



## Voices for Change summary of results June 2017

V4C has been successful in **targeting and reaching young women and men with positive messaging on gender equality – on track for over two million in the four intervention states** – through a combination of different media, campaign work and promotion of new ways of behaving. Compared to other young people those exposed to V4C programming in Kaduna and Enugu States are overall 40 per cent more likely to say their opinions on gender equality have changed while 270 per cent more likely to be thinking about gender issues now, compared to two years ago. These young people have responded whole-heartedly with **evidence of young women’s increased self-esteem, unwillingness to accept discrimination and violence and taking up opportunities for leadership**. Since 2014, V4C has observed a significant increase in young people in Kaduna and Enugu States practicing positive behaviours around these issues – a figure which has increased steadily each year by about six per cent.

**Young men** have responded positively with **evidence of personal attitude and behaviour change, speaking out against violence and discrimination against women** and supporting young women to seek office and to be heard. For example, Kano and Kaduna States have witnessed an increase in numbers of young women winning local leadership elections within their institutions (20 each in both states). Positions contested range from high-level departmental positions to faculty executives and institution senate representatives.

V4C has instigated **transformational change on gender amongst key influencers** such as religious and traditional leaders, media personalities and high profile public speakers. For example, more than half of the 403 trained religious and traditional leaders are taking action against discriminatory beliefs and sharing their message with more than 300,000 people.

**New or strengthened ways of working have been successful in pushing for legislative reform**; V4C support for a Federal Gender Technical Unit has played a pivotal role in progression of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act and the Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) Bill.

**New evidence and knowledge has been generated** and there is evidence of widespread take up and use across Nigeria. In 2015, V4C published ‘Being a Man in Nigeria’ – ground-breaking research which has **contributed to the growing national and international interest for better understanding of men’s attitudes and behaviours concerning gender**. Since the report’s launch, monitoring shows that evidence from the report is now being used in a number of ways – from writing newspaper articles to delivering sermons; from using the report for training purposes to holding community meetings to discuss the issues.

**Voices are coming together across these different groups**, with several examples of state-level platforms building **collective voice for women’s leadership and political inclusion** emerging. For example, the V4C-supported Lagos State Platform ‘Women Move Now’ has teamed up with religious leaders and members of men’s networks to collectively voice their demands concerning women in leadership and violence against women. In Enugu, V4C partner, the Gender Equality Movement (GEM) platform has been working closely with trade associations and political parties (including PDP and APC) to garner support for women candidates vying for leadership positions.