

## **FOMWAN AT A GLANCE 1985-2010**

The Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN) is a non-profit making and non-governmental organization. It is a civil society umbrella body for Muslim Women Associations in Nigeria. It was established and registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission in 1985. FOMWAN is a National Association with chapters in 36 States and Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory. There are over 600 Local Government Branches throughout the federation. It has over two thousand affiliate groups.

### **VISION**

FOMWAN envisions' a world where women are totally empowered to be role models in making positive impact in the Society.

### **MISSION**

1. To propagate the religion of Islam in Nigeria through da'awah, establishment of educational institutions and other outreach activities.
2. To improve the socio-economic status of the populace especially women, youths and children through training, provision of qualitative education, health and human services, micro-enterprise scheme and advocacy.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To create awareness among Muslim Women of the true teachings of Islam in the Qur'an and the Sunnah and to encourage women to live in accordance with those teachings.
2. To improve the Moral, Educational, Intellectual and Economic Development of Women through Capacity Building, Seminars, and empowerment programmes.
3. To take special Care of early school leavers (drop-outs and out of school children).
4. To rehabilitate street children, abandoned children, orphans and refugee children.
5. To Provide Girl-Child education and Adult-literacy for women in English, Local Language and Arabic through establishment of schools: Nursery/Primary, Secondary, Women's Islamiyya and Vocational Centers.
6. To develop Youths through educative programmes, including Youth Camps

### **FOMWAN's CORE VALUES**

1. Respect for Islamic values.
2. Commitment to Integrity
3. Teamwork
4. Result-Orientation
5. Accountability and transparency

### **THE BEGINNING**

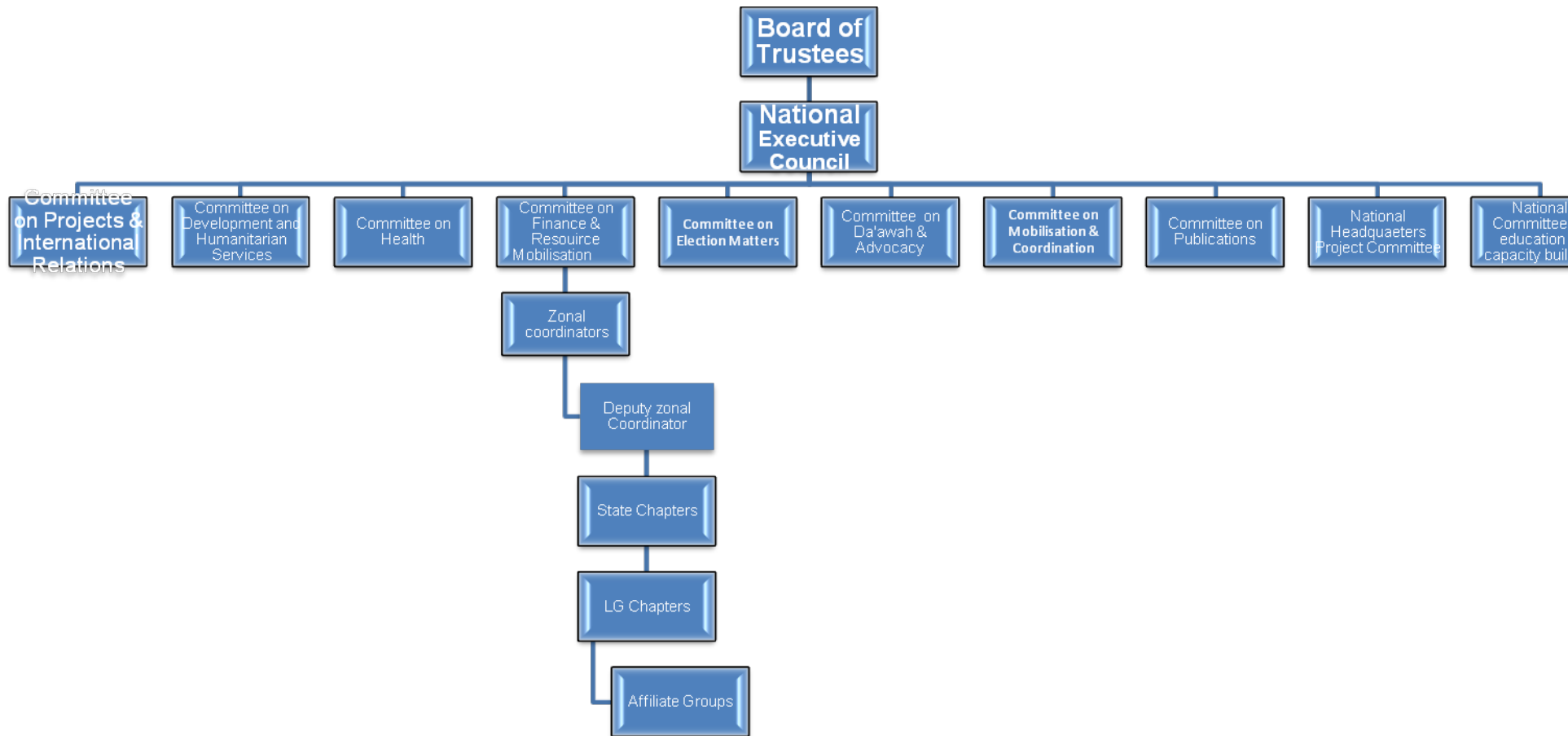
- 1983 and 1984: The idea to form an all embracing National Muslim Women Organisation was muted by some committed Muslim Women
- 1985: FOMWAN was formally inaugurated in Minna, Niger State at the Islamic Education Trust.
- 1985: Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission was concluded

