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**UN WOMEN
NIGERIA**

ANNUAL REPORT



Photo: UN Women Nigeria / Marian Roberts

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Table of Content

Synoptic Table	5
Acronyms	6
Foreword	7
Executive Summary	9
Impact Areas	18
Introduction	19
SECTION I: ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS	26
1. Thematic Area 1: Governance and Participation in Public Life	27
1.1. Key Achievements: Governance and Participation in Public Life	29
1.2. Table of Indicators for Governance and Participation in Public Life	30
1.3. Impact Story: Governance and Participation in Public Life	31
2. Thematic Area 2: Women’s Economic Empowerment	33
2.1. Key Achievements: Women’s Economic Empowerment	36
2.2. Table of Indicators for Women’s Economic Empowerment	37
2.3. Impact Story: Women’s Economic Empowerment	38
3. Thematic Area 3: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls	40
3.1. Key Achievements: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls	42
3.2. Table of Indicators for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls	44
3.3. Impact Story: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls	45

4. Thematic Area 4: Women’s Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action	48
4.1. Key Achievements Governance and Participation in Public Life	50
4.2. Table of Indicators for Governance and Participation in Public Life	51
4.3. Impact Story: Over 6 Million Women Mobilized for Voter Education	52
5. Strategic Considerations	57
6. Communications & Advocacy	59
7. Strategic Outcomes	61
7. Resource Mobilization and Financial Management	63
8. Conclusion	63
9.1 Challenges	63
9.2 Key Lessons	63
9.3 Next Steps	64

Synoptic Table

Agency Name	UN Women Nigeria	
Reporting Period	January – December 2022	
Principal Government Partner	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs	
Geographic Focus	National Coverage	
Thematic Areas of Intervention	<p>Women in Governance and Public Life</p> <p>Women Economic Empowerment</p> <p>Ending Violence Against Women and Girls</p> <p>Women, Peace, Security, Humanitarian Action, and Disaster Risk Reduction.</p>	
Funding	Total Budget: \$10,139,610	
	Regular \$1,336,758	Non-core \$8,802,852

Acronyms

AWP	Annual Work Plan
COTLA	Council of Traditional Leaders in Africa
CSOs	Civil society organizations
DPGG	Development Partners Group on Gender
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDI	Gender Development Index
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GTG	Gender Thematic Group
HR	Human Resources
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IPs	Implementing Partners
KPI	Key performance indicator
LGA	Local Government Area
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Action Plan
NDLEA	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
NGGA	Nigerian Girl's Guide Association
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
PWD	People with Disability
RBM	Result Based Management
SAP	State Action Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SN	Strategic Note
SRM	Security Risk Management
TOC	Theory of Change
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNSCR	UN Security Council Resolution
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
VAPP	Violence Against Person Prohibition Act
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
WCARO	West and Central Africa Regional Office
WEPs	Women's Empowerment Principles
WFP	World Food Programme
WPP	Women's Leadership and Political Participation
WPS	Women, Peace, and Security
WROs	Women Right Organizations

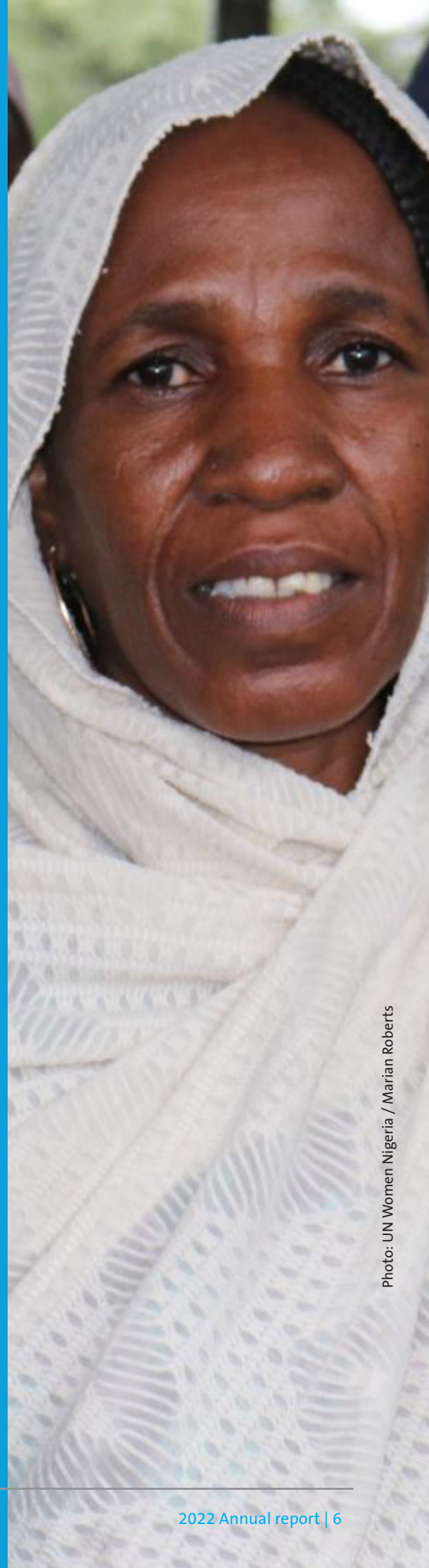


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Foreword



As I reflect upon the events and achievements of the past year, it is with great pleasure and a profound sense of responsibility that I present the UN Women Nigeria 2022 Annual Report. As the UN Women Nigeria Representative, who took over the affairs of the country office in April 2022, I am honored to showcase the incredible progress and impactful initiatives undertaken throughout the year in our pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment. This report serves as a testament to the remarkable progress made in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in Nigeria, while also acknowledging the challenges that persist. The year 2022 was a pivotal moment in our collective efforts to advance the rights of women and girls in Nigeria. We faced numerous challenges and opportunities, and through strategic partnerships, innovative programs, and the relentless dedication of our team, we have made significant strides towards our shared vision of a gender-equal society.

The year was marked by the preparation of a general election for Nigerians to choose their leaders from the local government area to the federal level. Nigeria election contest has always been two major political parties, but the last election was unique with the emergence of the third force political party that changed the political landscape. The country witnessed a higher rate of political instability and electoral violence that negatively impacted on women's participation and representation. This included Sexual and Gender-based Electoral Violence (SGBV), kidnapping for ransoms, banditry and flooding that has led to the forceful displaced over 30million persons from their communities to be IDPs particularly women and children. In addition to this, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated gender inequalities, with women and girls facing increased vulnerabilities and setbacks in various spheres of life. In response, we adapted our programs and worked tirelessly to ensure that gender equality remains at the forefront of the recovery efforts, leaving no one behind.

UN Women in 2022 commenced the development of its strategic Notes for 2023 to 2027 aligning it to the UN Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the same period. The strategic vision of the CO was the development of an integrated, holistic, and impactful programme ensuring sustainability and the principle of leaving no one behind for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in Nigeria.

Implementing such programmes was facilitated by the triple mandate of UN Women, the development of strategic partnerships, effective resource mobilization and putting in place an efficient and inclusive management of resources.

Strategic partnerships were developed and strengthened with the National Assembly, the government MDAs, UN Agencies, the donor community, the private sector, CSOs, the Media and traditional/religious leaders for the promotion and gender equality in Nigeria. With these strategic engagements, the CO has achieved tangible results in i) promoting women's participation and leadership in public life and governance; ii) Women's economic empowerment through affirmative procurement, support to women led enterprises, iii) eliminating violence against women and girls through prevention strategies at community level, integrated and holistic response through the one stop centers, strengthening the Women's movement and the coordination of actors; iv) Women, peace, humanitarian actions and disaster and risk reduction.

While we celebrate the progress, we have made in 2022, we are expecting that the new government, Senate, and the House of representatives would be open to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Nigeria is a reservoir for qualified, competent, and performing women and girls as well as a robust women's movement facilitating the appointment of a government of parity, increased women's representation in the Senate and the House of representatives. There is a need to continue with the implementation of the gender responsive planning and budgeting started in 2022. We will continue to advocate for the adoption of the Gender Equality and Opportunity Bills by both the Senate and House of representatives.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to our partners, including the Government of Nigeria, civil society organizations, donors, and individuals who have supported our work in 2022. Your commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in driving change and amplifying the voices of women and girls in Nigeria. As we move forward, I am confident that our collective efforts will yield even a greater impact in the years to come. Together, we can build a Nigeria where every woman and girl can realize her full potential, free from discrimination and violence, and actively contribute to the social, economic, and political development of the nation.

I invite you to explore the pages of this annual report, which reflect the stories, achievements, and challenges encountered on our journey toward gender equality in 2022. Let us draw inspiration from the progress we have made and reaffirm our commitment to the vision of a just and inclusive society where women's rights are fully realized.

Thank you.



Ms. Beatrice Eyang

UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS

Executive Summary

UN Women Nigeria understands that urgent actions to unlock women's socio-economic and political potential hover around changing unfavorable gender norms and cultural practices, and domestication and/or implementation of existing legal frameworks on girls' and women's rights. The Country office, as part of its strategy to support gender equality and empowerment, adopted a twin-track approach of supporting policy design/implementation and interventions that promote engagement of local communities in addressing key drivers of gender inequality that hinder the full attainment of gender equality. UN Women supports Nigeria's national priorities related to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women to unleash their potential to better contribute to and benefit from the development processes through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

Nigeria is a signatory to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security (2000) (UNSCR 1325), however, there are continuous gaps in its implementation, with dismal consequences for women and girls. Nigeria is also a signatory to several international conventions, resolutions and treaties that establish its commitment to the human rights of men and women, and to gender equality. Despite these, the domestication/implementation of extant laws and policies remains limited with much room for improvement. Implementation is adversely impacted by social factors as well as institutional factors such as gender norms, gender budgeting bureaucracy, and low awareness.

This report provides an insight into the progress made towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the gender-related targets of Nigeria's national development agenda as well as challenges in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in Nigeria between January - December 2022.

Throughout 2022, UN Women continued to strengthen its partnerships with the Nigerian Government, civil society organizations, women's groups, and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Furthermore, UN Women Nigeria continued to advocate for gender-responsive governance and leadership. The report underscores the organization's efforts in supporting women's political participation, enhancing gender mainstreaming in decision-making processes, and strengthening women's voices and representation at all levels. Looking ahead, the report outlines the strategic priorities for

UN Women Nigeria in the coming years. These priorities include expanding women's economic opportunities, addressing the digital gender divide, enhancing women's leadership and political participation, and strengthening partnerships for gender equality in close collaboration with the government and all stakeholders for transformative change.

This edition of the annual report published by the UN Women Nigeria Country Office presents an overview of the efforts and achievements of the agency and its partners in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in 2022. In a world confronted by complex challenges and evolving dynamics, UN Women has remained steadfast in its commitment to catalyze transformative change and create a more inclusive society.

In 2022, UN Women Nigeria Country Office continued to champion gender equality as a cornerstone for sustainable development, aligning its efforts with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The report showcases the organization's efforts to bridge the gender gap in critical areas such as education, economic participation, political representation, health, and access to justice. The Country Office contributed to the UN Women Global Strategic Plan (2022 – 2025), the Country Office Strategic Note (2018 – 2022), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2018 – 2022).

The Country Office is being financed by the following partners:

- The governments of Canada, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Japan
- The European Union, through the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative.
- The African Development Bank, Standard Bank,
- Sister UN Agencies PBF, WPHF, UNDP, and UNAIDS-UBRAF which are financing specific programmes.

In 2022, the CO continued to focus on four impact areas namely:

1. Governance and women's political participation, aimed at bolstering women's capabilities to enable them to exercise effective leadership at all decision-making levels.

2. Women's economic empowerment, aimed at significantly reducing the feminization of poverty through entrepreneurship and agriculture, digitalization, and enhanced public-private partnership.
3. Ending violence against women and girls, aimed at creating a violence-free environment, mainly through an appropriate legal framework and community-based actions.
4. Women, peace and security, and humanitarian action, aimed at increasing the involvement of women in the peace process and systematically integrating gender into humanitarian action.

This report also considers the operational management of activities for lasting implementation of the CO. Further, the UN Women Country Office responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by contributing to the United Nations joint strategy in support through not only prevention and protection activities against COVID-19, but also through conducting COVID-19 impact studies from a gender perspective, to enhance understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on gender-based inequalities.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

In 2020, Nigeria continued to face multiple simultaneous crises on the political, security, health, social, economic, and humanitarian fronts. The year was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, and a pre-election transition period. The important issues in the year included:

- Humanitarian and Conflict Crises: Nigeria continues to face complex humanitarian and security challenges, notably the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast, which has disproportionately affected women and girls. Displacement, sexual violence, and limited access to essential services remain critical concerns.
- Nigeria has the lowest Gender Parity Score in terms of women's appointments in the national parliament (0.08) and ministerial positions (0.12). In the 2019 general election, the proportion of female candidates was less than 12.8% in all races. The last ten years have seen a decline in women's representation in elective and appointive positions from 33 percent in 2013 to an average of 6.7 percent in 2019 which is significantly less than the 35 percent projected by the National Gender Policy. The Women in Politics report ranks Nigeria 184 out of 188 concerning women's representation in parliament, one of the lowest in the world.
- Women constitute 49.3% of the population and

lead 19% of households in Nigeria which form 13% of the total population (26,780,000 persons). They also provide an estimated 60-80 percent of all agricultural labor but have restricted access to resources and decision-making, therefore rarely benefit from their work.

Furthermore, the report emphasizes UN Women's dedication to supporting women's leadership and amplifying their voices in decision-making processes, whether at local, national, or international levels. By fostering inclusive and diverse leadership, the organization reinforces the realization that gender equality is not only a human rights issue but also a prerequisite for building peaceful, just, and sustainable societies.

As the world enters a new era, the UN Women Annual Report 2022 serves as a testament to the organization's unwavering commitment and transformative impact. Together with its partners, UN Women continues to drive positive change, laying the foundation for a more equal, inclusive, and prosperous world for all. The report serves as an invitation to stakeholders, advocates, and policymakers to join hands and accelerate progress towards gender equality, recognizing that only through collective action can we achieve a more just and equitable future.

OVERVIEW OF THE RESULTS ACHIEVED

Despite the context of multiple crises, significant results were achieved during the reporting period. The UN Women Country Office responded to the significant developments in 2022. In response to the ongoing global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women adapted and innovated its strategies to mitigate the disproportionate impacts on women and girls. The report highlights the organization's resilience in navigating crises while ensuring the rights and well-being of women and girls are protected and promoted.

