

Welcome to the Nigeria RSH webinar

24 March
2022



@SafeguardingRSH

How organisations of persons with disability (OPDs) in Nigeria are keeping people safe

Starting soon

Panelists:

Abdullahi Usman Aliyu - National President, Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD)

Adedeji Ademefun - Lead research and author of the report

Ishaq Adamu - JONAPWD cluster President (Research Lead in Gombe)

Theophilus Odaudu - Disability Rights Fund, Nigeria

Peter Chidi Ugbaje - Head of Finance and Administration of JONAPWD

Jo Feather - Co-lead, Evidence and Research RSH

Chair:

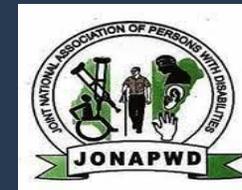
Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi - Senior Advisor for the Nigeria Resource and Support Hub and President of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA)



How organisations of persons with disabilities are keeping people safe

Webinar – 24th March, 2022

JONAPWD and RSH



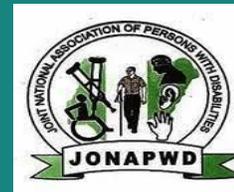
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AGENDA

Welcome and housekeeping	Chair
Introduction to the research objectives and process	Jo Feather
Summary of research (methodology, clusters, key findings)	Deji Ademefun
Insights from Gombe and Blind Cluster	Ishaq Adamu
Reflections from DRF	Theopholis Odaudu
Panel discussion and Q&A - Implications for further work	JONAPWD, DRF and RSH
Close	

Introducing the research



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Overview of RSH

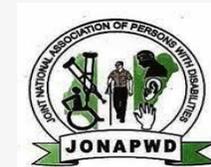
Supporting organisations in the international aid sector to strengthen their safeguarding policy and practice against SEAH – sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment

Vision:

To be a catalyst for the transformation of safeguarding support, enabling the safe delivery of aid and development assistance

We will achieve this by:

- Putting power, privilege and intersectionality at the centre
- Transforming practices and approaches to safeguarding
- Prioritising local experience and expertise
 - Collaborating and co-creating
 - Learning and innovating
 - Being transparent and accountable



The RSH Consortium



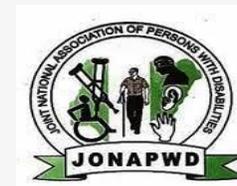
A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION



Why did RSH commission the research

We wanted to know how best to support OPDs to strengthen their approach to safeguarding. So we needed to:

- understand the needs of organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) around disability inclusive safeguarding;
- understand what OPDs' current practice is to ensure people are protected from abuse, harm and violence and that their programmes do not cause any harm;
- understand the barriers and challenges that exist both for OPDs and the community groups with whom they work.

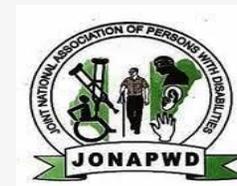


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Principles guiding the research design

- Persons with disabilities define the ways in which they feel safe and identify the ways in which they wish to be protected;
- Persons with disabilities should be asked directly what barriers and risks exist in relation to their protection and included in decision around their own safeguarding;
- The safeguarding systems established by organisations should be accessible and appropriate for the different groups the organisation works with;
- Reasonable accommodation or adjustments should be made to enable full participation in activities;
- Responses to concerns include proportionality as well as a survivor centred approach so that action respects the wishes of the survivor and therefore is more likely to be in their best interest.

