

NEWSLETTER

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Highlights

Page **2** LIFE SKILLS TRAINING AND SENSITIZATION/ DIALOGUE MEETING IN BAYELSA STATE.

Page **4** VDI PARTNERS WITH FMOH LIFE SKILLS TRAINING AND SENSITIZATION/ DIALOGUE MEETING IN ABUJA FCT

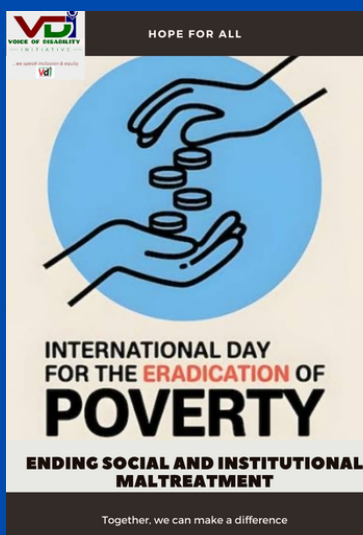
Page **7** INTERNATIONAL DAY WITH DISABILITY ORGANIZED BY FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VDI

Page **3** VDI CELEBRATES THE ED LIFE SKILLS TRAINING AND SENSITIZATION/ DIALOGUE MEETING IN BAYELSA STATE.

Page **5** LIFE SKILLS TRAINING AND SENSITIZATION/ DIALOGUE MEETING IN ABUJA FCT

Page **8** AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Page **6** VDI PARTNERS WITH KWARA STATE TO COMMEMORATE IDPWD 2024



-  **VOICE OF DISABILITY INITIATIVE**
-  **WhatsApp/Sms: +2348036866444**
-  **voice_disabilityinitiative**
-  **@VoDInitiative**
-  **www.voiceofdisabilty.org**
-  **info@voiceofdisability.org**
vdisability@yahoo.com

Batch A, Cohort 1 of the Life Skills Training for Adolescent Girls with Disabilities and Sensitization/Dialogue meeting with caregivers at Golden Tulip Apartments and Resort, Bayelsa State on 12th November, 2024.



The Executive Director, VDI addressing the parents/caregivers of Adolescent Girls with Disability during the Sensitization/Dialogue Meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.



Role play on communication skills during Life Skills Training organized by VDI on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.



Facilitator Uzoamaka taking adolescent girls with disability through listening skills during Life Skills training with adolescent girls with disability in Bayelsa on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

Batch A, Cohort 2 of the Life Skills Training for Adolescent Girls with Disabilities and Sensitization/Dialogue meetings with caregivers



Barr. Catherine Edeh, Executive Director of VDI, addressing parents of adolescent girls with disabilities

at the Sensitization/Dialogue Meeting at Golden Tulip Apartments, Bayelsa State, on November 13, 2024. She shared her personal journey of becoming deaf, overcoming challenges, and rising to her current position.



A cross-section of Out-of-school adolescent girls with disability in Life Skills training at Golden Tulip Apartments and Resort, Bayelsa State on 13th November 2024.



Self Awareness and Assertiveness session with adolescent girls with disability in Life Skills Training.

Transforming Lives Through Dedication: Honoring Our ED's Impactful Journey

Batch B, Cohort 2 of the Life Skills Training for Adolescent Girls with Disabilities and Sensitization/Dialogue meetings with caregivers



Happy birthday to a Transformational Leader, a Feminist Touch Bearer and Carrier of Innovative Values – Barr. Catherine Edeh, ESQ. Executive Director, Voice of Disability Initiative (VDI). Continue to enjoy the radiation of God's glory.



Barr. Catherine Edeh, the Executive Director, Voice of Disability Initiative (VDI) motivating Adolescent Girls with Disability on Strategic Focus and Personal Development during the Life Skills training for Adolescent Girls With Disability (AGWD) at Golden Tulip Apartments and Resort, Bayelsa State on 19th November, 2024.

Batch B, Cohort 1 Life Skills Training for Adolescent Girls with Disabilities and Sensitization/Dialogue meeting with caregivers at Golden Tulip Apartments and Resort, Bayelsa State on 18th November 2024



Participants engaged in goal setting session in the Life Skills training for adolescent girls with disability.



