th , 2020
39.	NHRC Management Commences payment of New Minimum Wage Arrears, Promises Better Deal Ahead	Nov 28 th , 2020
40.	Killing of Farmers In Borno, NHRC Charges FG to do more in protecting Nigerians from harm	Nov 29 th , 2020

3.2 Advisories

The Commission issues Advisories on key and emerging human rights situations, to guide policies, programmes, decisions and interventions, whether by government or any institution. This is in line with Section 6(l)(m)(o) of the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act, 2010 which mandates the Commission to prepare and publish appropriate guidelines, promote an understanding of human rights issues and report on actions that should be taken by Government to comply with its human rights obligations. Advisories are usually issued when there is a possibility of violation of human rights arising from actions that have been or may be taken by government, or any issues under discourse which, if not handled appropriately, may lead to violation of rights.

The Commission issued two Advisories in 2020, both on COVID-19 and government's response and strategies to address it. The first was on the **Protection of the Rights of Almajiri Children in COVID-19 Response** and was necessitated by the plan of State Governors to send back street children, commonly known as Almajiris, to their various states of origin, without due consideration for their protection. The full text of that Advisory is seen below.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Almajiri Children in COVID-19 Response

An Advisory Opinion to Federal and State Governments issued pursuant to section 6(l)(m)(o) of the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act

Advisory Opinion

1.0 Introduction

1. *Addressing the social and economic challenges which have led to the growth of the Almajiri system in some parts of Nigeria, particularly the Northern region has occupied the minds of policy makers for some time.*
2. *Almajiri children are exposed to increased vulnerabilities and risks, including death, trafficking, kidnapping, drug use and addiction, recruitment into terrorism, violent crimes, sexual and other forms of assault and forced/child marriages.*
3. *Notwithstanding the efforts of successive governments and stakeholders, Almajiri system still constitutes a major challenge to the development of children in parts of the country, denying them the enjoyment of their fundamental human rights.*

2.0 Understanding the Human Rights Dimension of Almajiri

1. *The National Human Rights Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) notes that the primary purpose of government is the security and welfare of its citizens in line with Section 14(2)(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.*
2. *Conscious of its mandate to monitor, promote, protect and enforce human rights of everyone in Nigeria in line with the national, regional and international human rights instruments to which Nigeria is a party, the National Human Rights Commission notes the following:*
 - a. *Nigeria has ratified and is therefore a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).*
 - b. *Nigeria is also a party to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights which has been domesticated.*
 - c. *Nigeria domesticated its obligations under the CRC and ACRWC into the Child's Rights Act, (CRA) 2003. The CRA is a comprehensive human rights instrument which seeks to protect the*

rights of children in Nigeria and to put in place policies and programmes for the development and survival of every child in Nigeria.

- d. Some states of the federation have also enacted Child Rights Laws (CRL) in fulfilment of the obligations of Nigeria towards its children and generations unborn. For states that are yet to enact a Child Rights Law, these rights are of universal application and form part of the international obligations of the Nigerian state.
- e. The cardinal objectives of the CRC, ACRWC, CRA, CRL and other child right related international, regional and national instruments to which Nigeria is a party, is that, in all actions concerning children, the best interest of the child shall be the utmost consideration by all particularly government (section 1 of the CRA).
- f. The provisions of the CRA are crucial to securing the human rights of Almajiri children. Implementing these rights should be at the heart of any intervention targeting the social and economic welfare of the Almajiri children. Section 4 of CRA provides that every child shall have a right to survival, development and education. Section 9 provides for freedom of movement of the child subject to parental control not harmful to the child. Also, section 14 of the CRA provides that a child shall be entitled to parental care, protection and maintenance.
- g. In addition to the foregoing subparagraph, the CRA further provides for the rights to: private and family life (section 8); freedom of movement (section 9); freedom from discrimination (section 10); dignity of the child (section 11); health and health services (section 13); free, compulsory and universal primary education, etc (section 15); and the right of a child in need of special protection measure (section 16) amongst others.

3.0 COVID-19 Regulations and the Best Interest of the Almajiri Child

1. The recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions have further exposed the inherent vulnerabilities of Almajiri children as possible victims of multiple human rights violations which have been enunciated in subparagraph 2.2(f)(g) above.
2. The Commission notes that in exercise of powers conferred on them by section 45 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended and the Quarantine Act (CAP Q2 LFN 2004), both Federal and State authorities have made COVID-19 Regulations derogating from the enjoyment of some fundamental rights in the interest of public health, safety and purpose of protecting the rights of others.
3. The Commission is mindful of the present circumstances under which the Regulations are being implemented, particularly the need to restrict movement and spread of the disease.
4. Some exceptions to restriction of movement in the implementation of COVID-19 Regulations have been provided for by both the Federal and state governments. These have included the return of Almajiri children to their states of origin. This process is being implemented by various Northern state governments.
5. In view of the foregoing, the Commission notes as follows:
 - a. The decision by the Governors of the Northern states to relocate Almajiri children must be viewed in the light of “the best interest of the child” principles.
 - b. Relocating Almajiri children to their states of origin and reuniting them with their respective families where they will receive “parental care, protection and maintenance” is for all intents and purposes, in the best interest of the child.
 - c. It shall be a violation of “the best interest of the child” principles in circumstances where the Almajiri children have been relocated to places outside their homes or states of origin, leading to the denial of access to their parents or guardians (necessary for children) or home governments for a structured development, and may defeat the benefits from this current initiative.
 - d. It shall be a violation of “the best interest of the child” principles in circumstances where the process of return exposes the child to danger, vulnerabilities, rejection, inhuman and degrading treatments and further denial of access to education, healthcare, food, shelter and protection.

4.0 Policy Recommendations

1. *In view of the foregoing, the Commission in exercise of its mandate in section 5 (1)(m)(o) of its enabling Act makes the following recommendations.*
2. *Obligations of Transferring States*
 - a. *The implementation of the returns must be carried out in line with generally applicable minimum standards of dignity, safety, health and other basic human rights considerations by the transferring and receiving states so as not to leave the children dehumanized.*
 - b. *The transferring states shall ensure humane and dignified transfer arrangements to ensure that the children are transferred in dignity and respect.*
 - c. *The transferring states should put in place basic facilities such as decent transfer transportation, accommodation, health screening including test for COVID-19, feeding and security for the children. This will ensure that COVID-19 positive children will receive treatment and not infect others during transportation.*
3. *Obligations of Receiving States*
 - a. *State Governments should put in place financial, institutional and programmatic frameworks in place to urgently address the needs of the Almajiri children. States shall ensure adequate budgetary allocations and other funds for the rehabilitation, education, development and welfare of the Almajiri children within their states during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.*
 - b. *There should be adequate plan for profiling, tracing and reunification with parents and guardians.*
 - c. *There should be in place adequate protection programme*
 - d. *s, basic support services and empowerment programmes to address poverty and other socio-economic vulnerabilities that made the parents to send out the children in the first place.*
 - e. *Receiving governments should put in place adequate plans for the enrolment and retention of Almajiri children in schools, including access to existing programmes such as school feeding and free education aimed at addressing the educational needs of the children in line with their rights to basic and compulsory education as guaranteed under the CRA and the Universal Basic Education Act.*
 - f. *Children without traceable parents or guardians should be enrolled into social welfare programmes of states, including foster care where they will be accommodated and afforded structured life, training, education, security and empowerment.*
 - g. *Every child should be afforded right to survival, education, identity, security of person, freedom from cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment.*
 - h. *All receiving Northern State governments should work with relevant agencies including non-state actors to design a follow up “programme of action for the transfer, return and rehabilitation of Almajiri children” in line with this Advisory and the Child Rights Act.*
 - i. *The Commission shall work with the various state governments and provide adequate technical and programmatic support to ensure that “the best interest” of the Almajiri children are mainstreamed into the “programme of action” with a view to ensuring a right based dignified future for the children.*

5.0 Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided yet another opportunity to permanently address the challenge of Almajiri children. The Commission believes that a right based approach will make for a sustainable solution which will put in place an effective programme for the permanent rehabilitation and gradual elimination of the underlying conditions that promotes Amajiri and other socio-cultural practices that affect the development of the child.

Issued in Abuja, this 27th Day of May, 2020

The second Advisory was on **Standard Minimum Guideline for the Treatment of COVID-19 Patients in Treatment Centres in Nigeria**. An excerpt of the Advisory is provided below.

STANDARD MINIMUM GUIDELINES FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF COVID-19 PATIENTS IN TREATMENT CENTRES IN NIGERIA (2020)

Made pursuant to section 5(a)(d)(l) and section 6(g) of the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act, 2010

Part 1

Introduction, Principles and Application

1.0 Preamble

- 1.1 The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic across the world has created unprecedented challenges to governance and the enjoyment of human rights. Across Africa and the developing world, COVID-19 has created an emergency humanitarian and human rights situation, especially in countries with little investments in the health sector. The pandemic has further exposed the underlying issues of inequalities and poverty which hitherto have had roots within and across countries.
- 1.2 In response to the pandemic, governments and health authorities have imposed restrictions on movements and assemblies which have had massive impacts on national and global economies. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has made efforts at containing the virus. At national and state levels, governments have put in place financial and institutional measures such as setting up testing infrastructures, Treatment Centres, initiated processes towards identifying a vaccine for the cure of the virus and instituting cash transfer and palliatives for the poor and needy.
- 1.3 The operation of the Treatment Centres (hereinafter referred to as the Centre) is crucial to the recovery and good health of persons who have tested positive to COVID-19. The Centres are also important in stemming the spread of the virus and ensuring the well-being of the rest of the population. In view of their special nature as health institutions and holding facilities, the Centres are required to observe all human rights and medical ethics to secure the rights, dignity and well-being of the patients and thereby build trust in the ability of the government to provide for the security and welfare of the people.
- 1.4 The National Human Rights Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) in exercise of its powers and functions under section 5(a), (d), (l) and section 6(g) of the enabling Act hereby issues the following Standard Minimum Guidelines for Human Rights to be observed in the treatment of persons admitted to the Centres and in the management of the Centres thereof.

2.0 Objectives

1. Provide for basic human rights protection for COVID-19 patients, healthcare professionals and other persons in Centres and other treatment facilities across Nigeria.
2. Ensure the application of international and national human rights standards in the treatment and care of persons admitted to Centres and other treatment facilities across Nigeria
3. Secure institutional and professional accountability of health authorities and healthcare personnel in the Centres and other treatment facilities in line with human rights standards
4. Fulfil the constitutional responsibility of the government to provide for the security and welfare of the people.

3.0 The Basic Principles and Application

- 3.1 The purpose of the treatment of COVID-19 patients shall always be to secure their rights to life, the highest attainable standard of health and dignity of human person.
- 3.2 The treatment of patients shall take into consideration, the overriding public interest and especially, the protection of other members of the public from infection.
- 3.3 Government and the Centres shall endeavour to administer the highest attainable medical treatment and care for all patients without bias and discrimination based on the following Standard Minimum Guidelines.
- 3.4 These Standard Minimum Guidelines shall be applicable to all treatment centres and other facilities (whatever name called) managed by the federal and state governments and the private sector; and to all healthcare professionals and support staff involved in management and treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Part 2

Human Rights Guarantees and Provisions

- 4.0 *Right to Adequate and Timely Medical Information*
- 5.0 *Equality and non-discrimination of COVID-19 Patients*
- 6.0 *Right to dignity of person*
- 7.0 *Mental well-being of patients and staff of Treatment Centres*
- 8.0 *Access to adequate accommodation*
- 9.0 *Access to food and water*
- 10.0 *Right to religious observances*
- 11.0 *Right to privacy and confidentiality*
- 12.0 *Access to Communication and Information*

Part 3

Protection and Guarantees for Vulnerable Groups

- 13.0 *Special considerations for infants and children*
- 14.0 *Treatment of Persons with Disabilities*
- 15.0 *Special considerations for older persons*
- 16.0 *Protection of Patients in Intensive Care Units*
- 17.0 *Participation in clinical and drug trials*

Part 4

Implementation Mechanisms

- 18.0 *Access to complaints and feedback mechanism*
- 19.0 *Access to redress and remedial mechanisms*
- 20.0 *Implementation and Monitoring*
 - 20.1 *The Commission shall monitor and report on regular basis, the implementation of these Standard Minimum Guidelines.*
 - 20.2 *The Commission shall when called upon, assist governments at national and state levels, the health authorities, private sector and the Centres in designing frameworks for effective implementation of these Standard Minimum Guidelines.*
 - 20.3 *The Commission shall in exercise of its mandate, investigate any allegation of human rights violations arising from the Centres and shall present such reports as appropriate under its enabling legislation.*

21.0 Citation

This instrument may be cited as the **Standard Minimum Guidelines for the Human Rights of COVID-19 Patients in Treatment Centres in Nigeria (2020).**

Issued in Abuja, Nigeria this 13th Day of May 2020

3.3 Courtesy Visits

The National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act, 2010, enjoins the Commission to partner, collaborate, co-operate as well as consult with other agencies and organizations for the effective discharge of its mandate of advancing the promotion, protection and enforcement of human rights. Pursuant to this, the Commission embarks on courtesy visits as well as receives a good number of visitors for the purpose of initiating, building and fostering healthy working relationships. The Commission visits and hosts visitors from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Professional Bodies, the Diplomatic Community, Government Agencies, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and the Media. This activity is replicated across the 36 State Offices of the Commission.



The Executive Secretary, Tony Ojukwu Esq on a courtesy visit to the Police Criminal Investigation Department - 7 July 2020

In the year 2020, the Commission recorded a reduced number of courtesy visits compared to previous years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.3.1 Courtesy Visits to the Commission

The Commission hosted over 30 different bodies on courtesy visits during the year. About 17 of these visits were at the Headquarters while about 15 took place at the State Offices. Among visitors to the Headquarters was the Ambassador of Germany, who paid a familiarization visit to the Commission on the 21st of February 2020, to strengthen existing partnership between the Embassy and the Commission. The Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission visited the Executive Secretary to felicitate with him and to discuss the SGBV campaign across the Country. A coalition of CSOs also visited the Executive Secretary to advocate against the Social Media law initiated at the National Assembly and to invite the Commission to the public hearing on the Bill, at the National Assembly. In addition, the Political Officer, Embassy of the Republic of Ireland, Conor Finn,

visited the Commission on the 13th of October 2020, to discuss issues of mutual benefit and possible areas of partnership.

On the 18th of March 2020, the cast and crew of the movie “Silent Prejudice” recorded a scene at the Commission's Headquarters. The movie is part of the Commission's promotional activities to sensitize the public on the need to eradicate the Osu Caste System.²

Furthermore, many CSOs visited the Commission to discuss diverse issues such as; SGBV, FGM, Disability issues, etc. and to seek ways of addressing them. They include: Gender Relevance Initiative Promotion (GRIP); Society for Life Changers and Good Parental care (SOLIFE); Initiative for Equal Rights (IER); Journalist Network on Ageing in Nigeria (JNAN); Lawyers Alerts; African Youth Growth Foundation; Gender Relevance Initiative Promotion; and Hisba Commission (HC).

3.3.2 Courtesy Visits by the Commission

The Commission undertook about 40 courtesy visits within the period of this report. Seven of the courtesy visits took place at the Headquarters while 33 were at the State Offices. Among the visits were the Executive Secretary's courtesy visit to the **Director General of National Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS (NACA)** to discuss human rights issues affecting People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and urged the Agency to mainstream human rights into its operations. The Executive Secretary led a delegation to **CHI Limited**, a food manufacturing company, to seek partnership in reaching out to IDPs and promoting human rights through the TV series, Silent Prejudice.

The Executive Secretary also paid an advocacy visit to the **Speaker of the House of Representatives** of the National Assembly, to seek support, especially with respect to the Investigative Panel on the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). He also paid a visit to the **Inspector General of Police (IGP)** and the **Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Justice**, to submit the report of the Presidential Investigation Panel (PIP) on SARS. Both visits took place on the 11th and 12th of June, 2020 respectively. The Executive Secretary also visited the **Chairman, Police Service Commission** to seek for immediate implementation of the report of the PIP on SARS, especially with respect to issues that fall within the purview of the Police Service Commission. In the same vein, the Executive Secretary paid a visit to the **Hon. Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development** on 9th June, 2020 to discuss areas of collaboration between the Ministry and the Commission.

Courtesy and advocacy visits were also embarked upon by State Offices. The Abia and Imo State Offices visited their **State Police Commands** to discuss the attempted murder of a complainant and alleged Police failure to expedite action on the matter, and to discuss human rights violations by the Police at check points respectively. Similarly, the Bauchi State Office paid an advocacy visit to the **Emir of Bauchi**, to create awareness on SGBV and advocate for the support of the traditional institution in the fight against the menace.

² An ancient practice in Igboland that discourages social interaction and marriage with a group of persons called “Osu”

Courtesy Visits



The Executive Secretary, Tony Ojukwu Esq on a visit to the Inspector General of Police Mohammed Adamu, mni on 11th June 2020



Cast of Silent Prejudice on a visit to the Commission's Headquarters on 13th March, 2020



Visit to the Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamita on 14th October, 2020



Visit to the Commission by Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative on 19th February, 2020



Visit by Medecin San Frontieres, Spain on 29th July, 2020



Visit to NACA on 31st August, 2020

3.4 Meetings

Meetings form an integral part of the work of the Commission. Section 5(g) and (h) of the National Human Rights Commission Act 1995, as amended, enjoins the Commission to participate in all local and international activities relating to the promotion and protection of human rights. Pursuant to this, the Commission organises and attends diverse meetings to share information and reach decisions on salient human rights issues. These meetings provide opportunities for interaction, updates and exchange of ideas on issues and new trends on human rights. In the period under consideration, most meetings were held virtually, using platforms like the Zoom, Skype and others, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Some of the international meetings which the Commission participated in include the Nigeria/US Bi-National Commission (BNC), in Washington DC, USA; the 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland and Global Alliance of National Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. These meetings took place in the early part of the year, before the COVID-19 lockdown. A number of meetings were held after the lockdown. Some of these meetings were in collaboration with other organisations. Meetings held include a virtual meeting organised by the Commission on **Business and Human Rights: Consumer Protection Implications Amidst the COVID 19 Pandemic**, on the 28th of August 2020. The Commission also organised a **Public Opinion Poll on the Proposed Amendment to the Pension Reform Act 2014 & Related Matters** and a *Zoom* Meeting on **Over Crowding of Custodial Centres; Implementation of Section 12(4-12) of the Nigeria Correctional Service Act 2019** as well as a Roundtable which was held in collaboration with PAACA on the 13th of September 2020. The Roundtable was to discuss **Trends, Challenges and Impact of Sex and Gender Based Violence on Young People in Nigeria and the Way Forward**.