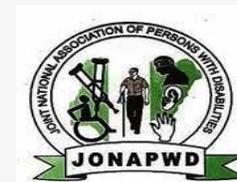


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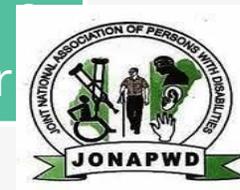
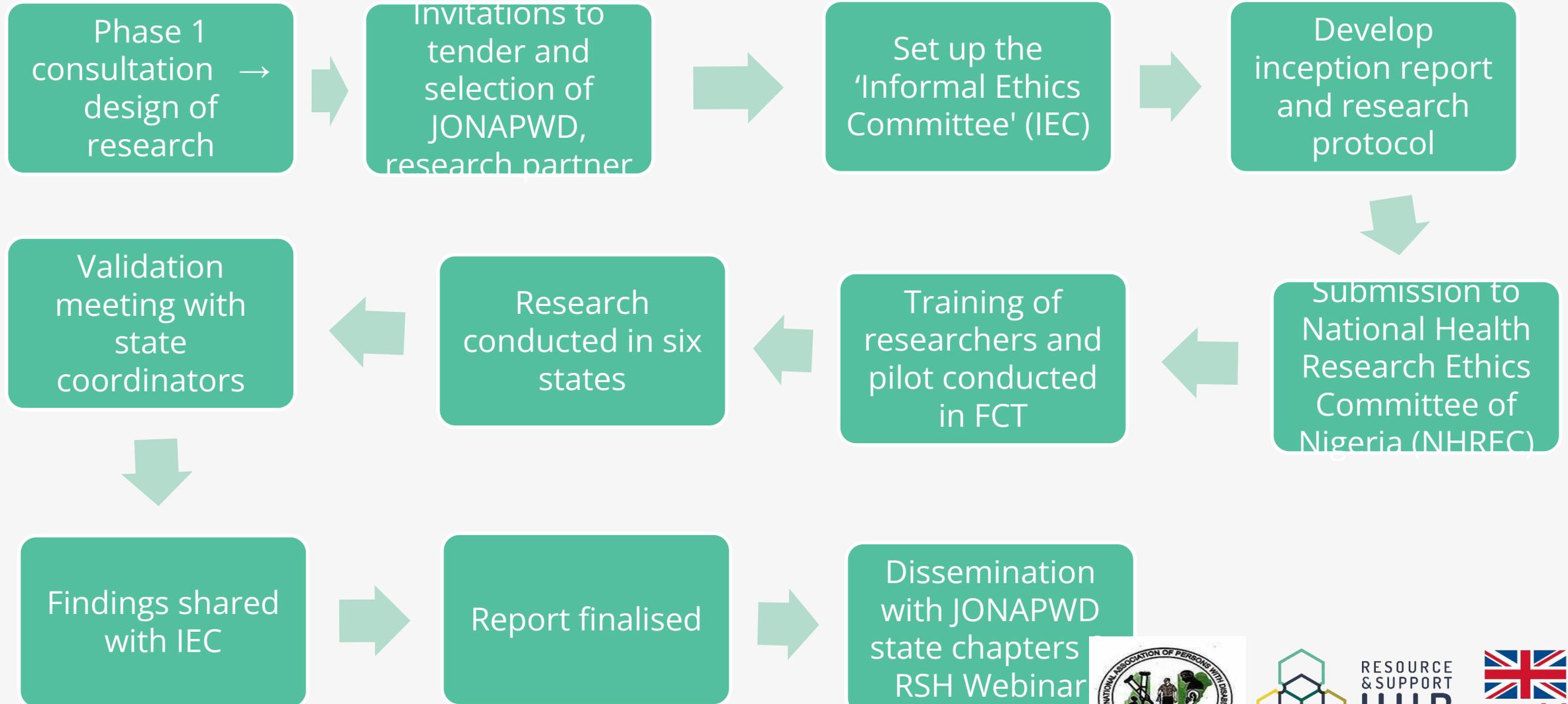


Research Questions

1. To what extent do OPDs understand key safeguarding concepts and terminology?
2. What are OPDs doing to protect people from abuse and harm? What types of approaches do they have in place to ensure safe programming?
3. What are the key challenges that OPDs face with implementing safeguarding mechanisms at an organisation level?
4. How far do organisations understand and apply good practice that is set out in difference national and international safeguarding standards?
5. What examples of good or emerging practice are there among OPDs?



