



**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**NATIONAL BEIJING + 25 REVIEW**

**PRODUCED BY**

**THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**ACRONYMS**

AU	African Union
BDPfA	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
BUDFOW	Business Development Fund for Women
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CHIPS	Community Health Influencers and Promoters Services
EMoC	Emergency Obstetric Care
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
FME	Federal Ministry of Education
FMF	Federal Ministry of Finance
FMI	Federal Ministry of Information
FMOH	Federal Ministry of Health
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs And Social Development
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GOST	Gender Open Source Technology
LACVAW	Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence against Women
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NGDB	National Gender Data Bank
NHGSFP	National Home - Grown School Feeding Programme
NIS	National Immigration Service
NPI	Nigeria Programme on Immunization
OPD	Office of the Public Defender
OSSAP SDGs	Office of the Senior Special assistant to the President on the SDGs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDHR	United Nations Declaration on Human Rights
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAPP Act	Violence against Persons Act
WEE CRA	Women's Economic Empowerment through Climate Resilient Agriculture
WOFEE	Women's Fund for Economic Empowerment.

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1	List of laws and policies on gender equality and Women's economic empowerment (1999 – 2019).
Table 2	Women's representation in national parliament 1999 – 2019
Table 3	Interface with SDG 5 indicators
Table 4	Levels of physical violence against women in Nigeria

**CONTENTS**

<b>Foreword</b>	6
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	8
<b>Executive Summary</b>	9
<b>Introduction</b>	12
<b>1. Overview Analysis of Achievements and Challenges</b>	14
1.1. Major achievements	
1.2. Synergy with SDG indicators	
<b>2. Progress with implementation of the critical areas of concern         In the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action</b>	26
<b>3. Data and Statistics</b>	54
<b>4. Challenges, Recommendations and Emerging Priority Areas</b>	55
4.1. Challenges	
4.2. Emerging priorities	
<b>Conclusion</b>	58
<b>References</b>	57

## FOREWORD

There have been several defining moments within Nigeria's progression towards gender justice, over the past twenty - five years, following the country's adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Within the last five years, the causal links between, a more inclusive national development model, and the general wellbeing of communities, states and the nation, have become topical issues in national policy and practice. As a result of this, several sector-specific gender shifts, some of which are more significant for their transformative value, have occurred.

The Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act, which was passed into law in 2015, represents a domestication of some of the broad principles of the Beijing Platform for Action and the CEDAW. Based on over a decade of multi - stakeholder collaboration between the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women (LACVAW), numerous women focused NGOs, international partner organizations, the Women in Parliament caucuses and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the VAPP Act situates women's human rights within an institutional paradigm of freedom from economic, domestic, and other forms of violence.

More Nigerian women are currently engaged in the country's political processes at different levels including as party agents, voters and contestants for political offices. As at 2015, Nigeria had over 35% female representation in appointive political positions. On May 31, 2018, the President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law a bill amending the 1999 Constitution, the implementation of which will lower the minimum age requirements for competing for and holding key elected offices both at federal and state levels. The new law also allows individuals to stand for state and federal elected offices as independent candidates. This enabled the emergence of more young women as aspirants to public office and as party candidates in the 2019 general elections.

The engagement and participation of more men and boys, as (gender) champions of change under the auspices of programmes, such as UN Women's '*HeforShe*' campaign has led to specific gains such as changes in the structures of traditional leadership hierarchies to include women in some communities in the Northern and Southern parts of the country.

Women's participation in the economy and especially within the agriculture sector have also gained momentum within the period under review. This has been boosted by the Agriculture Promotion Policy and programmes such as the 'Anchor Borrowers' programme for emerging agri-businesses being managed by the Central Bank of Nigeria and Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Also, the past 3 fiscal years have, for the first time in Nigeria's history witnessed the emergence of social investment spending as a line item in the National budget (the Social Investment Portfolio) which has consistently stood between 3<sup>rd</sup> and

5<sup>th</sup> place in terms of projected capital spending within the federal budget. This has enabled targeted cash transfers to primary caregivers (mostly women), skills and employment reorientation support and credit access to young female graduates and women owned micro businesses, respectively.

