



HOPE  
ACTION  
RESILIENCE

IGE-SRH

# ANNUAL REPORT

—  
2022



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# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Dear Donors, Partners and Friends,

I am honoured to present to you the integrated annual report, performance report, and financial report for the first full year after the formation of the Initiative for Gender Equality and Sexual Reproductive Health (IGE-SRH) on May 15, 2020.

Since our inception in 2020, we have been committed to empowering our rightsholders in the North Central, and South-South regions of Nigeria. We are a youth-led organisation that focuses on the rights of the young LBQTI community, and we are proud to say that we have made significant strides towards achieving our mission.

We are thrilled to report that over the past year, our organisation has made a significant impact on the lives of over 300 young lesbian, bisexual, queer, transgender, and intersex (LBQTI) individuals in the North Central and South-South regions of Nigeria.

Through our SRHR services, empowerment schemes, and technology development initiatives, we have been able to provide much-needed support and resources to members of the

LBQTI community. These services have helped to promote their health and wellbeing, and have also served to empower them to take control of their own lives and destinies.

Despite the progress we have made, there is still much work to be done. We continue to see discrimination and marginalization faced by LBQTI individuals, and we are committed to doing everything in our power to address these issues and to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

We are extremely grateful for the support that we have received from our donors, partners, and supporters, and we would like to express our appreciation for the contributions you have made to our organization. Without your support, we would not be able to continue our important work for the LBQTI community.

We believe that collaboration, capacity building, and continuous advocacy are key to our success. As we move forward, we will continue to strengthen our partnerships and collaborations, empower our community, build capacity, and advocate for the rights of LBQTI individuals in Nigeria.

We are excited about the future and the potential impact we can have on the community. We thank you for your support and look forward to continuing to work together to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

**Aseme Josephine**  
**Chairperson of the Board of Directors**



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The story behind how IGE-SRH started has always been one that brought in the spirit of consistency, aspiration, and a strong willingness to prove that young people have a voice and are leaders of today.

In 2020, COVID-19 made a negative impression on me. I saw young LBQTI people in Nigeria go hungry, unable to afford medical care, lacking access to funds, and unsure where to turn for assistance. While there were organizations that advocated for LGBQTI people, the needs of younger LBQTI people were not met. As an independent activist at the time, I was able to navigate my own needs but was limited in my ability to extend those needs to other young LBQTI rightsholders. This memory has stayed with me to this day. The decision to advocate for LBQTI rightsholders in a formal setting came after this experience.

Enlighten, watch, network, love, give, receive, settle disputes, and forgive. With these few virtues, it should be possible to create, shape, and cultivate small miracles with great impact, and finally overcome major obstacles in order to advocate for young LBQTI rightsholders in Nigeria in a sustainable manner!

In 2021, the operational focus was on building infrastructure, training a team, and project work in Nigeria. IGE-SRH's sole mission is to support LBQTI rightsholders in Nigeria, particularly in the North Central and South-South states. I subsequently concluded to deal more intensively with improving the standard of living of young LBQTI persons and predominantly concerned with the question of what is needed to improve their quality of life in these selective zones.

IGE-SRH now pursues this goal in a variety of ways. We subdivide our projects into five different thematic areas: Health, Empowerment, Technology for Development, Safety and Security, Human Rights. It is extremely important to us to realize projects in harmony with the context of the Nigerian traditional norms and values, religion, and ideas of the locale, because my preferred mantra and credo remain one of sustainability. Although this fashionable term has already been embraced by many, and repeated a thousand times, few people are conscious

of how sustainability describes a concrete principle for action in the efficient use of resources. Sustainable development is, however, only possible if all parties involved work closely together and have the same goal in mind.

This leads me to another important point: our team. Large goals can only be achieved together, which is why I am convinced that networking is indispensable. Contacts have been established not only in the North Central states, but also in the South Central states. I have already set up respectable teams in both North Central and South-South in order to implement challenging and extensive projects with these outstanding and loyal co-workers.