The Commission also organized a *Zoom* meeting on recent developments in the **Freedom of Expression in Nigeria** and participated in another virtual meeting on Policy Brief about **Counter Terrorism Legislation in Nigeria**. On the 27th of September 2020, the Executive Secretary was a panelist on a *Zoom* meeting to discuss **Human Rights Violations in Nigeria; Time to End Impunity and the Way Forward**, and another virtual meeting, held in collaboration with CLEEN Foundation and OSIWA, on the 29th of September 2020, to unveil the **Automated Complaint Reporting Database**.

Meetings held at the State levels include the one by the Abia State Office of the Commission and the Nigeria Police, to broker peace between two warring factions in Umuntu Olokoro Community, Umuahia in Abia State, the meeting by the Ekiti State Office, with Health Action Concerning Your Environment (HACYE) and other stakeholders on **Female Genital Mutilation**, aimed at reducing the rate of FGM in Ekiti State and putting an end to it before the end of 2020.

About 95% of the State Offices participated in meetings on SGBV and FGM, with many of them having interactive sessions with the Ministry of Women Affairs, NBA, FIDA and other CSOs. The meetings were held to review the legal provisions on the rights of women and girls, especially with respect to holding perpetrators accountable. The Niger, Bauchi, Katsina, Kaduna, as well as Plateau, Nasarawa, Bayelsa and Benue State Offices were part of a **Peace Architecture Dialogue (PAD)**, to stop farmers-herders conflicts and promote freedom of religion and beliefs, and enlighten stakeholders on peaceful co-existence. The Dialogue was organised by Search for Common Ground.

In addition, the Plateau and Edo State Offices participated in meetings of the Justice Sector Reform Team for effective implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law in the States. Other meetings include participation at the official launching of Alliances for Africa (AFA) "Protocol on the Management and Documentation of Casualties of Mass Atrocities in Nigeria by the Imo State Office; a meeting with the leadership of the CJTF to establish a working relationship with its hierarchy in the

state and to address the increase in reported cases of human rights violations by the CJTF held on the 26th of June 2020 by the Adamawa State Office; a meeting of the Borno State Office with the Regional Head of UNDP to finalize the implementation strategy on Community Based Human Rights Monitoring of the Stabilization Facility; a One-Day Public Hearing to collate feedbacks from MDAs, CSOs, NGOs and UN Agencies on the Amendment of the Adamawa State New Penal Code 2018.

3.5 Monitoring Activities

The Commission by its enabling law, is mandated to monitor, verify and document cases of human rights violations across board and every year the Commission assesses the prevalent human rights issues raised. A team of Monitors are sent out to the field to evaluate the human rights situations and reports are sent to the Government with recommendations on how to curb or totally eliminate violations of human rights where they occur. Solutions are also proffered to address any challenges identified.

3.5.1 Detention Centres

Section 6(d) of the National Human Rights (Amendment) Act 2010 mandates the Commission to visit Prisons, Police Stations and other Detention Centres. This is to determine the compliance of the facilities in the detention centres with required minimum human rights standard, in accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, as well as other International, Regional or National Laws. Another aim is to monitor, protect and enforce the fundamental human rights of persons in detention.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only few detention centres were monitored in the year. One of such visits was by the Imo State Office of the Commission, in collaboration with FIDA and the NBA, to the Imo State Police Headquarters and the Correctional Centre. One of the outcomes of the visit was recommendations for prison decongestion and refurbishment of some facilities in the police cells by the Imo State Government. Another visit was by the Ogun State Office to the Borstal Home and Correctional Centre in Abeokuta. Facilities at the Centres were inspected with reports and recommendations sent to the appropriate authorities.

In the Federal Capital Territory, the Monitoring Unit at the headquarters visited a number of police cells as part of the annual audit of detention centres. The report of this exercise forms part of the Special Projects of the Commission reported in Chapter Six of this Report.

3.5.2 Election Monitoring

Pursuant to its enabling Act, the Commission observed elections in line with Article 25 (a) and (b) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that gives every citizen the right to vote and be voted for, at genuine periodic elections, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electorates. In line with this, the Commission observed the 2020 gubernatorial elections which were held in Edo and Ondo States.

The Commission in monitoring elections, focused mainly on identifying trends and patterns of violation and abuses and taking measures on specific human rights issues that may have occurred. This was based on the electoral cycle-based approach observation, in line with extant international best standards/practices which cut across every aspect of electoral process. The Commission's observations and recommendations were thereafter sent to the appropriate authorities.

3.5.3 Observance of Covid-19 Regulations by the Law Enforcement Agents

In line with COVID-19 Regulations 2020, there were restrictions of movement and sanctions for the violation of the guidelines. Law Enforcement Officers were required to enforce the regulations. There were reports of high-handedness by some of the Officers. Consequently, the Commission's staff at

the Headquarters and State Offices were directed to monitor the activities of Law Enforcement Officers in the course of enforcement of the COVID-19 Regulation 2020.

This was in accordance with Sections 5 and 6 of the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act, 2010, that mandates the Commission to deal with matters relating to the protection and promotion of human rights of everyone in Nigeria, with much emphasis on Section 5(b) which specifically speaks to monitoring, collation and verification of information on violations of human rights and other incidents related thereto.

The reports were in two volumes and in two phases. One report covered the initial 14 days of lockdown which commenced on 30th March to 13th April 2020, while the second covered the extended 14 days that was from 13th to 27th April 2020. There was also further extension for one week, 27th April to 4th May 2020.

A total number of 207 reports of alleged human rights violations were received and documented, relating to various thematic areas of the Commission. Names of indicted security personnel were submitted to relevant security agencies to facilitate accountability mechanisms provided by the various Law Enforcement Agencies. The report reinforced the admonishment of law enforcement agents by the President in his national broadcast of 27th April 2020. In line with this, the IGP directed Officers and Men of the Police to comply with human rights standards in the enforcement of COVID-19 guidelines.

As a further initiative, the Commission in collaboration with OSIWA, the UK Department of Foreign Investment and Development (DFID), the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation and the Switzerland Embassy developed a software for the electronic monitoring, documentation and reporting of human rights violations including SGBV during the Covid-19 period of lockdown.

3.5.4 Monitoring of the #EndSARS³ Protests

The Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) is a Unit of the Nigeria Police Criminal Investigation Department charged with dealing with robbery and related offences. Their activities were widely condemned by a broad section of the Nigerian public, especially the youth. Following numerous complaints on the activities of SARS, a Presidential Investigation Panel (PIP) was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Executive Secretary of the Commission. While the report of the Panel was being considered, there was a nationwide protest, #EndSARS, calling for the disbandment of the Unit. This led to widespread breakdown of law and order across the country, including reports of loss of lives and property. The Commission monitored the protests across the States to observe human rights violations that may occur during the protests.

As a result of this agitation, the Nigeria Police disbanded the Unit while some State Governments constituted Panels of Inquiry to investigate the various complaints and recommend appropriate remedies. The Commission also constituted an 11-member Independent Investigative Panel (IIP) to look into allegations of human rights violations against the defunct Special Anti-Robbery Squad and other units of the police force. This is in addition to the Commission's membership in all the State Panels.

The Panel in Abuja, headed by a retired Justice of the Supreme Court, Suleiman Galadima, entertained petitions and complaints of human rights violations against SARS and other units of the Police Force. After due consideration of the complaints and appropriate recommendations as to the damages and compensation to be paid to the victims of police brutality, are to be made.

³ A nationwide protest calling for the disbandment of a Unit of the Nigeria Police Force called the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS)

3.6 Commemorations

Specific days, weeks, years and decades are designated for human rights observances, to mark events or issues in order to promote awareness and action on them. In 2020, the Commission celebrated these observances with various activities.

One of such days was the "Day of the African Child" celebrated on 16th June. The theme for the year was "Realizing Access to a Child-friendly Justice System in Africa". On that occasion, the Commission enjoined States that are yet to enact the Child Rights Law to do so. In the same vein, States that have enacted the Law were urged to put mechanisms in place for its implementation and enforcement, like the Family Courts and Child Rights Implementation Committee.

The Commission also marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25th November, which was the launch date of the 16 days of Activism on Violence Against Women. The celebration ended on 10th December 2020. The event kicked off with a Road-Walk in Abuja and all the State Offices of the Federation. Each day was marked with activities ranging from advocacies, visits, rallies, and conferences. Reports were compiled and communiqués issued at the end of the events.

In order to end the scourge of SGBV, the Commission in collaboration with OSIWA, launched a platform (UNSUB), which connects survivors of SGBV to service providers and provides information on access to support systems for survivors. The Commission also established a 24-hour Call Centre to report SGBV; this was in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland, UN-EU Spotlight Initiative and OSIWA. The Commission further collaborated with the Office of the Vice President of Nigeria, National Communication Commission (NCC) and UN Spotlight Initiative and provided toll free lines to encourage citizens to report SGBV cases. The numbers are 112 and 080006472428.

In addition, the International Human Rights Day, an annual event to commemorate the adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was celebrated. It was a two-day celebration with the theme: "Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights". This relates to COVID-19 pandemic and draws attention to the need to recover and build back better by ensuring that human rights are at the centre of the recovery initiatives. The day's celebration started with a road walk and ended with a dinner/award night. A symposium was held the following day with addresses from various representatives of international organizations, members of the diplomatic corps, government agencies etc. The Commission also celebrated its 25th Anniversary. The National Human Rights Commission had identified inclusiveness and equal opportunities as the cornerstone of any COVID-19 recovery efforts that will ensure the full realization of human rights in Nigeria and beyond. The Commission used the occasion to task all government agencies to mainstream human rights into their post COVID-19 recovery efforts, as such efforts will assist the nation to achieve the SDGs and the 2030 Development Agenda.

5 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women 15th - 19th June, 2020



The Executive Secretary, The Inspector General of Police and the Director General of NAPTIP addressing the Press during the 5 days of Activism on Gender Based Violence.



5 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women 15th - 19th June, 2020



16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women and Girls, 25th November - 10th December 2020



Commemoration of 16 Days of Activism by State Offices



Edo State



Sokoto State



Bayelsa State



Katsina State



Kebbi State



Kogi State



Edo State



Taraba State

Commemoration of 16 Days of Activism by State Offices



Zamfara State



Nasarawa State



Plateau State



Cross River State



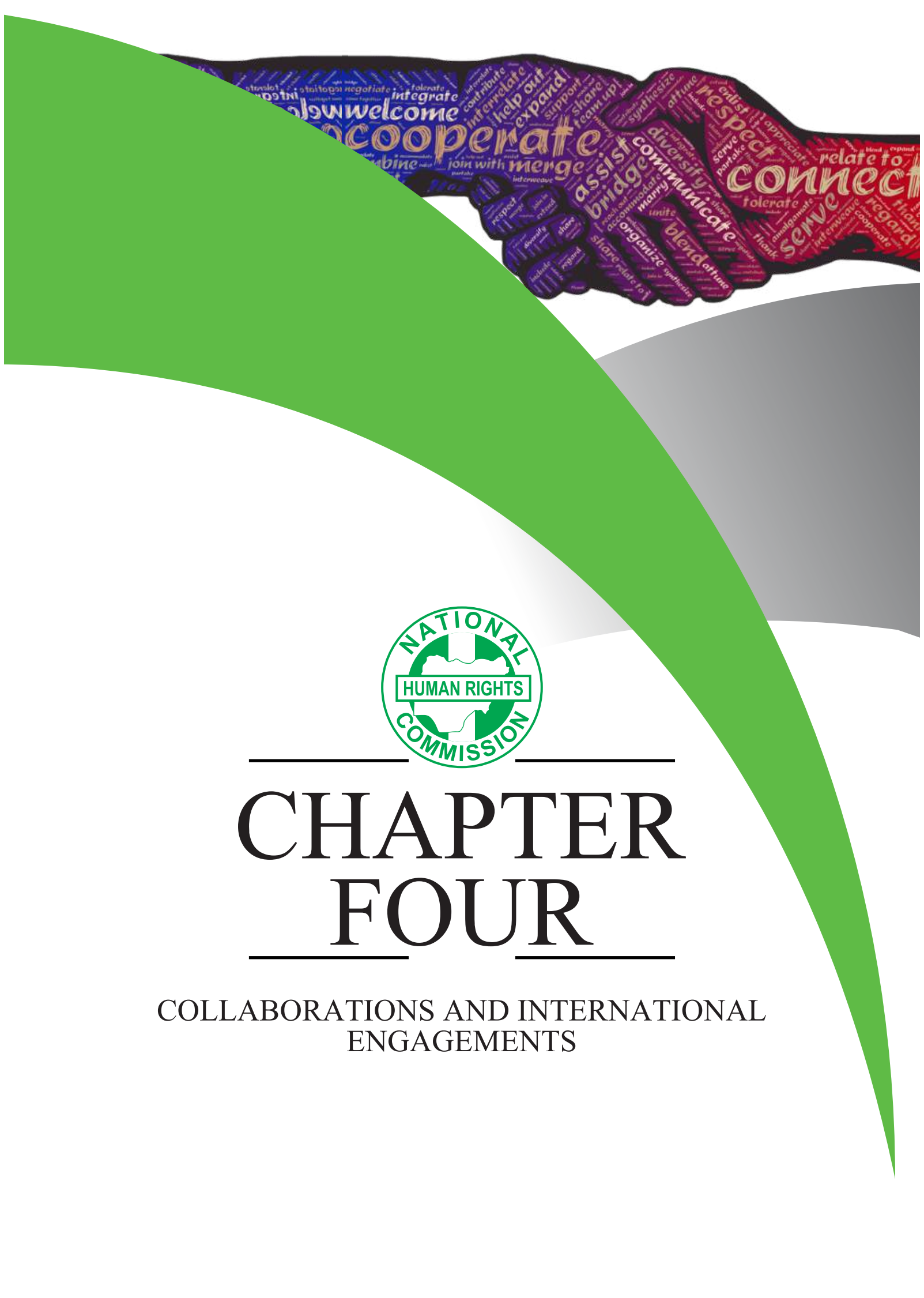
Ebonyi State



Raiduna State



Rivers State



CHAPTER FOUR

COLLABORATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL
ENGAGEMENTS

COLLABORATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Consolidating Strategic Partnerships



In accordance with Section 6(g) of the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act, 2010, the Commission partners with other organizations working in the areas of promotion and protection of human rights. In the year under review, the Commission partnered with various Civil Society Organizations, Multinational Corporations, MDAs, Development Partners and the Diplomatic Community, to identify and implement programmes on human rights.



Consolidating Partnership

4.1 Collaborations with the United Nations

The Commission collaborated with UNHCR on the project, 'Protection of Persons of Concern', to monitor the human rights situation of IDPs and returnees in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States, which are the epicentres of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. It also partnered with UNFPA to organise a training workshop for its staff on the Human Rights Framework for Reporting FGM in Nigeria's Periodic Report to the various human rights treaty bodies. The training focused on using a developed Manual on Integrating FGM Indicators into Nigeria's Human Rights Treaty Reporting Template.

In the same vein, a Special Investigation Panel on SGBV was organized with the support of Ford Foundation, UN Spotlight Initiative, UNDP, EU and Amnesty International, including some NGOs with expertise in women and gender issues, to investigate alleged cases of SGBV, make appropriate recommendations to Government and assist survivors and victims of SGBV in accessing remedy and compensation. The Panel operated in five spotlight states and FCT. Also, the Benue State Office partnered with UN Women Peace and Security on a radio programme with the theme: Combating Online Violence Against Women and Girl.

4.2 Collaboration with International Organisations and Non-Governmental Organizations

The Commission in collaboration with OSIWA, the Embassy of Switzerland and UN-EU Spotlight Initiative, established 24-hour call- centre, to report SGBV and other human rights related cases. This provides citizens with the opportunity to promptly report all forms of human rights violations involving civilians and security personnel. In addition, the Commission with the support of OSIWA, Rule of Law Initiative, Ford Foundation, Nigeria Policing Programme, RoLAC, UN-EU Spotlight Initiative and Amnesty International, set up a Special Investigation Panel on SGBV. The members of the group consist of experts on matters relating to women and gender issues. They are mandated to investigate alleged cases of SGBV, make appropriate recommendations to government and assist survivors and victims of SGBV in accessing remedies and compensations.

Furthermore, during the COVID-19 lockdown, the Commission, with the support of OSIWA, CANs and Yar`Adua Foundation, developed a reporting platform called UNSUB which is a digital platform based on artificial intelligence that will connect a victim of SGBV to a responder. The software would enable people to report and give primary details of cases of SGBV.

Other International NGOs the Commission partnered with in the year 2020 include Medecins Sans Frontiere, Spain (MSF) on the Protection of IDPs and other Victims in Conflict Zones; Danish Institute on the Implementation of Human Rights Education in School Systems in Nigeria; Amnesty International on Advocacy Against Social Media Law.