Process



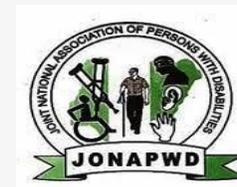
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Acknowledgements

With thanks to:

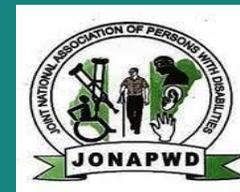
- The research teams in Anambra, Delta, FCT, Gombe, Kebbi, Lagos, and Nasarawa.
- The forty Organisations of Persons with Disabilities who generously gave their time to speak to the researchers about their understanding and experiences of safeguarding.
- The members of our Informal Ethics Committee from Disability Rights Fund, Sightsavers UK and Nigeria, Options Nigeria, FCDO, and RSH Nigeria.



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Summary of Research Findings and Recommendations



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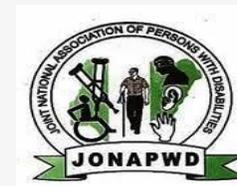


Methodology

- Qualitative research: key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FDGs) to with staff and volunteers from 40 OPDs and OfPDs
- Ethical clearance received from the Nigerian Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC)
- Organisations were randomly selected from the six geo-political zones of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), against set of agreed criteria.

Lagos, Anambra, Delta, Kebbi, Gombe, Nasarawa and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

40 KII	8 in FCT; 7 in Lagos; 5 in each of the remaining 5 states	40 participants
9 FDGs	2 each in FCT and Lagos; 1 in each of the remaining states	75 participants
Total participants		115 participants: 56 women and 61 men



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Difference between OPD and OfPDs

Within the context of this research OPDs are conceptualised and categorised into two strands as follows:

- Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs): Organisations established and have a structure related to the umbrella body JONAPWD i.e., National Association of the Blind, National Association of the Deaf, National Association of Physical Disabilities etc.
- Organisation for Persons with Disabilities (OfPDs): Organisations or CSOs working on issues relating to both persons with disabilities and those who are non-disabled, however, they are not cluster members of JONAPWD though they may be registered members of the Umbrella Body e.g., FACCIPP, She Rights, Inclusive Friends etc.

Research Question 1: To what extent do OPDs understand key safeguarding concepts and terminology?

Finding 1: Among all OPDs and OfPDs participating in this study, there is limited understanding of key concepts of safeguarding and what needs to be in place to operationalise these concepts in order to keep people safe.

Finding 2: Safeguarding is largely understood as addressing harm or abuse that takes place outside of the organisation or the programme, within the community. The specific roles and responsibilities of organisations in relation to safe programming does not appear to be well understood by many.

Finding 3: The language used to describe safeguarding concepts and processes varied hugely across states, communities and within disability clusters, highlighting the varied ways organisations are understanding and conceptualising safeguarding.

Research question 2: What are OPDs doing to protect people from abuse and harm? What types of approaches do they have in place to ensure safe programming?

Finding 4: There were some examples of safeguarding mechanisms in place in some OPDs we spoke with, but for the most part these processes are not documented.

Finding 5: Where policies do exist, these appear to have been developed as a result of a donor requirement. There were no examples shared of policies being adapted to the context or specific needs of the organisation.

Finding 6: Reporting systems and mechanisms appear to be largely external to the OPDs, with some few exceptions.

Finding 7: A few examples of good practice in relation to safeguarding mechanisms and approaches were shared by key informants that warrant further exploration.

Research question 3: What are the key challenges that OPDs face in implementing safeguarding mechanisms at an organisation level?

