I am incredibly excited to share our 2019 Annual Newsletter with you. In the course of the year, the number of children who were able to access our services increased by 80%! Many more children are speaking up about their abuse and getting all the help they need.

We were thrilled to open a Child Community Centre in the heart of Ajegunle. This will provide free and easy access to protection, information and emergency intervention within the community to make it free of child sexual abuse. We also opened our doors to our child shelter which provides a safe place for children suffering from sexual abuse who are in unsafe environments. Exciting plans are also underfoot to open our new Child Advocacy Centre in Abuja in the first quarter of 2020.

We were delighted to expand our partnership base and we are proud to have become a UNICEF implementation partner. We also have expanded our adult prevention efforts with a rigorous Child Protection and Safeguarding Program for educational professionals, since children spend most of the time they are awake in school.

We thank you all for supporting us this year and we look forward to an even more fulfilling and productive 2020!
Cece Yara Community Child Advocacy Center

With great pleasure, we announce the opening of Cece Yara community Child Advocacy Center in the heart of Ajeromi-Ifeodun Local Government Ajegunle Area of Lagos State.

This will provide easy access to care, information, protection and emergency intervention in order to create a community free of child sexual abuse.

With this, the Ajeromi-Ifeodun Community member can access all our services at NO COST.

Cece Yara Bus

We are happy to announce the arrival of our brand new Toyota Hiace Bus; courtesy Google Impact Challenge Nigeria.

This means of mobility is highly essential to facilitate immediate emergency interventions for children who require help; to provide advocacy and support for clients; and to facilitate awareness creation about child sexual abuse.

For this, we are very grateful.

Children Shelter Opens

After a long search for the right person, we have hired an experienced Shelter Matron to oversee the running of our well-equipped, child friendly shelter.

The shelter is now open and will provide temporary accommodation for children who need to be urgently removed from an abusive environment.

Our goal is always to work with the State Child Protection officers to re-unite the child with non-offending family members who can take care of the client.

30 Year Conviction for Child Sexual Abuse

Though the Advocacy efforts of the Cece Yara Foundation’s Legal Team, a perpetrator of child sexual abuse was convicted and sentenced to 30 years imprisonment. Holding perpetrators fully accountable will break the cycle of abuse.

Cece Yara becomes UNICEF Implementation Partner

We are proud and excited to have successfully carried out our first prevention awareness program funded by UNICEF. We thank UNICEF in trusting us and believing in our professionalism and passion. We had a tight deadline, delivered well-received and effective workshops, and kept within our budget.

According to the Country Director, Amandine Inna Renee Bollinger “CYF is doing fantastic work in the area of child protection and we look forward to more collaborations with the foundation”.

WARIF@CeceYara

The Cece Yara Foundation and Women at Risk International Foundation (WARIF) share a common vision and have collaborated to provide the survivors of child sexual abuse with specialist medical examination and treatment services at Child Advocacy Centre. This is in line with best practice and our vision of having a truly one stop child advocacy center, where children can have all support services provided without the re-traumatization of visiting multiple agencies.

BBC Africa News Story

We were truly honoured by the BBC Africa through a short news story they published about our work.

Awareness is key to ending child sexual abuse, and having BBC Africa covered our work with children who have been sexually abused is a huge contribution in creating the needed publicity.

Naomi Cambell Visit

We were thrilled to hosts Naomi Campbell at our Child Advocacy Center in December. It was such an amazing day spending time with this beautifully compassionate lady who has chosen to lend her voice to the prevention of child sexual abuse in Nigeria.
On the 27th of October, 2019, the Cece Yara Foundation screened her documentary film on child sexual abuse. The documentary film is a collection of real life stories given by survivors who have healed to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and to encourage other survivors to seek professional help.

Present at the screening were government officials, dignitaries, child protection stakeholders and philanthropists.

The guests were highly impressed expressed their commitment to support Cece Yara in this war against child sexual abuse.

UNICEF’s Child Protection Manager, Amandine Inna Renee Bollinger, in the company of the UNICEF Child Protection Specialist in Lagos State visited the Cece Yara Foundation on a familiarization tour.