The Commission in collaboration with International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) carried out a virtual training on Gender Responsive Budgeting in order to mainstream gender into the Commission's programmes and projects. It also partnered with Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA) to organize a *Zoom* training for its entire staff on the Nigerian Correctional Service Act 2019 as well as Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA) to hold a Roundtable with stakeholders on **Trends, Challenges and Impact of SGBV on Young People in Nigeria: The Way Forward**. Additionally, Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Council (FCCPC) organized a *Zoom* meeting on **Business and Human Rights and Consumers` Protection Amidst the Pandemic** while CLEEN Foundation and OSIWA organized a webinar to unveil the **Automated Complaint Reporting Database**.

In the same vein, the Kwara State Office in collaboration with Golden Hearts Women Forum organized a meeting with the theme: **Introducing Women's Voice and Leadership**, and the Bauchi State Office

collaborated with Women for Women International to organise a sensitization activity on **Women's Rights, Inheritance, Divorce, Child Custody**. The Ogun State Office also collaborated with Society for Family Health and MTV ShugaNaija to organise a meeting to discuss peer education aimed at promoting the adoption of healthy and positive behaviour by young people in relation to sexual and reproductive health.

4.3 Collaborations with Ministries Departments and Agencies

The Commission, in partnership with NAPTIP embarked on 5 Days of Activism with the theme 'Equality and Dignity for Nigerian Women. This was done in collaboration with the NBA and FIDA, to encourage stakeholders to join the fight against rape, with a view to declaring state of emergency on rape and other SGBV cases in Nigeria. The Commission, at the headquarters, partnered with the Federal Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development, Federal Ministry of Water Resources and the Nigeria Police Force, on a number of activities within the year. The Kwara State Office in collaboration with Ministry of Women Affairs organized a sensitization programme to create awareness on Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act in Kwara State as it relates to the girl child. There was also collaboration with office of the Vice President (OVP), National Communication Commission (NCC) and an international organization, UN Spotlight Initiative. Toll free call lines were provided to encourage citizens to report SGBV cases.



CHAPTER FIVE

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION AND
COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT

Chapter Five

Human Rights Protection And Complaints Management

Strengthening Complaints Treatment, Data Collection And Record Keeping

5.0 Preamble

The National Human Rights Commission, pursuant to its mandate receives and treats complaints of human rights violations/abuses from individuals, group of persons and corporate organizations. The Commission serves as an extra-judicial mechanism for the enhancement of respect for and enjoyment of human rights in Nigeria, and so seeks redress and remedies for violations of human rights.

Section 6(j) of the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act 2010 empowers the Commission to “receive and investigate complaints concerning violations of human rights and make appropriate determinations as may be deemed necessary in each circumstance.”

The Commission has opened up many channels by which the public can access its services at no cost to them. A complaint may be lodged by the complainant in person or by a person acting on his or her behalf, instructions, request, or best interest at either the Head Office in Abuja, the Abuja Metropolitan Office, or any of the State Offices in 36 States of the Federation. The Commission also receives complaints electronically and in hard copy. Complaints on human rights violations may be brought before the Commission by a group of persons with a common interest. The Commission can also proactively take complaints on its own (*suo moto*) without such complaints being necessarily reported by the victim/victims. This chapter provides statistical illustrations on complaints received and treated by the Commission in 2020.

5.1 Complaints Management

The standard guideline for complaint management is as provided in the Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure (STORP) and Complaint Treatment Procedure Manual of the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria. These rules are applied to all complaints in different forms and nature.

A. Commencement of Cases and Complaints

The procedures for commencement of complaints are provided in Rules 58 – 64 of the STORP and relevant sections of the Complaint Treatment Manual of the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria. A complaint alleging violation or threat of violation of Human Rights may be lodged by a complainant in person or by another person acting on his or her behalf, instructions, request, or in the best interest of the complainant. Rule 58 (3) provides that “a complaint shall be in writing and may be made in the format contained in Form 1 of the Schedule to these Rules. It shall contain a detailed and comprehensive statement on the actions or violations complained of and the reliefs sought from the Commission”. The Commission can on its volition decide to take up complaints on any form of human rights violation (*suo moto*).

B. Admissibility

Rule 72 of **STORP** provides that a complaint lodged with the Commission alleging violations of human rights and Fundamental Freedoms shall be admissible unless:

- Its object is not consistent with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or any other applicable Human Rights Instruments under Section 5(a) of the Act;
- It does not indicate any complainant, respondent or victim, except in cases in which the complainant has sought confidential disclosure of the victim;
- It is vague or anonymous;
- The complaint or any of the supporting documents is written in a foreign language and the author does not provide a duly certified translation of the relevant contents in English;
- It does not contain a factual description of the alleged violations, including the Rights which are alleged to be violated;
- It is not submitted by a person or a group of persons claiming to be the victim, their duly authorized representative or by any person or group of persons, including NGOs acting in good faith; or
- It refers to a matter that is pending or under active consideration or has been decided by a Court or other national or international mechanism of dispute resolution for affording remedies to human rights violations.

C. Preliminary Investigations and Report

A preliminary investigation is undertaken by the Commission upon receipt of a complaint. After a new complaint has been registered, the Commission transmits the issues in the complaint to the named respondent(s) for responses or observations within a maximum of fourteen days. If the Commission considers that the observations or response of the respondent(s) require a reply from the complainant, such response shall be transmitted to the complainant, who shall have a maximum of five days to reply. The Investigating Officer shall forward for the attention of the Executive Secretary, an initial or progress report on the preliminary investigation not later than Forty-Five (45) days after the receipt or registration of communication by the Commission. If the complaint is resolved at the level of preliminary investigations, the Commission shall adopt a decision and award remedies reflecting the agreements reached by the parties in the case. If the complaint is not resolved at the level of Preliminary Investigations, the Executive Secretary shall direct further investigations as may be justified by the circumstances of the case. The Commission may also provide counselling services to the victim or complainant at any stage of the investigation as part of its remedies.

D. Further Investigations

The Commission may undertake further investigations on a complaint through:

- Issuance and enforcement of appropriate summons for witness and personal appearance or production of documents, which shall be in the forms set out in Forms 2-4 of the Schedule to these Rules; or
- Site visit to the location or scene of an alleged violation to ascertain the veracity of the case.

E. Evidence

The Commission shall consider complaints in the light of all the information and evidence submitted by or received from all the parties to prove the allegations of violations in a credible manner in all admissible complaints. Such evidence may include documents, affidavits, photographs, electronic information, oral testimony, material evidence, expert evidence, or such other items of evidence as may be warranted by the nature of the case or the allegations under consideration. The Commission may also take judicial notice of facts that are publicly or notoriously known, or such facts as may be judicially noticed by a court of law under the Evidence Act.

F. Conciliation or Amicable Settlement

The Commission may, upon the receipt of a complaint, and after a preliminary investigation refer the parties thereto to such mechanisms of an amicable settlement, including conciliation, mediation, or arbitration as it considers appropriate. At all times, the Commission shall place its mechanisms at the disposal of all parties to facilitate such amicable resolution. Where both parties to a complaint express a desire in writing to have their complaint resolved by way of conciliation or amicable settlement, the Commission shall, in consultation with the parties or their legal representatives, schedule an appropriate date for a conciliation meeting. Where the Commission determines on its motion that a complaint may be disposed of by conciliation or amicable settlement, it shall direct the Executive Secretary to advise the parties accordingly and schedule dates for a conciliation meeting for an amicable settlement.

G. Inquiries

Where it appears that particular events have caused or are capable of causing gross, massive or systematic violations of human rights or crimes of a human rights nature; several complaints relate to or indicate a pattern of violations arising from the same situation or facts and affect a class of victims or a set of complaints raise matters of broad public interest or issues of significant public policy, etc; the Commission shall constitute a Panel of Inquiry into the matter. The Inquiry Panel shall strictly operate and set up following the Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

H. Oral Hearing

The basic processes the Commission has to follow in conducting the oral hearing are contained in the **STORP**.

I. Decision and Order on Complaints

The Executive Secretary shall have final and exclusive competence to decide or determine all cases and complaints submitted to the Commission in the absence of the Council.

5.2 Receipt of Complaints 2020 – Complaints Profile In 2020

In the year under review, the Commission received a total number of **One Million, Two Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty (1,287,760)** complaints. This is less than the total number of complaints received by the Commission in 2019 by 17,089 (Seventeen Thousand and Eighty-Nine). The reasons for the reduced number of complaints could be attributed to several factors which include:

- The lockdown and restriction of movement occasioned by the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- The Commission has active online reporting channel and a 24-hour service Call Centre but intending complainants may have been hampered by technological factors.

Delta State received the highest number of complaints while the lowest was received by the Abuja Metropolitan Office. About 87 per cent of the complaints received were admissible as would be discussed later in the report. A number of the complaints received in 2020 were treated and concluded in line with the Commission's Strategic Objective for the year, which is to ensure best practices in complaints handling, with timely treatment of complaints. A high number of complaints are still ongoing due to their peculiar nature. The efficiency in complaints handling has improved tremendously due to the constant training received by Investigation Officers and a number of staff re-alignments done in 2019, which ensured that staff were posted to their areas of competence, training and exposure. In addition, the staff strength of the Protection Departments was enhanced in 2019, following the creation of three Protection Departments of Civil and Political Rights, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Rights of Women, Children and other Vulnerable Groups, in 2018. This



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initiative enhanced the efficiency of complaints treatments in the Commission. Furthermore, State Offices received a boost in their funds to carry out investigations and other activities which were hitherto hampered by lack of resources. The constancy in the release of these funds also meant that investigations of complaints were not delayed. In the same vein, 6 State Offices received Operational Vehicles for investigation and from feedbacks received, this enhanced their work in investigating complaints. All these factors led to the increase in the number of cases treated and concluded in 2020.

Table 5.2 Complaints Received by the Commission Nationwide

S/N	STATE OFFICE	SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE	WOMEN AND GENDER RIGHTS	CHILD RIGHTS	RIGHT OF THE AGED	JUDICIARY, RULE OF LAW AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE	FREEDOM OF PERSONS	RIGHT TO LIFE	FREEDOM OF RELIGION	LAW ENFORCEMENT AND HUMAN DIGNITY	QUALITY OF LIFE	LABOUR RIGHTS	FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION	NIGER AND ENVIRONMENT	DELTA	OTHERS	Annual Total (2020)
1	ABIA	4,677	3,390	14,213	16	5,683	1,698	4,801	81	8,778	844	8,454	9,318	239		1,808	64,000
2	ADAMAWA	1,179	2,321	2,971	16	2,121	1,934	550	97	1,889	708	2,043	3,188	313		3,870	23,200
3	AKWA IBOM	1,001	929	1,219	14	1,201	1,145	678	40	991	720	1,074	477	370		1,341	11,200
4	ABUJA MUNICIPAL OFFICE (FCT)	317	412	211	12	290	181	291	78	360	227	278	599	190		154	3,600
5	ANAMBRA	2,646	2,767	4,093	12	1,952	1,356	1,988	71	2,050	886	3,404	4,402	299		4,074	30,000
6	BAUCHI	1,009	657	370	13	278	398	211	39	782	857	964	871	262		489	7,200
7	BAYELSA	1,773	1,992	1,795	15	387	175	158	77	272	329	582	571	253		821	9,200
8	BENUE	1,168	1,527	2,727	14	530	1,167	465	74	745	888	996	1,449	237		2,013	14,000
9	BORNO	10,016	7,511	16,373	15	1,973	1,236	5,953	63	2,691	702	10,733	9,962	188		26,184	93,600
10	CROSS RIVER	934	873	715	26	117	136	736	54	146	176	628	934	291		234	6,000
11	DELTA	14,735	11,346	37,363	26	1,145	1,345	2,187	72	21,921	344	44,252	35,011	375		44,278	214,400
12	EBONYI	2,965	2,596	3,975	14	1,719	1,271	1,459	43	1,616	309	1,589	3,162	209		7,073	28,000
13	EDO	9,491	7,789	17,792	12	1,014	1,569	4,443	49	3,622	247	15,039	13,519	260		18,754	93,600
14	EKITI	418	454	473	16	342	346	369	52	592	364	872	607	357		338	5,600
15	ENUGU	3,853	2,391	5,371	15	1,457	1,198	1,858	43	1,793	679	1,170	2,011	62		2,499	24,400
16	GOMBE	649	656	887	23	229	297	269	62	242	558	567	362	162		1,837	6,800
17	H/QUARTERS (ABUJA)	9,982	7,804	19,062	21	1,879	705	998	31	23,156	648	39,322	12,650	319		31,823	148,400
18	IMO	9,687	7,395	17,094	22	1,372	5,786	4,417	42	11,883	295	16,169	11,905	305		20,428	106,800
19	JIGAWA	1,167	1,147	2,137	10	106	36	934	75	14	85	391	1,643	238		2,817	10,800
20	KADUNA	8,701	5,321	14,614	18	1,769	457	934	70	2,763	477	773	831	183		2,689	39,600
21	KANO	4,326	3,964	7,634	20	1,171	2,578	1,493	39	396	323	3,460	1,173	100		4,523	31,200
S/N	STATE OFFICE	SEXUAL AND GENDER	WOMEN AND GENDER	CHILD RIGHTS	RIGHT OF THE AGED	JUDICIARY, RULE OF LAW AND	FREEDOM OF PERSONS	RIGHT TO LIFE	FREEDOM OF RELIGION	LAW ENFORCEMENT AND HUMAN	QUALITY OF LIFE	LABOUR RIGHTS	FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION	NIGER AND ENVIRONMENT	DELTA	OTHERS	Annual Total (2020)

		BASED VIOLENCE	RIGHTS		ACCESS TO JUSTICE	PERSONS			DIGNITY											
22	KATSINA	899	897	1,591	9	677	697	467	73	291	338	834	979	304	744	8,800				
23	KEBBI	927	902	1,652	26	990	936	534	60	144	377	653	1,027	269	703	9,200				
24	KOGI	973	837	1,776	22	746	435	311	27	21	119	193	1,144	278	1,118	8,000				
25	KWARA	1,246	1,122	1,077	16	1,791	78	789	54	67	284	1,354	1,670	58	2,794	12,400				
26	LAGOS	4,316	3,214	4,379	10	1,285	546	236	57	1,091	187	8,228	860	218	2,173	26,800				
27	NASARAWA	5,350	3,487	5,507	22	1,194	186	1,193	37	2,573	218	2,250	1,792	276	3,115	27,200				
28	NIGER	2,605	2,215	1,975	8	123	736	283	89	169	267	1,859	1,157	211	1,503	13,200				
29	OGUN	2,543	2,765	2,987	18	1,892	1,663	1,285	79	658	232	3,250	1,743	348	2,937	22,400				
30	ONDO	1,603	1,370	1,868	20	1,763	1,567	1,333	67	1,119	335	2,042	2,797	55	2,461	18,400				
31	OSUN	671	824	953	14	923	896	178	64	11	17	1,139	789	79	1,042	7,600				
32	OYO	2,286	1,794	2,595	9	256	2,468	2,378	48	508	14	6,067	4,394	113	3,070	26,000				
33	PLATEAU	1,264	1,148	1,395	4	1,147	1,157	1,174	52	1,347	12	1,407	2,503	222	2,368	15,200				
34	RIVERS	3,754	2,287	4,827	10	1,905	2,674	2,786	48	5,774	391	3,758	7,085	115	3,386	38,800				
36	SOKOTO	3,975	2,829	3,333	15	264	2,754	3,875	17	7,178	189	2,142	3,421	64	4,744	34,800				
37	TARABA	507	486	586	10	333	274	293	19	779	216	381	430	124	234	4,672				
38	YOBE	821	766	756	16	759	166	743	19	209	10	1,156	1,895	33	2,373	9,722				
39	TARABA	1,496	1,628	1,580	11	164	1,046	681	20	1,206	12	1,434	577	35	676	10,566				
40	ZAMFARA	2,390	2,467	2,554	10	373	1,987	1,949	38	2,033	716	3,053	2,732	66	2,032	22,400				
	GRAND TOTAL (COUNTRY WIDE)	128,320	104,280	212,480	600	43,320	45,280	55,680	2,120	111,880	14,600	193,960	151,640	8,080	215,520	1,287,760				

5.2.1 Quarterly Distribution of Complaints

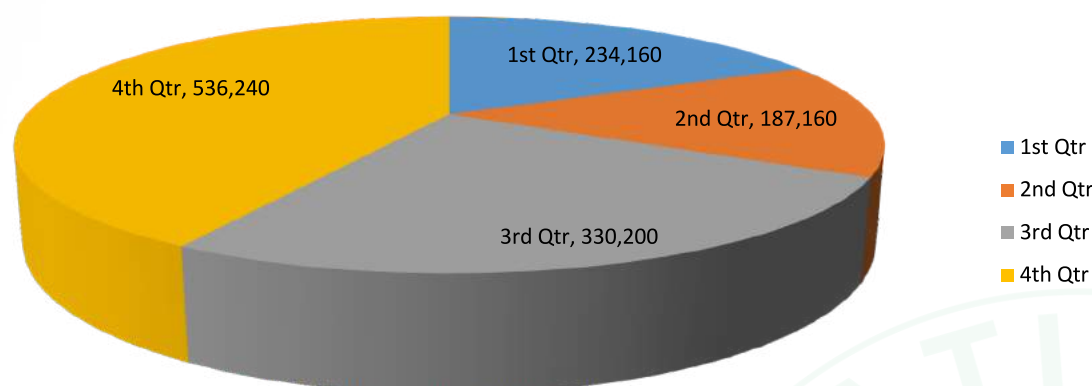
The quarterly spread of the total complaints received by the Commission in the year 2020 shows that the Fourth Quarter had the highest figure of 536,240, followed by the Third Quarter with 330,200. The First and Second Quarters had 234,160, and 187,160 respectively.

The high figure for the Fourth Quarter is attributable to the #EndSARS protests that rocked the nation in the Third Quarter of 2020, and the #EndViolenceAgainstWomen campaign in the last quarter, for which there was a sustained 16 Days of Activism by the Commission and Civil Society Organisations.