There are still several challenges, however. The insurgency context in North Eastern Nigeria has not only exacerbated existing gender disparities but led to the emergence of new ones. Also, the spread of herder/farmer conflicts have heightened the rates of sexual and gender - based violence experienced by women farmers in some parts of the country. While more women across Nigeria are emerging as business owners, more women - owned businesses fall within a ‘necessity-driven’ cluster. They still struggle with access to various incentives and are therefore situated at meso and micro levels within the informal sector. Also, the gender participation gap in labor force participation is still quite significant with an estimate of less than 25% of women making up the country’s formal labor force (NBS, 2018). So are the low numbers of women in state and national parliament. Following the 2019 general elections, women will occupy 6.4% of the seats in the Federal Senate and 3.5% in the Federal House of Representatives when members of the 9<sup>th</sup> National Assembly, resume office later in the year. This constitutes a regression from the previous elections in 2015, where the percentage representation of women in the Senate and House was marginally higher, at 6.5% and 5.6% respectively

Despite these challenges, Nigeria has made significant progress to demonstrate her commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action. It is on this basis that the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development will continue to work with stakeholders across board including: our colleagues in other Line Ministries, international partners, civil society organizations, especially women-focused groups and community based organizations, and the media to deliver on the country’s commitments to women and girls.

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The Ministry acknowledge the contributions of the Office of His Excellency, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the National Bureau of Statistics, the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Federal Ministry of Environment, the National Human Rights Commission, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, the National Center for Women Development, and all the Federal and State Ministries, Departments and Agencies who provided reports, documents and data towards the production of this report.

The Ministry also gratefully recognizes and commend the ongoing support of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA, Nigeria); Women - focused Organisations and civil society groups; the United Nations System in Nigeria and their gender focal staff; the European Union; The UK Department for International Development; the Gender Theme Group; The United States Agency for International Development, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency; the World Bank, and other International Partners who have in no small measure contributed to the development of this report.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nigeria's scorecard, in terms of the delivery of the commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, is varied but with a very definite tilt towards the assertion that Nigerian women have come a long way. Highlights of achievements that are specific to the past five years include the adoption of a social protection budget as part of the federal budgetary framework; the passage of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act; the integration of gender perspectives into the national security and peace architecture and into interventions in North Eastern Nigeria; as well as targeted programmes to improve girl child participation in science and vocational education.

**'...Women's strengthened voice and agency are exemplified by the frequency with which gender concerns are integrated in public policy texts and discussions; the vibrant activist landscape of women focused NGOs; women's increasing interactions within the economic sphere; and the higher numbers of women, engaged at different levels within the electoral space... p.9 of this report**

Women's strengthened voice and agency are shown by the frequency with which gender concerns are integrated in public policy texts and discussions; the vibrant activist landscape of women - focused NGOs; women's increasing interactions within the economic sphere; and the higher numbers of women, engaged at different levels within the electoral space. These were all cited during the stakeholder interviews which preceded this report, as proof of gender - specific gains within the past twenty - five years in general, and the past five years. Some universities have established gender departments and research centers to provide access to data as well as formal education study options on gender. These include the Universities of Ibadan, Benin, Calabar, Sokoto, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, University of Abuja respectively as well as the Ekiti state University and the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

The counternarrative to the various case stories of progress mentioned in the preceding paragraph, is that high levels of electoral participation has not translated into equally high numbers of women in political and public office; that gender specific commitments in laws and policies are far more robust than policy - related gender results; and that patriarchal customary

beliefs and social norms are regularly appropriated to reinforce limitations to women's choices, opportunities and also their access to productive resources such as land.

Available country data shows that there are some clear indicators of alignment with the targets in the Beijing Platform's 12 Areas of Concern. This is evidenced by results such as : the number of policy actions geared towards ensuring inclusive growth and women's economic participation; actions taken to translate high female primary school enrolment into equally high completion rates at primary and post primary levels; initiatives aimed at facilitating education access for women and girls in states affected by insurgency; programmes being implemented to address gender based violence; and the number of sector budgets that have been refocused to address gender gaps and provide social safety nets.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action remains the reference point for the emergence of subsequent international, regional and national frameworks on gender equality and the empowerment of women. For instance, the 14 indicators within Goal number 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to a very large extent, mirror the 12 critical areas of concern within the Platform. In terms of the country level efforts being made per indicator of Goal 5, the results are mixed as progress is more visible in some areas than in others. For instance, there has been more progress with indicator 5.1.1 (laws and frameworks) than with indicator 5.5.1 and 5.5.2 (increasing women's participation and leadership). Also, there has been more visible progress with efforts to end violence against women and girls (indicator 5.2.1) than there has been with ending harmful practice such as child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting (indicator 5.3.2). These disparities in performance are due to several reasons including conflicting demands for the use of available funds and competing national priorities.