The familiarization tour which also doubles as her first visit to Lagos State aimed at fostering partnerships between the two organizations.

UNDP/ Well-being Foundation High Level Meeting

Our Founder, Mrs. Bola Tinubu was present at the high level roundtable stakeholders engagement; involving Private sectors, Philanthropists, Multi-level stakeholders which was organized by United nations Population Fund in collaboration with Wellbeing Foundation Africa.

This event tagged Road to Nairobi ICPD25 also welcomed UNFPA Director of Strategic Partnerships, Maria-Rosa Cutillo to Nigeria.

We congratulate our Founder Trustee, Bola Tinubu, who became the FIRST Nigerian to be conferred with the status of Chartered Director by the Institute of Directors, U.K. She was also awarded the prestigious title of Fellow of the ICSA: The Governance Institute UK.

The Cece Yara Foundation is officially a Partner of Global Giving! After scaling through the stringent qualifications, we now have our own international fundraising page and can raise funds through this global platform.

Please visit our page: https://www.globalgiving.org/donate/57837/the-registered-trustees-of-the-ceceyara-foundation/

In order to provide quality medical intervention to our clients, The Cece Yara Foundation has been chosen among some other child-centered organizations to benefit from the LASHMA Scheme for FREE. This implies that our clients will have access to this medical scheme for free.
Our Child Advocacy Centre Adopts CAC CareNet - Case Management Software

We are excited to have adopt the latest case management to capture our data, manage our cases and generate reports. It has been revolutionary for us and is a groundbreaking step in Nigeria.

CAC CareNet has been designed by Child Advocacy Centres in the U.S. and captures everything we do from start to finish. We can now spend less time on documentation and focus on our mission to prevent child sexual abuse, with cost-benefits.

Working Visit to the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs

The Team paid a working visit to the Honorable Minister of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Hajia Aisha Abubakar, and the Child Development Department of the Ministry. Amongst other things, we charged the Ministry to uphold the mandate of advising the government on issues relating to children and enjoin everyone to support the vision 2030 Goal of Eradicating Violence Against Children in Nigeria.

Rise Up - Public Health Institute, California

Rise Up in collaboration with Public health Institute has chosen Cece Yara Foundation to be among the nine organisations who are being funded to conduct advocacy projects, with aim to improve girls' education, end violence against women and girls, advance women's economic empowerment, and improve sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls throughout the Kaduna and Lagos states in Nigeria. Through this project, child protection effort will be honed to be more effective in schools across Lagos state.

Union Bank’s Edu 360

Edu 360 is a yearly event organized by Union Bank to engage key education stakeholders across government, civic society, private sector and education institutions.

At this year’s event The Founder Trustee of the Cece Yara Foundation, Mrs. Bola Tinubu was amongst the stakeholders who were invited.

She educated the guests on sex education, talking to children about sex and adult responsibility in protecting children.

Access Bank Orange Lecture

Our Founder Trustee, Bola Tinubu recently addressed the 2019 edition of The Orange Lecture hosted by My Access Bank through its Access Women Network and Genesis House. She reiterated the critical need to educate and empower ourselves as adults with the knowledge of how to prevent and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

Cece Yara Foundations Partnership with Sustainable Education and Enterprise Development (SEED)

In working to ensure every child has access to a safe and happy childhood free of sexual abuse; irrespective of social class or background, CYF and SEED signed a partnership agreement to jointly equip over 700 schools from low income communities and support them in implementing The Lagos State Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. These schools are low cost schools providing education to children with low standard of living.

Our Multi-disciplinary Team - A Unique Way of Caring For Our Clients

Our Multi-Disciplinary Team interfaces with child protection stakeholders; and enable a coordinated multi-disciplinary approach by lawyers, forensic interviewers, social workers, child advocates, medical personnel, the police, State Child Welfare Departments and the Ministry of Justice. This year, the Team has attended to 157 cases of child sexual abuse involving children from 2 years old to 18 years old.

Not-for-Profit of the Year - Nominee

The Cece Yara Foundation is super thrilled to be in great company amongst the final Nominees for Not-for-Profit of the Year category of the 2019 Sustainability and Enterprise and Responsibility (SERAS) awards in Nigeria.