Governance and Women's Participation in Public Life

For the impact area of governance and women's political participation, the following results can be highlighted:

1. Increased women's participation as voters and candidates:
 - Over 6 million people were reached with voter education messages and awareness creation on the benefits of women's leadership, through social media platforms and radio programs broadcast in English, Hausa, Igbo, Pidgin and Yoruba on 14 radio stations across the 6 geopolitical (Northeast, Northwest, North Central, South-

east, Southwest and South-South) zones of Nigeria.

- More women exercised their rights to vote, with more than 30,611 young women registered as first time voters through the INEC on-line registration portal. INEC recorded a total of 12,298,944 new registered voters of which 6,224,866 were women (50.61%), for the first-time women took a lead in the CVR process with a slight margin of 1.23% compared to previous exercises where men had always been in the lead with up to 5.2%.
2. Increased capacity and skills of female candidates to effectively compete in politics.
 - 228 female candidates across 22 states in Nigeria increased their skills and capacity to participate of which 18 of the trained female candidates were elected to parliament. The female candidates benefitted from UN Women's coaching and mentoring sessions on how to run effective political campaigns, leadership skills, public speaking, dealing with resistance within the political party, running as a woman, violence against women in politics, resource mobilization etc.
 - Town-hall meetings held with male champions and other stakeholders to support female candidates. During the town-hall meetings, women candidates were provided with a platform to engage with community leaders from their constituencies and presented their manifestos ahead of the 2023 elections.
 3. Increased visibility for women and female candidates:
 - Awareness among media professionals increased around women in politics. Media executives committed to report women politicians in a more positive manner and provide visibility for women candidates. They also agreed to hold quarterly brainstorming sessions to hold themselves accountable and assess progress in honoring their commitment. 75 political reporters were trained from Print, Electronic and Digital Media in 7 project States on Positive Reportage of Women.
 - The reporters are now more patient when interviewing women, now consciously engage, interview and report more women in local languages and in their various states. They have also stopped reporting women negatively and their mindsets regarding female reportage have changed positively. The media further amplified stories of female candidates, increasing their visibility.
 4. Prevention of Violence Against Women in Politics:
 - Electoral violence against women during the

elections is being mitigated through successful early warning mechanisms put in place by UN Women in collaboration with INEC and key national CSOs. Security agents and INEC officials were equipped with skills to identify and respond to incidents of violence that may be targeted at women during the elections.

5. Improved gender-responsive legal framework:

- Lawmakers in Kaduna state adopted a draft Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEOB) to improve women's political representation following UN Women and NILDS several consultations with Kaduna State legislature, CSOs and leveraging on the relationships with various partners to encourage the passage of the Bill in Kaduna. This will be implemented in all the targeted states of the project.

6. Created an enabling environment for increased women's participation in politics:

- Community leaders and gatekeepers pledged their support, advocated, and mobilized votes for women candidates ahead of the 2023 elections as a result of several dialogues held with the Council of traditional leaders in August 2022. A total of 225 community leaders were engaged.
- 14 First Class Traditional rulers representing each geo-political zone signed a communique committing to advocate for increased women's representation by supporting a law on 35% affirmative action and mitigation of violence against women in politics.

Women's Economic Empowerment

The results in this outcome area involve two programmes: Affirmative Procurement and MSME Women's entrepreneurship. The following results were achieved while addressing the negative socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. Enhanced Affirmative Procurement to Provide Opportunities for High-Impact Growth for Women-Owned Businesses

- Through an extensive proposal, UN Women advocated for the enactment of an executive order, endorsed by the State government Chief Executives, to establish procurement quotas specifically for women-owned enterprises. Notably, both procurement agencies have made significant progress in revising their existing policies, directives, and regulations to be more inclusive and gender-responsive, incorporating mandatory "set-asides" that enhance the prospects for WOBs.
- Provided technical assistance to government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs),

legislative bodies, and private sector entities, with a specific focus on promoting affirmative procurement measures for WOBs. Collaborating closely with public institutions and the business sector, UN Women facilitated capacity building and delivered expert guidance through its Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) project and Affirmative Procurement Programme. Moreover, UN Women conducted extensive awareness campaigns and training sessions to equip public officials with the necessary knowledge and tools to integrate gender-responsive procurement into their internal policies and guidelines.

WOBs in Nigeria, have increased capacities (business and financial management and in ICTs) and access to information to benefit from procurement (public and private) opportunities, by 2022.

UN Women made significant strides in empowering women-owned businesses (WOBs) in Nigeria to meet global market standards and seize procurement opportunities. By addressing the issue of poor product packaging and branding, UN Women supported 63 female micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) through rebranding and repackaging initiatives. Expert advice was provided, resulting in new brand identifiers and packaging that align with global market standards. Moreover, UN Women facilitated the registration of 25 women entrepreneurs on its procurement platform, opening doors to procurement opportunities, including a \$40,000 contract awarded to a WOB.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs and the Bureau of Public Procurement, UN Women advocated for gender-responsive initiatives within existing legal frameworks at national and sub-national levels, fostering inclusivity in Lagos and Kaduna States. Training sessions on gender-responsive procurement were conducted under the MSME project, equipping women-owned businesses with valuable knowledge and skills.

Furthermore, a mentorship program was organized for 26 selected women entrepreneurs across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones. Through this program, participants gained insights and skills necessary for scaling, improving, and expanding their businesses.

2. Increased adoption of statutory, customary, and formal policies and laws to facilitate women's access to land and other productive resources.

- The adoption of relevant policies and laws has facilitated an enabling environment for women to access land and other productive agricultural resources in Ebonyi and Niger States. This has resulted in enhanced women's engagement in

agribusiness.

- In Ebonyi State, 15 hectares of government-owned land have been allocated to women agribusinesses as demonstration farms. In Niger State, an existing shea butter processing and training center has been upgraded with time and labor-saving technology. Additionally, 125 women in Niger State have increased their capacity to contribute to community adaptation plans and serve as trainers on gender and value chain development for agriculture extension workers. Collaborations with the governments of Ebonyi and Niger States, as well as partner organizations such as FAO, UNIDO, and ILO, have contributed to bridging the gender gap in access to productive resources. These partnerships aim to enhance the productivity and income of women smallholder farmer cooperatives and agribusiness groups in the rice and shea butter value chains. The project focuses on improving the quality of agricultural products, enhancing knowledge of climate production processes, efficiency in shea butter production, understanding customer needs, marketing strategies, and financing options for cooperative societies. It also includes the dissemination of the Gender Action Plan and a study on the gender dimensions of climate change impacts and adaptation in the agriculture sector. Within a short period of 2 years, over 10,000 women farmers in Ebonyi and Niger States have benefited from the project. The project has resulted in increased production capacity, improved product quality to meet international standards, and enhanced knowledge of climate-smart agricultural practices among women farmers.

3. Enhanced business and financial management capacities of women agribusinesses to access markets

- 6,000 women smallholder farmers in Ebonyi and Niger States have enhanced capacities as a result of the Women Enterprise Digital Platform. 5,000 rice farmers are now organized into 30 cooperatives in Ebonyi and 1,200 shea farmers into 7 cooperatives in Niger.
- The Women Enterprise Digital Platform focuses on strengthening all components of the climate-smart agriculture project, specifically supporting women smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs to enhance their participation in the rice and shea value chains in Ebonyi and Niger States.

4. Women and girls have experienced enhanced social protection and financial inclusivity, leading to increased socio-economic recovery and resilience. This includes;

- Improved access to formal financial services, increased investment in productive activities, expanded micro-enterprise opportunities, and improved household incomes for more than 7,989 women.
- The implementation of the National COVID-19 Multi-sectoral Pandemic Response Plan, which incorporates the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) component, has reached 11,500 women in Nigeria, surpassing the planned target of 10,000. The RCCE interventions specifically target older women, the most vulnerable women, women in the informal sector, and women living with HIV/AIDS.
- Integration of gender-responsive concerns, the Government of Nigeria has increased the adoption of gender-responsive processes. This includes the incorporation of gender-responsive fiscal stimulus packages in response to health and economic crises, the integration of gender-responsive components into Nigeria's National Development Plan (2021-2025) and Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), and the mainstreaming of gender-responsive elements in budget call circulars. Additionally, a Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) toolkit has been developed at the national and subnational levels to ensure gender responsiveness in public budgets.
- The interventions and initiatives have already yielded tangible outcomes, reaching more than 7,989 women with enhanced social protection and financial inclusivity. The integration of gender-responsive processes into national frameworks and budgeting has been achieved, emphasizing the relevance of these actions for a defined timeframe.

Ending Violence against Women and Girls

For the outcome area ending violence against women and girls, the achievements span significant results across coordination as technical coherence lead, sustainability, and programmatic achievements across the six outcome areas and are highlighted below:

In the 2022 reporting period UN Women's achievements span significant results across coordination as technical coherence lead, sustainability, and programmatic achievements across the six outcome areas. Under the work on legal and policy frameworks and strengthened institutions four (4) multi-sectoral costed action plans and Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks on implementation of the Violence Against Person's Prohibition (VAPP) Act, now exist across the six Spotlight implementing states and Federal Government – serving as key policy guidelines. These complement the accelerated passage of

the VAPP which has now been passed in 35 out of 36 States of the Federation due to sustained advocacy of women's groups, influential networks and activists supported by UN Women. To this end, the capacity and knowledge of legislative aides and members of parliament in the National Assembly on gender responsive budgeting (GRB) has also been strengthened toward budget allocation of legislative provisions by UN Women. Furthermore, thought leadership and awareness of synergies between formal, customary and sharia law, has been enhanced through the development of an advocacy brief to support awareness, prosecution in reference to existing legislation including the VAPP and Child Rights Act (CRA) and development of future legislation. Riding on the momentum of passage of the VAPP this reporting period also observed the scaling through of five gender bills to the stage of reading at the National Assembly, similarly, achieved with support of a strengthened and more coordinated women's movement.

Despite the bills being thrown out, pressure and increased mobilization of women's groups to led to rescinding of the decision on three of the gender bills. In the spirit of the Generation Equality, UN Women leveraged its convening and normative mandate to establish intergenerational fora in the six Spotlight States engaging factions of women's rights organizations and networks including the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN). These engagements were critical in informing a coordinated front in the response to rejected gender bills. Furthermore institutions, the capacity of women's groups and civil society, particularly groups of persons living with disability and persons living with HIV/AIDs, to advocate for gender-responsive budgeting on policies related to their rights has also been strengthened.

On the pillar for prevention and intersecting with strengthened institutions, activities of the School Related Gender Based Violence (SRGBV) Response Team, established by UN Women in Lagos State University were advanced by inauguration of the Center for Response and Prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence as a full-blown directorate in the university to coordinate and manage SRGBV related cases with direct report to the Vice Chancellor's Office. The Center has developed radio jingles for airing on LASU Radio (95.7FM) to provide information to the university community on the strategies for the prevention SRGBV and referral pathway for case management. The Spotlight Initiative has also supported the Center to establish relationship with Ministry of Justice, Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, Ministry of Health and the Police through the university's security unit for proper case management and dispensation of justice. As of 8th July 2022, the Center was managing 12 cases out of which four (4) are rape cases, three (3)

sexual harassment cases and four (4) sexual exploitation cases. Moreover, the knowledge of school-age girls and boys in SI focused states the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) on gender-equitable norms has been strengthened and now boys are better able to disrupt norms that perpetuate school related sexual and gender-based violence in secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

Recognizing the critical role of religious and traditional leaders as custodians of social norms, interventions in 2022 saw the strengthened capacity of 30 cultural and religious leaders of faith. This resulted in the establishment of a pioneer workplan for the Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA) Nigeria Chapter. Traditional leaders are now empowered to carry out interventions to end GBV in their communities. Building on the success of one particular community in Obanliku which abolished an age-long and harmful tradition of Money Wife, UN Women has assured this decree is sustained through recovery and rehabilitation of survivors of the Money Wife practice who would alternatively be the subject of harassment and threats for financial compensation for familial debts. UN Women's work on the Spotlight Initiative has remained survivor-centered and as such, 857 survivors in total accessed specialized and quality services provided by the Mirabel Centre in Lagos and Nana Khadija Center in Sokoto. The Spotlight Initiative through UN Women received increased government commitment from Ebonyi State Government (ESG) and relevant CSOs which culminated in the establishment of a One-Stop Centre (OSC) in Abakaliki. Furthermore, in this reporting period, there has been an enhanced prevention drive through second-chance education for women & girls with 2457 women and girls now having basic numeracy and literacy skills.

In line with the principle of Leaving No One Behind, a landmark knowledge product on SGBV information and service gaps of women and girls with disabilities now exists and knowledge on these gaps with recommendations on how to address them has been increased among civil society and government. The findings of this assessment supported the advocacy of networks of women living with disabilities to the National Bureau of Statistics and the Women's Situation Room to insist on inclusion of data on women living with disabilities as they relate to their experiences. The findings of the assessment have strengthened service providers' knowledge on different needs of survivors living with disabilities and led to strengthening of the six Spotlight states on disability inclusive referral pathways. It further provides a strong evidence base for the allocation of budget for inclusive services. The capacity of networks of women living with disabilities to demand these allocations has further been strengthened. The capacity of the Civil

Society Reference Group (CSRG) to provide strategic direction and monitor Phase II implementation has been enhanced in this reporting period. The reporting period further saw the development of a robust Social Accountability Toolkit with best practices and instruction for practitioners and women's rights organizations. This will support overall oversight and accountability, by the women's movement, of the project in Phase II.

Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and Humanitarian Action

Regarding the outcome area Women, peace and security (WPS), and humanitarian action, the following results are among the most significant:

An Enabling Environment Exists in Nigeria to Support the Implementation of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Commitments at Local, State and Federal Levels by 2022

1. Mechanism for the institutionalization of the UN1325 action plan.

- The Federal Government of Nigeria was supported to meet its commitments to the WPS agenda. A national multi-sectoral technical committee for the development of Nigeria's 3rd National Action Plan (NAP) was established and formally inaugurated by the Minister of Women Affairs. The 3rd NAP will consider emerging peace and security issues in the country including climate change, safeguarding, and disability inclusion. It is anticipated that the 3rd NAP will be launched in October 2023.