Table 5.2.1 Quarterly Distribution of Complaints Received in 2020.

Quarter	Total
First	234,160
Second	187,160
Third	330,200
Fourth	536,240
Annual Total (2020)	1,287,760

Figure 5.2.1 Quarterly Distribution of 2020 Complaints.



5.2.2 Geographical Distribution of Complaints by States

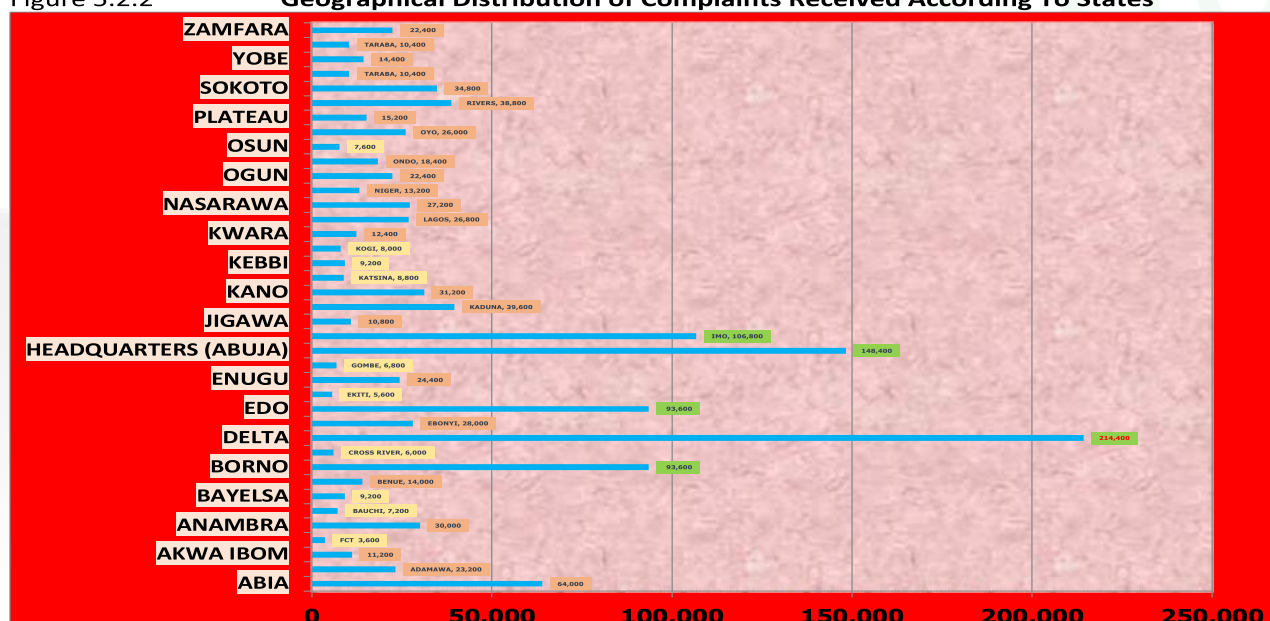
The table below shows the breakdown of complaints received from the Headquarters, the Abuja Metropolitan Office situated at Karu (FCT), and the State Offices of the Commission in 2020. The Delta State Office got the highest number of complaints at 214,400 complaints in 2020. This is followed by the Headquarters with 148,400 complaints and Imo State Office with 106,800 complaints.

State Offices like Cross River, Ekiti, Gombe, Bayelsa, Bauchi, Kastina, Kebbi, Kogi and Osun received less than 10,000 complaints each, in 2020, while the Abuja Metropolitan Office received the lowest number of complaints of 3,600. This low number of complaints by the AMO is attributable to the presence of the Headquarters Office within the same municipality.

Table 5.2.2 Geographical Distribution of Complaints Received According To States

S/N	STATE OFFICE	TOTAL COMPLAINTS (2020)
01	ABIA	64,000
02	ADAMAWA	23,200
03	AKWA IBOM	11,200
04	ABUJA MUNICIPAL OFFICE (FCT)	3,600
05	ANAMBRA	30,000
06	BAUCHI	7,200
07	BAYELSA	9,200
08	BENUE	14,000
09	BORNO	93,600
10	CROSS RIVER	6,000
11	DELTA	214,400
12	EBONYI	28,000
13	EDO	93,600
14	EKITI	5,600
15	ENUGU	24,400
16	GOMBE	6,800
17	HEADQUARTERS (ABUJA)	148,400
18	IMO	106,800
19	JIGAWA	10,800
20	KADUNA	39,600
21	KANO	31,200
22	KATSINA	8,800
23	KEBBI	9,200
24	KOGI	8,000
25	KWARA	12,400
26	LAGOS	26,800
27	NASARAWA	27,200
28	NIGER	13,200
29	OGUN	22,400
30	ONDO	18,400
31	OSUN	7,600
32	OYO	26,000
33	PLATEAU	15,200
34	RIVERS	38,800
36	SOKOTO	34,800
37	TARABA	10,400
38	YOBE	14,400
39	TARABA	10,400
40	ZAMFARA	22,400
	GRAND TOTAL (COUNTRY WIDE)	1,287,600

Figure 5.2.2 Geographical Distribution of Complaints Received According To States



5.3 Admissibility of Complaints

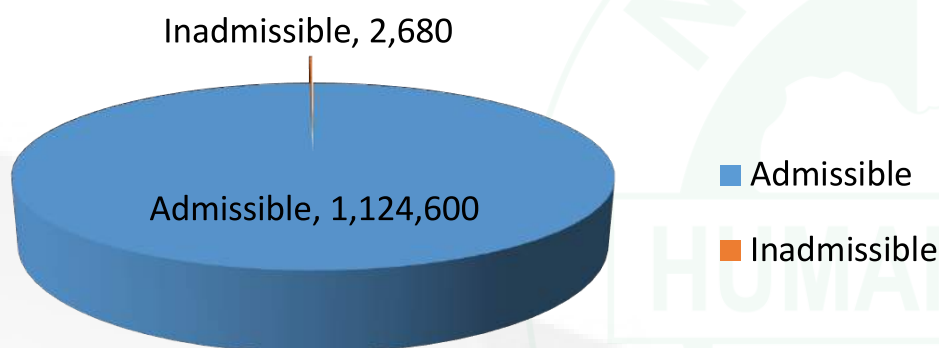
Out of the One Million, Two Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty (1,287,760) complaints received by the Commission, One Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Six Hundred (1,124,600) complaints were admissible, in line with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. Only Two Thousand, Six Hundred and Eighty (2,680) did not meet the guidelines as provided in the Rules of Procedure and therefore inadmissible.

Admissibility as provided for in Rule 72 of the STORP is a process by which the Commission determines the eligibility of complaints. Every complaint lodged in the Commission is subjected to the rules of admissibility. Where such complaints fall within the mandates of other MDAs, they were so referred for appropriate action. Such Agencies include the Public Complaints Commission, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, The Nigeria Police Force, Department of State Services, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, etc.

Table 5.3 **Admissible and Inadmissible Complaints (2020)**

Quarter	Admissible	Inadmissible
First	232,560	1600
Second	187,000	160
Third	330,160	40
Fourth	374,880	880
Annual Total (2020)	1,124,600	2,680

Figure 5.3 **Admissible/Inadmissible Complaints**



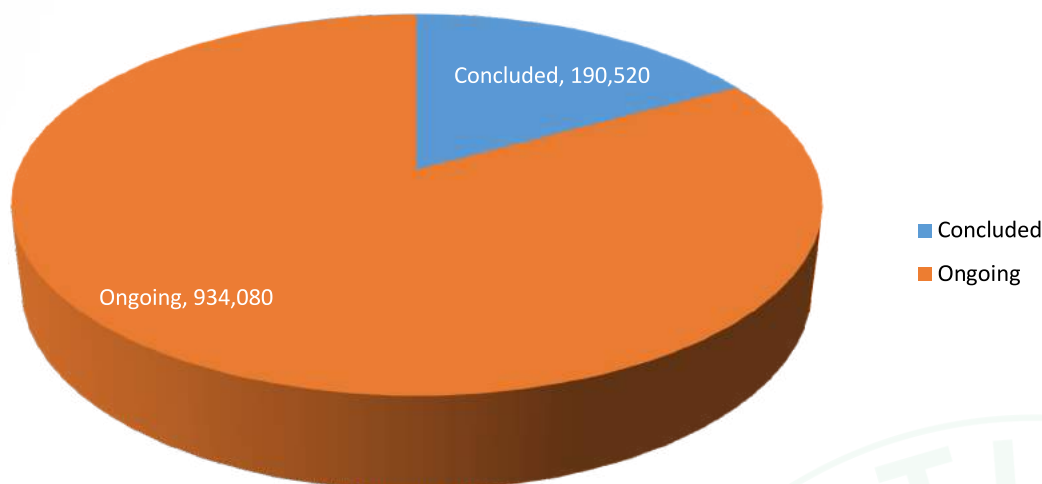
5.4 Status of Complaints

In the year under review, out of **One Million, One Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Six Hundred (1,124,600)** complaints admitted by the Commission, **One Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty (190,520)** were investigated and concluded. **Nine Hundred and Thirty-Four Thousand, and Eighty (934,080)** complaints were ongoing at different stages of investigation by the end of the year. Details of the status of complaints are summarized in the table below:

Table 5.4 Status of Complaints

Quarter	Concluded	Ongoing
First	38,560	194,000
Second	10,200	176,800
Third	78,240	251,920
Fourth	63,520	311,360
Annual Total (2020)	190,520	934,080

Figure 5.4 Status of Complaints 2020



5.5 Disaggregation of Complaints

The complaints received by the Commission in 2020 were admitted, based on their admissibility status. The thematic area of focus of the various rights violations and rate of occurrences within the year under review were also considered. The availability of accurate data and information on the frequency of occurrence of each type of violation reported, is highly imperative for guiding the Commission in its human rights promotion, protection, and enforcement activities, as well as other interventions like research and monitoring.

In the year 2020, **Sexual and Gender Based Violence** (*Rape and Domestic Violence*), **Child Rights Issues** (*Right to Survival and Development, Child Abandonment*), **Women and Gender Rights** (*Child Custody, Denial of Access to Children*) **Law Enforcement and Human Dignity** (*Unlawful Arrest, Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment*), **Labour Rights and Discrimination** cases recorded high frequencies of occurrence, while low frequencies of occurrence were recorded in the areas of **Rights of Older Persons** and **Freedom of Religion**.

Certain thematic areas recorded increase in the number of complaints, when compared to the preceding year, 2019. This is attributable to:

- Heightened activities by the Commission, especially in marking the 16 Days of Activism to **#EndGenderBasedViolence**
- The Human Rights Independent Investigative Panel set up all over the Country in the aftermath of the **#EndSARS** protest
- The Public Hearing and Sitzings on Gender Based Violence throughout the Country by the Commission, which received a deluge of complaints/petitions
- The lockdown occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic which caused a spiral in rape and gender-based violence.

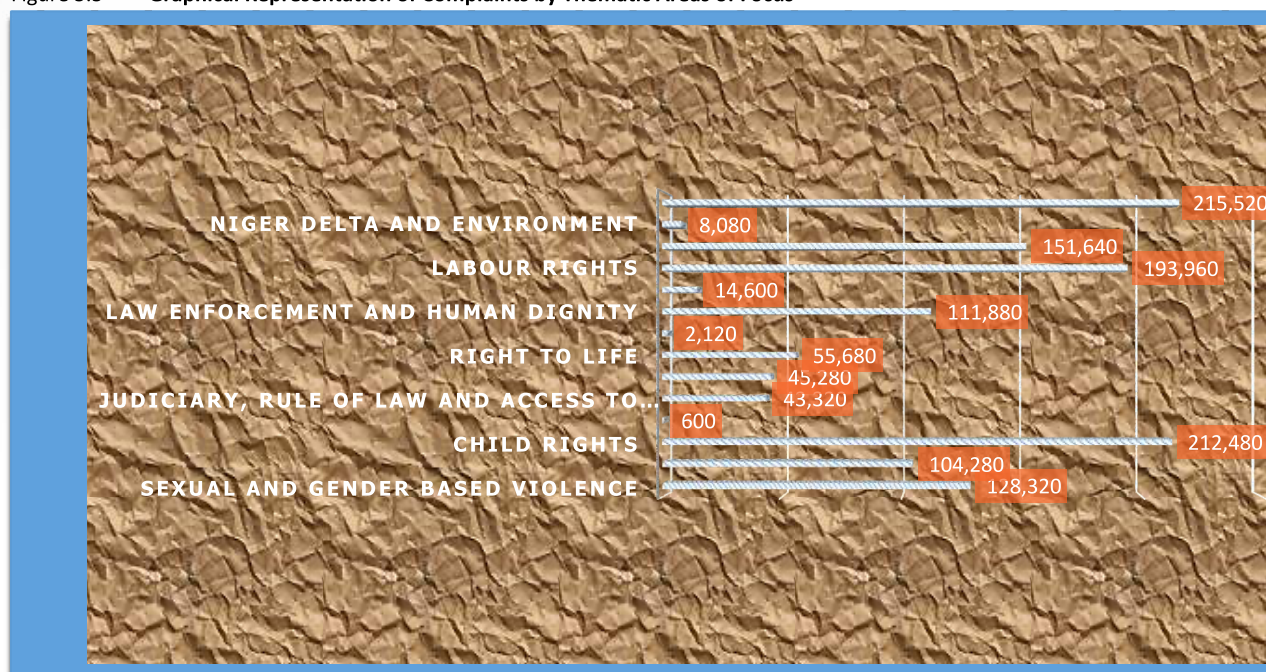
Table 5.5 Disaggregation of Complaints According to Areas of Thematic Focus

SUB-GROUP	THEMATIC FOCUS	TOTAL COMPLAINTS
SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE	SEXUAL VIOLENCE	9,680
	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	107,440
	RAPE	11,200
	SUB TOTAL	128,320
WOMEN AND GENDER RIGHTS	GENDER BASED DISCRIMINATION	3,280
	HARMFUL CULTURAL PRACTICES	2,600
	FORCEFUL MARRIAGE	6,200
	SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS	2,200
	DENIAL OF ACCESS TO CHILDREN	1,600
	INHERITANCE	26,760
	ABANDONMENT (WOMEN)	60,320
	WOMEN TRAFFICKING	1,320
	SUB TOTAL	104,280
CHILD RIGHTS	RIGHT TO SURVIVAL & DEVELOPMENT	23,400
	CHILD CUSTODY	47,960
	ACCESS TO CHILDREN	9,920
	OTHER CHILD ABUSES	12,880
	CHILD LABOUR	720
	CHILD MARRIAGE	800
	CHILD TRAFFICKING	3,480
	SEXUAL ABUSE	17,800
	CHILD ABANDONMENT	90,760
	RIGHT TO EDUCATION	4,760
	SUB TOTAL	212,480
SUB-GROUP	THEMATIC FOCUS	TOTAL COMPLAINTS
RIGHTS OF THE AGED	THE ELDERLY	600

JUDICIARY, RULE OF LAW AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE	DELAY OF COURT HEARING	21,600
	ABUSE OF POWER	2,840
	DISOBEIDENCE OF COURT ORDER / JUDGEMENT	2,520
	RIGHT TO FAIR HEARING	6,000
	APPEAL FOR PEROGATIVE OF MERCY	2,280
	ACCESS TO JUSTICE	8,080
	SUB TOTAL	43,320
FREEDOM/LIBERTY OF PERSONS	RIGHT TO PERSONAL LIBERTY	80
	RIGHT TO DIGNITY OF PERSON	40
	PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS	560
	RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY/ ASSOCIATION	3,560
	UNLAWFUL ARREST AND DETENTION	41,040
	SUB TOTAL	45,280
RIGHT TO LIFE	THREAT TO LIFE	54,760
	ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE	920
	SUB TOTAL	55,680
FREEDOM OF RELIGION	RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION, THOUGHT & CONSCIENCE	2,120
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND HUMAN DIGNITY	CRUEL INHUMAN & DEGRADING TREATMENT	73,160
	EXTRA JUDICIAL KILLING	15,640
	TORTURE	12,400
	EXTORTION/UNLAWFUL SEIZURE OF PROPERTY	10,680
	SUB TOTAL	111,880
QUALITY OF LIFE	RIGHT TO HEALTH	1,680
	RIGHT TO FOOD	200
	RIGHT TO SHELTER	9,560
	RIGHT TO PRIVATE AND FAMILY LIFE	3,160
	SUB TOTAL	14,600
SUB-GROUP	THEMATIC FOCUS	TOTAL COMPLAINTS
LABOUR RIGHTS	NON-PAYMENT OF BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENT	68,840
	WRONGFUL TERMINATION AND DISSIMISAL FROM EMPLOYMENT	8,480
	LABOUR RIGHTS	116,640
	SUB TOTAL	193,960

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION	LAND AND LANDED PROPERTY	34,320
	DISCRIMINATION (MEDICAL)	320
	PROTECTION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP'S)	112,920
	DISCRIMINATION (OTHERS)	1,120
	CIRCUMSTANCES OF BIRTH	880
	DISABILITY	2,080
	SUB TOTAL	151,640
NIGER DELTA AND ENVIRONMENT	ENVIROMENTAL RIGHTS	8,080
OTHERS	OTHERS (ETHNIC/RELIGIOUS)	2,880
	COMPLAINTS RELATED CALLS	168,640
	OTHERS	43,280
	INTERNATIONAL MATTERS	720
	SUB TOTAL	215,520

Figure 5.5 Graphical Representation of Complaints by Thematic Areas of Focus



5.6 Summary of Complaints 1996 – 2020

The Commission has been receiving and treating complaints since it started operations in 1996. In its first year of operation, the Commission received only 41 complaints. Although there were fluctuations in the receipt of complaints by the Commission in the succeeding years, there has been an average steady rise in the number of complaints received, admitted and treated in the Commission since 2010.