CYF will not relent in giving to and supporting good course.

Churches Commitment to Ending Sexual Violence against Children

Cece Yara participated in a workshop organized by Christian Council of Nigeria. At the workshop, the engagement of industries, civil societies and media in responding appropriately to the issue of child sexual abuse was critically examined. Yara in this war against child sexual abuse.
Earlier in the year, we organized a two-day workshop on child protection in collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Justice and the Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT), which was supported by UNICEF. We empowered 50 schools on the appropriate measures to safeguard children from all forms of abuse especially sexual abuse. 100 participants representing 50 schools were trained with the aim of equipping educators and Parent Teachers Associations of private schools regarding their responsibility of protecting children.

Participant feedback: “The detailing that was put in by the Cece Yara Foundation still blows my mind. . . . Everything was laid out to learn, leaving every participant with a great burden and the zeal to do more for children; This workshop was to international standard.”

Our Child Helpline - Inclusivity and Multi-cultural Support

Our trained helpline counsellors currently receive an average of 350 calls per month. We are proud of our 10 multicultural and multi religious counsellors who communicate fluently in Yoruba, Hausa and Igbo language, and who are of Christian and Islamic faiths. We ensure that every caller receives help without any language or religious barrier.

We added male counsellors to support little boys or men who feel more comfortable speaking to the same gender.

Member of Helplines Partnership

The Cece Yara Foundation is now a member of Helplines Partnership. Helplines Partnership represents the helplines sector across the UK and internationally, supporting helplines to provide the best quality service to their users.

Helpline membership is granted to eligible organisations like Cece Yara in providing multi-channel support with the aim of improving the overall wellbeing of children.

CYF Volunteers

We are a volunteer-friendly organization, providing opportunity for skills development, while making positive impact.

Our dedicated volunteers share their time and talents in helping us change children’s lives. They are involved in our awareness and prevention programs and help us in sensitizing the community about child sexual abuse.

Walk with DSVRT

On the 26th of November, 2019, The Cece Yara Foundation joined the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Heads of Judiciary and Legislature, Top Government Officials, Government Agencies, as well as other Gender Based Violence Prevention Stakeholders for a walk against Domestic and Sexual Violence tagged “Walk to Commit and Act”. This event was initiated by the Domestic and Sexual Violence response Team to raise awareness on domestic and sexual violence.

Cece Yara launches Adult Child Protection & Safeguarding Program

We launched our Safeguarding Program training of education professionals on how to be proactive child protection personnel within the school community.

The training of teachers and other professionals working with children is critical, as children spend most of the time they are awake in school. Please contact us to bring our Child Protection Workshop to your school.

Child Helpline International Engagement/Membership

We have been approved for full membership by the Supervisory Board of Child Helpline International. Child Helpline International is a collective impact organisation with 178 members from 146 countries. CHI coordinates information, and data from members, partners and external sources to advocate for the rights of children and amplify their voices.

The membership provides us with unique access to a range of different capacity building events, collaborations, and resources for international child helplines at all levels of operation.

Radio Program

We were invited for a radio programme on Lagos Talks 91.3 to discuss child sexual abuse. We used the opportunity to talk to over 21 million people in Lagos State and across Nigeria on prevention, symptoms, and appropriate ways of responding to child sexual abuse.
Forensic Interview Workshop

We held a high-level consultative workshop with the Nigerian Police Force Lagos Command, The Ministry of Justice and other stakeholders in the administration of criminal justice system where we advocated for the adopt the best practice of forensic interviewing in the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases.

The workshop was funded by The Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Program of the British Council.

Sexual Assault Referral Centers (SARCs) Network Conference

Cece Yara Foundation was live at the 5th Annual SARCs Network Conference held at Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja on the 4th-6th December 2019.

At the event, Mrs. Bisi Ajayi-Kayode-Assistant Director of the Foundation had a presentation on “tailoring of services to include children”. In her talk she emphasized the need to have an effective child protection policy in all the 36 states of the federation.

Training Workshop for Principals and Heads of School

On the 4th of December 2019, the Cece Yara Foundation organized a workshop for 50 Principals and Heads of schools in Lagos State. In attendance were Ministry of Education Officials, DSVRT Representative, School Principals and Heads, Rise Up project Advocates, and CYF team members.