2. Localization of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda strengthened in target states:

- The localization of the NAP is facilitated through the development and implementation of State and Local Action Plans (SAPs and LAPs). UN Women supported target states to establish their respective SAPs and WPS structures including women mediation networks, women peace mentors, HeForShe network of male gender champions and WPS media networks.
- Structures were established/strengthened and contributed to conflict prevention and peaceful co-existence in their respective states through mobilization and public sensitization for peaceful elections, prevention SGBV and strategic collaborations with both formal and informal peace architecture in their respective states, among others.

3. Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill developed in Kaduna State:

- The Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill was developed and supported by majority of the

law makers and other stakeholders in Kaduna State. It is anticipated that the bill will be passed into law in 2023. Similarly, a capacity need assessment was conducted for the Plateau State Gender Commission as a means of identifying strategies to enhance the implementation of the Gender and Equal Opportunity Act (2015) in the state. The assessment report provides valuable recommendations to the government and other stakeholders.

1. Increased operationalization of gender policies in security sector institutions:

- The Gender Policies of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, both adopted in 2021, with support from UN Women provide strategic guidance to both institutions in mainstreaming gender in policies and operational procedures.
- A Standard Gender Training manual for Security Sector institutions developed and endorsed by the inspector general of police. The standard gender training manual for security sector institutions, developed with support from UN Women was integrated into the training curricular of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), following its endorsement by the Inspector General of Police (IGP).
- Enhanced response to cases of SGBV in line with international best practices, at the federal level and the 36 states of the federation, as documented by the gender units of the security institutions as a result of the training manual and SOP on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) produced for the Nigeria Police Force.

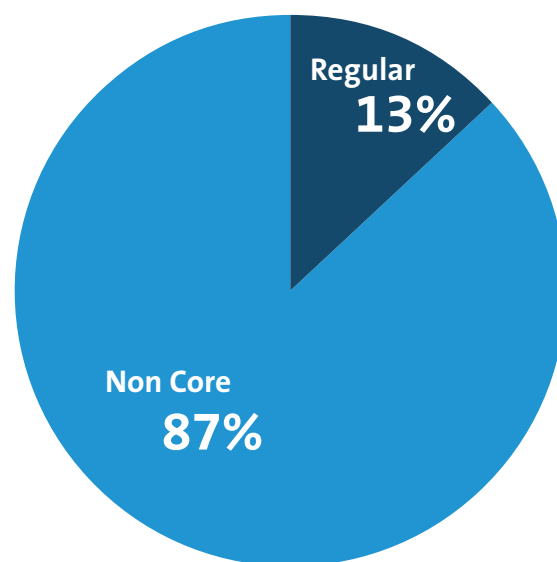
2. Enhanced Coordination for Gender Responsiveness among security institutions in Nigeria:

- The Women, Peace and Security Sector Reference Group established with support from UN Women since 2020 provided technical support and strategic guidance for enhanced coordination and exchange of good practices for gender responsiveness in the security sector through quarterly review meetings and annual peace forum of women in the security sector.

3. Increased Humanitarian Action

Funding Sources

The budget for 2022 was 10,139,610 USD, with an expenditure of 84%. UN Women contributed 13% of the budget and the remaining 87% of the budget was financed by donors (non-core). The non-core funds were received from donors such as the European Union (MPTF - Spotlight Initiative Fund), African Development Bank, the Governments of Japan, Governments of Canada, Government of Norway, Government of Italy, Government of Germany, Government of Netherlands, Government of the Republic of Korea, the United Nations Peace-building Support Office, the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), and UNAIDS-UBRAF, and UNDP.



Funding Sources	Amount (USD)
Regular	1,336,758
Non Core	8,802,852
Total	10,139,610

UN Secretary General Meets Nigerian Women on Global Treaty Against Gender-based Violence



UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres addressing women-led organizations flanked by Pauline Dame Tallen Minister of Women Affairs and Mathias Schmale, Resident Coordinator at the UN house in Abuja. Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts

As part of his two-day official visit to Nigeria, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres met with women leaders drawn from the private sector, women in politics, and activists working towards the achievement of the SDGs in Abuja on May 3, 2022. The meeting was facilitated by UN Women and led by Honorable Pauline Dame Tallen, Minister of Women's Affairs. The successful meeting yielded concrete results in advancing women's rights and promoting peace and security. Highlights from the meeting showcased:

Strengthened Women's Voices: Women leaders from diverse sectors were brought together, enabling them to voice their concerns and advocate for women's rights in Nigeria. This inclusive platform empowered women to participate actively in decision-making processes and policy discussions. (UN Women SP Outcome 5 – Women's Voice and Agency)



UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres together with Hon. Pauline Dame Tallen, Minister of Women Affairs, women leaders, and UN Women staff at the UN house in Abuja. Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts

Increased collective action: Collective action of women leaders resulted in a strong call for a global treaty to combat gender-based violence against women and girls. This advocacy highlighted the urgency of addressing this pressing issue and garnered international attention and support. (UN Women SP Outcome 4 – Positive Social Norms).

Strengthened advocacy for legislation to ensure more women’s political participation in governance and decision-making roles, contributing to a more inclusive and equitable governance structure. Further, commitment to sustainable peace and security was reaffirmed by the domestication of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act. Additionally, the emphasis on implementing the disability act alongside the VAPP Act showcased a holistic approach to protecting the rights of all vulnerable individuals, including women and girls with disabilities. (UN Women SP Outcome 1 – Global Normative and Legal Framework).

The UN Secretary-General’s commendation of Nigerian women for their resilience and determination in advocating for gender equality and women’s rights highlighted the crucial role of women in driving positive societal change. Further, the Secretary-General’s proposal for an emergency government engagement programme to combat gender-based violence showcased the commitment of the United Nations to address urgent challenges and support Nigeria’s efforts in creating a safer environment for women and girls. The joint advocacy efforts have propelled the call for gender equality to new heights, emphasizing the significance of inclusive partnerships and global solidarity in driving meaningful change. With continued commitment and collective action, the impact of these initiatives are expected to resonate beyond national boundaries, setting the stage for a more equitable and inclusive world for all.

Impact Areas



WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

By 2022, more women of all ages fully participate in political and governance institutions and processes in Nigeria



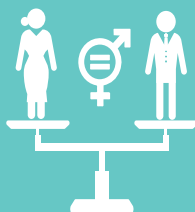
WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

More rural women in Nigeria are able to gain access to productive resources and engage in sustainable agribusiness, and more women entrepreneurs are better managers of their enterprises and have new opportunities to increase their businesses and profitability, by 2022.



ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

More women in Nigeria live free of violence and have access to inclusive, timely, and quality services through prevention and the development, domestication and implementation of policies on VAWG



WOMEN, PEACE, SECURITY, HUMANITARIAN ACTION, AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

By 2022, more commitments on women, peace and security are implemented by the Government of Nigeria and the UN, more gender equality advocates influence peace and security, and women and girls are better served within the framework of humanitarian responses and recovery efforts



A woman in a purple shirt and orange headscarf is washing clothes in a large blue tub. In the background, another woman in an orange shirt is visible near a building with a corrugated metal roof. The scene is set in a rural area with wooden structures and greenery.

INTRODUCTION



Introduction



Photo: UN Women Nigeria

This report highlights the contributions of UN Women Nigeria in 2022. It reflects the achievements in collaboration with various government and non-governmental partners towards promoting gender equality and women economic empowerment. The achievements are centered around the interventions of the Country Office in (global normative framework) policy advocacy, delivery of services, implementation, and funding interventions. In 2022, the Nigeria Country Office (CO) significantly expanded the coverage of its operations by delivering interventions nationwide through the women political participation working groups, but more specifically in 18 of the 36 states and the FCT. The size, diversity, and governance structure of Nigeria, however, present very specific challenges for programme delivery, such as high levels of transaction costs and elevated programmatic and financial risks.

Gender Inequality in Nigeria

Nigeria is Africa’s most populated country and has an estimated population of 206 million. It is a multi-ethnic and culturally diverse federation of 36 autonomous States and a Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Each state has its unique development challenges, including those related to gender inequality, and low participation of women and girls in the development processes. Women constitute 49.3% of the population and lead 19% of households in Nigeria that form 13% of the total population (26,780,000 persons). They also provide an estimated 60-80 percent of all agricultural labor but have restricted access to resources and decision-making, therefore rarely benefit from their work.

UN Women Donor Landscape



Providing technical support and thought leadership has positioned the UN Women as a driving force in advancing normative agendas through collaboration with key partners. By forging strategic partnerships with stakeholders in target States, UN Women has played a pivotal role in transforming negative social norms and discriminatory practices against women and girls. Notably, the partnerships established with Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs have yielded tangible outcomes, strengthening their capacities to fulfill their mandates, foster coordination, and facilitate meaningful engagement with relevant stakeholders. These partnerships have placed significant emphasis on achieving Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) outcomes while ensuring inclusivity through the “leave no one behind” (LNOB) principle, and actively amplifying women’s movement voices, fostering an environment where their perspectives are respected and formally recognized.

UN WOMEN STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME AREAS: NIGERIA COUNTRY OFFICE KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Result will be presented following the global UN Women's 7 Outcome Area and will be closely followed by results achieved in the different thematic areas.

SP OUTCOME AREAS

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

SP OUTCOME 1:

Global Normative Frameworks, and Gender Responsive Laws, Policies, and Institutions.

- Gender-responsive electoral management systems have been put in place as a result of the development and implementation of the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) Gender Policy.
- The Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act and the Child Rights Act (CRA) has been adopted and domesticated across 34 States in Nigeria, which ensures gender-responsive legal protection of women and children from violence and abuse.
- In Lagos and Kaduna States, gender-responsive affirmative procurement laws have been enacted and policies put in place for the the inclusion of women-owned businesses and increased profit margins of

targeted businesses.

- Increased gender sensitivity of Humanitarian Response Plan and Humanitarian Needs Assessment aligned to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Gender framework to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls in humanitarian settings.
- The adoption of the Kaduna State Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEOB) by over 80% of the legislature
- Increased gender-responsive national and State (Cross-River, Lagos, and Sokoto States) institutions with gender-responsive costed model action plans.

SP OUTCOME 2:

Financing for Gender Equality

- Adoption of a gender-responsive financing instrument/mechanism by the Ministry of Finance including national gender-responsive budget circular, dedicated to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Increased donor funding and support for the implementation of resolution 1325 and the development of its 3rd National Action Plan (NAP)

- Women-led organizations (WLOs) in Yobe state have successfully advocated for the availability and release of budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Women Affairs for the promotion of GEWE in the State.

SP OUTCOME 3:

Positive Social Norms including by Engaging Men and Boys

- Increased adoption of positive attitudes by influential male political, religious, traditional and business leaders resulting to GEWE advocacy led by these leaders in both the public and private sectors as well as in communities through the HeForShe campaigns.
- More than 30 first-class traditional and religious leaders champion positive social norms for women's participation and the elimination of negative social norms due to the ongoing partnership with the Council of Traditional and Religious Leaders Association (COTLA).
- Over 14 male networks, including the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) now support one stop centers in transporting GBV survivors to the centers for free.
- Over 33,895 persons (21,980 women and 11,915 men individuals) in conflict-affected communities with enhanced skills, knowledge, and attitudes in gender are now actively promoting progressive gender norms.

SP OUTCOME 4:

Women's Equitable Access to Services, Goods, and Resources

- A total of 5,240 women have increased access to goods and services that are responsive to their needs because of their improved expertise in livelihood initiatives.
- More than 1,500 women and girls now have access to high quality life-saving essential services in response to gender-based violence through the one-stop centers in Ebonyi, Lagos, and Sokoto States.

SP OUTCOME 5:

Women's Voice, Leadership, and Agency

- The development of a social accountability toolkit to equip women with the necessary tools to hold institutions accountable and advocate for their rights has created an enhanced enabling environment that supports women's voice, agency, and leadership.
- Increased influence, voice and leadership by more than 120 women-led organizations trained by UN Women in the Northeast have led to increased gender sensitivity in humanitarian space and funding.
- 240 women mediators now participate and influence peace processes and mechanisms in Kaduna and plateau States.
- The 1 million women march in Abuja led to the National Assembly reconsidering the GEOB that they had earlier rejected.

SP OUTCOME 6:

Production, Analysis and use of Gender Statistics and Sex-Disaggregated Data

- Nigeria now has a national Gender Equality Profile that has provided insights and informed policymaking, advocacy, and accountability efforts toward achieving gender equality.
- Four gender equality knowledge products with sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics have been produced, to influence the design, implementation, and monitoring of humanitarian and recovery interventions in Northeast Nigeria.

SP OUTCOME 7:

UN System Coordination for Gender Equality

- Increased UN joint programs for the promotion of GEWE have been developed UN Agencies.
- Increased gender sensitivity in the 2023-2027 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework including the UN Nigeria 13 transformation initiatives through the effective gender mainstreaming in key domains and a standalone outcome for gender equality and human rights.
- Improved coordination for a unified and coordinated approach to addressing gender issues and fostering collaboration as well as promoting synergy among various UN entities and enhancing the collective impact in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment

UN Women Strategic Plan - Organisational Efficiency and Effectiveness Framework: Nigeria Country Office Key Achievements

SP OEE AREAS

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

OEE OUTPUT 1: Principled Performance

- Improved implementation rate for regular and other resources
- Met UN-SWAP minimum standards (QCPR)
- Improved compliance with business continuity plans and processes.
- Increased compliance with audit recommendations

OEE OUTPUT 2: Advancing Partnership and Resourcing

- Increased resource mobilization including through pooled funding and from non-traditional partners.
- Meaningfully engaged youth.

OEE OUTPUT 3: Business Transformation

- Improved innovations in business processes
- Promoted cross country learning and knowledge exchange

OEE OUTPUT 4: Empowered People

- Increased personnel satisfaction with UN Women on their empowerment and inclusive culture at the workplace.

OEE OUTPUT 5: Business Transformation

- Improved innovations in business processes
- Promoted cross country learning and knowledge exchange



Photo: UN Women / Anthony Abu

Photo: UN Women / Anthony Abu

SECTION I: ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS



Photo: UN Women / Anthony Abu

Thematic Area 1: Governance and Participation in Public Life

By 2022, more women of all ages fully participate in political and governance institutions and processes in Nigeria



Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu

In 2022, investments under this impact area focused on addressing the issues of low women political participation and leadership. Interventions were centered around awareness creation among women on their right to political participation and working in collaboration with stakeholders such as traditional leaders, the media, and the Independent National Elections Commission (INEC) to mobilise women's participation in the 2023 general and presidential elections both as candidates and voters. Interventions under this impact area contributed to promoting affirmative action, policy, and legislative frameworks at the Federal and State levels to promote gender balance in political leadership and decision-making positions. They established a cadre of diverse and capable women leaders.