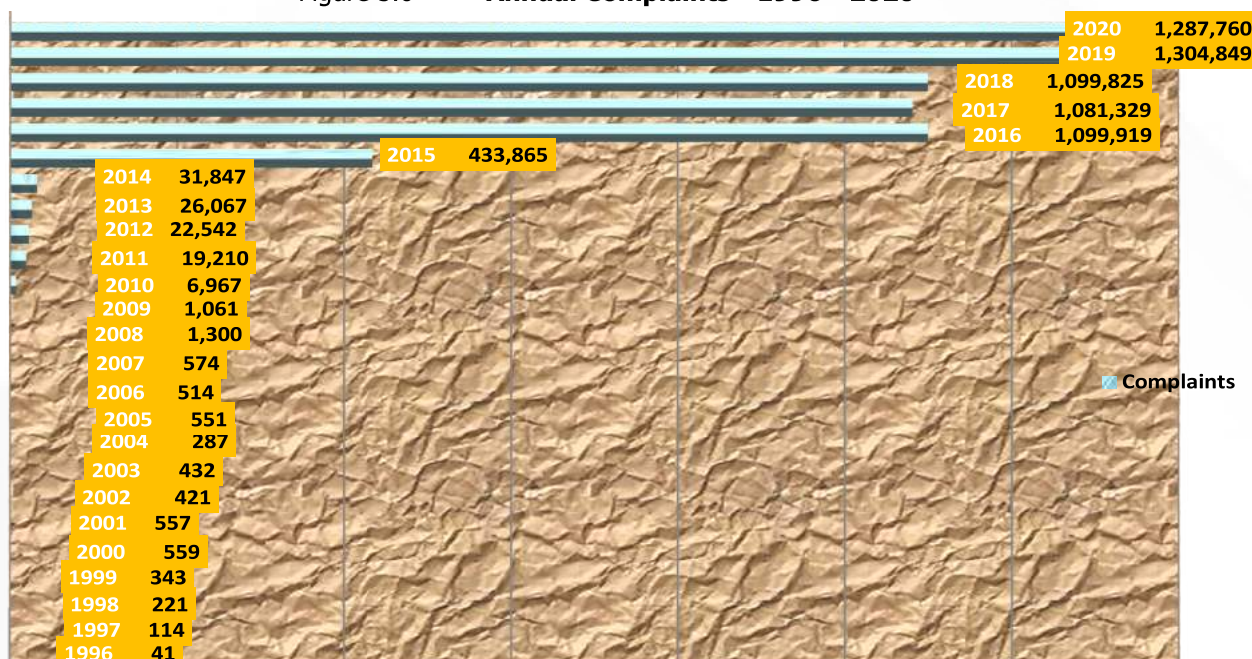
The Commission has received cumulatively, a total number of Five Million, One Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Ninety-Five (5,133,395) complaints from 1996 to 2020.

The table below is the summary of complaints received, admitted and treated by the Commission from 1996 to 2019.

Table 5.6 Summary of Complaints 1996-2020

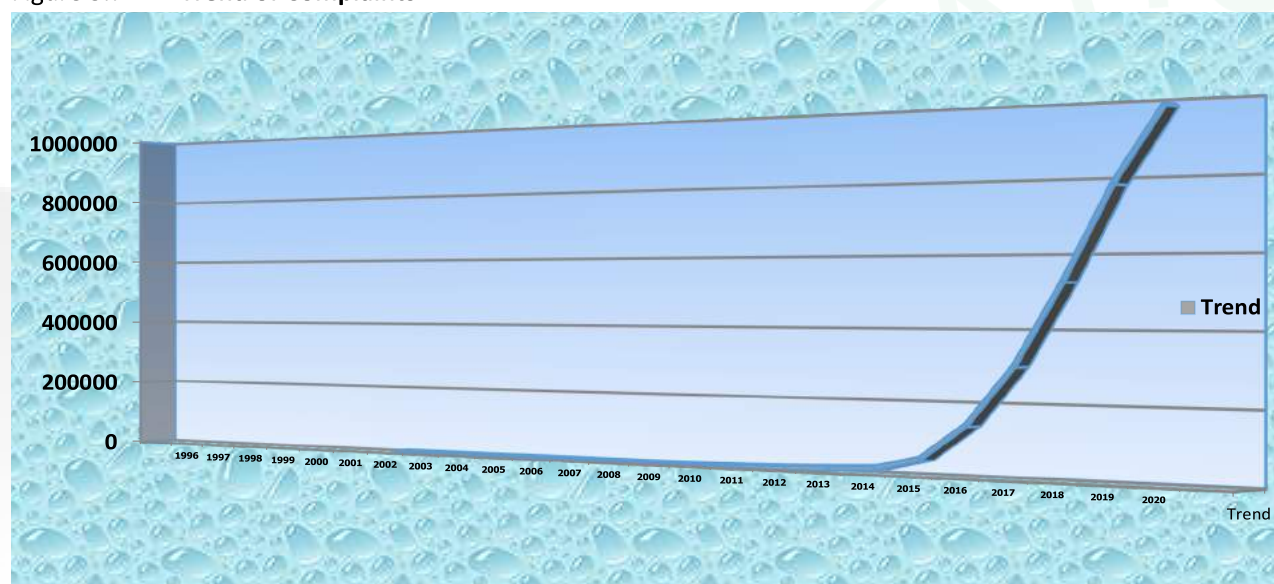
Year	Total Received	Admissible	Inadmissible	Concluded	Pending
1996	41	29	12	28	1
1997	114	85	29	73	12
1998	221	133	88	89	44
1999	343	135	208	100	35
2000	559	286	273	95	191
2001	557	377	180	143	234
2002	421	356	65	114	242
2003	432	388	44	122	266
2004	287	271	16	92	179
2005	551	476	75	319	157
2006	514	416	98	258	158
2007	574	235	31	151	84
2008	1,300	1,423	185	1,133	290
2009	1,061	1,040	21	750	290
2010	6,967	6,700	267	4,000	2,700
2011	19,210	18,060	1,150	15,403	2,657
2012	22,542	21,373	3,187	18,188	3,185
2013	26,067	24,198	1,869	19,806	4,392
2014	31,847	28,974	2,873	24,339	4,635
2015	433,865	430,962	2,903	414,384	16,578
2016	1,099,919	1,000,430	99,489	489,219	511,211
2017	1,081,329	1,081,126	203	576,742	504,384
2018	1,099,825	1,097,777	2,048	647,688	450,089
2019	1,304,849	1,303,936	913	1,105,738	198,198
2020	1,287,760	1,124,600	2,680	190,520	934,080
Total (1996 - 2020)	6,421,155	6,143,786	118,907	3,509,494	2,634,292

Figure 5.6 Annual Complaints - 1996 - 2020



There have been upward and downward trends in receipt of complaints by the Commission since its inception. In 1996, when the Commission started operation, it received a total number of 41 complaints. Between 1996 and the year 2000 there was an upward trend in the number of complaints received by the Commission. In 2001 there was a drop in the number of complaints received by the Commission. Between 2010 and 2016, there was an upward trend in the number of complaints received by the Commission. However, there was a little drop in 2017. In 2018 and 2019 the Commission had an upward direction in the receipt of complaints. The upward trend could be attributable to increased accessibility of the Commission's services with the establishment of more State Offices, as well as increased visibility through media advocacy. The trend of complaints from 1996 to 2020 is shown below and is also illustrated in Table 5.6.

Figure 5.7 Trend of Complaints



The trajectory of the trend of the Commission's complaints profile depends on a number of factors which include:

- Knowledge of human rights by the public
- Awareness of the Commission's services
- Ability to access the Commission's offices
- Level of and preponderance of violations

With increased and sustained human rights education, it is expected that knowledge, skills and attitude with respect to human rights will be built and there will be an improved human rights culture. This may lead to more people accessing the Commission's services to claim their rights, thereby leading to an increase in the complaint profile in the short run, or a reduction in violations, leading to a decrease in the complaint profile in the long run.

PROJECTS



CHAPTER SIX

PROJECT

Chapter Six



6.0 Preamble

This section contains summary of reports of key projects embarked on by the Commission in 2020. At the end of each project, reports are compiled and published. The full reports may be found on the website of the Commission.

6.1 Election Monitoring: Governorship Elections in Edo and Ondo States

6.1.0 Introduction

The National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act 2010 mandates the Commission to observe elections in line with Article 25 (a) and (b) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that gives every citizen the right to vote and be voted for, at genuine periodic elections, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electorates. Accordingly, the Commission monitored the Governorship Elections which were held in Edo and Ondo State on 19th September and 10th October 2020 respectively. Both elections were held within the Corona Virus pandemic. The main focus of the Commission in election monitoring is to identify trends and patterns of human rights violations. Excerpts of the reports of the two elections are provided below.

6.1.1 Governorship Election in Edo State

6.1.1.0 Preamble

The Commission deployed staff to observe the governorship election on September 19, 2020. There were two thousand six hundred and twenty-seven (2,627) Polling Units (PUs) in Eighteen (18) Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Edo State. However, because of COVID-19 pandemic challenges, the Commission only observed election in Oredo, Ikpoba Okha, Uhumwonde and Owan West LGAs.

6.1.1.1 Findings

- i. Officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) arrived with the materials before 8.00 am at most of the Polling Units (PUs) covered by the Commission's observers.
- ii. The polling booths and the ballot boxes were positioned to make it difficult for voters to show their ballot papers to potential vote buyers.
- iii. In some PUs, a good number of voters were already out in the early hours of the morning awaiting the election officials to set up the PUs.
- iv. 60% of accreditation and voting went on simultaneously between the hours of 8.00am – 2.00pm. The ballot boxes were showed to be empty before the commencement of voting.
- v. Most of the PUs were accessible to voters as they were set up in both primary and secondary schools, as well as open spaces, for free movement of voters.
- vi. Polling information document was pasted and presiding officers explained the voting procedure to all eligible voters before the commencement of accreditation and voting.
- vii. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), through its officials, took time to educate voters to enable them cast their votes with ease. Unregistered voters as well as

- under-age persons were not seen at the PUs and voting points.
- viii. It was observed that most of the PUs had adequate security operatives who were reported to have arrived early. However, they were inadequate in some PUs.
 - ix. There was presence of multi-agency security personnel from the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the Department of State Service (DSS) and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC).
 - x. Officers from the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) were seen in a few Polling Units.
 - xi. The military were not seen at any of the PUs.
 - xii. Security personnel demonstrated a lot of professionalism in ensuring a peaceful voting process in most of the PUs.
 - xiii. It was observed that sensitive materials were received in a secured manner from the wards and taken to collation centres, accompanied by Presiding Officers, Party Agents and Security Agents. Many of the voters observed **COVID-19 Regulations** as they wore face masks and observed social distance, although not in all PUs.
 - xiv. The turnout of voters was generally high across PUs and voting points.
 - xv. Voters conducted themselves in an orderly manner during the voting process.
 - xvi. There was a high turnout of women in most of the PUs, as 70% of the voters were women as indicated in the checklists.
 - xvii. In some PUs, pregnant women, nursing mothers and the aged were given preference to vote. Generally, no disenfranchisement was recorded on the basis of gender.
 - xviii. In all the PUs observed, there was no arrangement for persons with disabilities.
 - xix. INEC did not make provisions in regard to specific PUs requirements, such as voter instruction/education materials in understandable language for those who could not understand the language used in the election materials.
 - xx. The observers witnessed 85% functional Smart Card Reader (SCR) but there was technical malfunction of SCR in a few places which was rectified immediately, although it caused delay in the process.
 - xxi. Counting process in some of the Polling Units began at 3.00pm.
 - xxii. In most of the PUs, ballot papers were counted in the public and some votes were considered invalid during counting.
 - xxiii. Party Agents and Observers witnessed the counting and announcement of the results unhindered.
 - xxiv. The signed and dated copies of results were handed over to the Party Agents present, including the Security Personnel and some Observers.
 - xxv. There was no record of ballot snatching. However, there were cases of vote buying in Ikpoba, Okha, Owan-West, Maria-Goretti College IV, Ward 6, Unit 16 and 17.
 - xxvi. At Ward 2 Unit 3, 4 and 5 the INEC Officials were protesting non-payment of their training allowance. This caused delay in accreditation and voting process.

6.1.1.2 Recommendations:

The following recommendations were made:

- A. Independent National Electoral Commission should:
 - i. Strengthen its sensitization programmes on political participation especially on issues regarding offences during electoral processes;
 - ii. Continue to engage with political parties, party agents and their supporters in advocating for peaceful election and the need to adhere to electoral rules;
 - iii. Increase education and enlightenment of the citizenry on the importance of obtaining

- their Personal Voters Card (PVC), the implication of vote buying/selling as well as other forms of election related violence and malpractices;
- iv. Ensure timely and adequate deployment of security personnel to areas that are known to be flash points for electoral malpractices; and
 - v. Strengthen its partnership with stakeholders like the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and National Orientation Agency (NOA), in order to reach out to voters at the grassroots.
- B. The Government should:
- i. establish an Electoral Offences Commission in order to ensure speedy prosecution of election related violence and other malpractices;
 - ii. strengthen the capacity of the police to enhance the prosecution of electoral offences.
 - iii. name and shame citizens and political parties that are found to be involved in election related violence or malpractices;
 - iv. take proactive measures to ensure accountability in election management.
- C. Youths should be encouraged to participate actively in the political process and decision-making to enable them to contribute meaningfully to nation building rather than being used to perpetrate election violence or malpractice.
- D. Security Agencies should:
- i. be deployed evenly at all the PUs on election day.
 - ii. be vigilant and apprehend persons who involve themselves in any act of inducement/vote buying and election violence;
 - iii. should ensure adherence to law and order and ensure that perpetrators of all forms of election related offences are prosecuted in accordance with the Electoral Act.
 - iv. demonstrate professionalism by ensuring that all PUs and voting points are well protected from any form of intimidation, disruption and harassment by politicians or thugs.
- E. Political Parties should:
- i. always conduct themselves in a way that does not encourage violence by their supporters.
 - ii. always obey the guidelines of INEC especially on election administration

6.1.2 Governorship Election State in Ondo State

6.1.2.0 Introduction

The Commission also monitored the conduct of Ondo Governorship Election which took place on 20th October 2020. Due to challenges posed by the of COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission only observed the exercise in 26 Polling Units in four out of 18 Local Government Areas of Ondo State. The Local Government Areas were Irele, Akure South, Akure North and Okitipupa.

6.1.2.1 Findings

- i. Officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) arrived at most of the Polling Units (PUs) with voting materials before 8.00am where they immediately set up the PUs.
- ii. The PUs was accessible to voters as most of them were set up in front of residential areas and

- maternity centres designated for the voting exercise.
- iii. Polling information was pasted on the walls of the buildings and fence.
 - iv. The Presiding Officers explained the voting procedure to all eligible voters at the PUs before the commencement of accreditation and voting exercise.
 - v. About 70% of accreditation and voting went on simultaneously between the hours of 8.00am-2.30pm in PUs covered by the Commission's observers.
 - vi. The INEC Officials educated voters to enable them cast their votes without any hitch.
 - vii. Unregistered voters and under-age persons were not allowed to vote.
 - viii. Security operatives reported to PUs on time. However, it was observed that there was an uneven distribution of security operatives among the PUs.
 - ix. Security at the PUs was provided by joint operations of law enforcement personnel from the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and the Department of State Service (DSS).
 - x. The Security Personnel demonstrated professionalism in ensuring law and order during the voting process in most of the PUs.
 - xi. Sensitive and non-sensitive polling material were adequate.
 - xii. Sensitive materials were secured and taken to ward collation centres accompanied by Presiding Officers, Party Agents and Security Personnel in areas covered.
 - xiii. There was no specific arrangement in terms of separate queues for the vulnerable groups (elderly, persons living with disabilities, nursing mothers, persons with hearing and visual impairment, etc).
 - xiv. INEC did not make provisions with regards to specific PUs requirements such as voter instruction/education materials translated in indigenous languages for the benefit of voters who do not understand the language used in the election materials;
 - xv. There was low turnout of voters in all the Polling Units especially the women.
 - xvi. The voters, electoral and security officers in all the observed Polling units were recorded to be peaceful and orderly;
 - xvii. The Security Agents at the PUs did not carry weapons.
 - xviii. Ward 03 PU 002 and Ward 04 PU 005 in Okitipupa L.G.A recorded incidence of vote-buying.
 - xix. Counting and announcement of results were done in all Polling Units and all the Party Agents agreed with the results.

6.1.2.2 Recommendations:

The following recommendations were made:

A. Independence National Electoral Commission should:

- i. Improve on voters education;
- ii. Consider Observers recommendations
- iii. There should be accreditation of more Observers
- iv. Ensure an all-inclusive voting process
- v. Make provision for medical personnel at each ward for the sake of emergencies.