### **INAUGURAL MEETING, 1985**

- delegates attended From: Ilorin, Lagos, Minna, Kaduna and Zaria
- Selection of a National Executive committee and State Amirahs for the states present at the meeting was concluded.
- A working Constitution was adopted for the guidance of FOMWAN, in particular conduct of National and State Elections in a peaceful and responsible manner.
- The maximum period of office for any elective post was fixed at four years
- For ease of communication and effective discharge of their responsibilities, the constitution recommends that the Amirah, the Secretary, the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer be resident close to one another.
- The constitution also details procedure for replacement of officials who have relocated before the end of their terms, or those that are found wanting in conduct.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF FOMWAN**

FOMWAN has a Board of Trustees and Executive Committees at the National and State levels. The elected State Amirahs (State Presidents) are members of the National Executive Council in addition to the elected National Amirah (National President, Naibat'ul Amirah (Vice President), Secretary-General, Financial Secretary, Da'wah/Welfare Officer, Legal Adviser and a Public Relations Officer. Also as members of the Executive Council are Chairpersons of National Committees and Zonal Coordinators and Deputy Zonal coordinators for the North East, North West, North Central, South West, South-South and South East.



## **FOMWAN NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES**

FOMWAN has ten national standing committees:

1. Committee on Education and Capacity Building.
2. Committee on Publications,
3. Committee on Da'wah and Advocacy
4. Committee on Projects and External Relations
5. Committee on Finance and Resource Mobilization
6. Committee on Community Development and Humanitarian Services
7. Committee on Membership Mobilisation & Coordination
8. Committee on Health
9. Committee on Headquarters Project
10. Committee on Election Matters

## **PROGRAMME AREAS**

Education

Health

Capacity-Building/training

Da'wah

Advocacy

Community development programmes

Humanitarian Services

All State Chapters have been involved in diverse projects like managing Orphanages, Schools of various kinds (i.e., Nursery/Primary, Secondary, Adult literacy, Arabic/Qur'anic Literacy, Vocational, Hospitals, Clinics and Pharmacies and other Income Generating projects).

They are aided by guidelines from the Constitution, Code of Conduct & Ethics, and the National Executive Council (NEC) but without strict interference or dictates on particular activities to be engaged in,

## **FUNDING**

FOMWAN has a self-reliant posture and relies solely on internally generated funds from members. Thus, FOMWAN has been funding its activities from membership dues, Levies from State Chapters, sales of Publications, Tickets, donations, Zakat and Project Grants from Donor Agencies.