In order to be able to meet the basic needs of our rightsholders, the following questions arise: How can young LBQTI people become more independent and get access to resources and services related to health care, education on sexual health and reproductive rights, job skills, and an understanding of their basic human rights? What services can IGE-SRH provide to LBQTI persons in Nigeria? How does IGE-SRH intend to promote gender equality and sexual and reproductive health for marginalized communities? In seeking the answer, the frequently raised query regarding the name of our organization becomes self-evident. In the long run, I see IGE-SRH as a social enterprise that will serve as a stepping stone for young LBQTI people in Nigeria to self-actualize.

I would like to draw the attention of our donors, partners, and friends to certain things that, in my view, are mission-critical for delivering our mission. We at IGE-SRH want to motivate our rightsholders to actively participate in the design of our projects and to create a future that can make everyone happy in the long term.

Many thanks for supporting us as we build IGE-SRHR.

**Grace Isong Akpan**  
Executive Director



**ORGANIZATION**



## WHO WE ARE

Initiative for Gender Equality and Sexual Reproductive Health (IGE-SRH) is a sub-national, youth-led organization founded in 2020 whose primary focus is the protection, promotion, and fulfillment of the rights, meaningful inclusion, and programming of young LBQTI rightsholders in Nigeria who have been systematically discriminated against because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, and sexual characteristics.

## VISION STATEMENT

***We envision a world where young sexual minorities are free from discrimination and persecution and have equal opportunities in life.*** ”

## MISSION STATEMENT

We strive to ensure young LBQTI individuals are engaged in meaningful decision-making processes through advocacy, knowledge generation, information sharing, partnerships, and capacity building.



## HOW WE OPERATE

Since 2020, we have been programming and implementing projects for our rightsholders to improve their knowledge in advocacy, education on sexual health, and empowerment through technology to enhance their skills for the long term.

We have been implementing projects in the north-central and south-south zones of Nigeria. In addition to this clear geographical focus, we limit our activities to five thematic areas where we can have the most impact on our rightsholders:

1. Health (SRHR, HIV and AIDS, STI treatment, and safe abortion services),
2. Technology for development,
3. Safety and security,
4. Human rights, and
5. Empowerment.

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***IGE-SRH is living the notion of “Help for Self-help” - our projects empower our rightsholders to improve their standard of living from Know-How to Do-How.***

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In April 2022, IGE-SRH recruited its first sets of team members to drive and build the structure of the organization. By December, we had a tremendous growth of 6 staff and 3 volunteers. The team continues to grow steadily, and in order to successfully implement our projects in the future, we are dependent on our growing, loyal team.



# OUR FABULOUS TEAM

We work with a group of young, vibrant people who tirelessly ensure we execute our mandate as an organization.

We are proud of every member of our team and would like to say a big thank you for your contribution. Here is what our team has to say about our work in 2022:



**Adele Confidence Odinakachi**

COMMUNICATION AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS OFFICER

As an individual, I believe that effective communication is the cornerstone of a successful relationship, be it personal or professional. IGE-SRH as an organization is passionate about advocating for the rights and inclusion of young LBQTI persons in decision making processes that affect them. We do this through effective communication, collaborations, creativity, and by adapting to the changes within the LBQTI community. Our dedication to the visibility, equality, and inclusion of young LBQTI persons has informed our communication strategy, which aims to raise awareness and promote equality for the LBQTI community.

In the past year, we have seen a significant increase in visitors to our social media pages, and we have successfully reached over 2,800 individuals through this platform. This is a great accomplishment, but we must continue to expand our reach and connect with even more people who need to hear our message of love and acceptance.

Our organization is dedicated to accountability, responsibility, and professional excellence, and these values have guided our MEL efforts in pursuing our mission.

This past year, our MEL team has worked tirelessly to ensure that all programs and initiatives are aligned with our mission and values. We have conducted regular monitoring and evaluation activities to measure the impact of our work and make any necessary adjustments to improve outcomes.

Our commitment to accountability extends to our stakeholders as well. We understand the importance of transparency in our reporting and decision-making. We have also made strides in improving communication and engagement with our partners. I am proud to say that our commitment to professional excellence has also been a critical focus this past year.

The MEL team has received training and capacity-building opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge.

In conclusion, it has been a privilege to serve as the MEL Officer at IGE-SRH, and I am grateful for the support and dedication of our partners, stakeholders, and team. Our commitment to accountability, responsibility, and professional excellence will continue to drive our MEL efforts in the years to come



## Idorenyin Ezekiel Etok-Akpan

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING OFFICER.