Icebreaker/energizer session during Life Skills Training with AGWD at Golden Tulip Apartments and resort, Bayelsa State on 18th Nov 2024



The Program Manager (VDI) Mr. Edward Ogenyi facilitating the session topic - Understanding the

Importance of Educational Goals for AGWD during a Sensitization/Dialogue Meeting to caregivers and parents of AGWD at Golden Tulip Apartments and Resort on 19th November, 2024.



The Program Manager, VDI taking parents/caregivers of adolescent girls with disability through effective support for children with disability during the

Sensitization Meeting with patients/caregivers of AGWD at Golden Tulip Apartments and Resort, Bayelsa on 18th November, 2024.

"Disability is not just a medical issue, but a social and cultural one, particularly for women and girls." Susan Wendell (The Rejected Body, 1996)

Advancing Inclusive Healthcare: VDI Partners with Federal Ministry of Health to Enhance Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Women and Girls with Disabilities



The quest for better sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls with disabilities got a boost on 27th November, 2024 after the meeting of the VDI Team with the Federal Ministry of Health. The meeting was in pursuance of the implementation of AMPLIFYCHANGE PAMOJA project titled "Promoting Integrated People-Centred Approach to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy for People with Disabilities, especially women and girls". The goal of the project is to ensure that the current National Policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of persons with disabilities is reviewed and aligned to the needs and peculiarities of women and girls with disabilities in Nigeria.

Responding to the presentation by the VDI Team, the Director of Gender, Adolescent and Elderly, Mr. John who represented the Hon. Minister of Health commended the initiative of the Executive Director of VDI, Barr Catherine Edeh and her team for pushing for improved sexual and reproductive health services especially for women and girls with disabilities. He assured the VDI Team of the Ministry's commitment towards the review of the existing National Policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for People with Disabilities in Nigeria. The process and road map for the review of the policy was also discussed during the meeting.

Batch A, Cohort 1 Life Skills Training for Adolescent Girls with Disabilities and Sensitization/Dialogue meetings with caregivers at Roses Regency Hotel, Abuja FCT on 27th November 2024



Self-awareness and assertiveness session with AGWD as part of the Life Skills Training. The session utilized the "I Am, I Have and I Can" principle to empower participants in relation to their future goals and ambition.



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On November 27, 2024, at the sensitization and dialogue meeting held at Roses Regency Hotel, 8 King Charles Owaba street, Wuye Abuja, FCT, Ogiji Edward, the

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of VDI, did a presentation on the topic, "Building Stronger Relationships: Supporting Adolescent Girls with Disabilities".

Batch A, Cohort 2 Life Skills Training for Adolescent Girls with Disabilities and Sensitization/Dialogue meetings with caregivers at Roses Regency Hotel, Abuja FCT on 28th November 2024



Barr. Catherine Edeh, Executive Director of Voice of Disability Initiative (VDI), addressing stakeholders and parents of AGWD during a Press Conference and Sensitization/Dialogue Meeting at Roses Regency Hotel, 8 King Charles Owaba street, Wuye Abuja on November 28, 2024. She shared her personal story of becoming deaf and overcoming the challenges she faced, inspiring others with her remarkable journey to success.

Batch B, Cohort 2 Life Skills Training for Adolescent Girls with Disabilities at Roses Regency Hotel, Abuja FCT on 30th November 2024



Sensitization/Dialogue meetings, Batch B, Cohort 2 with caregivers at Roses Regency Hotel, Abuja FCT on 30th November 2024



"The exclusion of women and girls with disabilities from public life is a form of 'social death' that must be resisted." Hannah Arendt (The Human Condition, 1958)



On the same day, November 28, 2024, Adolescent Girls with Disabilities

(AGWD) shared their personal life experiences during a session held at Roses Regency Hotel, 8 King Charles Owaba Street, Wuye, Abuja.

Life Skills Training for Adolescent Girls with Disabilities and Sensitization/Dialogue meetings with caregivers Batch B, Cohort 1 at Roses Regency Hotel, Abuja FCT on 29th November 2024.



Batch B - Cohort 1 of Life Skills Training program for AGWD focused on Self-Awareness, Listening Skills, and Emotional Regulation, equipping participants with essential tools for personal growth and development at Roses Regency Hotel, Abuja on 29/11/2024.