FOMWAN, at both National and State levels keep accounts with various banks. The Headquarters has accounts in Osogbo, Abuja and Investments with Lotus Ethical Capital Ltd. Both national and all the states give account of their activities during the Quarterly National Executive Council Meeting. FOMWAN accounts are regularly audited. The organization has fixed assets and is currently not liable to any individual or organization.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

- I.** Every Muslim Women's Association/ organization in Nigeria is eligible to apply for membership of the Federation provided such an Association has satisfactorily shown itself to be bound by the Aims and Objectives contained in this Constitution.
- II.** An Association wishing to apply to become a member of FOMWAN shall forward to the National Secretariat its application through its State FOMWAN Amirah where such exists.
- III.** The State Chapter concerned is obliged to forward such application to the National Secretariat as soon as possible but not later than three months with its recommendation or reasons for withholding same.
- IV.** An Association seeking to become a Member of the Association shall upon its admission pay to the association the prescribed registration fees and the first annual subscriptions. All subsequent annual subscription shall be paid as and when due to the association.
- V.** Every official and member of FOMWAN at every level is obliged to observe and conform to the code of conduct and guidelines set out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Schedule to the FOMWAN Constitution.

## **FOMWAN RETREATS**

- These are organized with the aim of
  - Developing new strategies for running the organisation
  - Introducing new programmes for enhancing FOMWAN and making it more relevant to the society.
  - Setting up of Boards and Committees at the National level to handle emerging areas of FOMWAN's Activities.

### **FOMWAN 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: 2001-2006**

- The Strategic Plan was to achieve the following:
  - Strengthen and expand its projects in education, health and welfare which are the main focus of its activities.
  - Establish a functional secretariat.
  - Complete the national headquarters project.
  - Reconstruct the FOMWAN zonal framework.
  - Establish additional Boards.
  - Expand youth programmes and
  - Effective networking with government agencies and Non governmental organizations (NGOs).

### **FOMWAN 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: 2006-2010**

- The 2006-2010 Strategic Plan resulted to the following Changes:
  - Conversion of all Boards to Committees (except the Board of Trustees)
  - Mobilization Board to Membership Board, responsible for mobilization, welfare, discipline of members
  - Board on International Relations to Projects and External Relations.
  - Creation of separate National Committees for Community Development and Humanitarian Services.
  - Scope of Finance Committee expanded to include Resource Mobilization.
  - Creation of sub-committee on Finance, Investment, Audit and resource Mobilization.
  - Inclusion of Capacity-Building
  - Scope of the Publication Committee expanded to include Da'awah and Advocacy.

### **National Amirahs Since 1985**

- 1985-1989.                      Aisha Lemu
- 1989-1993.                      Lateefat Okunnu

- 1993-1997. Saadiya Omar Bello
- 1997-2001. Khairat O. Sodique
- 2001-2005. Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)
- 2005- 2009 Lateefah Durosinmi
- 2009-Date Maryam Idris Othman

### **National Secretaries Since 1985**

- 1985-1989. Halimah Jibril
- 1989-1993. Fatima Oyekan
- 1993-1997. Fatima Ibrahim Aliyu
- 1997-2001. Wasilat Musa
- 2001-2005 Maryam Othman.
- 2005- 2009 Lateefa Giwa.
- 2009-Date Azeeza Hassan-jibril

### **FOMWAN ACTIVITIES AT NATIONAL LEVEL**

#### **1. ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE:**

The Rotational Annual National Conferences between Northern and Southern parts of the country have not only reinforced the unity and understanding among our diverse membership for over 23 years but have also served as a medium of publicity for FOMWAN objectives & programmes among the rural members and the generality of the populace, both males and females.

#### *HOSTING STATES OF ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCES SINCE 1985:*

- 1985- National Meeting to establish FOMWAN
- 1985- Niger Inaugural Meeting.

- 1986- Lagos
- 1987- Sokoto
- 1988- Ilorin
- 1989- Kaduna
- 1990- Oyo
- 1991- Plateau
- 1992- Ogun
- 1993- Lagos
- 1994- Adamawa
- 1995- Abuja
- 1996- Kano
- 1997- Osun
- 1998- Edo
- 1999- Niger
- 2000- Bauchi
- 2001- Ibadan
- 2002- Kogi
- 2003- Ondo
- 2004- Borno
- 2005- Abuja.
- 2006- Nasarawa
- 2007- Ekiti
- 2008- Sokoto
- 2009- Ogun
- 2010- FCT

## **2. QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF NEC**

- This provides an avenue for exchange of information and ideas on the various programmes under implementations in different states.