## Micah George

PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE

As a Programs Associate for IGE-SRH, I am proud to be part of a team that is working hard to create a society where young people from sexual minorities are treated equally and without prejudice. As President Obama once said, "Women are not an interest group." They are mothers, daughters, sisters, and wives. "They are half of this country, and they are perfectly capable of making their own choices about their health." Our programs department places sustainability at the forefront of its mission and designs and executes programs that have a positive impact on our rightsholders. This is achieved by analyzing the challenges faced by the LBQTI community and securing funding and partnerships to address those challenges. Being part of this cause is a thrilling opportunity to contribute towards a brighter future for young LBQTI individuals, who deserve to live in a world where they are treated with respect and have the right to make their own choice

The operations and compliance department at IGE-SRH ensures that the organisation's internal processes, policies and procedures are aligned with legal and ethical standards and comply with relevant regulations. As the operations and compliance officer, I oversee day-to-day operations, including financial management, risk assessment and internal control. This department plays a crucial role in ensuring that the organisation's internal policies and procedures are inclusive and supportive and contributes to safeguarding the interests of LBQTI persons while effectively and efficiently complying with laid down regulations. The contribution of the operations and compliance officer at IGE-SRH ultimately helps the organisation to maintain its credibility, build trust with stakeholders and fulfil its mission to serve the LBQTI community.

It is absolutely imperative that every human being's freedom and human rights are respected all over the world. Thus, the team at IGE-SRH, alongside the operations and compliance department, are putting in all effort to ensure that we continue to be a beacon of hope to the LBQTI community, not only within the south-south region, north-central, but beyond.



## Efemena Agahro

OPERATIONS & COMPLIANCE OFFICER



## Paul Godswill Chukwuemeka

FINANCE/GOVERNANCE OFFICER

The Finance and Governance department is an important part of the IGE-SRH Team whose sole responsibility is to ensure the smooth, effective and efficient, management of finances of the organization. Transparency, Accountability and Due Diligence are my core values, as the Finance and Governance officer I ensure smooth operation and effective financial logistics support to other departments within any project period. I work closely with Operations and Compliance to ensure credibility and efficient transactional process of finances. And to ensure nothing is left undone financially for any project.

I also work with the Executive Director and other key staff to coordinate the operations and implementation of project activities and all financial implementations of activity for the project.

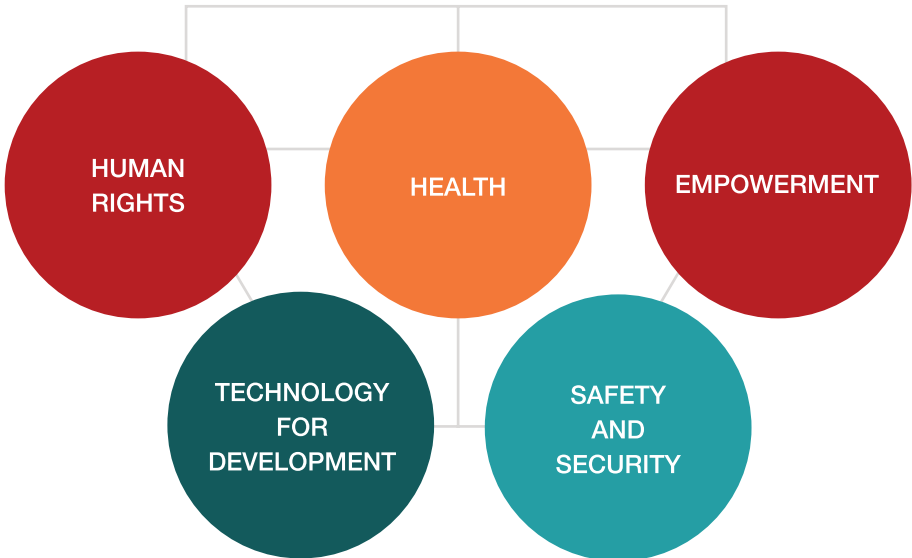
# PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES IN 2022

IGE-SRH is passionate about its rightsholders, and as such, we design programs to address the most pressing needs and challenges the LBQTI communities face in Nigeria. These programs are tailored to provide education, growth, edification, and overall betterment for its rightsholders in their everyday lives.