B. Youths should desist from the present tradition of selling votes at Polling booths and being recruited for violence.

C. Security Personnel should:

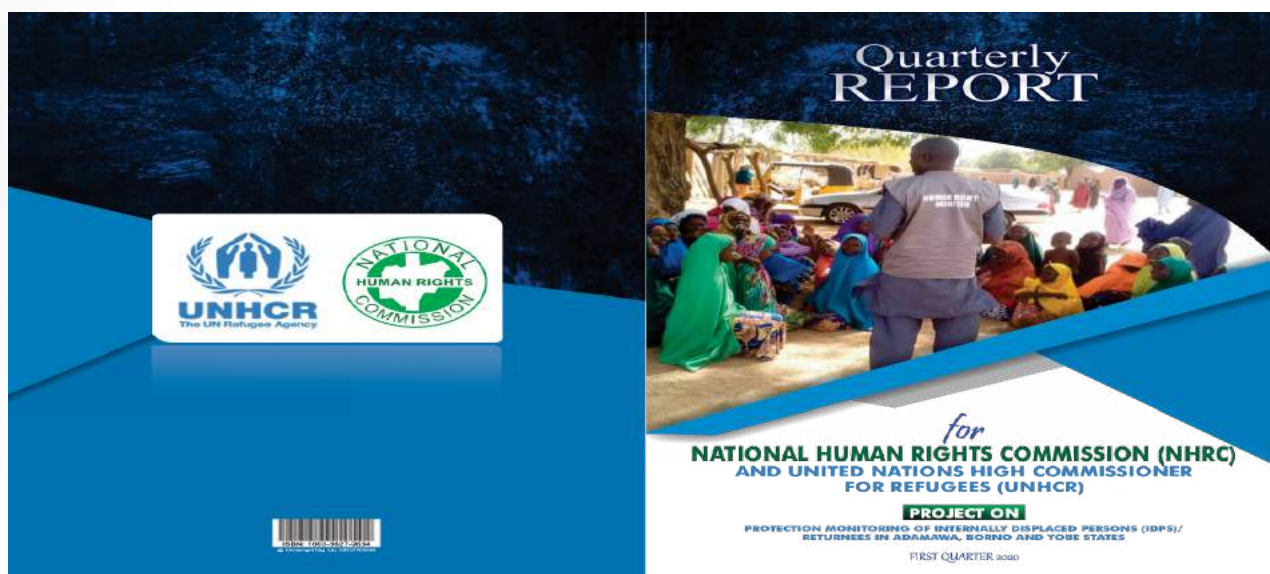
- i. Be vigilant and apprehend electoral offenders

- ii. Ensure adequate protection of polling units
- iii. Deploy adequate personnel to flashpoints

D. Political Parties should:

- i. Discourage violence among its supporters
- ii. Ensure strict adherence to INEC guidelines

6.2 Protection Monitoring of Internally Displaced Persons and Returnees in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States



6.2.0 Introduction

The Project on Protection of Persons of Concern (PoCs) through Human Rights Monitoring in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States is a collaborative effort of the National Human Rights Commission and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which started in 2015 with 10 project states. In implementing the project, which now revolves around the epicentre of insurgency, i.e Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States. Human Rights Monitors are deployed to the field to monitor and document human rights issues affecting the PoCs. Reports received from the monitors facilitated responses and prevention of further violations or abuses of the PoCs.

To get prompt and desired results, Human Rights Monitors work in synergy with stakeholders like Protection Action Groups, relevant MDAs of government and other organizations with mandate to promote and protect human rights, popularly called the Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG). This cooperation is key to addressing the human rights and humanitarian challenges of the PoCs through teamwork. This is needed to form strong referral pathways necessary for prompt response to cases.

This report examines the relevant aspects of the human rights monitoring project during the period under review. It is classified according to States and highlights human rights issues identified in those States by the Human Rights Monitors. The issues covered are rights of women (rape/sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, physical violence, forced/ early marriage, domestic violence/neglect, harassment, security threat against women/girls, etc.); rights of the child (Child labour, Lack of parental care and maintenance, hawking, child marriage, unlawful sexual intercourse with a child,

child labour, etc); civil and political rights; right of the vulnerable group; economic, social and cultural rights; access to justice, etc.

The report provides some comparative analysis on human rights issues covered. For instance, awareness raising sessions carried out in the States may be a factor for increase or reduction in occurrence of reported incidents in respective locations. We commend the various interventions of humanitarian actors and government agencies for their work despite the difficult terrain.

6.2.1 Project Background

The protection issues resulting from the humanitarian crises in the North East are now in its tenth year with no end in sight. Incessant attacks from non-state armed groups (NSAG) comprising of Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) and Jama'atu Ahlus-Sunnah Lidda'Awati Wal Jihad (JAS), coupled with counterinsurgency operations by the military has led to a never-ending cycle of violence and displacements creating new emergencies in what is already a protracted situation. Despite a significant scale-up of humanitarian response since 2016, gaps have persisted requiring further intervention.

The asymmetric nature of the conflict has continued to exacerbate the general security situation in North-eastern Nigeria due to incessant attacks by the Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) on military and civilian targets and counter attacks by government forces has adversely impacted the humanitarian and human rights situation of the people in the area.

Humanitarian access has also been seriously affected with restricted movement of humanitarian actors within the affected areas and the growing number of inaccessible areas, leaving behind populations in need. JAS attacks on civil population have become more predatory, forcing many more civilians into displacement. A shift in the military strategy initiated by the Theatre Commander in Maiduguri and regrouping troops around key areas is expected to have implications on the humanitarian response, particularly on road movements affecting the transportation of humanitarian cargo and staff.

Partners working in locations where static forces have been withdrawn are concerned that this new strategy will increase insecurity in these areas and impede the delivery of ongoing assistance. Of special note are witnessed instances of deliberate actions by NSAG aimed at damaging UN facilities in the field and abductions of Aid Workers.

In January and August 2019, attacks on UN Humanitarian Hubs in Rann and Banki were repelled by Nigerian Army. There were also abduction and execution of two contractors affiliated with ICRC and a staff of Actions Against Hunger. These, as well as the uncertainty surrounding the fate of some aid workers abducted by NSAGs, compromises the safety of humanitarian and human rights workers in the area. The effects of continued agitations by NSAGs have been numerous, not only curtailing access to affected populations by humanitarian actors, but also seriously impairing access to basic needs, services and livelihood opportunities by IDPs who already lost everything in their flight to safety. As of October 2019, a significant number of roads formerly assessed as "no escort needed" in BAY States, now require military escort due to high risk of ambushes. Field presence has been affected as prolonged and complex attacks on major towns necessitated the suspension of humanitarian programmes and withdrawal of staff.

Threat of terrorism persists in the North-East despite enhanced security measures introduced by the government and complimented by humanitarian security management system. As of October 2019,

the humanitarian situation in the following LGAs has been evaluated as extremely severe: Gujba, Kaga, Konduga, Damboa, Chibok, Askira/Uba, Michika, Bama, Dikwa, Mafa, Jere and Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC) and catastrophic in the Monguno, Mobbar, Madagali and Gwoza. These 16 LGAs accommodate 75% of the total displaced populations in the three BAY States (1,353,784 IDPs compared to 1,815,174 in the BAY States).

Displacements have not only increased in scale, but also in complexity. As at January 2019 displacements in the three BAY States were estimated at 1,758,277 persons (DTM 26), while by the end of July, it had increased to 1,815,174 (DTM 28). This represents an increase of more than 3%. Borno remains the epicentre of the crisis, accounting for more than 73% of all evaluated States (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe). As of 16 July 2019, the Six States were accommodating a total of 2,018,613 IDPs (398,236 Households) – in January, IDPs in the Six States were 1,948,349 persons (382,296 Households). In terms of complexity, more than 88% of assessed IDPs were displaced since 2014 and 2015; and 11.9% are new IDPs displaced in 2016/2018. This shows not only the protracted nature of the crisis, but also the sheer lack of prospects for durable solutions. In addition, according to July statistics, only 19.8% of assessed IDPs have been displaced one time. The remaining 80.2% (1,618,847 IDPs) have been displaced two times. Furthermore, 21.22% (428,410 IDPs) of assessed IDPs have been displaced three times. This is a portrayal of the scale of suffering and exacerbation of vulnerabilities, including loss of resources and opportunities for livelihood.

Insurgency remains the predominant cause of displacement (accounting for more than 92.6% of all displacements) the remaining 9% is caused by communal clashes 7% and 2% by natural causes. The two LGAs most affected by displacements are MMC and Jere, accounting for more than 26% of total displacements. As of 16th July 2019, there were 1,154,334 IDPs (57% of displacements) in host Communities, while 864,179 (43%) IDPs were in some 294 Camps. Out of the 864,179 IDPs, 456,294 are accommodated in formal Camps, while 407,885 have found refuge in informal settlements. The population in Camps/Settlements is predominantly young with IDPs aged 1-18 years representing more than 57% of all IDP populations in camps. 55.3% of IDPs in camps are female, and 45% of IDPs in camps have been displaced at least 2 times. The protection situation remains of great concern, in spite of efforts by Government and humanitarian actors to strengthen the protection environment, provide protection and assistance to IDPs and other affected populations, as well as to establish conducive situation for the implementation of durable solutions. Grave and gruesome protection incidents against civilians - including, arbitrary arrests and detention, summary executions, indiscriminate attacks, abductions and hostage-taking, physical violence, lootings, child molestation and gender-based violence - continue to be reported.

The civil character of camps/settlements is frequently violated by uncontrolled rag-tag armed actors who burst into IDPs hosting areas to mete violence, disruption of normal life and commission of protection incidents. More than 20,000 civilians have lost their lives and thousands of women and girls have been abducted and forced into sexual slavery. Considered one of the world's largest protection crises, civilians in BAY States face serious risks to their safety, well-being and basic rights. Attacks on Camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), which are intended as places of safe haven, continue to be carried out and threaten the lives of IDPs. This includes almost all Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Borno State, the epicentre of the crisis.

From January to June 2019, 99% of SGBV survivors assisted by data gathering organizations were female. This highlights the fact that women and girls are disproportionately affected by SGBV. 54% of reported incidents of SGBV reported were perpetrated against IDPs and 33% of these incidents were perpetrated during the displacement process.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Project on Protection of Persons of Concern through Human Rights Monitoring established the erstwhile IDP, Returnee Protection Monitoring Project in 2015. This has continued to have positive impact on the situation of the PoCs. There is a continuing need to ensure that systems remain in place to identify time-critical protection risks and abuses, ensure response and prevention of further abuses and rebuild infrastructure to facilitate returnees' resettlement. NHRC has an essential role to play in monitoring and protecting the human rights of returnees and internally displaced persons as well as those returning to communities where relative peace has returned. This is more so because they are particularly vulnerable to violations of their human rights and may need a specific form of protection. A lot has been achieved leading to recovery of territories from Boko Haram and commencement of return to recovered communities by displaced persons and returnees. However, report from the field suggest that the situation on ground presents different human rights challenges and grave violations such as SGBV, hunger and poverty (relating to right to food), illegal detention and survival sex. This requires further intervention through training, monitoring, establishment of effective referral and follow-up systems, interface with stakeholders and needs assessment of the recovered communities. The project seeks to improve the protection, restore the dignity and wellbeing of IDPs, Returnees and Host Communities in the BAY States through the development and implementation of community-based Human Rights Monitoring interventions. This can be achieved through regular monitoring missions, collection, analysis and dissemination of protection data/information to protection actors through UNHCR; advocacy interventions; awareness raising campaigns; cooperation with civil society for monitoring and support to detainees; interventions for release of individuals arbitrarily detained; legal assistance to survivors of violence and exploitation; and the surveillance of the humanitarian situation as a whole. The foregoing background gave birth to the renewal of the partnership between UNHCR and NHRC for the protection of population of concern through human rights monitoring for the 2020 project cycle.

6.2.2 Summary of Findings

This report contains information on the demographics of the population of concern reached, summary of human rights issues identified, breakdown of issues highlighted under various thematic areas of human rights community-based interventions, human rights monitoring mission visits conducted, visits to return communities and visits to detention facilities across the three project States.

The Human Rights Thematic Areas under which reports were recorded by monitors include:

- Rights of Women
- Rights of the Child
- Civil and Political Rights
- Vulnerable Groups
- Access to Justice
- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

COVID-19 Pandemic and associated measures to curb the spread were at their peak during the period of the project especially in the second quarter. This affected interventions in various ways. It is envisaged that as global and national efforts to contend with the epidemic record success, normalcy will gradually return. This will correspondingly affect interventions positively.

Number of persons reached:

January	-	20,505
February	-	23,742
March	-	13,821

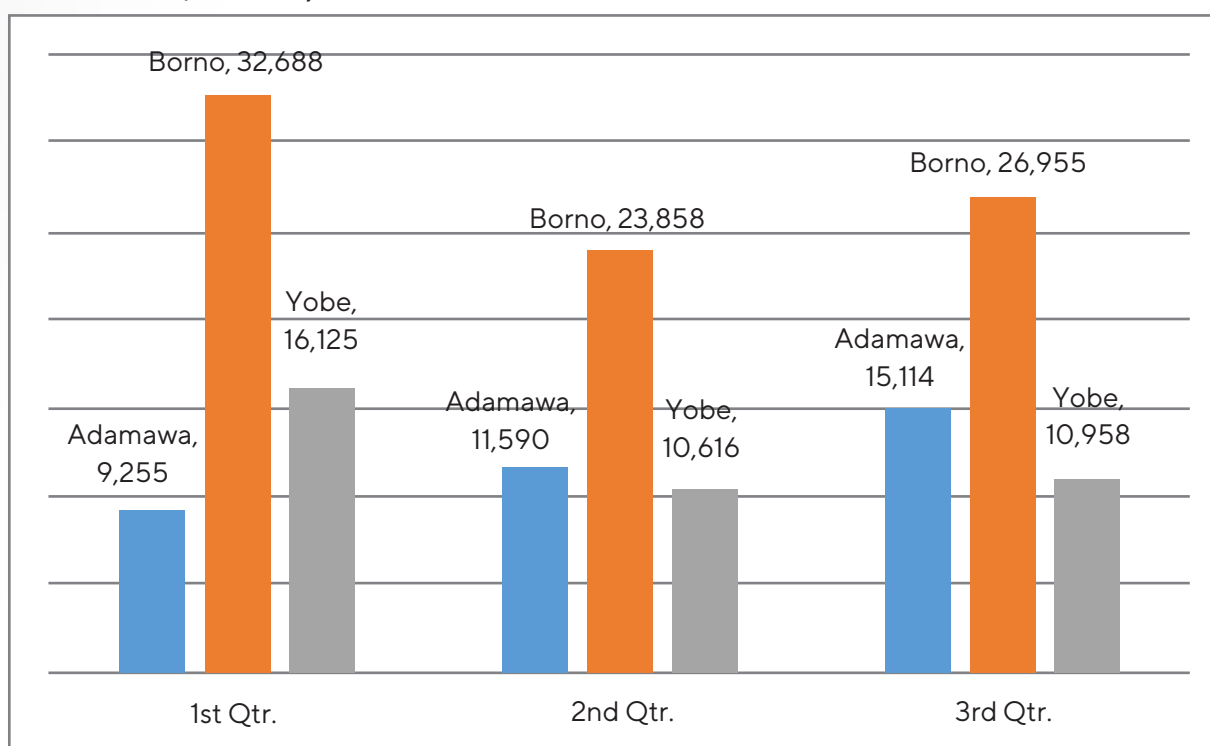
Total for First Quarter 58,068

April	-	18,531
May	-	11,887
June	-	15,646

Total for Second Quarter 46,064

July	-	12,351
August	-	13,747
September	-	26,929

Total for Third Quarter 53,027



6.3 Independent Investigative Panel on Human Rights Violations by the Defunct Special Anti-Robbery Squad and Other Units of the Nigerian Police Force

Introduction

The National Human Rights Commission (the Commission) was established by the National Human Rights Commission Act 1995, with amendment in 2010, to promote and protect the human rights of Nigerian citizens in line with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and other national laws, regional and international human rights instruments to which Nigeria is a state party.

The human rights violations allegedly perpetrated by officers and men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) and other units of the Nigeria Police Force have come under focus in recent times. Various reports of alleged extrajudicial killings, illegal arrests, torture, disappearances, extortions,

confiscation of property, violations of dignity and privacy, etc. have received national and global attentions. Nigerian citizens, especially young people, have been victims of these human rights violations and have brought the attention of the Commission and the Government of Nigeria to the alleged violations committed by SARS and other police units over the years.

Constitution and mandate of the Independent Investigative Panel In response to the above, and in exercise of its independent mandate under section 6(1)(a, d, e, f and g) of the National Human Rights Commission Act of 2010, the Commission has established an Independent Investigative Panel (IIP) to investigate allegations of human rights violations against SARS and other units of the Nigeria Police Force as well as to make appropriate recommendations and award compensations, where appropriate.

The Panel comprises the following members:

- Chairman of the Panel;
- Two Representatives of the Civil Society;
- Representative of the National Human Rights Commission;
- Representative of Nigerian Youths;
- Representative of the Police Service Commission;
- Representative of Nigeria Police Force;
- Representative of the Nigerian Bar Association; and
- Representative of the Academia.

Membership of the IIP-SARS			
	Name	Position	Sector
1.	Hon. Justice Suleiman Galadima, JSC (Rtd), OFR, CFR	Chairman	Judiciary
2.	Abdulrahman Yakubu	Member	NHRC
3.	Dr. Uju Agomoh	Member	Civil Society
4.	Dr. Lydia Umar	Member	Civil Society/Academia
5.	Dr. Garba Tetengi SAN mni	Member	Nigerian Bar Association
6.	John Aikpokpo-Martins	Member	Nigerian Bar Association
7.	DIG Ibrahim Lamorde	Member	Nigeria Police Force
8.	Tijani Mohammed	Member	Police Service Commission
9.	Hon. Mubarak Mijinyawa	Member	Youths
10.	Hilary Ogbonna	Secretary	NHRC

The Terms of Reference of the IIP include:

- Investigate allegations of human rights violations and abuse of power made against defunct SARS and other units of the Nigerian Police Force. (sec. 6(a) of the NHRC Act, 2010);
- Make determination as to the damages or compensation payable in relation to any violation of human rights where it deems this necessary in the circumstances of the case (sec. 6(e) of the NHRC Act, 2010)
- Refer any matter of human rights violation requiring prosecution to the Attorney General of the Federation or of a State, as the case may be in accordance with the NHRC Act, 2010);
- Make recommendations to government on:
 - Measures to be taken in respect of operatives of defunct SARS or officers of the Nigerian

- Police Force, if any, found in violation of human rights of citizens;
- ii) Propose remedial steps that may enhance the professional conduct of defunct SARS operatives, any succeeding unit and other members of the Nigeria Police Force and
 - iii) Any other recommendations that may be considered appropriate.