The aim of the workshop which was organized as part of the Cece Yara, Rise Up and Public Health Institute’s Advocacy project is to harness and implement the Lagos State Safeguarding and Child Protection in Lagos State Schools.

Training Workshop for Child Protection Policy Implementers

On the 11th of December 2019, the Cece Yara Foundation organized a child protection training for 50 Teachers/Guidance Counsellor who would serve as Child Protection Officers to ensure the effective implementation of the Lagos State Safeguarding and child Protection policy in 50 pilot schools.

This training is crucial in addressing the alarming and growing trend of defilement, child abuse and maltreatment by creating and enforcing a management system that provides a safe environment for children in child-centered institution; particularly in schools.

Advocacy Group Meets with DG Office of the Education Quality Assurance

On the of 9th December 2019 the Cece Yara, Rise Up Advocacy Group met with the Director General, Office of Education Quality Assurance, Lagos State Ministry of Education, - Mrs. Biola Seriki-Ayeni, and other officials to collaborate for the effective implementation of the project “Harnessing Child Protection in Lagos State Schools”.

The Director General- Quality Assurance, Ministry of Education who was pleased with the initiative pledged the Ministry full support of the project endorsed this Advocacy group as the “Technical Working Group”, which will hold quarterly meeting with the office of Quality Assurance to strategize, review the program and activities for effective implementation of the Lagos State Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Rise Up Advocacy Group

The Cece Yara Foundation with some other child protection stakeholders came together to form an Advocacy group.

This advocacy group includes:
representatives from Human Development Initiative (HDI), Sustainable Education and Enterprise Development (SEED), Teach for Nigeria and other child protection stakeholders.

The group was established to form a coalition in implementing an advocacy project aimed at addressing the alarming and growing trend of rape, defilement, child abuse and maltreatment of children; most especially girls by engaging key decision makers and making them accountable.

Community Prevention – Safe Kids Awareness Program

In order to curb the incidence of Child sexual abuse in our communities, we organized a workshop to empower 250 stakeholders in the community to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse. Through this training traditional rulers (Baales), market women and men, representatives of community development Association and other members of the community groups were equipped with skills on how to respond and react to the disclosure of CSA in their respective community; with them making a commitment to react and respond appropriately to cases of child sexual abuse.
Training of Volunteers

When it comes to service work, volunteers are integral to the The Cece Yara Foundation Team. To ensure that they are properly engaged, CYF conducts frequent trainings for them to build their capacity.

Our volunteers are very important to us and so we appreciate them for their selfless service!

Child Protection Online

Child sexual abuse is perpetrated not only offline, but online. The most potentially vulnerable users of internet, especially mobile services are children. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the prioritization of child protection Online so that children can still be protected even with evolving technology.

To ensure this, CYF in the company of other child-centered stakeholders participated in the 5-day training of Stakeholders on Child Online Protection: Consumer Awareness on Cybercrimes held in Abuja between 7th and 11th October, 2019.

Enlightening the Public on Child Protection

On Wednesday, 18th September 2019, our Executive Director-Mrs. Grace Ketefe featured on a television programme- Legal Mattaz to enlighten the public about child protection and the role of adults in preventing child sexual abuse. She also sensitized the viewers on the child rights law so that they can be well informed about the legal rights of children.

Cece Yara Launches Community Empowerment Training Workshop

In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Domestic Violence Response Team (DSVRT) with the support of UNICEF organized a special One day Community Empowerment Training workshop on Child Protection.

This prevention and awareness program targeted community and religious leaders as key change agents for their communities.

Access to Justice

One of our core services is ensuring that our child survivors and their non-offending family members have access to justice.

We accompany clients and their families to the police station; ensure that all the legal elements of the crime are confidently reported by the child in a non-threatening environment; we liaise with the Police and the Directorate of Prosecutions to ensure that the case is speedily brought to trial, and that necessary reports are filed.

Child sexual Abuse Prevention Campaign

The Cece Yara Foundation is waxing stronger in her effort to prevent child sexual abuse through the empowerment of adults and children in child-centered institutions (school, religious places).