Based on the normative and descriptive structure of the Beijing Platform, the Government of Nigeria is continually seeking entry points which enable a focus on improving the situation of women and girls through multi - sector collaboration and partnerships at different levels. However, the disparities in different geopolitical zones plus the persistent challenge of cascading the policy gains from national and state levels, to reach women and girls in the rural areas, are serious challenges. There is also a sense in which programmes that deal with gender equality and the empowerment of women tend to refer to women and girls as homogenous blocs, which further marginalizesspecific categories of women and girls such as those with disabilities. These are challenges which have been identified by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, and their partners. As a result, policy discussions are ongoing, to identify how they can be addressed.

**‘...the developmental disparities in different geopolitical zones plus the persistent challenge of cascading the policy gains from national and state levels, to reach women and girls in the rural areas, are serious challenges. There is also a sense in which programmes that deal with gender equality and the empowerment of women tend to refer to women and girls as homogenous blocs which further marginalize specific categories of women and girls such as those with disabilities. p.11 of this report.**

This report is divided into 4 sections and contains an introduction and a conclusion. Each section is preceded by a highlight of achievements that are specific to the 5 - year period under review. The introduction section provides a background and explains the report development process. In section one, an overview of achievements and challenges is presented while section 2 focuses on progress with the Beijing Platform’s 12 Areas of Concern. Section 3 discusses institutional arrangements for collating and sorting gender specific data, and section 4 explains the challenges which to progress with implementing the BDPfA and the key emerging priorities for the next 5 years.

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background**

The Federal Republic of Nigeria was one of the 189 countries that adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA) in 1995. Not only did this provide institutional legitimacy around the demand for accountability on women's human rights in Nigeria, it also enabled the emergence and coalescing of women's groups and gender equality advocates around a broad set of shared aspirations. Since that time, new laws and policies that affirm the BDPfA commitments have emerged at national level and in the states; institutions responsible for promoting gender justice have been created; the experiences and challenges of women and girls have reflected in some critical policy discussions; and funding support to improve the situation of women and girls in Nigeria, has been made available through government budgets and by several international organizations.

However, there are still several challenges. Some of the social norms and structural factors that resist gender equality and the empowerment of women are still as strong as they were twenty-five years ago. This makes it more challenging to close existing gender gaps. It also makes it particularly challenging to respond, as swiftly as required to emerging millennial challenges which are multifaceted but have significant impact on the livelihoods and wellbeing of women and girls, such as climate change and the corresponding demand for circular economy practices.

This report provides an overview of progress with the implementation of the BDPfA in Nigeria, twenty - five years after it was adopted with a focus on the last five years (2015 – 2019). It contains a situational update on the priority areas of the BDPfA and highlights successes, challenges as well as the linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Methodology**

A knowledge synthesis approach was adopted to produce this report. This combined a review of numerous country reports, sector situation updates and studies with the feedback from a set of structured interviews with key government Agencies and a few civil society groups with representation across the six geopolitical zones. The reports in question were provided by the National Bureau of Statistics, the Office of His Excellency the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, various government Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as the United Nations Country team, the UK Department for International Development and other international organizations.

The hunter gathering method was used to read through workshop reports and reports of recent stakeholder consultative forums, organized by the FMWASD within the past two years. These

forums were convened as part of respective processes to discuss the revised National Gender Policy and the implementation status of the UNSCR 1325.

The hunter gathering process was complemented by a desk review of grey literature and secondary data. Documents reviewed include:

- The 2018 Statistical Report on Women and Men in Nigeria (National Bureau of Statistics).
- The 2017 Unemployment/Under Employment Report (National Bureau of Statistics)
- The National Human Rights Reports 2015 – 2017 (National Human Rights Commission)
- The 2018 Demographic and Health Survey Key Indicators Report (National Population Commission/USAID).
- 2015 MDGs National Report
- The National Economic Recovery Growth Plan 2017 - 2020
- The 2013 gender assessment of responses to HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (National Agency for the Control of Aids)
- The 2016/7 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (National Bureau of Statistics/UNICEF)
- The 2019 Fact sheet on women and girls (UN Women)
- The 2018 report on Gender and sustainable agriculture in Borno state (UN Women)
- The Human Development Indices and Indicators 2018 Statistical Briefing (UNDP)
- The 2017 GBV sub sector Annual Report (UNFPA)
- The 2012 Gender in Nigeria country report (British Council)
- The 2019 gender data portal (World Bank)
- The 2018 Global SDG report. ‘Turning Promises into action: Gender Equality in the Agenda for sustainable development’ (UN Women)

In order to sequence and harmonize all the available information, a narrative review methodology was used to identify achievements and challenges while identifying gaps in delivery and to propose entry points for further action, bearing in mind, national efforts to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A stakeholder validation workshop was convened to present a zero draft of the report and enable content related feedback from various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) from the national level and from the States; civil society organizations, women groups, the media and community - based organizations. The report was finalized after the stakeholder input from the validation meeting was integrated.