These are aligned to the UN Women global outcomes of promoting normative frameworks that ensure that more women of all ages fully participate, lead, and engage in political institutions and processes. This is also aligned with the efforts of the government of Nigeria in the review and adoption of gender-sensitive reforms and passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEOB). UN Women Nigeria will continue to support the ongoing constitutional review process of the GEOB.

i

Outcome 1.1: Affirmative Action Policy and Legislative Frameworks And Measures (Federal and State Level) Adopted and/or Implemented in Nigeria to Promote Gender Balance in Political Leadership and Decision-Making Positions

The increased adoption and implementation of affirmative actions and women situation rooms by electoral and governance institutions (increased the adoption

and implementation of affirmative action measures and) contributed to the change toward women in political leadership positions. Legislative measures including gender equality reforms increased through the development of 5 gender bills, and the GEOB; new initiatives to mitigate against VAWP increased by 300%; electoral, security, media, and decision-makers (COTLA) improved their capacity for equitable, violence-free, just electoral processes.

ii

Outcome 1.2: A Cadre of Diverse and Capable Women Leaders Established in Nigeria

To further advance women's representation in political, legislative, and government institutions and processes, advocacy and collective action were strengthened by diverse networks. National dialogues contributed to changing the attitude toward women in politics, established support networks for women in politics, and strengthened the capacity of networks to develop strategic partnerships to promote women's political leadership. Women accessed leadership and capacity-building initiatives which promoted effective engagement in political leadership and decision-making.

Subnational level working groups for women in politics were established through multi-stakeholder dialogues; political parties, media agencies, and civil society organizations' awareness and capacity on women's political participation were increased through 12 national and subnational workshops; 250 journalists' capacity to report on WPP was increased through a series of engagements prior to the elections; and 1200 women political leaders, including 15 women living with disabilities

increased their capacity to effectively compete during 2023 general elections. UN Women Nigeria developed 3 resource centers for WPP in Cross-river, Benue, and Bauchi States.

In June 2022, a national dialogue between women leaders from 18 political parties in Nigeria was held. In the end, a shared agenda to support women in politics was established. UN Women further supported a national conference titled "Womanifesto" organized by a coalition of national CSOs working on women's political empowerment. This was aimed at ensuring that diverse and competent women leaders are established and actively participate in the general elections of 2023 and beyond. In addition, through the support of UN Women, 250 young women from Benue, Cross River, Kogi, and Plateau States, had their political leadership abilities improved and were motivated to join the political parties of their choice. A network of young women in politics was formed, and it currently serves as a platform for peer learning, advocacy, and encouraging other young women to become politically involved by joining political parties.

iii

Outcome 1.3: Women are Promoted as Leaders in Gender-Sensitive (Federal and State) Legislative, Political and Governance Institutions in Nigeria.

Interventions under this outcome were aimed at providing technical assistance and capacity-building support to governance, legislative and political institutions to promote gender-friendly and violence free electoral processes in Nigeria. In addition, women in governance and political institutions were also provided technical assistance and capacity-building, including peer-peer learning opportunities to enhance their leadership capacities and gender-responsive decision-making skills. Activities under this outcome were aimed promoting sustained transgenerational mentorship for young women in politics.

Relevant institutions are gender-friendly and promote violence-free processes. Government, legislative and

political institutions now promote GEWE; and have increased the adoption of gender-responsive reforms to promote gender balance in leadership positions. Public commitment has increased for GEWE in governance institutions; and women in governance and political institutions have enhanced their capacity to lead gender-responsive decision-making through 3 resource centers established across 3 geopolitical zones.

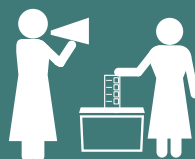
Twenty-five (25) governance and legislative institutions including the national assembly, political parties, and other institutions promote gender-friendly processes; 5 gender reforms were developed; 190 male leaders publicly committed to promoting GEWE in their institutions; and initiatives to strengthen gender technical units in the country increased by 300%, from 2 in 2019 to 8 in 2022.

1.1

Key Achievements



Over **50,000** young women supported to register as voters across the 6 geo-political zones of Nigeria



Over **6 million** women reached with voter education messages across 6 geo-political zones



300 young women leaders between the ages of 20-35 years mentored; 80% of them are now card-carrying members of political parties



Working groups on women's political participation were established to enhance coordination



Enhanced coordination of the Nigeria Media to promote women's political participation through quarterly meetings.



National media outfits have showcased profiles of women candidates on the front pages of newspapers and on prime TV programs.



20 First-class traditional rulers

across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria signed a communique committing to advocate for increased women's political participation and preventing violence against women in politics.

UN Women supported the signing of a communique by first-class traditional rulers across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria to advocate for increased women political participation and preventing violence against women in politics.

UN Women spearheaded activities that led to Nigerian Media executives pledging to cover politics involving women fairly and give them visibility. As a result,

- Renowned media organizations showcased profiles of women candidates on front pages of newspapers and on prime TV programs; and
- Media executives now meet quarterly to brainstorm and assess progress on advancing GEWE.

Facilitated grassroots sensitization in 7 WPE states (across the 6 geopolitical zones) including FCT in collaboration with faith-based organizations like FOMWAN and WIWICAN, and market women advocacy networks.

Supported the establishment of a women political participation working group to enhance coordination and collaboration among partners towards advocating for increased women political participation and representation.

Facilitated the mobilization of over 200 women groups and other stakeholders through the working group to submit a unified memorandum proposing affirmative action amendments to the constitution review process.

1.2 Table of Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2018)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	% Achievement
Number of new initiatives (including observatories) developed and/or implemented with UN Women support, to monitor and mitigate against VAWP, and promote fair and violence free 2019 election processes	0	4	12	300%
Number of national dialogues and advocacy initiatives to promote women's political leadership and participation undertaken, with UN Women support	0	4	12	300%
Number of networks and alliances established with broader civil society, media, private sector, youth, and traditional and faith-based institutions, to promote women's political leadership, through UN Women's support	0	10	10	100%
Number of national dialogues and networks and alliances established and other collective actions to promote increased women's participation in political governance and leadership through UN Women's support	2	6	10	167%
Number of awareness raising and advocacy platforms established and are able to promote positive perceptions of women leaders, and build public support for women's participation in competitive leadership contests, with UN Women support.	2	6	7	117%
Number of legislative and other measures developed through UN Women's technical support- targeting political parties, governance and legislative institutions to facilitate gender balance in political leadership and decision-making institutions and processes	0	3	2	67%
Number of capacity enhancement initiatives (including mentorship), supported by UN Women, to promote women's effective engagement in political participation, leadership contests, and decision-making	2	6	5	83%
Number of women political leaders trained to effectively engage in political party leadership contests incl. women with disabilities and young women.	0	600	1207	201%
Number of governance institutions (incl. political parties, EMBs and legislative bodies) supported to develop and implement institutional policies and programs to promote gender balance in leadership positions, with UN Women support	2	8	25	313%
Number of gender responsive reforms adopted by governance institutions (incl. political parties, EMBs and legislative bodies) to promote gender balance in leadership positions, with UN Women support	0	4	6	150%
Number of initiatives to taken to strengthened Gender Technical Unit of National Parliament ,Womens Political Forum ,Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria and other relevant institutions to promote women's increased participation with UN Women's support	2	6	8	133%

1.3 Impact Story **Gender and Participation in Public Life**

Over 6 Million Women Mobilized for Voter Education



Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu

A queue of women has formed at a secondary school in Ajaokuta, Kogi State. Seated at a desk in front of the women are officials of the Nigeria Girl Guides Association (NGGA) who have come to register them on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Online Continuous Voters Registration (CVR) portal.

"I've come to register so I will be able to vote in the coming elections. And so that when a woman comes out to contest, I will be able to vote for her," said Khadijat Abubakar, a trader in Kogi State, as she waited to collect the printout of her online registration.

Khadijat Abubakar is one of thousands of women being registered online by NGGA, with support from UN Women and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), as part of the Continuous Voters Registration programme by INEC. Ahead of the 2023 general elections in Nigeria, INEC commenced CVR nationwide in June 2021. The exercise, which will continue till June 2022, is being conducted physically and online, although the online process requires visiting an INEC office to finalize the process.

Registering online fast-tracks the process of registration and collection of the voter's card.



To improve women's participation in the CVR, UN Women, in collaboration with NGGA and The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) is sensitizing and mobilizing women to register. This is to ensure that more women are eligible to participate in the upcoming elections.

This initiative is strategic because most women in rural areas have limited access to computer facilities and may not be able to take advantage of online registration.

NGGA is conducting the online CVR registration drive in selected states in all the geopolitical zones of Nigeria. These states include Benue, Kogi, Borno,

Sokoto, Edo, Ekiti, and Ebonyi. INEC manages the registration portal and monitors the registrations.

It is important to note that decades after Nigeria's independence, there is still a huge gender gap in governance, leadership, and political participation, both in elected and appointed positions. At the federal level, women's representation at the National Assembly is about 4 per cent.

A report by the National Bureau of Statistics shows that in 2018, women's representation in State Houses of Assemblies was only 5 per cent. Only 15 per cent of deputy governors are women,

and a female governor has never been elected in Nigeria. At the local government level, the number of women is still low.

There were only 7 women in 43 ministerial appointments in 2019 – women made up only 16 per cent of the appointments. In the states and local governments, women's representation in appointed positions is also low.

One of the strategies that would improve women's representation in leadership and political participation is women translating their population size and using their voting power to increase the number of women in leadership positions. Two things become important – first, ensure women have their voter's card and, second, ensure they are sensitized on strategic political participation within political parties and during elections. These are the objectives of the ongoing CVR efforts.

NGGA has deployed its personnel to different local governments in selected states to register women online. This was often preceded by engagements with gatekeepers of communities, to educate them on the objectives and expected outcomes of the initiative. There were advocacy visits to traditional leaders and district heads, who subsequently mobilized women to participate in the online registration exercise. The women who were registered were issued printouts; with this, they can collect their voter's card at the local INEC office.

"What we are doing here is to make sure that all the women and young women have their voter's cards so that they can come out and vote. We have brought the online CVR registration closer to them," said Ayo Mohammed, National Education Commissioner for NGGA.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS IMPACT AREAS

- Government of Canada
- Government of Norway
- Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs
- National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS)



Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts

Thematic Area 2: Women's Economic Empowerment

More rural women in Nigeria are able to access to productive resources and engage in sustainable agribusiness, and more women entrepreneurs are better managers of their enterprises and have new opportunities to increase their businesses and profitability by 2022.



Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts

The Country office under this impact area was focused on increasing the capacities of women-owned businesses to access and benefit from procurement opportunities, strengthening capacities of women agribusiness owners to high-value markets, and enhancing socio-economic recovery and resilience of women and girls affected by the pandemic through access to social protection and other financial assistance packages.

Capacity of government procuring entities was enhanced to promote preferential procurement measures, and procurement regulations for women entrepreneurs. UN Women further employed a similar strategy to enhance the engagement of women farmer cooperatives, agribusiness associations and entrepreneurs in profitable agribusinesses. Focus was placed on rice and shea butter agricultural value chains for valued-added processing; enhanced access to markets, financial, and agribusiness development services, and supported institutional strengthening of targeted women's cooperatives and agribusiness groups. UN Women also conducted a review and support on Engendering Fiscal Stimulus in Nigeria using the UN Women "How to Assess Fiscal Stimulus Packages from a Gender Equality Perspective" policy tool, National Policy Dialogue on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) for MDAs, Ministry of Finance and Budget and National Planning, development of advocacy briefs on broad issues relating to Women Economic Empowerment including the development and implementation of gender-responsive social-protection policies and programmes to enhance post-covid recovery of women.

i

Outcome 2.1: Affirmative Procurement Policy, Legislative and/or Other Enabling Measures in Place by 2022 to Provide New Opportunities for High-Impact Growth for Women-Owned Businesses (WOBs) in Nigeria

Women have increased access to finance and economic empowerment opportunities. These results have been achieved as a result of an increase in gender-responsive technical assistance, partnership engagements, and entrepreneurship promotion among women for new opportunities. Stakeholders, particularly in Lagos and Kaduna states have increased the participation of women entrepreneurs in the procurement space, as a result of their improved capacity to apply gender-responsive procurement practices. These improvements were due to the initiatives aimed at providing opportunities for high-impact growth for women-owned businesses (WOBs).

One successful initiative was an executive order which established procurement quotas for women-owned enterprises in Lagos and Kaduna States, thereby resulting in increased opportunities for women-owned businesses. A convening of stakeholders contributed to amplifying the application of gender-responsive procurement practices and increasing the participation of women entrepreneurs in the procurement space. Public institutions, business networks, CSOs, and the private sector on methods awareness and capacity on implementing gender-responsive procurement through multiple pathways have increased. CSOs are now equipped and committed to driving accountability for institutional and legal reforms as a result of the increased capacity-building provided by UN Women.

ii

Outcome 2.2: WOBS in Nigeria, have increased capacities (business and financial management and in ICTs) and access to information to benefit from procurement (public and private) opportunities, by 2022

Women-owned businesses (WOBs) have increased their capacity and enhanced their profitability to participate in public and private procurement opportunities. The enhanced capacity of WOB to meet global market standards has increased their opportunities to benefit from opportunities.

WOBs are more knowledgeable on available funding for business and have enhanced knowledge and skills to access new markets, scale up, improve, and grow their businesses. A mentorship and capacity-building initiative contributed to this result. Sixty-three (63) female micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) improved their capacity to rebrand and repackage their products in a 2022 pilot. Armed with the rebranding, improved packaging, expanded knowledge on standards and quality, access

to new markets, and knowledge about available funding for businesses, 100% of the women have improved confidence to seek and benefit from other opportunities, and have increased income. In 2023, this will be scaled up to support more than 400 WOB.