Objectives of this Report

This Report covers the period of the inauguration of the IIP-SARS in October and to the end of November 2020, representing the first month of its operation. The following are the objectives of the Report:

- i. Present the current state in the administration and management of the secretariat of the IIP-SARS.
- ii. Present the progress of the IIP-SARS in the achievement of its mandate in November 2020.
- iii. Present the challenges faced by the IIP-SARS and proffer recommendations of means of addressing them.

Inauguration of IIP-SARS

The inauguration of the IIP-SARS took place on the 21st of October 2020 at the Auditorium of the National Human Rights Commission. In his statement at the ceremony, the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mr Tony Ojukwu, charged the members of the IIP-SARS to approach the national assignment with seriousness and a sense of duty to do justice without fear or favour.

In his response on behalf of the members of the IIP-SARS, Honourable Justice Ibrahim Galadima (JSC Rtd), the Chairman of the Panel, underscored the importance of the assignment given to the IIP-SARS in view of the ENDSARS protests and the expectations of Nigerians for accountability for human rights violations by the defunct SARS. He pledged the readiness of the members to perform their duties to the best of their abilities. Also speaking at the inauguration, the Secretary of the Panel, Mr. Hilary Ogbonna in his vote of thanks assured the Commission and the Nigerian public of an effective management of the affairs of the secretariat of the IIP-SARS in order to serve all parties to the Panel and other stakeholders.

The inauguration ceremony was well attended by local and international media. There was also live television coverage of the event as well as live online streaming. The Commission provided various forms of information, education and communication materials including banners, posters, leaflets, folders amongst others.



Opening Session, IIP-SARS Sitting at the High Court, Abuja – 4 Nov. 2020

Inaugural Sitting of the IIP-SARS

The inaugural sitting of the IIP-SARS took place on the 4th of November 2020 at the Ceremonial Hall of the FCT High Court. The inaugural sitting was heralded by an opening ceremony which was attended by the Solicitor General of the Federation and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Mr. Tayo Akpata, SAN (representing the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation and Minister for Justice), the Chief Judge of the FCT and the Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission.

Management and Administration of the Secretariat of the IIP-SARS

5.1 Call for Petitions and Memoranda

Upon the inauguration of the IIP-SARS in October, the National Human Rights Commission issued a call for Petitions and Memoranda from citizens and organisations that have faced human rights violations from the defunct SARS. The call for petitions and memoranda was advertised in three national dailies and shared online on the Commission's website and social media platforms. It was also shared electronically with human rights and civil society communities in Nigeria and abroad.

Secretariat Administration

The Secretariat of the IIP-SARS is charged with administration of the Panel and the processing and management of petitions brought to the Panel. In addition to the Head of Secretariat/Secretary of the IIP/SARS, the Secretariat has the following staff:

- i. Two Legal Counsel
- ii. Nine Legal Staff
- iii. A Registrar
- iv. Seven administrative staff

- v. Eight communication staff
- vi. Nine security details

Management of Cases and Proceedings

Case Management

Within the first two weeks of the call for petition and memoranda, the Commission received 26 petitions and processed 61 SARS related petitions submitted to the Commission prior to the setting up of the IIP-SARS. This brought to a total of 87, the number of petitions that were available to the IIP-SARS upon its inauguration.

The Secretariat has established a system of processing petitions and preparing them for hearing. This process involves the following:

- a. Legal analysis and production of legal briefs for each petition:
The Secretariat has a team of 6 Legal Analysts who are assigned petitions to produce legal briefs which will contain an analysis of issues, parties, evidence, human rights principles and laws. These briefs will be part of the dockets for each petition available to the members of the Panel.
- b. Production of copies of petitions and preparation of files and dockets for members of the Panel:
This is by far the main logistical operation in the case management functions of the secretariat. A team of three assistants are charged with the production of copies of petitions, annexures and other forms of documentation. This involves a large number of papers, files and folders.
- c. Service of Processes:
As a national Panel, the IIP-SARS has received petitions from all over Nigeria. A major aspect of the work of the secretariat is the service of processes which include hearing notices of petitions; summons for appearances and orders to produce witnesses; documents and other forms of evidence for the hearing of petitions. This involves transport and other forms of logistics. For the month of November, the secretariat issued hearing notices, summons and orders to over 200 individuals and parties.

Management of Proceedings and Hearings

In the inaugural month of November 2020, the IIP-SARS had two alternated weeks of hearings and entertained 28 petitions as follows:

- a. Week 1- 4 - 6 November 2020 (6 Petitions)
- b. Week 2- 16 - 20 November 2020 (22 Petitions)

The two hearing weeks entertained the following groups or subject matters of petitions:

- i. 4 petitions on extra-judicial killings
- ii. 3 petitions on enforced disappearances
- iii. 12 petitions on illegal detention, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment
- iv. 4 petitions on abuse of powers and intimidation
- v. 3 petitions on threat to life
- vi. 2 petitions on disrespect to court orders/judgement

Achievements of the IIP-SARS in the Month under Review

Development of Normative principles to entrench a culture of accountability in law enforcement:

- a. The IIP-SARS has ensured that victims of police brutality have a platform for the enforcement of their rights.

- b. In its investigative functions, the IIP-SARS in its first month has brought to the fore the inadequacies in terms of adherence to the values and principles of rule of law in the Nigeria Police.
- c. The IIP-SARS issued the following orders on the Nigeria Police which were complied with:
 - i. Order for the production of detained persons
 - ii. Order for the attendance of alleged violators in the service of the Police Force from Cross River, Delta, Rivers, Edo, Nasarawa, and the FCT.
 - iii. Order for the production of property documents, and other title deeds.

Capacity Building for IIP-SARS Members and Legal Staff

On the 19th of November 2020, the National Human Rights Commission and the IIP-SARS, partnered with the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, the Independent Forensic Expert Group (IFEG) and Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA) to organise an induction workshop for the Panel on the following topics:

- a. Best practices for fact-finding and assessment of human rights violations
- b. Provision of psycho-social support to victims of torture and gross human rights violation.

Cooperation with the Nigeria Police Force

- a. The IIP-SARS in the month under review, established cooperation with the Nigeria Police Force at the highest level. The Nigeria Police has set up a Liaison secretariat that has ensured the smooth operation of legal processes including service of documents, production of Police respondents, production of detained persons and generally the service of processes and carrying out of the orders of the Panel.
- b. The above is a model which can be replicated at State levels with the Panel of Inquiry.

Challenges

In the period under review, the Panel faced the following challenges:

- ❖ Slow release of funding for its operation.
- ❖ Weak or non-existence of data for retired Police personnel who are named as respondents.
- ❖ Negative public perception on the implementation of the outcomes of the report of the Panel, especially as it relates to discipline and prosecution of indicted Police officers and the payment of compensation.

6.4 Visit to Detention Centres: Police Divisions in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

6.4.0 Introduction

The Commission has the core mandate of promoting, protecting and enforcing human rights in Nigeria. Apart from impromptu and proactive visits and assessments, the Commission conducts annual nationwide audit of Correctional Centres all over the nation. The principal objective of the exercises is to assess, protect and enforce the fundamental human rights of persons detained in various facilities for various offences and to ascertain the conditions of the facilities in which the persons are kept, with a view to making appropriate recommendations to relevant authorities for better service delivery and administration of custodial systems in Nigeria, in line with the United Nations (UN) Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners as well as other National, Regional and International Laws.

For 2020 Audit of Detention Centres, Staff of the Commission were deployed across various States of the Federation for on-the-spot assessment of conditions of inmates and facilities in Police Detention Centres. This was in continuation of the exercise which commenced in 2019. The scope of this year's exercise was limited to the FCT due to the restrictions occasioned by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

6.4.1 Focus of Audit

The audit exercise focused on:

- The community orientation;
- Physical conditions of the cells;
- Detention facilities;
- Welfare of inmates;
- Welfare of custodial Officers; and
- Transparency and accountability outlook of data collation system of the Police Stations.

S/N	STATIONS
1.	MPAPE DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION
2.	GARKI DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION
3.	BWARI DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS
4.	DUTSE DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION
5.	ZUBA POLICE STATION
6.	JIKWOYI DIVISIONAL POLICE STATION
7.	FCT SPECIAL ANTI ROBBERY SQUAD (SARS)
8.	MAITAMA POLICE DIVISION
S/N	STATIONS
9.	LUGBE DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTER
10.	AIRPORT DIVISION AIRPORT COMMAND
11.	DURUMI POLICE DIVISION
12.	KARMO POLICE STATION
13.	UTAKO POLICE STATION
14.	WUYE POLICE STATION
15.	GWARIMPA POLICE STATION
16.	APO POLICE STATION
17.	RUBUCHI POLICE STATION
18.	ABAJI POLICE STATION

19.	CENTRAL POLICE STATION(CPS)
20.	WUSE POLICE STATION
21.	NYANYA POLICE STATION
22.	IDDO POLICE STATION
23.	MABUSHI POLICE STATION
24.	GWAGWALADA POLICE STATION (DPH)
25.	LIFE CAMP POLICE STATION
26.	ASOKORO POLICE STATION
27.	KWALI DIVISIONAL POLICE HTRS.

6.4.2 Findings from the Field

Findings from the exercise showed that some challenges militate against the smooth running of the centres. They include:

- Inadequate office accommodation for staff.
- Inadequate staff to cope with manpower need
- Poor conditions of toilet facilities for detainees as well as Officers and Men of the Nigeria Police
- Inability to meet the needs of detainees especially in feeding, due to inadequate subvention
- Lack of adequate transport facilities.
- Congestion in some cells
- Delay in charging suspects to court leading to prolonged detention
- Delay in investigation of allegations
- Children seen in custody
- No facilities for Persons with Disability

6.4.3 Recommendations

1. Provision of standard toilets and bathrooms facilities in all the Police Stations in conformity to best practice;
2. Provision of motorbikes and more operational vehicles for swift combating of crimes especially for Police Station situated in difficult terrains;
3. Timely and sufficient allocation of funds at all detention facilities and sustainable financing commitment by Government;
4. Provision of functional Communication Room and dedicated telephone lines manned by trained and qualified personnel to receive complaints from members of the public;
5. Replacement of office equipment and provision of modern crime fighting equipment for police personnel to improve efficiency and effective policing;
6. Provision of appropriate and standard accommodation to ensure that detainees right to human dignity is respected;
7. Provision of separate cells for female detainees;
8. Suspects should be charged to Court within 24 hours;
9. Provide adequate and suitable beddings for detainees;

10. Renovate dilapidated cells especially with respect to flooring;
11. Ensure proper ventilation of cells;
12. Provide periodic trainings, seminars and workshop for Police personnel in areas of human rights of detainees, and all other matters necessary for effective service delivery;
13. Routine checks of all detention facilities in Police Station by relevant authorities, to ensure best practices;
14. Recruitment of more Police Personnel and provision of more detention facilities;
15. Provision of video or audio monitoring facilities in police stations for effective monitoring and security;
16. Provision of Clinics in every Police Station as well as an effective First Aid Kit for medical emergencies;
17. Promotion of gender sensitivity in administration and training of Personnel on Gender issues;
18. Continuous counseling and assessment of mental health of detainees;
19. Provision of legal services for detainees; and
20. Good and healthy relationship between Police personnel and community through constant dialogue and consultation to build trust and confidence amongst citizens.



CHAPTER SEVEN

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

Chapter Seven

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

7.0 Preamble

The Finance and Accounts Department is basically a service department charged with the following responsibilities.

- Receipt of Budgetary and extra budgetary allocation on behalf of the Commission:
- Receipt of all funds/donations on behalf of the Commission:
- Payments to staff, contractors and other beneficiaries on behalf of the Commission:
- Liaison with banks and other financial institutions on behalf of the Commission:
- Liaison with statutory and regulatory authorities on behalf of the Commission such as:-
 - i. The External Auditors;
 - ii. The Auditor General's office;
 - iii. The Accountant General of the Federation;
- Recording of all financial transactions of the Commission.
- Preparation of financial reports.

During the year 2020 the Commission successfully hosted visitors and inspectors from the various regulatory agencies and also undertook budget preparation and defense exercises for 2020.

7.1 Receipts from the Federal Government

The financial receipt and expenditure of the Commission for the year 2020 are summarized in the table below. It is important to note that the sources of the fund reflected below are from the Federal Government of Nigeria and Donor Agencies.

Table 7.1 Summary of Receipts and Expenditure of Funds Received from the Federal Government

S/ N	Expenditure Head (₦)	Account Codes	Opening balance (₦)	Budget Appropriation (₦)	Amount Released (₦)	Amount Expended (₦)	Transfer to CRF (₦)	Balance as at Dec. 2020 (₦)	Per. of Exp. %
1.	Personnel	15010101	NIL	1,477,514,987.96	1,226,590,949.77	1,226,425,417.57	165,532.20	NIL	100%
2.	Overhead	15010101	NIL	447,326,230.01	502,570,291.34	502,569,878.23	413.11	NIL	100%
3.	Capital	43010101	NIL	575,158,782.03	520,838,758.52	520,767,098.55	-	71,659.97	99.99%
	SUB-TOTAL			2,500,000,000.00	2,249,999,999.63	2,249,762,394.35	165,945.31	71,659.97	99.99%
4.	Capital Dev fund (Constituency)	43010101	NIL	-	360,000,000.00	316,628,226.17	-	43,371,773.83	87.95%
5	Public Service wage adj.	15010101		-	291,749,436.00	291,532,773.09	216,662.91	-	100%
	GRAND TOTAL		NIL	2,500,000,000.00	2,901,749,435.63	2,857,923,393.61	382,608.22	43,443,433.80	98.50%

- i. The sum of N2,500,000,000.00 was appropriated for the Commission in 2020, but was reviewed downwards to N2,250,000,000.00 out of which the sum of N2,249,999,999.63 was released. The total sum of N2,249,762,394.35 was expended, and N165,945.31 was returned to the Sub-Treasury (Consolidated Revenue Fund) being unspent balances from personnel and overhead budgets, leaving a balance of N71,659.97 in capital which will be rolled over to the year 2021 capital budget. The entire budget performance for 2020 is 99.99%.
- ii. A sum of N360,000,000.00 was released for constituency projects out of which the total sum

of N316,628,226.17 was expended during the year, leaving a balance of N 43,371,773.83 which will be taken over to the year 2021. The entire budget performance for this project is 87.95%.

- iii. A sum of N291,749,436.00 was released to take care of public service wages adjustment (minimum wage arrears) during the year, out of which the total sum of N291,532,773.09 was expended, and the total sum of N216,662.91 was returned to the CRF. The entire budget performance is 100%.

7.2 Donations

Financial supports were received from Donor Agencies as shown in Table 7.2 below. However, there were no financial activities in some donor funds (S/N 1, 2 and 4).

Table 7.2 Schedule of Receipt and Expenditure of Donor Funds

S/N	Expenditure Head (₦)	Account Codes	Opening Balance (₦)	Amount Released (₦)	Amount Expended (₦)	Remitted to CRF	Balance as at Dec. 2020 (₦)
1	Mac Arthur Foundation	13020401	25,982.71	-	-	-	25,982.71
2	Ford Foundation	13020401	2,158.16	-	-	-	2,158.16
3	NHRC Project Account	13020401	42,408,124.06	137,391,182.61	165,757,301.50	-	14,042,005.17
4	OSIWA	13020301	5,871.86	-	-	-	5,871.86
5	UNDP	13020301	476,513.97	109,957,909.00	-	-	110,434,422.97

7.3 Special Projects

7.3.1 Constituency Projects

The sum of N195,373,544.52 was brought forward from 2019 constituency project account, while the total sum of N448,366,600.00 was released for the year 2020 constituency projects. The sum of N640,478,221.44 was expended, leaving a balance of N3,261,923.08. The entire budget performance for this project is 99.49%.

7.3.2 UNHCR Project

The sum of N129,837,500.00 was released for this project in the year 2020, out of which the sum of N129,837,500.00 was expended.

7.3.3 EU/NHRC/HRAN

The balance in the account remains N24,837,500.00. The project is awaiting further directives from the donors on the utilisation of the funds. The last project activity was executed in 2017.

Table 7.3 Special Projects

S/N	Expenditure Head (₦)	Account Codes	Opening Balance (₦)	Amount Released (₦)	Amount Expended (₦)	Transfer to CRF (₦)	Balance as at Dec. 2020 (₦)
1	Constituency 2020	13020301	195,373,544.52	448,366,600.00	640,478,221.44	-	3,261,923.08
2	UNHCR 2020	13020401	229.80	129,837,500.00	129,837,500.00	-	229.80
3	EU/NHRC/HRAN	13020401	24,307,402.07	-	-	-	24,307,402.07

7.4 Domiciliary Accounts

7.4.1 Embassy of Switzerland

The sum of USD32,811.70 was donated by the Embassy of Switzerland to the Commission and was expended for its intended purpose.

7.4.2 MacArthur Foundation

There was no activity or movement of funds in this Donor Account in the course of the year under review.

7.4.3 Ford Foundation

There was no activity or movement of funds in this Donor Account in the course of the year under review.

7.4.4 EU/NHRC/HRAN

There was no activity or movement of funds in this Donor Account in the course of the year under review. The balance in the account remains EU127,273.08. The project is awaiting further directives from the donors on the utilisation of the funds. The last project activity was executed in 2017.

Table 7.4 Domiciliary Accounts

S/N	Exp. Head	Account Codes	Opening Balance	Amount Released	Amount Expended	Balance as at Dec. 2020
1	Donor (Embassy of Switzerland)	13020401	\$100=	\$32,811.70	\$32,811.70	\$100=
2	MacArthur Foundation	13020401	\$50=	-	-	\$50=
3	Ford Foundation	13020401	\$97=02	-	-	\$97=02
4	EU/NHRC/HRAN	13020401	E127,273=08	-	-	E127,273=08

7.5 Internally Generated Revenue

The Commission is not a revenue generating agency. However, some revenue accrued to it from sale of standard bid documents, which were paid into the Federal Sub-Treasury (CRF) in line with the Treasury Single Account directives.