## SECTION ONE: OVERVIEW ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS (2015 – 2019)**

- Gender - specific law/policy reforms at Federal and State levels respectively (e.g. the VAPP Act and several state-level gender equality laws were passed into law and are being implemented).
- Implementation of aspects of UNSCR 1325. E.g. inclusion of women in councils of traditional rulers and periodic gender training for security sector agencies.
- Social investment budget formally introduced into government budget framework and sustained for past 3 fiscal years.
- Marginal upsurge in Women’s political participation, generally.
- Targeted actions to expand women’s engagement in the agriculture sector.
- Sector gender policies adopted in some key sectors such as agriculture.

### **MAIN SETBACKS (2015 – 2019)**

- Heightened gender-specific vulnerabilities due to insurgency in the North East.
- Reduction in numbers of women elected and appointed into political and public offices.
- Patriarchal customs and social norms still limit women’s access to productive resources, opportunities and choices.
- Consistently low budgetary allocation to gender equality and women empowerment.

#### 1.1. Major achievements

Within the past five years, Nigeria has made tangible progress in the following areas, when it comes to progress with gender equality and the empowerment of women:

- Equality and non - discrimination under the law
- Gender responsive social investment programming and budgets
- Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security
- Women’s entrepreneurship and women’s enterprises
- Digital and financial inclusion for women

Other achievements include:

- Concrete policy actions have been conceptualized and implemented towards improving women’s economic empowerment.
- Broad stakeholder collaboration on gender equality and women’s empowerment, including with men and boys have been introduced and sustained.

- There is ongoing and strengthened collaboration between policy makers and civil society, including groups whose work focuses on gender equality.
- Ongoing bilateral cooperation and knowledge sharing on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Several factors enabled the above accomplishments. These include the opportunity for policy continuity presented by a sustained transition to civilian rule; the resilience of women's rights advocacy group; and the ongoing support provided by the international organizations who collaborate with them. It is important to emphasize that the achievements of the past five years would not have been possible without the hard work and sustained engagement of women focused non - governmental organizations and women's rights activists within the academia.

**It is important to emphasize that the gains of the past five years would not have been possible without the resilience and hard work of women - focused NGOs and CBO's; gender focused networks and coalitions; and also women in the academia.**

*p. 15 of this report*

#### **1.1.1. Equality and Non-Discrimination under the Law.**

Nigeria's law and policy regime on gender equality traverses national laws and policies, regional policies and international treaties. In 2015, the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law was passed after 14 years of vigorous campaigning. The National Gender Policy has been disseminated across MDAs with the FMWASD playing a pivotal role in tracking its implementation within the public policy space. The Policy was approved by the Federal Executive Council in 2006 and revised in 2013. The country has ratified 9 out of the 13 major global human rights frameworks in existence, which have implications for the situation of women and girls (FMWASD,2015). These include: The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

Apart from the passage of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law in 2015, the Age Reduction Bill, which amends constitutional provisions about the minimum age

requirement to run for public office was also passed into Law. The implication of the latter is that young women and girls as well as young men from the age of 25 and above can run for political office. Several state level parliaments have also introduced some gender responsive laws into their respective states running. These are highlighted in Table 1 below.

There are several institutional arrangements are in place to ensure the implementation of the VAPP Act and the various gender – specific commitments, which Nigeria has signed up to. Some of them were established before the 5 - year reporting period. For instance, Ministries for Women Affairs and Gender have been established in each of the 36 states and a Social Development Secretariat in the Federal Capital Territory. Agencies such as the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in persons (NAPTIP) which deal with specific thematic issues that affect women and girls, have also been established and have offices at Federal and State levels respectively.

In order to ensure that gender issues are mainstreamed across sectors and that there is synergy between the FMWASD and all sectors, a gender focal unit system is in place. Within this system, gender focal persons have been appointed for each Federal Ministry, Department and Agency (MDA's).