With this over 400 adult change-makers have been empowered through our Adult Prevention Program.

In addition, over 10,000 children have been trained through its SAFE KIDS AWARENESS PROGRAM.

Training of Children with Special Needs

As part of a UNICEF Sponsored program, we conducted prevention training for over 2,000 school children across Lagos State within the 1st quarter of the year. We had special sessions for children with Special needs children who were taught how to recognize safe and unsafe touches and body boundaries, how to react to bad touches from potential child sexual abuse perpetrators in order to prevent abuse, and importantly, how to seek help.

Appreciation Award

On the 12th of October, 2019, Atlantic Hall Educational Trust Council presented an award to the Cece Yara Foundation as a show of appreciation for the foundations passion and effort in fighting against sexual violence.

No Tolerance Walk with WARIF

On Saturday 7th December 2019, members of the Cece Yara team joined Women at Risk International Foundation (WARIF) and over 800 people from various organisations and Institutions on a NO TOLERANCE march against rape and sexual violence in Nigeria.

This awareness is a very important step towards sexual violence prevention.
The Cece Yara Foundation through her awareness prevention program produced a one minute video to drive home the point that adults need to protect children and desist from violating them. CYF stated that abusers violate children because they do not see them as children that they are.

CYF further emphasized that adults need to recognize the signs of abuse and know how to protect children from abuse.

30th Anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child

We were honored to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the convention of the rights of the child at an evening of Art and Poetry hosted by British Deputy High Commission, Harriet Thomson, in conjunction with UNICEF Nigeria. The highlight was a special poetry reading by Professor Wole Soyinka to commemorate the anniversary. Child Rights is serious and it’s for all to protect.

Sensitizing the World in One Minute

Cece Yara Produces Animated Video

In order to raise awareness about sexual abuse and available help, we produced our first animated 1-minute promotional video for our Child Helpline which debuted on social media in April and received almost 30,000 views on social media.

Raising awareness remains a key focus for us – it’s the first step towards the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Sexual Abuse Happens to Boys Too.

The Cece Yara Foundation produced a short clip to sensitize the world about the fact that sexual abuse happens to boys too. The clip also highlights the plight of the male folks about sexuality, social stereotypes and cultural myths.

Feedback from Our Clients

A feedback system is required for every organization to evaluate its impact and identify positive areas of its services, as well as areas that need improvement. This we do at the Cece Yara Foundation with the aim of ensuring a better service delivery.

A client has this to say “Cece Yara made me feel at home and mum stopped blaming me for the abuse. I like the home work Doctor gave to us...Please help other children like me”. This is an unedited testimony given by our client. It has strengthened our commitment to helping children round the clock throughout the year.

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Cece Yara at French Village International, Badagry

CYF is passionate about ensuring that every child in Lagos State is protected from sexual abuse irrespective of race, ethnicity, and religion.

Distance was not considered a barrier at all as CYF went all the way to the Nigerian Border to Republic of Benin to empower children with the knowledge of the Underwear Rule, Body Safety and how to be assertive in stopping a perpetration who may want to sexually abuse them.

The SERAS CSR Award Africa 2019

The Cece Yara Foundation is excited to be on the final shortlist of the SERAS CSR award based on the impact we have made in ensuring that children are being protected from all forms of abuse.

We appreciate all our partners, donors, supporters, volunteers and everyone who believes in our fight against child sexual abuse. We look forward to bringing the trophy home.
On Friday, 11th October 2019, CYF joined her partners all over the world to mark the International Day of the Girl Child for the year 2019 tagged: Girl Force- Unscripted and Unstoppable.

CYF used the medium to raise the awareness of burden the female folks face in Nigeria. The statistics of the girls being affected by Sexual Violence, Child Marriage, and Female Genital Mutilation was also made available for all to see, be informed and take action.

On the 1st of October 2019, The Cece Yara Foundation celebrated the 59th Independence of our dear country Nigeria. During the celebration, there was an opinion poll where people aired what true independence mean to them.

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We appreciate all the support we received from our funders, donors, partners, volunteers, supporters and clients.

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