This section highlights the organization's programs, activities, and collaborations with other organizations during the year. It showcases the organization's efforts to positively impact the communities it serves and demonstrates its commitment to its mission and values.

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## *Our focus is on five thematic areas:*



The programs and activities included in this chapter were implemented through partnerships and collaborations with other organizations and stakeholders. These efforts are a testament to the organization's dedication to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those it serves.



# HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER JUSTICE ADVOCACY



1&2

IGE-SRH, supported by the Power of Pride/COC Nederland, kicked off the year by consulting LBQTI rightsholders in Akwa Ibom and Cross River States, aimed at discovering and understanding a wide range of prevalent challenges faced by LBQTI persons in the South-South zone in Nigeria. This project produced an SRHR policy brief to guide advocacy for young LBQTI people in Nigeria.

3

IGE-SRH hosted The Power of Pride 2022 Nigerian Partners to discuss their experiences, challenges, and expectations for 2023.

4

In June, IGE-SRH made a documentary with the support of the Civicus Alliance. It showed the LBQTI Human Rights Defenders as they talked about their passion, commitment, and problems while fighting for the rights of the LBQTI community in Nigeria. This was to create awareness of the struggles of human rights defenders and, by extension, the LBQTI community in Nigeria.

5&6

IGE-SRH was represented at the 73rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission and the 40th African Human Rights Book Fair in Banjul, Gambia. As our mandate, IGE-SRH is bridging the gap for young LBQTI rightsholders to have meaningful engagement in regional human rights advocacy processes.

7

ISDAO supported IGE-SRH with funding to strengthen the capacity of the organisation. IGE-SRH was able to strengthen its organizational capacity and develop relevant organizational policies and documents.

5



6



7



# HEALTH



## SRHR, HIV/AIDS, MENTAL HEALTH

In July 2022, IGE-SRH started a "Zero New HIV Infection" National Accountability Project funded by Frontline AIDS. The project was aimed at generating accountability for HIV prevention. It also was to support coordinating different key population groups and stakeholders in engaging with the new Global HIV Prevention Roadmap for 2022 - 2025. IGE-SRH successfully developed a 2022 milestone draft and recommended accountability measures to guide HIV prevention for Key Populations till 2025.

IGE-SRH started the "Ripple Effect" SRHR advocacy project, funded by Urgent Action Fund Africa. The goal of this project was to give young LBQTI rightsholders more options for getting SRHR services and living healthy lives. The project produced a 3-year action plan for programming for the LBQTI community in Nigeria.

With the support of HIVOS, IGE-SRH as an organization is leading as one of the communities of action in providing and prioritizing SRHR needs and services for the LBQTI community in the South-South zone. Through the Free to Be Me and WeLead projects, we are ensuring that LBQTI rightsholders are educated on their sexual rights and have access to healthcare services.

IGE-SRH also prioritizes mental healthcare for our rightsholders. We collaborated with The Beyond Infinity Initiative on discovering, understanding, and evaluating the mental health needs for LBQTI rightsholders in the South-South zone.

# OUR PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

We believe that the way we work sets us apart from others in our field. This is due to our partnership approach, which is hands-on, in-depth, and participatory. Our project team is constantly involved at every level of our projects' implementation, and we strive to help our partners grow throughout the process. We seek to build long-standing, close relationships with local partners founded on trust, equal partnership, and local ownership.



IGE-SRH is a member of the Multistakeholder Leadership Group as one of the youth-led organizations to advise and support decision-making for the Generation Equality Initiative for the next four years.



In partnership with Alliance for Africa, IGE-SRH contributed to the drafting of the Nigeria's Shadow Report, for submission to The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).



IGE-SRH was represented at the meeting with the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all rights by older persons. The consultation highlighted issues affecting LGBTQI older persons in Nigeria while providing recommendations.



- IGE-SRH co-Hosted the African Pride Accelerated (APA) 2022 Conference, in partnership with Women's Health and Equal Rights (WHER), Creme De La Creme House of Fame Foundation, Center For Health Education And Vulnerable Support (CHEVS), Women's Initiative For Sustainable Empowerment And Equality (WISE), Improved Sexual Health And Rights Advocacy Initiative, Wave Makers Initiative, Equality Triangle Initiative, Intersex Nigeria. Aimed at connecting, sharing experiences, find camaraderie.