**Table 1: List of some gender related legislation**

National/State	Name of Law
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act 2015</li> <li>• Child Rights Act 2003</li> <li>• Trafficking in persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003</li> </ul>
State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enugu State of Nigeria, Prohibition of Infringement of a Widow's and Widower's Fundamental Rights Law No.3, 2001</li> <li>• Rivers State Abolition of Female Circumcision Law No. 2, 2001</li> <li>• Edo State Female Circumcision and Genital Mutilation (Prohibition) Law NO. 4 of 1999</li> <li>• Oyo State Widows' Empowerment Law, 2002</li> <li>• Anambra State Malpractices against Widows and Widowers (Prohibition) Law 2004</li> <li>• Bauchi State Prohibition of Withdrawal of Girls from School for Marriage Law.</li> <li>• Ogun State Female Circumcision and Genital Mutilation (Prohibition) Law 2000</li> <li>• Women's Reproductive Rights Law of Anambra State 2005</li> <li>• Edo State Law on Safe Motherhood,</li> <li>• Rivers State Law on Reproductive Health 2003</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delta State Law on Female Genital Mutilation</li> <li>• Ekiti State Malpractices against Widows &amp; Widowers Law.</li> <li>• Harmful Traditional Practices Law of 2003, Rivers State.</li> <li>• Schools Rights (Parents, Children and Teachers) Law, No 2, 2005, Rivers State.</li> <li>• Street Trading Restriction Law, 2004, Anambra State</li> <li>• Gender and Equal Opportunities Law (Anambra State) 2007(passed by parliament, awaiting governor's assented)</li> <li>• Gender and Equal Opportunities Law (Imo State) 2007</li> <li>• Gender and Equal Opportunities Law (Kogi State) 2013</li> <li>• Imo State Violence against the Persons Law No. 2 2012</li> <li>• Enugu State HIV/AIDS Anti-Discrimination, Stigma &amp; Protection Law 2007.</li> <li>• Cross River State HIV/AIDS Anti-Discrimination, Stigma &amp; Protection Law 2007.</li> <li>• Legislations prohibiting early marriage (Kebbi and Niger States);</li> <li>• Retention in schools and Against withdrawal of Girls from schools (Kano, Borno, Gombe and Bauchi States);</li> <li>• Edo State Law against Trafficking.</li> <li>• Ekiti State Violence against Women Law</li> <li>• Admin of Estate (Small Payments) Law Lagos State 2004</li> <li>• Child Rights Laws passed in Anambra, Imo, Ebonyi, Nasarawa, Plateau, Ogun, Ekiti, Abia, Sokoto, Benue, Edo, Cross River (May 2009), Rivers (Not signed), Kogi, and Taraba States between 2004 and 2009.</li> <li>• A Law to Prohibit Girl-Child Marriages and Female Circumcision No.2 of 2000 by the Cross Rivers State Government.</li> <li>• A Law to Prohibit Domestic Violence against Women and Maltreatment of Widows. No.10 of 2004 by the Cross-River State Government.</li> <li>• Ebonyi State Protection against Domestic Violence Law No. 003 of 2005.</li> <li>• Edo State Inhuman Treatment of Widows (Prohibition) Law 2004.</li> <li>• Ebonyi State Abolition of Harmful Traditional Practices Against Women and Children Law No. 10 of 2001</li> <li>• Ekiti State Equal Opportunities Act</li> </ul>
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### 1.1.2. Gender responsive social investment programming and budgets

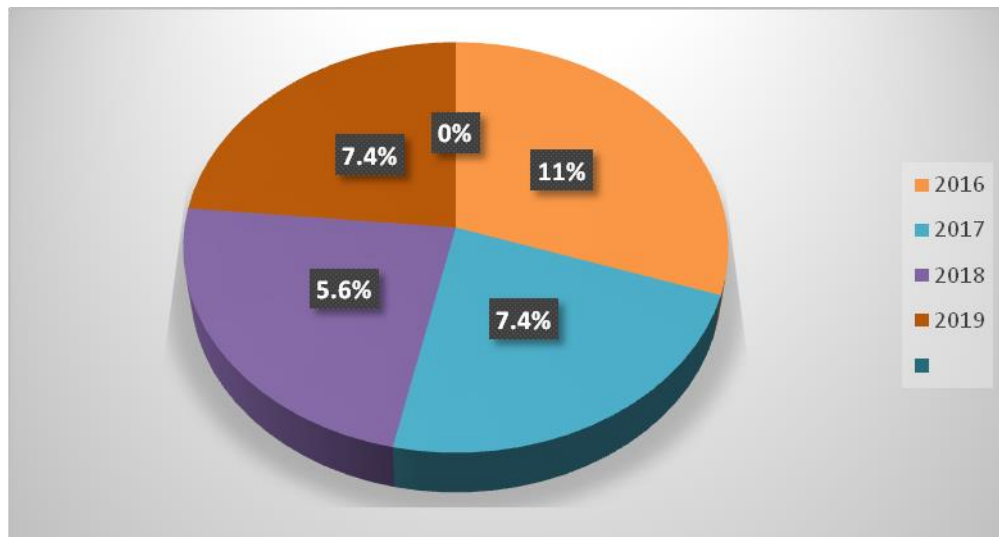
The BDPfA underscores the need for women's economic empowerment not just because of its value addition to individual women but also because of its implications for development at community, state and national levels respectively. The introduction, in 2016, of the Social Intervention Projects (SIP) budget line as part of the Federal Capital Budget represents a key gender milestone in macroeconomic planning and practice. With