### **3. PUBLICATION OF FOMWAN MAGAZINE**

- “The Muslim Woman” encourages members to write and collect articles of interest, and to address issues of concern to Muslims and to women in particular.

### **4. PUBLIC RELATIONS**

- Governments at all levels engage FOMWAN to reach out to Muslim women from wards to national level. These engagements have made FOMWAN to be more proactive in reaching out to willing partners.
- Participation at Conferences/ Workshops on women’s issues, education, health, legal rights, good governance, political participation, HIV/AIDS and other social issues.
- FOMWAN works with other Civil Societies in the areas of Education, Health, election monitoring etc.
- FOMWAN has also earned respect from other non-Muslim religious groups at local, national and international levels. These groups invite FOMWAN to participate in community activities, interfaith dialogue and peace building.
- It has official stakeholder status in Federal government’s Universal Basic Education (UBE), the Nomadic Education Programmes, and the Joint Consultative Committee on Education (JCCE).
- It is involved in the FG/UNICEF Qur’anic Education Programmes.
- FOMWAN also networks with male national Islamic groups such as Jama’atu Nasril Islam, JNI, Nigeria Da’wah Coordinating Council, NDCC.

**Politically**, FOMWAN enjoys a lot of respect for its management of unity in diversity and commitment of its members. FOMWAN has also been involved in Civic Education and election monitoring.

Though a non-partisan organisation, FOMWAN is continuously making efforts to empower Muslim women to actively participate in governance.

### **5. SOCIAL/ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- FOMWAN has rapid response teams at both national & state levels to respond to local and national emergencies such as communal conflicts, flood, fire incidents, epidemics, refugees, etc.

- It has featured prominently in the relief effort to the recent Plateau State ethnic crises
- FOMWAN is involved in the construction of wells/boreholes for the less privileged.

## **6. INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING**

- FOMWAN is an NGO with consultative status with the United Nations.
- FOMWAN participates in the activities of Global Network of Religions for Children and World Council of Religions.
- Several international partners also approach FOMWAN for collaboration to implement projects. FOMWAN has seized this opportunity to further build its capacity to be able to engage successfully with partners who share its mission and vision.
- Trip along the West African Coast in 1993 to visit Muslim Women's Groups and share with them FOMWAN's experience.
- FOMWAN hosted the Muslim sisters from the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ghana at the FOMWAN National Conference in December 1993. The Muslim Sisters visited projects in some FOMWAN State Chapters and were inspired by the achievements of FOMWAN.
- FOMWAN has been a catalyst to the formation of similar associations in the other West African countries: Ghana (FOWMAG), Liberia (FOMWAL), Gambia (FOMWAGA), Sierra-Leone (FOMWASAL), and Mauritius (FOMWAM), and the Muslim Women in the Republic of Niger.

### **OTHER POLICY INVOLVEMENT**

Since inception, FOMWAN has made input into policies through partnership with Governments at all levels.

Various state branches are also networking and collaborating with other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Education, Health and Rehabilitation of Almajris and Refugee Children.

FOMWAN has continued to play major roles in the development of the Nation.

**FOMWAN's** network all over the Federation provides an excellent structure for reaching out to youths of various diversities on religion, governance, leadership, career guidance, skill acquisition and health matters through the Youth Camps

**FOMWAN** is also engaged in activities that alleviate children's difficulties through its Orphanage homes, Rehabilitation of Street and Refugee Children, etc.

**FOMWAN** is committed to maintenance of the dignity and rights of the child, through networking and cooperation with other organizations and Government(s) to challenge all forms of child Abuse: child trafficking, child prostitution, child labor and exploitation. FOMWAN is a major stakeholder in the implementation of child rights.

FOMWAN is committed to reproductive health and rights issues particularly maternal health. It is actively involved in efforts at reducing maternal mortality. It has been involved in child & reproductive health care and in the campaign against HIV/AIDS. It has also increased awareness of the benefits of clinic based health care services. FOMWAN has been involved in the development of a communication plan, which incorporates advocacy, communication, and social mobilization approaches to control malaria. It is also involved in mobilization and distribution of Long Lasting Insecticides Net (LLIN) to make Nigeria a malaria free zone.