## FREE & EQUAL

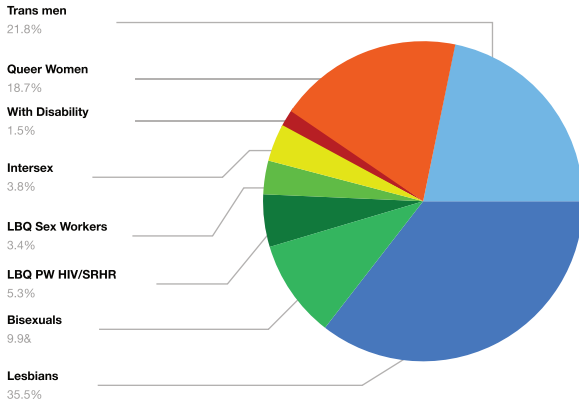
- With the support of ISDAO, IGE-SRH is part of a consortium in the CHEVS-hosted Free & Equal project, which aims to challenge human rights violations against LGBTQI people, Sex Workers, and PWUD in Nigeria.
- IGE-SRH is partnering with Connected Development on economic development for LBQTI rightsholders in the North-Central and South-South zone. IGE-SRH sees economic development beyond training and educating our rightsholders. We have futuristic plans to ensure our rightsholders are placed in empowerment and financial schemes
- IGE-SRH hosted The Power of Pride 2022 Nigerian Partners to discuss their experiences, challenges, and expectations for 2023.
- IGE-SRH made a courtesy visit to PanAfrica ILGA on matters of interest to our rightsholders. Moving forward, IGE-SRH is intentional with collaborations and connections for the benefit of our rightsholders.



# IGE-SRHH 2022 REACH

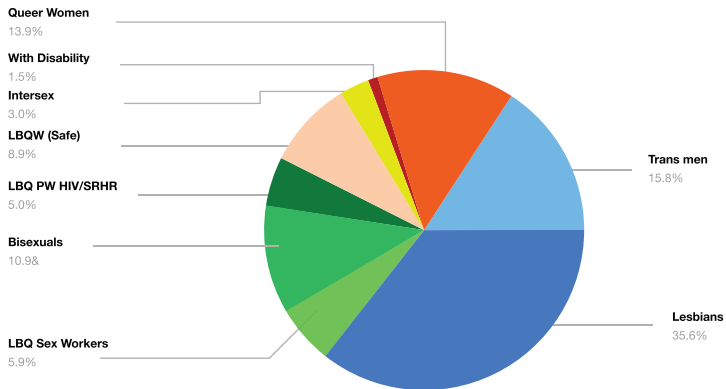
As an organization, we strive to make a difference in the lives of the community we work for. We are excited about the work we do, the activities we coordinate, the impact we create, and the change we make. Below are charts that give an overview of our reach and the people we have worked with.

## PERCENTAGE OF RIGHTSHOLDERS REACHED

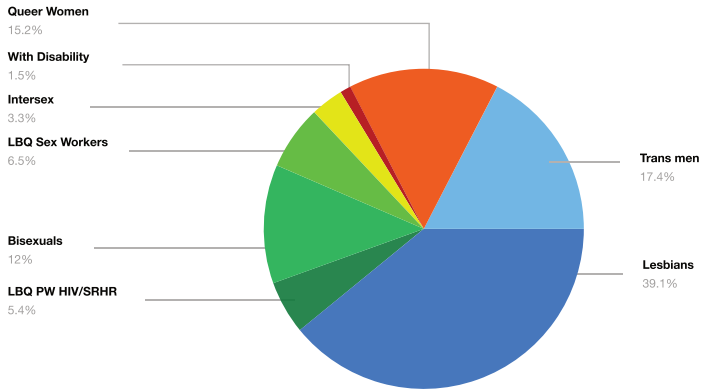


The figure on the left gives an overview of our outreach in 2022. Overall, we reached over 300 people with our programs and activities in our catchment areas. Our highest reach is to lesbians, which represented 35.5% of the people who were reached by our activities.