an allocation estimate that has remained consistent at N500 billion per fiscal year from 2016 to 2019, the SIP budget has ranked within the top five capital budget provisions since it was introduced in 2016. The SIP budget is split between four programmes: The National Cash Transfer Programme; N - POWER; the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP) and the National Home-Grown School Feeding programme (NHGSFP).

The capital expenditure of the SIP budget has remained consistent at N150 billion per fiscal year from 2017 to 2019. There was a slight variation in 2016 when the sum was N200 billion. This represents 11% of the total capital budget in 2016, 7.4% in 2017, 5.6% in 2018 and 7.4% in 2019.

Even though the budgets awarded to the national and state gender machineries has remained consistently below 10% of capital budget projections within the period under review, there have also been several allocations per sector for interventions that were designed to address gender specific issues. Examples of this include support for the reduction of maternal mortality in the health sector budget; and funding for the training and input support to women farmers in the agriculture sector.

Figure 1: Share of Federal capital budget allocated to the SIP portfolio 2016 - 2019



### 1.1.3. Poverty reduction, agricultural productivity and food security

Also, women's economic empowerment through targeted support within the agriculture sector has also been sustained, over the past 5 years through different programmes that

aim to improve access to credit and general input support for women in agriculture. One example of this is the ‘Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprise’(LIFE)which was designed in response to expand livelihood options for women and youth in the communities. LIFE promotes community-based on-farm and off-farm business activities along key agricultural value chains as a mechanism for job and wealth creation amongst unemployed youth (FMARD, 2016). The ‘Anchor Borrowers Programme’ (ABP) was launched by the Central Bank of Nigeria in 2017 to facilitate interface between smallholder farmers (mostly women) and agro processors (described as anchors). The small-holder farmers supply their products to the agro-processor (anchors) who pay the cash equivalent to the farmers’ accounts.

The Agriculture Promotion Policy (2016 – 2020), which is the overarching sector policy includes women and gender as one of its key pillars. This is complimented by the sector Gender Policy.

In 2018, the Nigerian Government launched the ‘*Nigeria for Women Project*’ with support from the World Bank. The project focuses on creating an enabling environment for women to overcome institutional failures (including market) and barriers to enhance productive livelihoods and socioeconomic advancement, through the formation and strengthening of Women Affinity Groups (WAGs) with a strong livelihood focus to enhance household income. The support to WAGs and livelihoods support to members are being implemented following a graduation and phased approach to ensure beneficiary readiness to access and use resources offered by the project

#### **1.1.4. Marginal upsurge in women’s leadership and political participation.**

More women participated in the 2018 general elections as contestants, party agents, and as election observers/monitors. This is in line with a more generic trend post - BDPfA which indicates that more women have, within this period, become politically active in Nigeria and have participated at different stages in the electoral process. At the same time, challenges still remain when it comes to actually scaling through party primaries, due to the absence of internal party democracy and the increasing threat of violence against women who actually engage in the electoral process. For instance, women’s engagement as aspirants to political office increased from 3.2 in 2003 to 7.58 during the 2011 general elections, with 500 women actually winning their respective party nominations as candidates for the State and Federal Legislative houses. As at 2011, the Country exceeded the 30% global threshold for women’s participation for the first time, as female Ministerial appointees made up 31% of the Federal Executive Council.(FMWASD, 2015)

This surge in women’s political participation is due to a number of factors. These include: an emerging policy framework which reinforces the need for women’s access and engagement; high level advocacy, and mobilization by the national gender machinery; ongoing advocacy, enlightenment campaigns and training support by civil society; partnerships and collaboration between the national gender machinery, civil society and international organizations.

