

Voluntary Workcamps Association of Nigeria *(VWAN-SCI Branch)*

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



CONTENT

	Page
Foreward	3
Our Profile	4-5
Activities Implemented	6-8
International Exchanges	8
Membership	8
Networking/Engagements	8
Challenges	8
Looking Forward	8

FOREWORD

It is with immense humility that I present the 2024 Annual Report of the Voluntary Workcamps Association of Nigeria (VWAN). This year has been a commitment of our volunteers, partners, and stakeholders as we collectively pursued our vision of fostering peace, inclusivity, and sustainable development in communities across Nigeria and beyond.

Through various workcamps, exchanges, and advocacy programs, we have not only empowered communities but also inspired individuals to embrace volunteerism as a tool for transformation. This report highlights our accomplishments, the challenges faced, and our aspirations for the future.

As we reflect on the milestones achieved in 2024, we renew our pledge to create more impactful opportunities and strengthen partnerships that align with our mission. I extend my gratitude to everyone who has supported VWAN in this journey. Together, we continue to make a difference.

Kolawole Aganran
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OUR PROFILE

Who We Are

The Voluntary Workcamps Association of Nigeria (VWAN) is an international voluntary service (IVS) organization dedicated to promoting a culture of peace and development through organizing international voluntary projects, workcamps, and exchanges in local communities for people of all ages and backgrounds. Since 1963, VWAN has contributed to the development of hundreds of impactful projects in local communities, enabling both local and international volunteers to foster positive change and community development.

Our Vision and Mission

Vision: To create an egalitarian and peaceful society through international volunteering projects with personal, community, and global impact.

Mission: We strive to promote volunteerism, a culture of peace, intercultural exchange, international understanding, and solidarity

Our Objectives

- To become a catalyst for widespread added-value projects and solutions, centered on volunteering and social change.
- To provide extraordinarily impactful volunteering opportunities in local communities, for individuals and particularly young people.

Our Thematic Areas

- Climate Justice/Sustainable Environment
- Gender Inclusion
- Peace Education

Our Core Values

- Peace & Non-violence
- Gender Equality
- Inclusion & Citizenship
- Climate Action
- Interc-Cultural & Bio-Diversity

Groups we work with

- Youth
- Rural communities
- Marginalized/Underprivileged communities

Partners

- Branch of Service Civil International (SCI)
- Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS)
- Network of African Voluntary Service Organization (NAVO)
- West African Voluntary Association Network (WAVAN)
- Youth Organizations and Networks (National Youth Council of Nigeria)
- Corresponding with relevant Government Ministries and Agencies (Ministry of Youth & Social Development, Ministry of Culture & Tourism)

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN THE YEAR 2024

(A). WORKCAMP

1. PEACE EDUCATION WORKCAMP

On June 8, 2024, VWAN organized a transformative weekend workcamp titled *"What Will I Do For Peace Today?"*. This project was designed to instill a sense of responsibility and understanding of peace building among participants. The event, attended by 50 students aged 10–18 from paramilitary schools and 15 adults aged 28–65, combined theoretical learning with practical activities.

Participants were divided into thematic groups to explore different dimensions of peace:

- **Peace with Nature:** Led by Regina, this group focused on environmental conservation, including practical demonstrations on recycling and tree planting. Their presentation on the "3 Rs of Recycling" - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, emphasized individual and collective actions to protect the environment.
- **Peace with Myself:** Facilitated by Omotayo, this session emphasized self-care, mindfulness, and volunteering as ways to foster inner peace. The group highlighted how a peaceful mind contributes to positive relationships and societal harmony.
- **Peace with People Around Me:** Under Philip's guidance, this group tackled issues of diversity and inclusion, demonstrating ways to embrace differences and treat others with respect.
- **Peace in the Community:** Abayomi led discussions on addressing local injustices and standing against hate speech and other divisive actions.
- **Peace in the World:** Led by Kola, this session introduced the concept of a global peace culture, encouraging participants to view peace-building as a universal responsibility.

The workcamp culminated in a symbolic peace march by students, showcasing their commitment to promoting non-violence and community solidarity.



Group presentation (left), Group work (right)

2. WORLD HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS

From September 16–27, 2024, VWAN hosted a two-week workcamp at the UNESCO-designated Oke-Idanre Hill in Ondo State. This project aimed to preserve and promote the cultural and historical significance of this heritage site.

The camp brought together 10 volunteers, including 2 international participants from Ghana and 8 local volunteers. Activities were structured to combine education, community engagement, and hands-on conservation efforts.