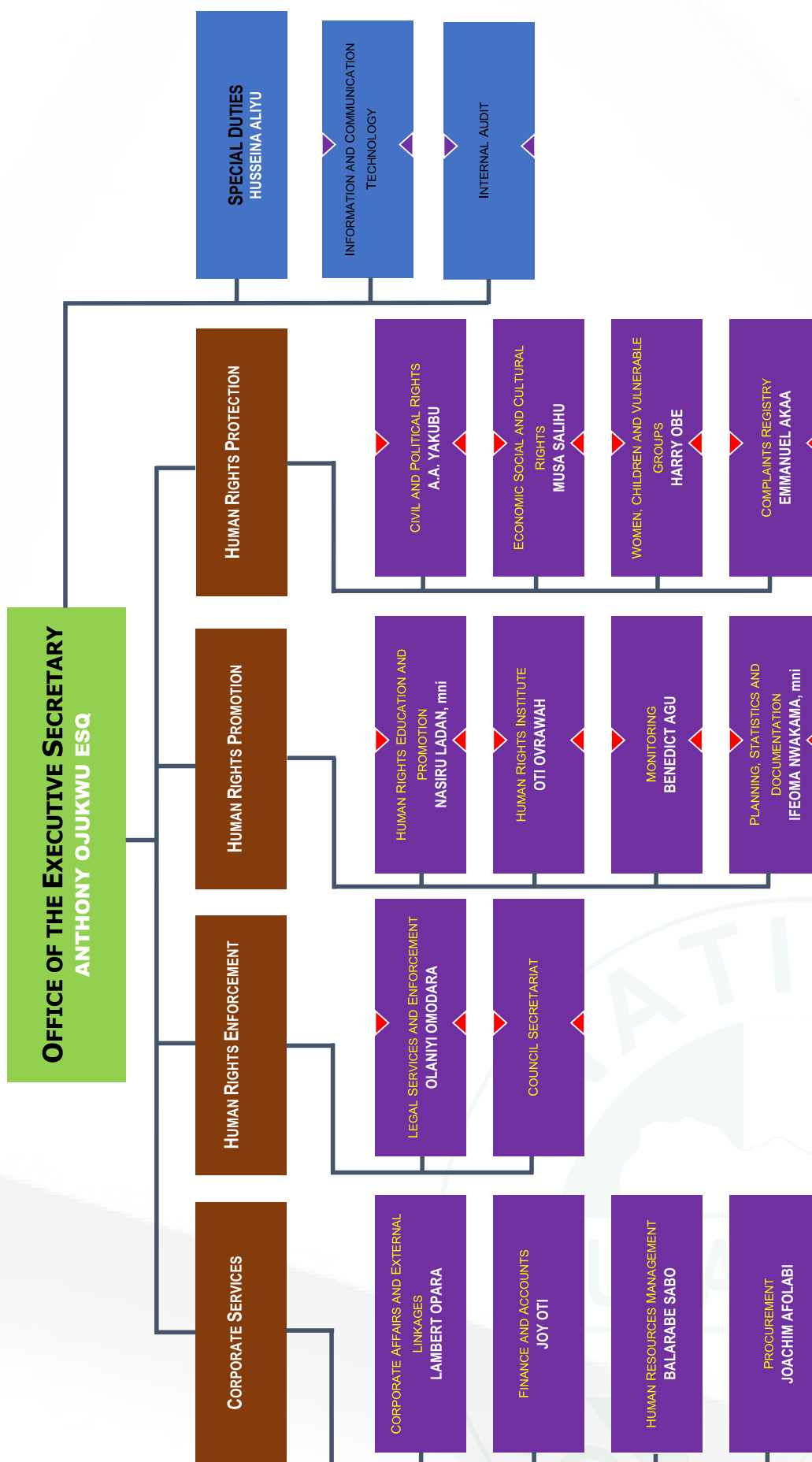
Table 7.5 Internally Generated Revenue (Remitted To CRF)

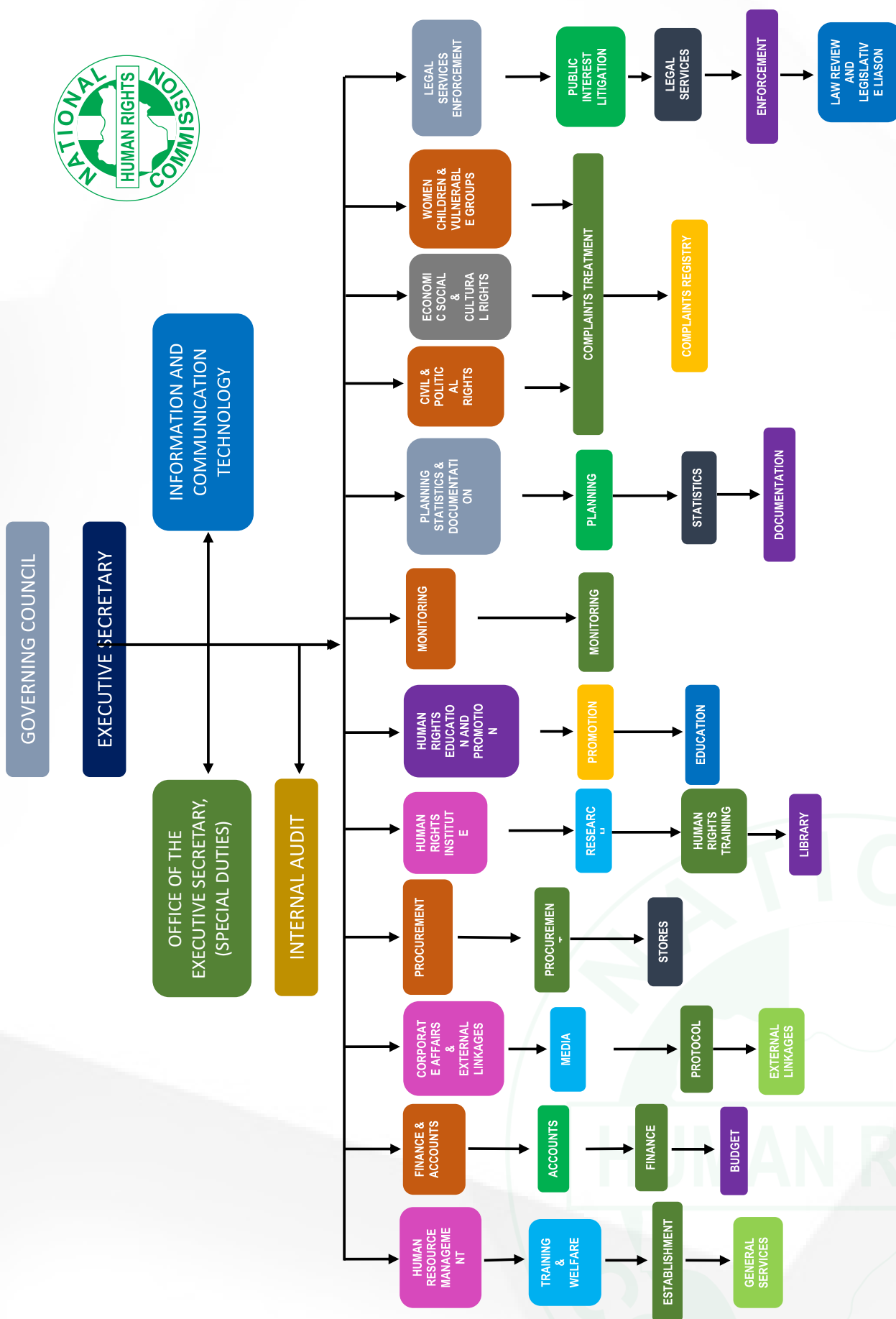
S/N	Expenditure Head (₦)	Account Codes	Opening Balance (₦)	Amount generated (₦)	Amount Remitted to CRF)	Balance as at Dec. 2020 (₦)
1	Revenue	12020417	NIL	1,079,000.00	1,079,000.00	NIL



ORGANOGRAM

ORGANOGRAM NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION







LIST OF ACRONYMS

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFA	–	Alliance for Africa
AGF	–	Accountant General of the Federation
AIT	–	African Independent Television
AMO	–	Abuja Metropolitan Office
BAY States	-	Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States
BNC	–	Bi-National Commission
CAN	–	Christian Association of Nigeria
CASER	–	Citizens Advocacy for Social and Economic Rights
CJTF	–	Civilian Joint Task Force
CRFF	–	Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation
CSOs	–	Civil Society Organisations
DFID	–	Department of Foreign Investment and Development
DIHR	–	Danish Institute for Human Rights
DSS	–	Department of State Services
EFCC	–	Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
ESCR	–	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
EU	–	European Union
FBOs	–	Faith Based Organisations
FCCPC	–	Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Council
FCT	–	Federal Capital Territory
FGM	–	Female Genital Mutilation
FIDA	–	International Federation of Women Lawyers
FRCN	–	Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria
ICPC	–	Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission
ICT	–	Information and Communication Technology
IDPs	–	Internally Displaced Persons
IER	–	Initiative for Equal Rights
IIP	–	Independent Investigative Panel
INEC	–	Independent National Electoral Commission
ISWAP	–	Islamic State in West Africa Province
JAS	–	Jama'atu Ahlus-Sunnah Liada'Awafi Wal Jihad
JNAN	–	Journalist Network on Ageing in Nigeria
MDAs	–	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MSF	–	Medecins San Frontiere
NACA	–	National Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS
NAPTIP	–	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NBA	–	Nigeria Bar Association
NCC	–	Nigerian Communication Commission
NGOs	–	Non-Governmental Organisations

NHRC	–	National Human Rights Commission
NHRIs	–	National Human Rights Institutions
NIS	–	Nigeria Immigration Service
NOA	–	National Orientation Agency
NPF	–	Nigeria Police Force
NSAG	–	Non-State Armed Groups
NSCDC	–	Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps
NTA	–	Nigerian Television Authority
NURTW	–	National Union of Road Transport Workers
OSGF	–	Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation
OSIWA	–	Open Society Initiative for West Africa
PAACA	–	Peering Advocacy and Advancement Centre in Africa
PIP	–	Presidential Investigative Panel
PLWHA	–	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PoC	–	Persons of Concern
POHAI	–	Pillars of Hope Africa Initiative
PRAWA	–	Prisoners Rehabilitations and Welfare Action
PSWG	–	Protection Sector Working Group
PU	–	Polling Units
RoLAC	–	Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption
RULAAC	–	Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre
SARS	–	Special Anti-Robbery Squad
SCR	–	Smart Card Reader
SGBV	–	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SO LIFE	–	Society for Life Changers and Good Parental Care
STORP	–	Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure
UDHR	–	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	–	United Nations
UNDP	–	United Nations Development Project
UNFPA	–	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	–	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	–	United Nations Children’s Fund
VAPP	–	Violence Against Persons Prohibition
WPHRE	–	World Programme for Human Rights Education

ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S OFFICES

S/N	LOCATION/OFFICE	ADDRESS	EMAIL	PHONE NO
1.	HEADQUARTERS ABUJA	NO. 19 Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, P.M.B. 444 Garki, Abuja	nhrcnigeria@yahoo.com info@nhrc.gov.ng	08077091123 08077091124
1.	ABUJA METROPOLITAN OFFICE	NO 8, Sina Balogun Close, Off Galilee Street, Karu Site	nhrcamo@nhrc.gov.ng	08033296152
2.	HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE ABUJA	Tonimas Estate, 2201, Cadastral Zone, Liberia Road, Katampe, Abuja.	hri@nhrc.gov.ng psd@nhrc.gov.ng	08050208385
3.	ABIA	No.9, Item Street, Off Calabar Road, Umuahia, Abia State.	nhrcabia@gmail.com	08033473732
4.	ANAMBRA	Hon. Maduka Enemu Street, Agu- Awka, Adjacent Peace Corps building, Enugu/Onisha Expressway, Awka , Anambra State.	nhrcawka@yahoo.com	08067874450
5	AKWA IBOM	No. 160 Nwaniba Road Uyo, Akwa Ibom State	nhrcakwaibom@gmail.com	08035403780
6	ADAMAWA	No. 14 Atiku Abubakar Way, Jimeta, Yola. Adamawa state	nhrcadamawa@gmail.com	07031831522 08025498292
7	BAUCHI	No.8, Justice Sabo Suleiman Darazo Complex, After Shafa Roundabout, Adjacent NEPA, Yelwa Dass Road, Bauchi, Bauchi State.	nhrcbauchi@nhrc.gov.ng	08023400439
8	BAYELSA	No. 69 Saptex Road,Yenezue Epie,Yenegoa, Bayelsa State.	nhrcbayelsaoffice@gmail.com	08035424022
9	BENUE	MDGs Office Complex Kuanum Acka Street Old GRA Makurdi	nhrcbenue@gmail.com	08136730830
10	BORNO	No. 4 Bama Road, Maiduguri, Borno State.	nhrcnez@gmail.com	08067833036
11	CALABAR	No.39 Okoro Agbor, Ibom Layout Calabar, Cross River State	nhrccalabar@gmail.com	08037135494
12	DELTA	No. 10 Maryam Babangida Way, Opposite State Universal Basic, Education Board (SUBEB),Asaba,Delta State.	nhrcdelta@nhrc.gov.ng	08039463100
13	EBONYI	61, Nnorom, Street (Old State Secretariat) Mile 50, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.	nhrc Ebonyi@gmail.com	08130011525

14	EDO	No. 185 (Pedrochi House) Sapele Road, after Dumez Junction, Benin city, Edo State.	nhrcedo@gmail.com	08035970230
15	EKITI	Iyin Road, HMB Building, Basiri, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State.	nhrcekiti@gmail.com	08034100285 08186885278
16	ENUGU	No. 3, Ezeagu Street, New Haven, Enugu, Enugu State.	nhrcenugu@nhrc.gov.ng	08037722569
17	GOMBE	No.68, 69 & 70, Ground Floor 362,363 & 364 3rd Floor, Federal secretariat Complex Behind Bauchi Motor Park Gombe, Gombe State	nhrcgombe@gmail.com	07030584926
18	IMO	No. 7, Musa Yar'Adua Drive Off Onitsha Road, opp Hot FM Radio Station, owerri Imo State	nhrcimo@gmail.com	08039494207
19	JIGAWA	Ibrahim Aliyu Bypass, along Federal University, Opp. Awaji Global Service filling station Dutse, Jigawa State Office.	nhrcjigawastate@gmail.com	08030637049
20	KADUNA	Baron House, Muhammadu Buhari Way, Formerly No. 14 Waff Road, Kaduna, Kaduna State.	nhrckaduna@nhrc.gov.ng	08037739448
21	KANO	Plot 313, Gyadi-Gyadi, New Hospital Road Opp. Mal. Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano, Kano State.	nhrcnwz@gmail.com	08032833051
22	KATSINA	No. 103, Nagogo Road, Near Old Nitel Office, GRA, Katsina, Katsina State	nhrckatsina@gmail.com	08031166282
23	KEBBI	Abubakar Musa Garkuwa Street, Gesse Phase 1 Birnin- Kebbi Kebbi State.	nhrckebbi@gmail.com	08065829312
24	KOGI	Oba Michael Olubayo Housing Estate, Phase I, Zone C, Behind First 200 Housing Unit, Along Ibaji Quarters Road, Off Ganaja Road, Lokoja, Kogi State.	nhrckogi@nhrc.gov.ng	08033645844

25	KWARA	No. 3 old Jebba Road, Opposite Ministry of Agriculture Ilorin, Kwara State	nhrckwara@gmail.com	07068468408
26	LAGOS	No. 20 Olorunnimbe Street, Wema bod Estate, Adeniyi Jones Avenue-Ikeja, Lagos State.	nhrcigeriaswz@gmail.com	08037213380
27	NASSARAWA	Behind Angel Academy, Off Alkali Street, Off Jos Road , Lafia	nhrclafia@yahoo.com	08033639276
28	NIGER	Abdullahi Kure House Muazu Mohammed Road (Old Airport Road) Minna, Niger State	nhrminna@gmail.com	08033365395 08074186745
29	OGUN	No. 25, Kuforji Olubi Street, Adigbe, Abeokuta, Ogun State.	nhrcogun@gmail.com nhrcnigeria.ogun@gmail.com	08058133007
30	ONDO	Road M, House No. 6, 2 nd Gate, Oba-Ile Housing Estate, Behind Foundation Clinic, Old Airport Road, Akure Ondo State	nhrcondo@gmail.com	08036307849
31	OSUN	Block L Plot 33, Oroki Housing Estate, Oshogbo	nhracosun@gmail.com	07031555539
32	OYO	Room 129/130, First Floor Federal Secretariat Complex, Agodi GRA, Ikoloba, Ibadan. Oyo State.	oyonhrc@gmail.com	08060666916
33	RIVERS	Rivers State Office 203 Bonny Street, Port-Harcourt, River State.	nhrsszo@yahoo.com	08036747115
34	PLATEAU	Plot 12677, Laminga/Liberty Dam Road, Opp Civic Registration Office, Rikkos Village, Jos	nhrcjos@yahoo.com	08033453245
35	SOKOTO	No 46 Garba Nadama road, Gowan, Nama Area, Adjacent UDUTH Sokoto, Sokoto State	nhrscokoto@gmail.com	08061575398
36	TARABA	Magarmi Road, hiwen Jalingo, Taraba State.	nhrctaraba@gmail.com nhrctaraba@nhrc.gov.ng	08032862220
37	YOBE	Commissioners Quarters, Behind Government Girls, Collage, Damaturu, Yobe State.	nhrcyobeoffice@gmail.com nhrcyobe@nhrc.gov.ng	08035332628
38	ZAMFARA		nhrzamfara@gmail.com	07064315164



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