There have been efforts made to sustain and also build upon the above successes, a number of institutional and policy mechanisms have been put in place. One of these is the National Gender Policy which provides a 35% minimum threshold for women’s participation in politics whether in appointive or elective positions. A Nigerian Women’s Trust Fund has been established to provide technical and other resources to female political aspirants. Women’s political empowerment offices have also been set up in each of the country’s 6 geopolitical zones for purposes of ongoing interface with and support to women politicians in the states and rural areas. The ‘100 Women Lobby Group,’ which comprises women of influence at community, state and national levels respectively was set up just after the Beijing Conference to undertake regular advocacy for women’s visibility in leadership structures across all tiers of government. After a prolonged hiatus, the group was revived with the support of the FMWASD, working with civil society partners. The 100 Women Lobby Group continues to function at present and has membership and structures in the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory. The aim of this group is to address National issues and engage effectively with three tiers of government on women’s visibility and participation in governance, decision making and contestations for political office.

**Table 1: Percentage of women in Federal Parliament: 1999 - 2019**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF SEATS HELD BY WOMEN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF SEATS HELD BY WOMEN IN THE HOUSE OF SENATE</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>

**Source: UN Women**

#### **1.1.5. Broad stakeholder collaborative initiatives, on gender equality and women’s empowerment, including with men and boys have been introduced and sustained**

The role of men and boys in promoting gender justice is now a topical issue within the national discourse. In May 2017, the national ‘*HeForShe*’ campaign was launched by the

Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, in collaboration with UN Women. The aim of this campaign is to spread awareness among men and inspire action to eliminate discrimination against women and girls. Several high-level public office holders have signed up for this including His Excellency the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, several state governors, federal cabinet ministers, traditional chiefs and title holders, male clergymen and religious scholars as well as male captains of industry. State governments (e.g. Borno and Sokoto states) have also signed up to the *HeforShe* initiative.

#### **1.1.6. Strong Interface between the policy space and civil society including gender focused NGO's and coalitions.**

The interface between the Government of Nigeria and Civil Society continues to be robust. The National Gender Policy (NGP) identifies interaction between government *and civil society as one of its four key principles. The Policy provides in section 3.1.1. That: 'strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including civil society shall form part of the government's broad delivery strategies'*. Following the return to civilian rule in 1999, civil society and government began to interface more constructively. The former is recognized in overarching national development frameworks as a constituency that should form part of every national dialogue, policy formulation or review process. They have provided technical support to government led processes on gender equality and are regularly invited to participate in the monitoring and evaluation of gender equality programmes. The Development Partners Group on (GenderDPGG) has also helped to strengthen the interface between multilateral agencies, government agencies, CSOs and the private sector. The mechanism which is co-chaired by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development allows for critical discussions and information sharing on issues of gender equality and women empowerment.

#### **1.1.7. Ongoing Bilateral Cooperation, Knowledge Management, Information sharing, and Monitoring.**

Nigeria has several gender-focused cooperation agreements with international partners such as UN Women, UNFPA, IFAD, UNDP, UNODC, UNICEF, AfDB and the World Bank. These have all been extremely instrumental to delivering on the BDPfA and other national level commitments. The country has also volunteered for international and regional peer review processes, promoting shared learning with regional stakeholders, ensuring that sectors develop their respective annual monitoring and evaluation (M & E) sector plans and also improving access and content on the web portals of various Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

The consistent, institutionalized tracking of gender results in holistic manner and the coalescing of sector specific gender results into one national data base has remained a major challenge. However, within the period under review, the FMWASD has continued to work towards an improved research, documentation and dissemination regime. This has involved the creation of thematic data banks, strengthened media interface and the publication of periodic internal

reports. These efforts have also been complimented by civil society's documentation of experiences, milestones and best practices. These improved documentation and information sharing practices have led to increased positive reporting of women's contributions to national development and achievements in the media (FMWASD 2012).

The Ministry's social mobilization and advocacy campaigns are carried out using Guided Open Space Technology (GOST) methods where participants can moderate and drive group discussions in order to encourage ownership and interaction. In addition to the use of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, media activities are also employed through the Television. A national gender data bank containing sex disaggregated data from different sectors was also established in 2009.

The annual 'Committees of Women in Parliament' has created a platform for female parliamentarians to coalesce, share experiences, build alliances with male champions of change and call for more parliamentary slots for women.

Nigeria has also signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) on women's empowerment and gender equality with several international partners and other countries such as South Africa, the Gambia, Mali and Poland (National Ministerial Platform Report, 2013). These agreements are extremely valuable as they provide frameworks and opportunities for cross – country collaborative efforts and exchange programmes on issues relating to women, economic development, Child Rape and Trafficking, Child Labour, Girl-Child Education and Care for Persons with Disabilities, and juvenile justice administration.

The country participates regularly in global, regional and sub regional review meetings and shares context-specific trends through periodic implementation reports to the United Nations and the African Union.