Volunteers participated in

- Cleaning and waste removal along the mountain trails, ensuring the site remained welcoming for visitors.
- Constructing resting sheds at key points on the trail to enhance the experience for hikers and tourists.

Community engagement was a central component of the camp. A street rally featuring chiefs, market women, and other local stakeholders highlighted the importance of preserving the site. High Chief Osore, representing the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ondo State, delivered a compelling session on the historical value of Oke-Idanre Hill and its potential to drive tourism and development in the region.



Building of resting sheds (left), Cleaning of mountain steps (right)

(B) INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

VWAN commemorated the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2024, with a local rally that amplified messages of non-violence and community cohesion. Volunteers actively engaged with residents, using placards, discussions, and outreach activities to spread awareness about the importance of peace.

Community members were encouraged to adopt non-violent communication and resolve conflicts amicably. The event fostered a shared commitment to creating harmonious communities.



Playing Peace Cards (left), Peace Rally (right)

(C) INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES

Throughout 2024, VWAN facilitated the participation of its volunteers in international exchange programs, broadening their perspectives and enhancing their capacity to drive local change. Key exchanges included:

1. Global Education Lab – Extractivism, Switzerland
2. World Heritage, Ghana
3. Placement Officer Training, Switzerland
4. Traditional Landscape Workcamp, Switzerland
5. Short-term volunteer in Hospital, Oyo
6. EPM Meeting, Austria
7. ICM meeting, Malaysia

(D) MEMBERSHIP

In 2024, VWAN welcomed 12 new members, strengthening its capacity to deliver impactful projects.

(E) NETWORKING/ENGAGEMENTS

The EXCO participated in conducting Impact Assessment of the construction of toilet in Olorunda primary school, Olorunda community, Ibafo. This was to measure the impact of the project and the contribution of volunteers in community initiatives.

CHALLENGES

- Limited funding for projects.
- Volunteer active participation in camps.

LOOKING FORWARD TO END 2024 & BEYOND

VWAN is committed to broadening its impact and strengthening collaborations in the year ahead, with a focus on:

1. Workcamps

- World Heritage: Preserving and promoting local heritage sites through volunteer-led initiatives.
- Climate/Environmental Action: Expanding our permaculture projects and climate action efforts in Eruwa

- Peace Education: Promoting peacebuilding and conflict resolution through formal and non-formal educational programs.
2. Volunteer Exchange Programs
- Short-term Volunteer projects
 - Mid-term Volunteer projects
 - Long-term Volunteer projects

As we reflect on the achievements of 2024, VWAN remains steadfast in its mission to promote peace, social justice, and sustainable development through volunteerism. The support of our dedicated volunteers, partners, and communities has been integral to our success.

OTHER MAJOR GLOBAL EVENTS

- Omotayo Lawal attended the Placement Officer Training (POT) tagged Volunteering against Discrimination at Bern, in Switzerland from 14th to 20th February 2024
- The German BMZ Weltwert West Africa Assembly held in Accra Ghana was attended by Mr. Kola Aganran as Executive Member of West African Voluntary Association Network (WAVAN) between 24th and 28th February 2024
- Under the Regional Mobility grant support of UNESCO-WHC with coordinating office with Better World in Korea, a volunteer mobility exchange took place in Accra, Ghana between 25th – 30th June 2024 and the programme was attended by Mr. Opeyemi Oresajo of Sagamu Unit of VWAN in Ogun State
- A School Project was organized by Service Civil International Branch in Germany and Mr. Sheriff Adeyemi took part from August 28th to September 30, 2024
- The **Exchange Platform Meeting** (EPM) was held in Austria from October 5th to 11th 2025 and Kola Aganran was part of African Working Group at the meeting. The issue of global statistics and quality volunteers' exchange were reviewed and several decisions were taken about LTV Placement and Orphanage Camps especially in the global South.
- Busola Babalola attended Volunteer Lab #1 on **Global Education the Extra-Activism of Volunteers** in Switzerland from 11th to 17th November 2024
- The International Committee Meeting, General Assembly of Service Civil International took place at Penang in Malaysia from December 05 to 12 2025 and Mr. Kola Aganran on behalf of SCI Branch in Nigeria was present at the ICM in Malaysia as official delegate. It recorded 1 year anniversary of VWAN Nigeria becoming a Branch of Service Civil International
- This year, Volunteers active participation in camps and global projects were amazing, exciting and impactful.
- In conjunction with other NGO, a Street Rally Campaign was organized at Ajah in Lagos to promote Culture of Peace in December 2024

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