Twenty-five (25) women have expanded access to pivot to new opportunities through registration on the UN Women procurement platform as a first step towards benefiting from procurement opportunities in UN women. The agency recently awarded a 40,000 USD contract to a woman-owned business. In addition, the Honorable Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen enhanced the startup and operationalization of new businesses for 63 women entrepreneurs through the provision of startup kits for the production of personal protective equipment. It is expected that the materials will result in up to 240 products when utilized and will ensure that products are readily available to meet institutional procurement opportunities.

iii

Outcome 2.5: Relevant policies and laws (incl. statutory and customary) adopted, to facilitate women's access to land and other productive resources, and effective engagement in agribusiness, by 2022.

Women's engagement in agribusiness has been enhanced in Ebonyi and Niger States. The adoption of relevant policies and laws to facilitate an enabling environment for women to access land and other productive agricultural resources in the States contributed to this. In Niger State, it has been institutionalized in the Niger State Gender Action Plan, a framework for the implementation of the gender-responsive agriculture policy of the State. Collaboration with the governments of Ebonyi and Niger States, resulted in 15 hectares of land from the government of Ebonyi State for the women agribusinesses to operate as demonstration farms. Similarly in Niger State, the government upgraded an existing shea butter processing and training center, by the addition of time and labour-saving

technology for sustainability of the production processes. One hundred and twenty-five (25) women have enhanced their capacity in Niger State to serve the dual function of contributing to the development of community adaptation plans that address climate risks in target locations and functioning as trainers on gender and value chain development for agriculture extension workers.

The partners on the project include FAO, UNIDO and ILO; the National Shea Butter Producers Association, and Food for All International (FFAI). These partners provided complementary assistance to bridge the gender gap in access to productive resources and enhance the productivity, income of women smallholder farmer cooperatives and agribusiness groups in the rice and Shea value chains in Ebonyi and Niger state. FAO's technical assistance on quality assurance, definition of specifications and assessment of bids for rice and shea butter processing machines have contributed to the acquisition of quality equipment for

women farmers. Both UNIDO and ILO contributed to the review of agricultural policies in Ebonyi and Niger state over 10,000 women farmers within a short term of 2 years have benefited from this project.

Women who benefited from the training have increased the production capacity and quality of products to meet international standards. They have enhanced their knowledge of climate production processes, and efficiency in shea butter production, product quality and market value. They also have an improved understanding of customer needs, strategies for adding value in the shea butter business, marketing techniques, and modes of financing cooperative societies.

In Niger State, 500 copies of the Gender Action Plan were disseminated to promote information sharing and create an enabling environment for women to access land and other productive agricultural resources in the state. A

study on the Gender Dimensions of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in the Agriculture Sector of the Niger and Ebonyi States was conducted. Key findings from the study revealed that a significant majority of farmers are aware of climate change. Similarly, more than 50% of these farmers were found to be aware of the causes and consequences of climate change, and both male and female farmers experienced different incidents of climate change, including a rise in temperature, droughts, loss of soil fertility, and soil erosion, heavy rainfalls and floods, and dry seasons. Findings from the study are being used to improve institutional frameworks on CSA and different climate-smart and gender-sensitive agricultural options in Nigeria. The study has also provided an understanding of barriers to the adoption of different climate-smart agricultural options by women.

iv

Outcome 2.7: Nigerian Women Agribusiness Owners (WOABs) Have Strengthened Capacities in Business and Financial Management, and Knowledge of Agribusiness Opportunities and Innovative Technologies, to Increase their Access to High-Value Markets, by 2022

Over 6,000 women smallholder farmers in Ebonyi State have enhanced capacities in Ebonyi and Niger States. In Ebonyi, 5,000 rice farmers were organized into 30 cooper-

atives, and in Niger, 1,200 shea butter farmers were organized into 7 cooperatives. This was achieved through the Women Enterprise Digital Platform aimed at strengthening all the components of the climate-smart agriculture project which supports women smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs to enhance their participation in rice and shea butter value chains in Ebonyi and Niger State respectively.

v

Outcome 2.8: Early and Post- COVID socio-economic recovery and resilience of women and girls worst- affected by the pandemic enhanced through access to Social Protection support and other financial assistance packages.

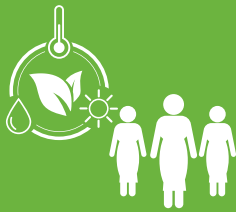
Women and girls have enhanced social protection and financial inclusivity for increased socio-economic recovery and resilience. The increased access to formal financial services has improved investment in productive activities, expanded micro-enterprise opportunities, and improved household incomes for more than 7,989 women.

The National COVID-19 Multi-sectoral Pandemic Response Plan which represents the Federal Government of Nigeria's framework consists of ten functional areas, including Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE). The RCCE component of this multi-sectoral plan focuses on behavior-change participatory interventions and messages on effective hygiene practices. In addition, the RCCE has two-way communication functions to receive community feedback as a strategy to better

understand local needs and concerns, and continuously adapt the messages and response for an improved impact of RCCE intervention. The intervention as implemented by UN Women reached 11,500 women in Nigeria (against a planned target of 10,000), focusing on older women, the most vulnerable women, women in the informal sector, and women living with HIV/AIDS.

The Government of Nigeria has increased the adoption of gender-responsive processes. The increased adoption of gender-responsive fiscal stimulus packages in response to health and economic crises has contributed to this. The Ministry of Finance and key line ministries integrate gender-responsive concerns into Nigeria's National Development Plan (2021 – 2025), the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), and mainstream gender-responsive components in the budget call circulars. At the national and subnational levels, a GRB toolkit has been developed as an advocacy and guidance framework to ensure that public budgets are gender responsive.

2.1 Key Achievements



12,500 Women

supported to access improved climate-smart agriculture inputs, improved post-harvest processing technology, financial services, and markets (including through digital means (BuyFromWomen).



63 women-led

MSMEs supported by the project to scale-up local production and supply of high-quality PPEs and healthcare products.



5000

women farmers have enhanced skills in improved production systems across the rice value chain



250

Agric. Extension workers demonstrate improved capacity in gender-sensitive service delivery to smallholder farmers



37

cooperatives of smallholder women rice farmers established.



10 demonstration/seed

multiplication plots were established, and demonstration/seed multiplication plots produced 60 metric tons of improved, high-yielding, short-cycle rice seeds, increasing the availability of high-quality seeds in the communities.



Participating women farmers realized an average of **40% increase in crop yield**, a **reduction of labor input by 32%**, and water requirement by at least 10%; and a cost-benefit ratio of 1.99%



Training and adoption of improved rice post-harvest processing, including parboiling reduced losses, improved grain quality, and market value of grains.

Government of Ebonyi State allocated more than **150 hectares of land to the target cooperatives** and provided 3 warehouses to support storage and marketing.

Information dissemination through women-led community watch groups reached an average of 5,300 individuals (80% females) through various grassroots networks.

2.2 Table of Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2018)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	% Achievement
Number of capacity building initiatives and resources (incl. data/information) supported by UN Women, to facilitate government MDAs, legislative assemblies and private sector actors to develop and/or implement affirmative procurement measures for WOBs	0	6	5	83%
Number of government MDAs, legislative assemblies and private sector actors that have benefited from assistance and capacity building support on developing and/or implementing affirmative procurement measures	0	10	60	600%
Number of sensitization, information sharing and capacity building initiatives conducted with government and private sector actors to support the strengthening of institutional support, services and financing of WOABs	0	4	4	100%
Number of knowledge products (incl. data and gender analysis of land ownership and use in Nigeria and analysis of existing agribusiness services) generated by UN Women to promote advocacy for women's land rights and advancement in agribusiness	0	3	2	67%
Number of functional digital information platforms established with UN Women support, utilized by WOABs to access agribusiness markets	0	1	1	100%
Number of Women Farmers' Cooperatives and Agribusiness Associations' supported by UN Women, to utilize digital information platforms (similar to the Buy From Women platform) to access commodity markets and/or private sector and public procurement opportunities.	0	12	30	250%
Number of women farmers in cooperatives and agribusiness associations' supported by UN Women, to utilize digital information platforms (similar to the Buy From Women platform) to access commodity markets and/or private sector and public procurement opportunities.	0	3000	5000	167%
Number of beneficiaries reached with income replacement support in the form of cash transfer/small grants through UN Women support	0	10000	11,500	115%
Number of women's network supported to participate in COVID-19 response planning, programing, debates, and decision-making through UN Women support	0	3	500	16667%
Number of women reached with risk communication, social cohesion, and other messages about COVI 19 through UN Wome supported women's organizations and networks	0	2000	11,500	575%
Number of gender-responsive fiscal stimulus and recovery policies and packages developed and implemented by the Government of Nigeria with UN Women's technical and advocacy support.	0	3	3	100%
Number of events organized by UN Women and partners to advocate for gender-sensitive fiscal stimulus and recovery packages on COVID 19 response	0	2	5	250%

Testimonials of Beneficiaries

Adama Balla

Adama Balla runs her business Safindiru ventures in Maiduguri within Borno state, northeast of Nigeria. Her business has been in existence since 2020, where she deals in the production of personal protective equipment (PPEs) including hand sanitizer and face masks.

She came into contact with the project in 2021 and was trained in entrepreneurial skills. According to her, before venturing into the production of PPEs, she was making and selling snacks. However, she decided to produce PPEs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

” As a person with a disability, even though I encountered so many limitations, I was determined to succeed in my business but, I lacked all the management skills. People were not even patronizing as expected. However, through the training the project offered, I was able to register my business and brand products making them more appealing to customers. I have a logo and my packaging has also improved. I have negotiation and networking, and market linkages. I have a business plan and looking forward to open a company account.”, Adama said.



Adama Balla displaying some of her products including hand sanitizer and face mask. Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts

Although she does not have a shop yet, she is currently working to create a dedicated space in her home and an online platform to display and market her products to clients with easy access and patronage.

Faith Onyinye



Faith Onyinye displaying a sample of her produced lab coat and face mask. Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts

Faith Onyinye from Enugu State owns Creative Hands Masterpiece, producers of PPEs including medical scrubs, face masks, and lab coats. Her business has been in operation since 2016 with a staff strength of five where they sell PPEs for sale.

As a beneficiary of the project, Faith received capacity on business management skills to facilitate qualifying for government intervention plans and other opportunities.

She recollected how she struggled with negotiation and pricing which led her to lose customers most of the time until the training equipped her on how to run her enterprise effectively. “The series of training equipped me on how to deliver excellent customer care services. improve on my negotiation skills as I was struggling with pricing points”

As part of her vision for her business, Faith looks into a future where she can build a team of young entrepreneurs and empower school dropouts to start up their businesses through partnerships. She has been able to expand her business by sourcing upholstery for interior décor, and beading works, and plans to venture into the textiles industry as well.

Zainab Mohammed

Zainab Mohammed is a Caterer from Sokoto State and owner of BMM Mumba General Enterprise, and produces hand sanitizer, alongside her food venture, fish, and poultry farming business.

According to Zainab, due to her catering business, she thought it wise to venture into the production of hand sanitizers during the COVID-19 pandemic. This she mentioned was to help mitigate the spread of the virus since she was running a food enterprise.

She recalled that, although she was running her business, she lacked all the necessary business skills, resulting in her running at a loss. Her plight became worse when she lost her husband and was left with children to cater for.

"I was so desperate and helpless until a friend introduced me to a group of women who were beneficiaries of the project. I did not hesitate to avail myself and register to participate in all training. The training I received transformed my bookkeeping records. I used to spend from my business as if it was my money, but I am not doing that anymore because I can manage my finances by being able to differentiate between income from business and personal funds."



*Zainab Mohammed displaying a bottle of produced hand sanitizer.
Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts*

"Before joining the project, I did not know how to advertise and market my products or use digital platforms, but now I can market using my phone to get good sales."

Zainab looking forward to taking up procurement initiatives to bid for contracts that will enable her to supply bulk hand sanitizers to institutions and scale up the business.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS IMPACT AREAS

- Ministry of Women Affairs
- African Development Bank
- Government of Japan
- Standard Bank
- European Union
- Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning (Budget and National Planning)
- Lagos State Public Procurement Agency
- Kaduna State Public Procurement Authority



Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu

Thematic Area 3: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

More women in Nigeria live free of violence and have access to inclusive, timely, and quality services through prevention and the development, domestication and implementation of policies on violence against women and girls



Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu

UN Women is contributing to ending violence against women and girls in Nigeria through supporting laws and policies on VAWG to better prevent and respond to the needs of women and girls at risk of violence or survivors of GBV/SGBV/HP. Interventions also promoted favorable gender socio-cultural norms to lead to increased use of essential services by women and girls at risk or survivors of GBV/SGBV/HP and decrease VAWG.

UN Women Nigeria Country Office, continued to provide innovative measures to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls and expanded their access to services, strengthening survivor support and community mobilization to end harmful traditional practices and discriminatory gender norms. This is part of the Spotlight Initiative that is jointly implemented by UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNESCO. An important part of the planned interventions involves strengthening the ongoing engagement with, and support to traditional leaders so that they can play a stronger role in ending traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage. The CO will further undertake several research activities as part of the intervention under this result area.

Outcome 3.1: Laws and policies on VAWG in Nigeria and their implementation and monitoring are strengthened to better prevent and respond to the needs of women and girls at risk or survivors of GBV/SGBV/HP

The VAPP law passed in 2015 represents an important piece of legislation on the elimination VAWG/SGBV/HP in Nigeria. Through catalytic efforts of the UN Women and other UN agencies and CSOs, it has been domesticated in 35 States to eliminate VAWG. Further, there is increased advocacy and action towards ensuring Gender Responsive Budgeting during the national budget call in 2022 and subsequently in 2023. Stakeholders and partners have strengthened their capacity for enhanced response to SGBV issues. The six States have costed model action plans for VAPP implementation and monitoring and costed sectoral plans across six sectors for enhanced gender-responsive budgeting.

The Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA), Ministry of Women Affairs in Adamawa, Cross River, Ebonyi, Lagos and Sokoto States, and relevant MDAs have established multi-stakeholder dialogues to champion joint advocacies, harmonize implementation and facilitate social campaigns towards eliminating VAWG/SGBV/HP. COTLA and coalitions of WROs, CSOs and autonomous social movement placed under the mentorship of FIDA, WARDC and WRAPA have increased their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on the elimination of VAWG/SGBV/HP in 2022. Additionally, these coordinated networks supported action toward the Gender Bills of which 3 now remain in the National Assembly.

One hundred and three (103) CSOs, WROs and social autonomous organizations have enhanced their influence, agency and use of social accountability mechanism to work on VAWG/SGBV/HP. This represents a 258% achievement against the target.