Sensitization/Dialogue meeting with parents and caregivers of AGWD, **Batch B, Cohort 1** on November 29, 2024, at Roses Regency Hotel, Wuye, Abuja.

This meeting aims to foster collaboration and support for the empowerment of AGWD.

VDI PARTNERS WITH KWARA STATE TO COMMEMORATE IDPWD 2024



VDI urged the State governor, His Excellency Gov. AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON) to establish Kwara State Disability Rights Commission to ensure the safeguard of rights of persons with disabilities in Kwara State and enforcement of the implementation of the State Disability Rights Law.

On December 3, 2024, the Voice of Disability Initiative (VDI) and Kwara State through the Joint National Association of Persons with Disability (JONAPWD) Kwara State Chapter and the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Integration commemorated the International Day of Persons with Disability together.



The event showcased the power of collective advocacy and reaffirmed the commitment to building an inclusive Kwara State.



Emir Of Ilorin, Religious Leaders, VDI, JONAPWD Unite To Champion Disability Rights, Fight Gender-Based Violence In Kwara



The event brought together powerful key drivers of the affairs of the State and diverse members of the disability community, caregivers, and advocates to promote inclusion and equal rights and included a rally and townhall meeting.

"The exclusion of women and girls with disabilities from public life is a form of 'social death' that must be resisted."
Hannah Arendt
(The Human Condition, 1958)

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY ORGANIZED BY FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VDI

International Day of Persons with Disability at Reiz Continental Hotel on 9th December, 2024.



Mr. Edward Ogenyi giving a Goodwill message on behalf of the Executive Director, Barr. Catherine Edeh at the just concluded commemoration of International Day of Persons with Disability organized by Federal Ministry of Health at Reiz Continental Hotel on 9th December, 2024



Group pictures of participants and stakeholders at the International day of Persons with Disability commemorated by Federal Ministry of Health with support from other organization including VDI at Reiz Continental Hotel-9th December, 2024.



Barr. Catherine Edeh, Executive Director, Voice of Disability Initiative (VDI), expressing her appreciation to all stakeholders present at the commemoration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities at Reiz Continental Hotel on 9/12/2024. She also thanked the Federal Ministry of Health for the partnership opportunity with VDI to review the National Policy of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for Persons with Disabilities. She made a call to action on the need to prioritize interventions targeting women and girls with disabilities who suffer discrimination on the grounds of being women as well as living with disabilities.



The Executive Director of VDI, Barr. Catherine Edeh and her team members at the just concluded commemoration of International Day of Persons with Disability at Reiz Continental Hotel on 9th December, 2024.



Presentation of Assistive Devices to persons with disability at the just concluded commemoration of

"Women and girls with disabilities are not 'problems' to be solved, but individuals with rights and dignity." . Rosemarie Garland-Thomson: (Extraordinary Bodies, 1997)

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

ED VDI RECOGNIZED BY US MISSION NIGERIA



On December 3rd, 2024, which is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the U.S. Mission Nigeria proudly celebrated and recognized the outstanding

contributions of our exceptional ED who is making a profound impact in promoting inclusivity and enhancing the quality of life for persons with disabilities in Nigeria.

Community,' acknowledges VDI's tireless efforts in promoting inclusion and empowering persons with disabilities in Enugu State and beyond.

VDI's Executive Director Receives UN-POLAC Woman of Peace Award



Our Executive Director has been honoured with the prestigious UN-POLAC Woman of Peace Award (Mary Slessor category)

at the Lagos Oriental Hotel on December 14, 2024. This recognition, which includes a UN POLAC Honour ID Card and six weeks of peacekeeping training, reflects the impact of VDI's work on inclusion.

VDI Honored as "The Eagle of Disability Community" on International Day of Persons with Disabilities



On December 5, 2024, VDI received a prestigious award of recognition from the Enugu State disability community . (Enugu State JONAPWD) during the 2024



We celebrate this achievement together and remain committed to fostering inclusion for all.

- VOICE OF DISABILITY INITIATIVE
- WhatsApp/Sms: +2348036866444
- voice_disabilityinitiative
- @VoDInitiative
- www.voiceofdisability.org
- info@voiceofdisability.org
vdisability@yahoo.com

... at VDI, we speak inclusion and equity...

International Day of Persons with Disabilities commemoration at Okpara Square, Enugu. The award, themed 'The Eagle of Disability