## NORTH-CENTRAL RIGHTSHOLDERS (FIG 1)

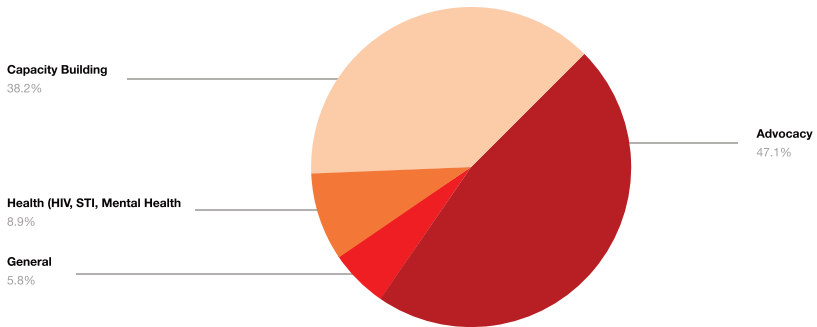


## SOUTH-SOUTH RIGHTSHOLDERS (FIG 2)



The figures (Fig 1 and Fig 2) above show the exact percentage of the number of rightholders reached in the two regions we implement.

## THEMATIC AREAS



The figure above shows how the organization's resources, efforts, and results are spread out among our thematic areas. The chart is divided into several slices, each representing a portion corresponding to a specific theme.

**This most prominent theme, accounting for 47.1%, indicates that the organization's resources and efforts are directed toward improving advocacy. While the second largest slice, accounting for 38.2% of the total, is towards increasing the capacity of our rightsholders. This theme focuses on promoting education and training initiatives among communities.**

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The remaining pieces are dedicated to the themes of "Health (HIV, STI)" (8.9%) and "General" (5.8%). These themes demonstrate the organization's focus on promoting overall health and well-being, while also for future generations.

In conclusion, this pie chart provides a clear representation of the distribution of the organization's resources and efforts across its different thematic areas. It highlights the organization's priorities and strategies and helps us to understand how the organization is working towards achieving its goals and objectives





# IGE-SRH IMPACT



**ESTHER UDOHA**

Rightholder.  
Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

*I heard of IGE-SRH from a friend. I got to know more about them when I attended the African Pride Accelerated (APA2022) event.*

*As a lesbian, I have had the privilege of being a part of IGE-SRH as their rightholder for the past year. The organization has been a beacon of hope and support for me and so many others in the LBQTI community.*

*They provide a wide range of services, including educational workshops and advocacy efforts, which have been instrumental in helping me and others navigate the challenges that come with being a lesbian. IGE-SRH is an eye opener to me, I am able to stand out to the society about my personality and sexuality.*

*Overall, my experience with IGE-SRH has been nothing short of life changing. I am grateful for the support, guidance, and sense of belonging that I have found through my involvement with this organization, and I would highly recommend it to anyone in the LBQTI community who is seeking a supportive and empowering community.*

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**PRECIOUS SUNDAY**

Rightholder.  
Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

*I have been part of IGE-SRH as a rightholder for a few months, and it has been a truly life-changing experience. The community and support that I have found there are unparalleled and have provided me with a safe space to be myself and connect with others who share similar experiences. The events, workshops, and discussions organized by the organization are insightful and empowering, helping me to grow both personally and professionally. IGE-SRH has helped me learn and unlearn a lot of things related to the LBQTI community.*

*I got to learn more about my identity as an intersex person during the Free To Be Me training in Uyo, than I ever knew about. Through IGE-SRH, I'm abreast with new knowledge. I am so grateful for the work that IGE-SRH is doing to promote acceptance, equality, and representation for the LBQTI community. I highly recommend it to anyone looking for a supportive and inclusive environment.*

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**EMEM ARCHIBONG**

Rightholder.  
Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

*Being a part of IGE-SRH has been a true blessing in my life. The community and the sense of belonging I have found here is something that I cherish deeply. The organization provides a safe and welcoming space for individuals to come together, share their experiences, and support each other. The events, workshops, and discussions are thought-provoking and inspiring, and they have helped me grow as an individual and become more confident in who I am.*

*The work that this organization does to raise awareness and advocate for equality and inclusion for the LBQTI community is commendable and greatly appreciated. I highly recommend IGE-SRH to anyone looking to connect with a supportive and encouraging community.*

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# FINANCIALS

Transparency and accountability are the core hallmarks of finance at IGE-SRH, this has moved us to make more giant strides in the past year in all facets of our work for our community. Even as a growing and emerging organization, we've implemented an awesome, impactful, and diverse portfolio of projects. Despite a challenging year that called for adjustments in operational budgets and constant evaluation, we pulled through, and all was a huge success.