**FOMWAN**, being an education-focused organization, not only advocates for the Retention of girls in schools, and continuing education for married women, it also promotes educational development through establishment of schools and vocational centers for Women and Youth empowerment.

Thus, FOMWAN has over 100 Nursery/Primary & Secondary Institutions and over 200 Islamiyya/Qur'anic Centres and Adult Literacy classes, across the Country.

**FOMWAN** has also continued to mobilize the populace, especially the Muslim Ummah to pay attention to education, through the inauguration of its Annual Education Lecture Series.

**FOMWAN** recently developed its Strategic Plan for the next five years, focusing on her Vision and Mission. This is expected to result into a more viable, stronger and effective organization, capable of affecting her members positively, while influencing the policies that affect Women, Children and Youths and Islam.

### **Opportunities**

FOMWAN has generated tremendous goodwill and carved a niche for itself as a broad group representing Muslim women nationwide.

Even, the majority of Muslim men and many male Islamic groups see FOMWAN as a ray of hope that can successfully coordinate women's activities. They therefore support FOMWAN's activities and champion its causes.

### **FOMWAN NATIONAL SECRETARIAT**

- The National Secretariat initially used to be located wherever the National Amirah resides until the movement to the FOMWAN National Headquarters, Utako, Abuja
- Previous sites are:
  - MINNA
  - LAGOS
  - SOKOTO
  - KADUNA/ABUJA
- Permanent site now Abuja, (Alhamdulillah)

### **DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOMWAN NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX, UTAKO, ABUJA**

- FOMWAN purchased a landed property at Utako, Abuja in 1992
- Foundation stone of FOMWAN National Headquarters, Abuja laid in 1995.
- The land remained virgin until 1999, when the Certificate of Occupancy was obtained.

- Physical possession of the land was taken with the construction of a fence and a gatehouse for the security men.
- FOMWAN National Headquarters' Complex at 12, Ekukinam Street, Utako, Abuja, is currently under construction. The project includes the Administrative building, a Hostel block, Conference hall and mosque
- The administrative block is completed and already occupied
- The **ground floor** of the three-storey hostel block is completed and furnished. It contains eleven en-suite rooms, reception, kitchen, manager's office and store.
- The completion of the hostel block, construction of the conference hall and mosque is the immediate priority project at hand.

### **SOME ACHIEVEMENTS OF FOMWAN AT BOTH NATIONAL AND STATE LEVELS**

- a. Establishment of schools of various kinds: Day-care centers, Nursery/Primary, Secondary, Adult literacy, Arabic Literacy. FOMWAN has over 100 Schools.
- b. Health/Welfare: Hospitals/Maternity/Welfare clinics, Pharmacies, Orphanages,
- c. Construction of wells/boreholes for Communities, Prisons, etc.
- d. FOMWAN has been involved in Maternal/Child & Reproductive Health care and in the campaign against HIV/AIDS.
- e. Agricultural Projects: Fish farming, Cattle breeding, Cassava/Gari Processing, Goat rearing, etc.
- f. Business Ventures: Hijab Industries, Transport Service, Printing, etc.
- g. Market Stalls construction.
- h. Annual National Youth Camps for Girls on Zonal basis
- i. Holding of workshops/Seminars/Conferences across the country.
- j. Holding Annual National Conferences that rotate between Northern and Southern parts of the country to foster unity and understanding among our membership for the past 23 years.
- k. Publication of FOMWAN magazine- "The Muslim Woman".
- l. FOMWAN has been involved in Civic education and election monitoring.
- m. FOMWAN has been at the forefront of relief efforts to crisis ridden areas like plateau State
- n. FOMWAN recently (August, 2010) celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary which was attended by the Sultan of Sokoto, the First lady of Nigeria, various state governors and their wives etc.

## **THE ROLE OF MEN**

Men have also played prominent roles in the making of FOMWAN. People like Sheik Ahmed Lemu, will forever be held in high esteem for their roles in keeping FOMWAN together.