UN Women through the joint EU-UN Spotlight Initiative supported 1,204 survivors of SGBV/VAWG/HP to access

professional holistic support services from Mirabel Centre, Lagos and Nana Khadija Centre, Sokoto State between January - November 2022. UN Women continues to strengthen the center in Lagos and established the Nana Khadija center in Sokoto. UN Women approaches the support from the perspective of One-UN where UNFPA, UNICEF provided training and tools on GBVIMS and CPIMS respectively, and UN Women supports the state Ministry of Women Affairs and Neem Foundation to provide second chance education to women and girls from the center in Sokoto and from communities. The back-to-school program on the second chance initiative in Adamawa state has recorded a milestone with the enrollment of 41 beneficiaries into formal learning centers and 300 others are awaiting entry into adult learning centers through collaboration with the Adamawa State Mass Literacy and Education Board.

The Nigeria Country office supported the capacity building of 50 persons on the UN Women WHO RESPECT framework:

- R- Relationships skills strengthened.
- E - Empowerment of women
- S - Services ensured
- P - Poverty reduced
- E - Environments made safe
- C - Child and adolescent abuse prevented
- T-Transformed attitudes, beliefs and norms

As a result of this, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs hopes to further increase capacity for the national GBV prevention strategy. As a result, they are coordinating with UN Women to cascade this and expand the skills and expertise for the development of the National Prevention of GBV Strategy. This is expected to commence after the 2023 elections.

Outcome 3.2: Favorable Gender Socio-Cultural Norms Lead to an Increased Use of Essential Services by Women and Girls at Risk or Survivors of GBV/SGBV/HP and a Decrease in VAWG

Women's rights in Nigeria have experienced increased support for, and investments to drive favourable gender and socio-cultural norms and reduce the incidence of VAWG.

UN Women, through media jingles promoted to raise awareness on the elimination of SGBV reached over 258,000 viewers on Facebook, and 7 million radio listeners of which 45% were women/girls and 55% were men/boys as estimated by the radio station. Media jingles/programs promoted to raise awareness on the elimination of SGBV. The messages had 258,430 views on Facebook and over 7,000,000 listeners on radio out of which 45% were women/girls and 55% were men/boys as estimated by the radio station.

3.1 Key Achievements



100
Cooperative groups registered
with women accessing soft
loans and savings



400
women reintegrated to formal
learning



10,000
women with enhanced skills for
financial autonomy



10,000
women empowered with functional
literacy and numeracy skills



3 one-stop
centers established providing
holistic essential GBV services



4,500
provided with essential services
for GBV. 40% men and boys



Costed model action plans
developed in six states for VAPP
implementation and monitoring



**Costed sectoral plans across six
sectors** developed for enhanced
gender-responsive budgeting



12,000
persons strong, vibrant women's
movement for GEWE



800 grassroots
women empowered and mobilized
to contribute and participate in
constitutional review processes
and domestication of laws



200
girls were saved from child
marriage through collaboration
with traditional leaders



**More than 100 1st class cultural
leaders** with strengthened capacity
to advocate for GEWE, advocating
against and abolishing harmful
practices

Nigeria Governors Forum, Nigeria Governors Wives Forum, Inter-ministerial committee on GBV are sustainable institutions for advocacy and joint action on GBV.

Developed 5 multi-sectoral costed action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG for health, youth, education, women affairs and social development and finance and budget in Adamawa, Cross River, Ebonyi, Lagos and Sokoto States.

Facilitated the signing of the multi-sectoral action plan by Cross River State Government for implementation and is involved in continued ongoing for the signing of the action plans and eventual implementation in other States.

Strengthened the capacity of 168 key government officials (F=82, M=86) in developing laws and policies on eliminating SGBV/HP and promoting SRHR.

Led the advocacy that culminated in the release of circular mandating Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ensure Gender Responsive Budgeting during the national budget call in 2022 and subsequently in 2023.

Collaborated with the Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA) and Ministry of Women Affairs in Adamawa, Cross River, Ebonyi, Lagos and Sokoto states to establish/revitalize multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms to champion joint advocacies, harmonize project implementation, and facilitate social mobilization/campaigns towards eliminating VAWG/SGBV/HP.

Facilitated increased coordinated efforts by COTLA, WROs, CSOs and autonomous social movements through the mentorship of FIDA, WARDC and WRAPA to jointly advocate for eliminating VAWG/SGBV/HP.

Increased joint actions toward the 5 Gender Bills.

Supported 1,204 SGBV/VAWG/HP survivors through the joint EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to access professional holistic support services in Lagos (Mirabel Centre) and Sokoto States (Nana Khadija Centre).

3.2 Table of Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2018)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	% Achievement
Laws and policies on VAWG/SGBV/HP adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to SRHR, are evidence-based and in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations (Y/N)	0	1	1	100%
National and/or sub-national evidence-based, costed and funded action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG/SGBV/HP respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner (y/n)	0	1	5	500%
Existence of law(s) and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda	0	1	2	200%
Number of supported multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms established at the highest level and/or strengthened composed of relevant stakeholders, with a clear mandate and governance structure and with annual work plans	0	5	6	120%
Number of annual meetings of national and/or sub-national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms	0	2	6	300%
Women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and relevant civil society organizations, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on	0	1	4	400%
Proportion of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and civil society organizations, including those representing youth and groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR	0	40	103	258%
Number of people reached by campaigns and interventions transforming negative social norms and gender stereotyping that promote VAWG/HP/SGBV	0	40000	7,258,430	18146%
Number of key decision makers (traditional leaders, etc) in informal institutions with strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on VAWG/SGBV/HP and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors and women and girls' rights	0	300	322	107%
Number of government service providers who have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girls' victims/survivors	0	100	410	410%
Number of women's rights organisations who have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girls' victims/survivors	0	50	738	1476%

3.3 Impact Story **Ending Violence Against Women and Girls**

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (Ptd) Reduced by 90% and 80% Reduction in Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Among GBV Survivors



Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu

In 2022, PTSD was reduced by 90% and 80% reduction in depression, anxiety and stress among survivors as a result of medical and psychosocial support provided at the EU-supported GBV one-stop centres in Nigeria.

Counselling and psycho-social services are critical interventions that, as a first response, can help survivors overcome the trauma and recover from the hurt. These services are needed to support the process of healing and to enable critical information that may support access to justice to be obtained. The survivor's wellbeing remains the priority.

It also has the long-term effect of helping survivors overcome lower levels of depression. Reports show that counselling and psycho-social support improve survivors' self-esteem and assertiveness and reduces exposure to abuse. It allows survivors to return to usual daily activities after physical recovery from sexual violence.

The first to attend to GBV survivors who come into the Nana Khadija Centre is the Centre Counsellor. The Counsellor provides psycho-social support, psychological first aid, and referral pathways. The counsellors often take time to listen to the survivors to collect relevant information and counsel them to ensure they are psychologically relieved. This exercise is sustained over a period of time until the survivors fully recover.

“I see about seven survivors a day. At times I see more than that. Some survivors come from remote communities, and it is difficult to send them back even when it’s late”, said Halima Garba. Ms Garba is the lead GBV Counsellor at the centre.

Confidentiality is a core value at the One-stop centres in Nigeria. Counsellors ensure that information received from first responders and survivors are not divulged unless security agencies or the court require them. This is to protect the identity of survivors and reduce the level of stigmatisation they could experience.

The centre has child-friendly spaces for child survivors. They are important because to handle cases of minors successfully, you have to make the place very conducive for them.

“One time, I had a 5-year-old client. When I tried to talk to her, she screamed and said I should not put something in her. I felt so bad for the child. I took her to our toys area to make her comfortable, and after a while before she could be free with me”, said Halima Garba.

Beyond counselling and other services, the centers guarantee the personal hygiene of survivors by providing them with dignity kits. Therefore, the centers have Non-Food Items (NFIs) such as clothing, soap, sanitary pads, etc. for use by the survivors.

“When they take their bath and are all dressed up, it is hard to recognise them. And when they visit after their full recover, it is hard to believe these were the same persons that came in tears”, said Aisha Iliya (Mrs), a Nurse Midwife at the centre.



The centre refers survivors of GBV to UN/EU Spotlight Initiative supported Second Chance Education Centres where survivors learn literacy, numeracy, and vocational skills. Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu

Farida Gets a Second Chance at a Better Life



Marriage was not a bed of roses for Farida. It was days of hunger and physical and verbal abuse. When she became pregnant, she was elated. She looked forward to having a baby she would love. But Farida's joy was cut short the day she went for antenatal at the hospital. The doctor informed her that she tested positive for HIV. The physical and verbal abuse continued, aggravating her condition. With help from Nana Khadija Centre, Sokoto, she was rescued from this situation. After the intervention, she continued to go for antenatal and took ARV drugs regularly; her health was stable.

After having her baby, with support from the centre, she enrolled on the advanced class at the Sokoto learning centre of the Second Chance Education for Women and Girls.

The Second Chance Education for Women and Girls, Sokoto, was established to ensure GBV survivors in Sokoto get a second chance at economic prosperity and basic education. The Sokoto centre is currently managed by NEEM Foundation, with support from UN Women through the EU-UN joint Spotlight Initiative. The project is now in its second phase, and most participants are survivors and those most at risk of gender-based violence.

Development partners and civil society organisations are working to prevent violence against women and girls and also ensure GBV survivors receive psycho-social support and medical services. However, when the dust settles, how these survivors will fend for themselves and their children becomes a concern.

Often, violence against women and girls is traced to high poverty. This societal ill truncates women's participation in education, employment, and civic life and, consequently, their economic leverages. In the aftermath of GBV cases, most GBV survivors lose their livelihood, financial support, and the chance to go to school.

The Second Chance Education for Women and Girls program is being implemented in two local governments – Sokoto North and Binji local government areas. There are over 1000 beneficiaries of the second phase. 709 of these beneficiaries are women, while 291 are girls.

“The main participants in the second chance education are women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence of different forms and those who have dropped out of school and now want to continue their education and have some form of economic support so they can be self-reliant”, said Kabiru Mohammed, Neem Foundation State Coordinator, Second Chance Education for Women and Girls, Sokoto.

The Second Chance Education for Women and Girls Education thrives on partnership with other EU-UN joint Spotlight Initiative partners. This includes the State Ministry of Women's Affairs, which has provided office accommodation for the project. Other partners include the Nana Khadija Centre and the State Ministry of Budget and Planning.

One of the highlights of our work is the commendation from the State Police Command. Over 50 wives of police officers in the State were enrolled in the Second Chance Education project.

Speaking on all beneficiaries of the programme, Comfort Abah, Lead Second Chance Educator for the program said: "Our goal is to give them a sense of belonging and helping them to express themselves through education.... For those who have no form of education, this is a preparatory ground for them".

The project has eight Second Chance Educators and two psycho-social support staff. There are volunteer educators drawn from beneficiaries who have performed well and have now volunteered to support the staff.

After participants complete their programme, they can generate funds to support themselves and their families with the skills they have learnt. Some of them who decide to further their studies are re-integrated into formal learning institutions with support from the project. The project does this through a partnership with the State Agency for Vast Education and State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB). Reports show that those who were integrated into formal learning institutions are doing well.

The project also provides psycho-social support to participants because most are survivors of gender-based violence. Therefore, it is a blend of education and counselling.

There are three levels for the literary and numeracy classes: Beginners, Intermediary, and Advanced. The goal is to enhance the ability of participants to be able to read and communicate in English and able to solve different arithmetic problems. This is intended to help them in their business and communication with customers and clients.

Participants in the Beginners Class are women who have not been to school before their enrollment. Here, they are introduced to the basics of numbers and common English. The Intermediary Class consists of women who already have some basic knowledge of English and arithmetic related to logistics and financial transactions. In the Advanced Classes, participants comprised persons who have had the privilege of being in a school but had to drop out because of difficulties, including gender-based violence.

"Now I can communicate easily with others, and I can write letters", said Sakina Abubakar, a participant at the Sokoto North learning centre.

"The learning centre welcomed me with open arms and made me feel safe", said Farida.

The learning centre has helped Farida to overcome the trauma of her horrible experience of being physically and verbally abused by her spouse. Her self-esteem has been restored, and she is optimistic about the future.

"When I complete my programme here, I plan to further my studies", said Farida.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS IMPACT AREAS

- European Union
- Government of Italy
- Government of Netherlands

Thematic Area 4: Women, Peace and Security, and Humanitarian Action

By 2022, more commitments on women, peace and security are implemented by the government of Nigeria and the UN, more gender equality advocates influence peace and Security, and women and girls are better served within the framework of humanitarian responses and recovery efforts

The implementation of the Programme on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in Nigeria by UN Women, with support from the Government of Norway further strengthened the process towards realising a more peaceful and gender-equal society. It created an enabling environment for the implementation of the WPS commitments through strengthening policy frameworks, capacity, coordination, and oversight of federal and state entities and increasing the meaningful participation of women to deliver on UNSCR 1325 for conflict prevention and sustainable peace at national level and target states (Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Gombe, Kaduna and Plateau).

A wide range of stakeholders reviewed Nigeria's 2nd National Action Plan (NAP) on WPS, including the development processes of the policy document, implementation, monitoring and reporting systems, and identified key results, best practices, challenges, and lessons learnt; identified key priority areas for Nigeria's 3rd NAP, including emerging peace and security issues in the country. The stakeholders also validated a multi-sectoral approach for the development of Nigeria's 3rd NAP

proposed by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, with support from UN Women. To this end, a National Technical Working Committee for the development of Nigeria's 3rd NAP was established and officially inaugurated by the Minister of Women Affairs.

UN Women implemented interventions that contributed to an enabling environment for the implementation of women, peace and security (WPS) commitments at local, State, and federal levels. The agency provided leadership in promoting gender inclusive and responsive humanitarian response planning, frameworks and programming in Northeast Nigeria and other conflict affected areas. The agency further supported socio-economic recovery and resilience of women displaced by conflict in Northeast Nigeria and other conflict-affected areas. In addition, UN Women supported disaster risk reduction and conflict prevention and promoted women representation and participation in decision-making processes related to conflict prevention- at local, state and federal levels in Nigeria.

Outcome 4.1: An Enabling Environment Exists in Nigeria to Support the Implementation of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Commitments at Local, State and Federal Levels by 2022

i

Women have improved their skills to serve as skilled mediators in peace-building structures. There is an increased number of women actively engaged in decision-making in traditional councils, including participation in conflict prevention, and peace building in their respective communities.