Let's take you through our financial journey in 2022!

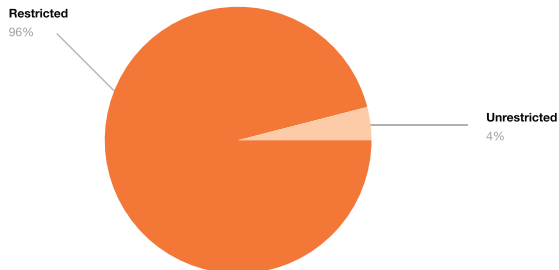
## 2022 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

**Source of Income - Our source of income is from all donor grants received within the year in review.**

### INCOME BREAKDOWN

Category	Grant Income
Restricted	\$155,486
Unrestricted	\$6,514
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$162,000</b>

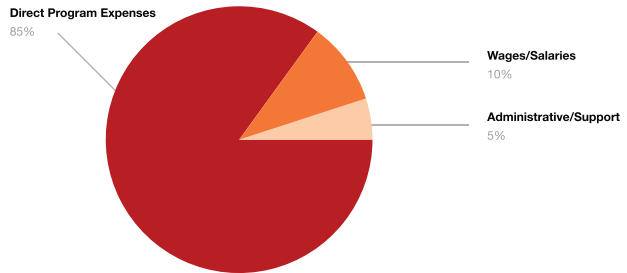
### 2022 GRANT INCOME



## EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

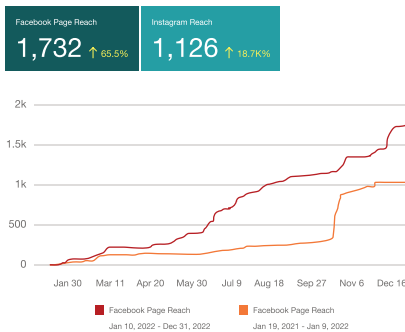
Sources of Expenditure	Amount
Direct Program Expenses	85%
Administrative/Support	5%
Wages/ Salaries	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 2022 GRANT INCOME

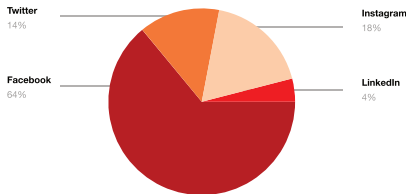


# SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYSIS

In 2022, we reached 2,858 people through our social media platforms. This demonstrates the potency of using social media to connect and stay connected with our target audience.

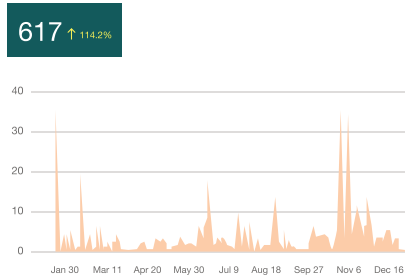


In 2022, we had 1488 visitors on our social media platforms. This increase in traffic is a positive indicator of the growing interest in our organization by our target audience.

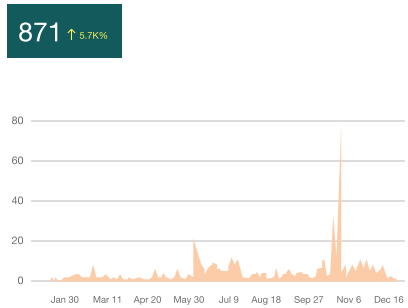


## PAGE AND PROFILE VISITS

### Facebook Page visits



### Instagram Page visits



## OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

- [www.ige-srh.org](http://www.ige-srh.org)
- IGESRH
- @ige-srh
- @ige\_srh

# OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS

We are very grateful for the partnership and support from our donors and partners. We cherish every opportunity to work with you and also receive your support for the communities we work with.