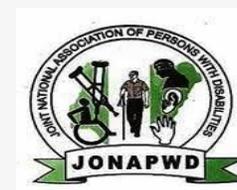
Finding 8: The following **challenges** were identified by respondents during the research:

- A lack of understanding of what safeguarding is limits organisations' ability to put in place appropriate mechanisms to prevent and respond to risks.
- Inadequate funding to implement safeguarding approaches and having a safeguarding focal point in place.
- Capacity gaps. OPDs, and OfPDs, reported a lack of capacity and knowledge around safeguarding and how to address this in their organisations.
 - Language and literacy barriers contribute to a lack of understanding of safeguarding concepts and terminology.
- Stigma against people with disabilities. Although not a primary focus of this research, the issue of stigma came up in almost all FDGs and KIIs as a key challenge for organisations.

Finding 9: Donor requirements and compliance processes related to safeguarding appear to hamper organisational efforts to develop a context specific, sustainable safeguarding approach and culture.

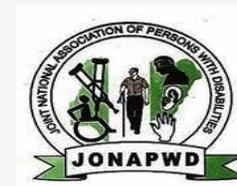
Research question 4: How far do organisations understand and apply good practices that are set out in various national and international safeguarding standards?

Finding 10: The study found little evidence of understanding and application of international safeguarding standards. The extent to which organisations are implementing national policy and legislation is unclear.



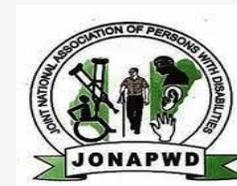
Cluster findings

- Incidences of 'fake news' in social media affect persons who are deaf the most, as they are more reliant on social media as their primary source of information.
- Blind persons reported experiencing more verbal abuses and discrimination.
- Inaccessible structures are more likely to affect persons with a physical disability.
- Sexual abuse occurs among persons with an intellectual disability more frequently, as they may find it more difficult to report incidences or be believed.
- Persons with disabilities experience high level of discrimination in job placements, even when they are well qualified. Persons affected by leprosy face high levels of workplace discrimination.
- The membership of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Nigeria (SBHAN) are mostly parents/caregivers and children.
- Disability and poverty further deepen discrimination and abuse of women with disabilities.



Cluster findings- Gender Specific

- Women with disabilities experience high levels of domestic violence often perpetuated by men who do not have disabilities, who say they are doing them a favour by marrying them.
- Less educated women with disabilities are more vulnerable to spousal abuse and violence and discrimination in marriage.
- Women with physical disabilities may experience sexual violence as a result of a false or dishonest marriage proposal.
- Women with albinism may face sexual harassment due to traditional beliefs that having sex with a woman with albinism will cure all diseases.

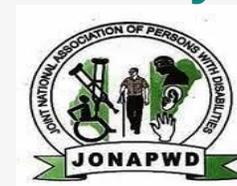


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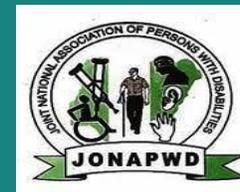


Recommendations

1. Language used to describe safeguarding concepts and approaches should be accessible and understood by the communities using them.
2. Prioritise, and fund support for the operationalisation of safeguarding systems alongside policy development for OPDs / OfPDs.
3. Ensure disability-sensitive technical safeguarding support is available for OPDs.
4. Raise awareness on international safeguarding standards.
5. Support the greater integration of national policy frameworks into OPDs / OfPDs approach to safeguarding.
6. Commission and fund further research by OPDs / OfPDs – areas identified include (purple corner, use of radio, disability community cycle, staff attrition, gender sensitive analysis).



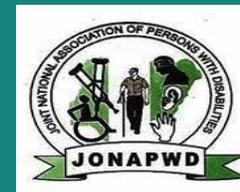
Insights from Gombe State



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Reflections from Disability Rights Fund



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Closing slide

RSH Nigeria Hub and Evidence Team

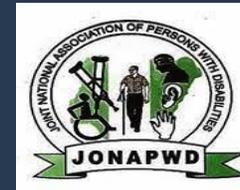
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