Five hundred women have increased their capacity in mediation, conflict prevention, and peace-building skills, and as a result of the demonstrated capacity, 30% of have been integrated as Members/Advisers in the Traditional Council. Women Members/Advisers in from a baseline of 0, Plateau and Adamawa States now have 107 and 485 women as Members/Advisers in traditional council, respectively. From Baseline of 40, Gombe State now have 246 women in the traditional council.

Outcome 4.2: Humanitarian Response Planning, Frameworks and Programming in North-East Nigeria (and Other Conflict Affected Areas) are Gender Inclusive and Responsive.

ii

An estimated 70 persons improved their knowledge on sector specific GiHA needs. The training has helped sector partner to develop and engender programme implementation and monitoring of results.

To better understand the gender dimension of post-conflict reconstruction in Northeastern Nigeria, research was conducted and a report which provided recommendations for partners and stakeholders working in the conflict settings to incorporate in their programming in order to secure positive

outcomes and improved resilience of beneficiaries in line with the research focused on the conflict- Humanitarian personnel trained on Gender in Humanitarian Action Eight (8) gender guidance notes have helped humanitarian sectors lead and partners to develop gender indicators for the humanitarian and donor community. During the launch of the 2022 Nigeria HRP, the Secretary Adamawa WLO network participated in the launch event alongside the Executive Governors of the 3 affected states and the Humanitarian Resident Coordinator, where she delivered a speech on gender-responsive localization. Other engagements include interface with EU, the British high commission, and participation in the High-Level Conference on the Lake Chad Region.

Outcome 4.3: Socio-Economic Recovery and Resilience of Women Displaced by Conflict in North Nigeria (and Other Conflict-Affected Areas) is Promoted, Through UN Women Efforts.

iii

Women leaders organized dialogue sessions with women at grassroots level on ending violence against women, and to promote the participation of women in leadership positions, including political leadership. Their efforts contributed to the election of a female Local Government Chairperson and 17 female ward counsellors for the first time since the creation of the

Women were also capacitated on leadership and inclusion in all structures of the society. The participants were equipped with skills and strategies for influencing in their communities as well as participating in politics successfully pushing the cause for women and girls. The skills acquired has empowered the women to mobilize and facilitate engagement of state governments and political parties for improved involvement of women in politics and government appointments. This has resulted in the appointment of a woman as traditional community leader in

Yobe state UN Women undertook various durable solution to support immediate long needs of IDP women.

84% of the women are still engaged in doing their businesses within their communities and have had their living standards improved. To ensure sustainability, an ad-hoc VSLA (Village saving loan Association) group was established where the women and girls were grouped based on their various skills for the purposes for expansion, business resuscitation, welfare and social cohesion

Women networks engaged with state governments and political parties for improved involvement of women in politics and government appointments. This resulted in the appointment of a woman as traditional community leader in Yobe state. Community women also contributed in advocacy to government to establish mobile clinics for COVID-19 vaccination at community levels. An estimated 56% of 1,700 female (between the ages of 18 to 50) project participants who received income generation skills training and business start-up kits reported improved income and capacity to provide and or support their household.

Outcome 4.4: Positive Coping Mechanisms are Promoted for Marginalized Women and Girls Affected by Protracted Crises (in Conflict, Temporary Shelters and Host Communities) in Northeast Nigeria and Other Affected Areas, with UN Women Support

iv

15% of those who completed the SCE opportunity were mainstreamed into vocational learning centers and lit-

eracy learning centers, while 84% of those who were out of school or at risk of dropping out of school were transitioned to junior secondary school. An estimated 1,303 young women and girls received education support materials and were provided with learning centers. Five learning centers were established in communities were out of schoolgirls received learning. Beneficiaries received learning materials to aid their learning.

4.1 Key Achievements



1,111

women rice farmers increased knowledge on post-harvest rice processing and climate smart agriculture processing.



180

women with improved knowledge on cooperative and entrepreneur skills.



1,303

women reintegrated to formal learning and vocational skills.



2,646

women received entrepreneur skills with functional businesses



One Solar powered irrigation system, solar food dryers and access to land helping women to farm all year round, preserve food, contribute to food security and gain income



27,551

(15,636 female and 11,915 male) provided information on gender norms and GBV with demonstrated initiatives on GBV mitigation.



1,303

women leaders have enhanced leadership and advocacy skill, and are leading community initiatives on GBV, prevention of violent extremism.



120

women led organizations supported to amplify their voices on the gendered impact of the Northeast humanitarian crisis.



12,000

men increased knowledge on GBV prevention, reached with information gender norms and 84% are promoting positive gender norms and mobilizing communities on GBV mitigation



Directly improved positive coping mechanisms for 21,980 crisis-affected and at-risk women and girls as well as 11,915 men and boys, and 205 PWD.

4.2 Table of Indicators

Indicator	Baseline (2018)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)	% Achievement
Number of humanitarian actors who have benefited from capacity development initiatives supported by UN Women in North East Nigeria, to strengthen their application and use of gender analytical tools, gender audit or assessment tools and gender-responsive design, planning, and monitoring frameworks	0	50	100	200%
Number of gender analyses, audits and assessments of humanitarian programs in North East Nigeria, undertaken with UN Women support to promote the integration of GEWE in humanitarian programmes	0	1	1	100%
Number of facilitated dialogues between WROs and government and, UN and non-state actors to promote gender inclusive humanitarian response plans and programs	0	3	3	100%
Proportion of women IDPs trained, and engaged in leadership and/or management and service delivery in IDP camps and host communities in North East Nigeria, through UN Women support	0	150	170	113%
Number of initiatives supported by UN Women, targeting support to women IDPs -within the framework of the UN Return and Durable Solutions Strategy, to promote their immediate to long term needs	0	3	3	100%
Number of women trained in vocational/entrepreneurship skills with operational businesses	0	80%	84%	105%
Number of frameworks established for collaboration between women-led organizations and women in politics to influence women's leadership and participation in State level decisions (including on COVID-19)	0	2	2	100%
Number of initiatives supported by UN Women, targeting support to women IDPs -within the framework of the UN Return and Durable Solutions Strategy, to promote their immediate to long term needs	0	300	250	83%
Percent of women trained in vocational/entrepreneurship skills with operational businesses	0	500	1700	340%
Number of survivors (women and girls) of Boko Haram accessing second chance education, vocational skills training opportunities and other economic empowerment opportunities and deradicalisation interventions, with UN Women support	104	350	1303	372%
Number of community level mobilization initiatives community leaders (traditional and faith-based) to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of marginalized women and girls	50	300	348	116%
Number of domesticated VAPP act action plans for implementation	0	2	2	100%
Number of trained women with increased GBV prevention life skills	0	800	4637	580%

4.3 Impact Story

Women's Peace and Security, and Humanitarian Action

Adam Ali, the Caretaker for Women's Farmlands



Adam at the solar-powered irrigation site in Azamkura. Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts



Some women beneficiaries of solar-powered irrigation on their farm in Bade, Yobe state. Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts

Adam Ali is a father of seven and lives in Azamkura, Yobe State in the northeast of Nigeria. He is a HeForShe champion who has committed his time to protecting lands allotted to women farmers in his community and a solar-irrigation facility site.

Adam's wife (Hauwa) is a beneficiary of UN Women's "Promoting Women's Resilience in the Lake Chad Basin Region (LCB programme)" funded by the Government of Japan. The project successfully provided a comprehensive package for women's and girls' resilience that focuses on rendering prevention, preparedness, and response systems/plans gender-responsive addressing gender gaps, inequalities, and discrimination.

As part of the project's implementation, a solar-powered irrigation facility was constructed to support women farmers have access to an all year round vegetable farming to improve their livelihood. Adam's wife benefited from the project's land acquisition intervention and had access to a 250-meter square of land for planting vegetables at the solar-powered irrigation site.

Upon realizing how beneficial the intervention has been to his wife and other women in his community, Adam decided to volunteer as a caretaker of the irrigation facility and farmlands to prevent any encroachment.

He said, "Ever since my wife became a beneficiary of the project, our life has improved. I am happy and my wife is also happy because, she can harvest, and sell the vegetables for income."

According to Adam, the project through its interventions spurred him up to support the women in his community by helping them weed, plant, harvest, and guard the irrigation site on their farm. Although he is mostly mocked by some of his male counterparts in his community for his gestures, he is not perturbed.

"I have a responsibility to dedicate time to come here and support the women after I finish working on my farm. I am happy to come to help my wife and some of the women on their farms. Some men mock me that it's a women's farm, but I am happy and feel fulfilled helping women to also achieve a purpose", Adam said.

My Dreams Came True Through Women's Empowerment Hub - Hansatu Maina



Hansatu displays a sown outfit for a customer in her home in Damaturu, Yobe State. Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts

Hansatu Maina is a widow whose dreams of becoming a seamstress came true after training at the Women and Girls Entrepreneurship Development and Empowerment Hub in Damaturu, Yobe state, Nigeria.

“When my husband was alive, we lived in a house and had a neighbor who was a tailor. He sowed very well and had a lot of clients. I always admired and aspired to be able to sow like him. And today, I am also sowing and designing clothes for sale”, she said.

Hansatu, before being trained was petty trading food spices in her home which could not sustain her family. She resorted to borrowing and living on the benevolence of relatives and friends to support her family.

She was then selected by the Ministry of Women Affairs Directorate in Yobe state due to her situation to be trained at the hub. According to Hansatu, that was when she had the conviction her long-awaited dream

of becoming a tailor was coming to fruition. “I received sowing skills and a start-up kit including a sowing machine, threads, and needles, among others, and today here I am designing clothes for customers.”

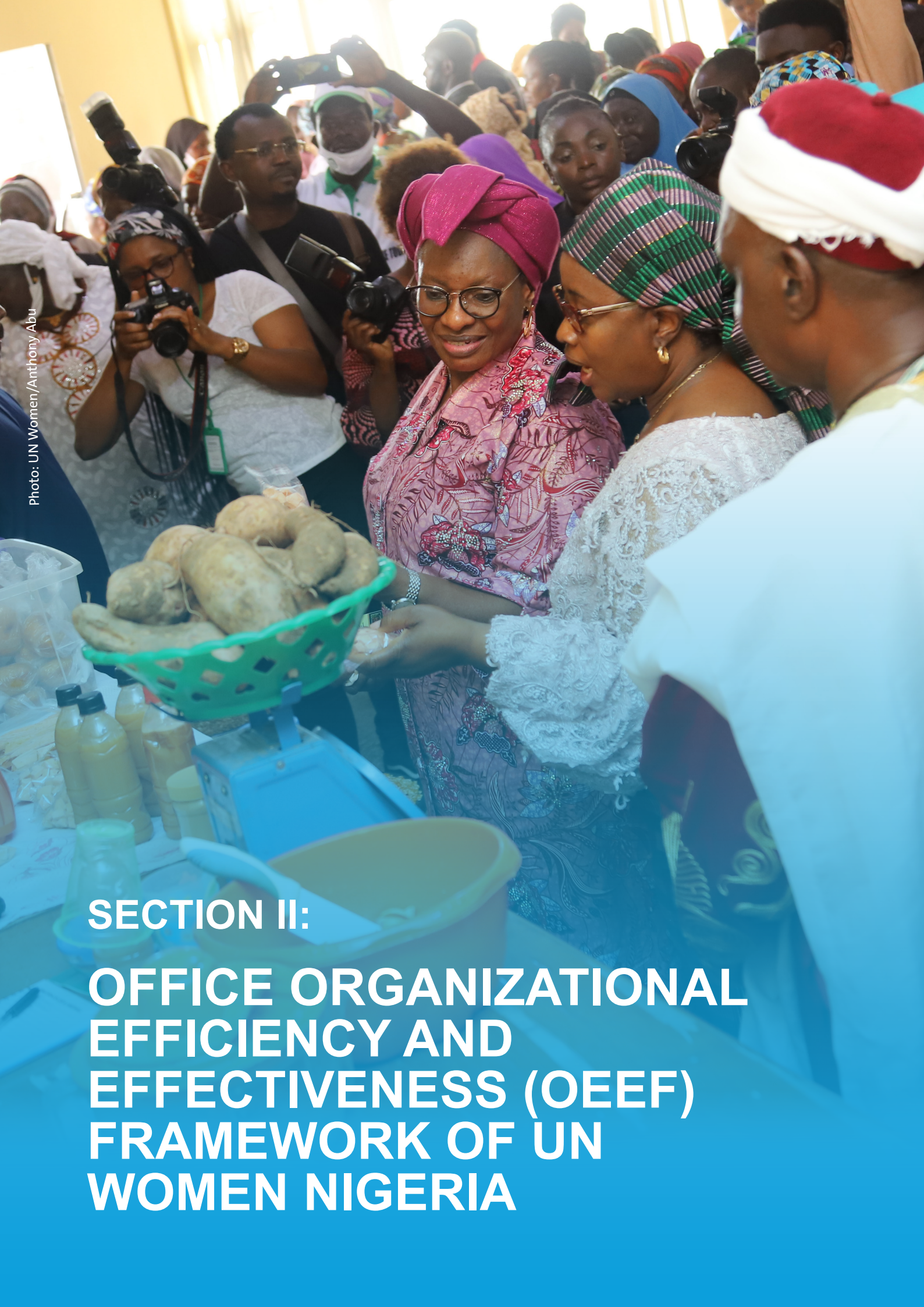
The mother of five said her tailoring business has enabled her to cater to her children who are all in school with the eldest in college. She revealed that she makes 50,000 Naira (\$100) during festive seasons and does not borrow money anymore, but rather can engage in a savings scheme where she contributes 100 Naira a day.

“Life is not harsher on us because I have an income to manage my family. I am hoping to open my shop where I can admit and train many people to also realize their dreams. Although my children are all in school and aspire to become nurses, doctors, and teachers, I am training them to have some sowing skills as well”, Hansatu cited.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS IMPACT AREAS

- Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
- State Ministries of Women Affairs
- Government of Canada
- Government of Norway
- Government of Germany
- UN Peace-building Fund
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS)
- Centre for Strategic Research and Studies, National Defence College
- Women, Peace and Security Sector Reference Group
- Zamani Foundation
- DINIDARI Foundation
- Women In Politics Forum
- Partner West Africa Nigeria (PWAN)
- Mercy Corps
- WPS Networks in target states (Women Mediators, Women Peace Mentors, HeForShe Champions and WPS Media Networks)
- Community Security Platforms (CSPs), Mixed Observers Teams (MOTs) and Women Led Organizations in Borno and Yobe State.

Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu



SECTION II:

OFFICE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS (OEEF) FRAMEWORK OF UN WOMEN NIGERIA



5. Strategic Considerations

5.1 Approach Based on Human Rights and the Principle of “Leaving no One Behind.”

In line with the principle of ‘Living No One Behind’ and UN Women HIV indicators set for 2022, UN Women in collaboration with UNAIDS, NACA the FMWA and other strategic partners carried our various activities aim at improving the institutional and technical capacities of the Association of Women Living with HIV in Nigeria (ASWHAN). UN Women provided a dedicated technical assistant to support the costing and operationalization of ASWHAN strategic plan 2022-2026 which was developed in 2021. Costing the plan has given more direction for the association to popularize and garner stakeholders interest and financial support. The association was also supported to assess and document outcomes and lessons learnt from their Prevention of HIV from Mother to Child Transmission Interventions popularly called the ‘Mentor Mothers Initiative’. Outcome of the assessment/documentation shows the immense contributions of the mentor mother for PMTCT, pediatric AIDS and other support for women living with HIV and AIDS within facility and communities, it identifies past and current challenges and make recommendations for scale up. The document provides evidence and references for advocacy for scale up and support for ASWHAN members who provide these valuable services across the country the intervention.

Over 2000 members of the association gained knowledge and skills on various areas of programming within the period too, following training organized for coordinators and staff of the association drawn from the national and state levels. Training included Monitoring/Evaluation, Documentation and Communication. Skills gained have helped enhanced the level of monitoring and documentation of their programmes as well as given visibility to the association work and increased confidence in the team to negotiate and seek for enhance support for it members; within the period, the association was able to negotiate for financial inclusion for it members leading to fifty members receiving cash support for their businesses and livelihood.

The funding and technical support from UN Women has helped enhance the capacities of its members in programming to address Violence against Women and Girls, Stigma Reduction, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Mental Health and Wellness, advocacy, and support for uptake of Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) Services and Relationship Management/Mental Health. Thirty members of the association members involved in the Mentor Mothers initiatives from twelve states and the FCT were trained on Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) Services, An integrated training of trainers and advocacy workshop on Gender Based Violence, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Mental Health and Wellness was also conducted for 24 adolescent girls and young women drawn from across 12 states leading to better appreciation of the issues, behaviour change and harm reduction. Trained participants have worked with other partners in the state to step down training to over two thousand young women and girls. The association were also supported to undertake advocacies and campaigns involving relevant government, development partners, CSOs and other campaigns resulting in better appreciation of the issues, commitments and They were supported to engage traditional and religious leaders to support the EAW and stigma reduction campaign and interventions.

UN Women also supported the National Agency for the Control of Aids to disseminate and promote the Uptake of the 2021 Gender Assessment Report among relevant stakeholders leading to gender appreciation and commitments to use gender evidence within the HIV response. UN Women also provided a gender expert to mainstream recommendations from the gender assessment into the National Strategic Framework resulting an enhanced gender responsive in the HIV National Strategic Framework.

Network of Women with Disabilities was supported to improve awareness of and strengthen access to essential services for women and girls with disabilities towards minimizing the

impact of SGBV especially on women and girls with disabilities through facilitating capacity building session for situation room data officers and focal persons of Network of Women with Disabilities in 5 Spotlight states and FCT. The collaboration also resulted in reviewing SGBV data collection tools to incorporate sub-sections for capturing data from survivors among women and girls with disabilities. The capacity building reached a total of 46 persons (37 females, 9 males), out of which 27 of them were women with disabilities who in turn facilitated awareness sessions for 30 women and girls with disabilities in 5 Spotlight focused states and the FCT. These activities were conducted to address some of the significant findings of the assessment conducted in 2022 to identify the factors affecting access to essential services and data reporting by women and girls with disabilities in Nigeria.

In line with the principle of Leaving No One Behind, a landmark knowledge product on SGBV information and service gaps of women and girls with disabilities now exists and knowledge on these gaps with recommendations on how to address them has been increased among civil society and government. The findings of this assessment are expected to strengthen service providers' knowledge on different needs of survivors living with disabilities. It further provides a strong evidence base for the allocation of budget for inclusive services. The capacity of networks of women living with disabilities to demand these allocations has further been strengthened.



Photo: UN Women Nigeria

UN Lights Orange to End Violence against Women and Girls in Nigeria



Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts

UN Women Nigeria together with the office of United Nations Resident Coordinator and Federal Ministry of Women Affairs convened a high-level ‘Orange the World Lighting ceremony to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence in Abuja.

The ceremony held at the UN House on 29 November 2022, dubbed under the global theme “16 Days of Activism for 2022 is UNiTE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls!” enabled partners to pledge commitment towards investing in data collection and resource mobilization to protect women and girls especially those in humanitarian settings.

In attendance were UN heads of agencies including, Country Representative of UN Women, Ms. Beatrice Eyong, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale, Mrs. Funke Oladipo, Director; Women Development representing the Minister of Women Affairs, Head of European Union Delegation, Ambassador Ms. Samuela Isopi, and staff who paid tribute to all survivors of gender-based violence and all stakeholders dedicated to combating violence against women and girls around the world.



Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu

6. Communications & Advocacy

UN Women Nigeria Country Office communications team continues to develop and share engaging and compelling content on the official social media platforms for the country office. High profile events with donors and the government of Nigeria are reported on social media to amplify key GEWE issues from these programmes and events and to create visibility for UN Women Nigeria. Content developed and shared on social media also included reports of strategic project activities, impact data and successes stories. In preparation for the 2023 General Election, messaging was also around violent-free elections, particularly messages calling for an end to violence against women in politics (VAWIP).

Media participation and reporting of UN Women's major activities and events improved in 2022, with at least 15 media mentions across TV, Radio and Print for each major programmes. This year, a press sensitization was also held to enhance media understanding of gender issues and promote internal gender mainstreaming in their organization. Also, in 2022, the communications provided support for the establishment of a media coalition for improved gender-responsive reporting towards the 2023 elections. The coalition had quarterly meetings to assess reporting of women aspirants and candidates. This improved press reports of women pre-2023 general elections.

To enhance visibility and awareness of the impact of UN Women's activities, a number of videos were published on YouTube. They include: So You Wan Travel Abroad, a Public Service Announcement (PSA) against the trafficking of women and girls in Nigeria; Cushioning the effect of COVID-19 among indigent in women in Nigeria, on the cash support to over 11,500 beneficiaries to cushion the

economic difficulties faced by many women and their families in selected states in Nigeria; Highlight of Women, Peace & Security Programme Phase II, on the launch of the Women, Peace and Security Programme in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria; Dealing with SBV in Northern Nigeria UN Women and PWAN Documentary, capturing UN Women's effort to curb the prevalence of sexual-based violence in Northern Nigeria.

As part of high-level advocacy, the communications team provided support for the Country Representative in her high-level engagements with the Nigerian government and other relevant partners. Advocacy materials were also developed to enhance advocacy and understanding of UN Women's work: they include a brochure for the central office and brochures for each thematic area. Highlights, resolutions, and commitments from these meetings are documented and reported on digital platforms and publications.

Biannual newsletters were also developed to capture the major events and impact of proj-

ects implemented. Similar knowledge products developed include a case study of the Nana Khadija Centre in Sokoto and the Second Chance Centre. UN Women contributed to the monthly UN Newsletter as well, with at least one article in issue, in some cases, three.

During this period, communications strategies were also developed to enhance project delivery for affirmative procurement project of the women's economic empowerment thematic area and women, peace and security. The country communications strategy was also reviewed for contemporary relevance.

Communications unit supported the commemoration of major international days including the International Women's Day 2022, the International Rural Women's Day 2022, and the 16 Days of Activism. Communications were developed and implemented for each campaign, including media participation and reporting, and social media. Key data and messages are developed, visualized and shared. Major events were covered.



Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu

7. Strategic Outcomes

Outcome 1: UN-Women is Positioned as an Organization that Effectively Leads, Manages, and Coordinates Initiatives for Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the UN System Interventions in Nigeria.

During the reporting period, the Gender Theme Group (GTG) was co-chaired by UN Women (represented by the Deputy Country Representative) and UNFPA (represented by the senior National Programme Officer). It had 26 active members representing 18 UN agencies present in the country. They included both international (9) and national staff (17). The GTG held regular meetings once every month and organized other meetings around specific events such as the IWD, 16 Days of Activism against GBV, Rural Women's Day, International Day of the Girl Child, Human Right Day, and other GEWE advocacy initiatives. Periodically, the UN Women Representative joined the GTG meetings and gave guidance to the team.

Moreover, the UN Women served as the bridge between the GTG and the UNCT. She represented the GTG at the level of the UNCT. In addition, the GTG developed a costed annual work plan with a total budget of USD 48,200 which was approved by the UNCT. About 71% (USD 34,200) of the total budget was obtained through contributions from some of the participating UN Agencies (UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UN AIDS, UNHCR, WFP, and IOM). In addition, UNDP and UN Women contributed resources amounting to USD 45,000 to organize an event to recognize and award some selected gender equality champions in Nigeria as part of the commemoration of International Women's Day/Month. Further, UN Women, UNICEF and African Development Bank pooled resources and utilized technical resources of other UN agencies to develop the Country Gender Equality Profile for Nigeria.

Outcome 2: Increased Movement Building and Partnerships in Support of UN Women's Mandate and Financing for Gender Equality

As a result of the strengthened engagement and collaboration with the private sector, more companies in Nigeria committed to signing or did sign on to the WEPs during the reporting period. In collaboration with the stakeholders in the sector, the Nigeria CO is supporting the designing of the Private Sector

Pool Funding for ending violence against women and girls, which will be launched in 2023. The CO developed a New Strategic Note (SN 2023-2027) that includes gender-responsive and youth-focused interventions under all the results areas both at the output and outcome level. Additionally, All the Partners of Nigeria Country have been selected at specific results (outcome/output) levels.

Outcome 3: Advancing Business Transformation for High-Level Innovation, Impact, and Knowledge Management

During the reporting period, the Nigeria CO organized lessons and knowledge-sharing workshop that brought together leaders of women-led organizations working on promoting the participation of women and girls affected by the conflict and climate change in the Lake Chad Basin area. The event, which was organized in Abuja, brought together

women leaders from the three worst affected states in Northeast Nigeria and their counterparts in Cameroon. It was jointly facilitated by the Nigeria CO and the UN Women Regional Office for West and Central Africa (WCARO). Also, the Nigeria Country Office participated in knowledge sharing events around the involvement of traditional and religious leaders organized by the UN Women Special Representative to the African Union, the WCARO, the ESARO, and the Cameroon Country Office.

Outcome 4: UN Women Nigeria as a Multi-Skilled and Diverse Organization that Prioritizes Leadership and Team Capacity to Achieve Transformative Change and Improved Management of Financial and Human Resources in Pursuit of Results.

During the reporting period, the office continued to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the oper-

ations and contributed to increased knowledge and skills for internal and external partners. Training events were organized in collaboration with other UN agencies, as well as externally, at the national and regional levels and with the government and other stakeholders of traditional and religious leaders organized by the UN Women



8. Resource Mobilisation and Financial management

The budget for 2022 was 10,139,610 USD, with an expenditure of 84%. UN Women contributed 13% of the budget and the remaining 87% of the budget was financed by donors (non-core). The non-core funds were received from donors such as the European Union (MPTF-Spotlight Initiative Fund), African Development Bank, the Governments of Japan, Governments of Canada, Government of Norway, Government of Italy, Government of Germany, Government of Netherlands, Government of the Republic of Korea, the United Nations Peace-building Support Office, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), and UNAIDS-UBRAF, and UNDP.

9. Conclusion

9.1 Challenges

- Protracted crises and insecurity in operational areas.
- Resistance to legal reforms in support of GEWE
- Low prioritization of gender equality and women's empowerment in the national and sub-national budget allocations.
- Inadequate donor funding for gender equality and the empowerment of women in Nigeria (relative to the needs).
- Inadequate laws and policies and limited implementation of existing ones.
- Paucity of gender-disaggregated statistics at national and sub-national level.



9.2 Key Lessons

- Appropriate policy framework and adequate implementation are critical to advance GEWE across.
- Enforcement of legislation is essential to improve the protection and realization of women/girls' rights
- Gender gaps in access to information, infrastructure, digital technology, and services limits women/girl's empowerment
- Media is a vital tool for transforming negative gender social norms and masculinity.
- The paucity of gender statistics limits evidence-based advocacy for reform & media advocacy
- A multi-sectoral approach is critical for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment

9.3 Next Steps

In 2023, UN Women Nigeria, guided by its Strategic Note (2023-2027) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is steadfast in its commitment to supporting national priorities in advancing gender equality and empowering women.

Leveraging its comparative advantages, which encompass coordination, normative standards, and programmatic expertise, UN Women will utilize its convening power and established partnerships with national stakeholders and international development partners. The country office will prioritize strategic enablers that pave the way for gender equality and women's empowerment. This will involve advocating for gender-responsive laws, policies, and budgets, strengthening gender statistics, challenging and transforming social norms, enhancing the capacities of both State and non-State actors, and harnessing digital innovation to drive gender equality and empower women and girls in Nigeria to exercise their human rights. Key priorities for the country office will include expanding women's economic opportunities, addressing the digital gender divide, fostering women's leadership and political participation, and forging strong partnerships for gender equality. UN Women Nigeria remains committed to close collaboration with the government and all stakeholders to advance these priorities and effect transformative change for the betterment of women and girls throughout Nigeria.

Further, in alignment with agency priorities, and under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, UN Women will play a crucial role within the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to ensure that the UNSDCF and other country documents effectively promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE). Pursuing a "Delivery as One" approach, including the promotion of joint programming, UN Women aims to facilitate integrated action, coordination, and the utilization of diverse mandates and resources from UN agencies.

Through these concerted efforts, UN Women Nigeria in 2023 will continue to strive towards a society where gender equality is realized, women are empowered, and sustainable development goals are achieved.







UN House
Wing A, Second Floor
Plot 617/618 Diplomatic Drive
Central Business District
FCT-Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +234 9461 6314

 www.africa.unwomen.org

   unwomenNG

  unwomenAfrica