## **1.2. Synergy with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Paragraph 3 of the Beijing Declaration underscores the commitment to advancing the goals of *'equality, development and peace for all women everywhere in the interest of all humanity'*. This has formed the basis for global and regional frameworks on women's human rights that have emerged since that time, including Goal 5 of the SDGs. The 14 indicators within Goal 5, to a very large extent, mirror the 12 critical areas of concern within the BDPfA. In terms of the country level efforts being made per indicator, the results are mixed as progress is more visible in some areas than in others. This is based on several reasons including a competing demand for the use of funds and competing national priority areas. Table 2 below provides a snapshot of specific actions being taken to address the SDG indicators as well as further actions to be taken.

Table 3: SDG Indicators on gender, corresponding country level actions and proposed further actions.

S/N	Indicator number	Indicator	Corresponding action(s) taken at country level	Further Actions to be taken
1.	5.1.1	Legal frameworks on gender equality and non - discrimination in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VAPP Act passed into law.</li> <li>State level laws in place as shown in Table 1 above.</li> </ul>	Monitor, track and document progress with the implementation of existing laws.
2.	5.2.1.	Share of women aged 15 years or older who experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner in the last year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing collaboration between the FMWASD and international partners (UNFPA, the Norwegian Government and others) to track, document and disseminate information in this area.</li> <li>EU/UN Spotlight Initiative to address and prevent GBV in selected states with key areas of focus being ending child marriage and FGM</li> <li>Collaboration between FMWASD and the GBV sub- sector working group to increase access to comprehensive and well-coordinated GBV response services including livelihood support for survivors in the North East.</li> <li>GBV shelters established in some state Ministries.</li> <li>Gender focal person</li> </ul>	<p>Establish referral centers in the 6 geopolitical zones and train professional support staff.</p> <p>Develop and institutionalize national GBV data base.</p> <p>Work with Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the SDGs (OSSAP- SDGs), UNODC and other partners to sustain ongoing campaign against GBV and extend it to rural communities.</p>

			<p>appointed for police force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender desk established in some police stations across the 6 geopolitical zones.</li> <li>• Free legal aid services provided by FIDA</li> </ul>	
3.	5.2.2.	Share of women aged 15 years or older who experienced physical or sexual violence from a non-intimate partner in the last year.	Same as number 2 above.	Same as 2 above
4.	5.3.1.	Share of women aged 20-24 who were married before 15 or in a union before 18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing national campaign by FMWASD and civil society to uphold constitutional provisions which prohibit girl - child marriage.</li> <li>• Regional advocacy partnership effort with UN Women to target traditional rulers and gatekeepers of custom across the 6 geopolitical zones.</li> </ul>	<p>Sustain community level advocacy and awareness raising.</p> <p>Sustain the national advocacy campaign against girl-child marriage.</p> <p>Collaborate with civil society groups in order to identify and prosecute specific cases for legal action</p>
5.	5.3.2.	Share of women aged 15 – 49 who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting. (FGM/C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laws against FGM/C in place at federal level and in most states.</li> </ul>	Track implementation of laws prohibiting FGM and generate periodic national scorecards showing progress with implementation at state levels.
6.	5.4.1.	Average time men and women spend on unpaid domestic and care work per day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2013, the FMWASD, working with the Federal Ministries of Education and Labour as well as civil society groups, with the support of international partners (such as Action Aid) formed a coalition to focus on advocacy around unpaid care in Nigeria and how to integrate that into</li> </ul>	Commission studies to establish a national baseline and sustain advocacy efforts.



			mainstream national economic discourse.	
7.	5.5.1	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments, ministerial positions and local government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with civil society and international partners to improve and increase women's participation in electoral processes is ongoing.</li> </ul>	Sustain advocacy for more gender sensitive internal political party regimes.
8.	5.5.2.	Proportion of women in managerial positions (female top managers and senior managers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action pending on this.</li> </ul>	Collaborate with private sector and international partners to generate country baseline and plan of action.
9.	5.6.	% of married women aged 15 – 49 years old who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations and reproductive healthcare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodic publication of National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) by National Population Council</li> </ul>	Continue national campaign on women's Sexual and reproductive health rights.
10.	5.6.2.	Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive healthcare and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisions on equal access made in the National Gender Policy.</li> </ul>	Engage the Ministry of Health, National Orientation Agency and other MDAs to develop and implement national plan of action
11.	5. A.1.	% of men and women who solely own land which is legally registered in their name.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land ownership in Nigeria is deeply rooted in customary rules and traditional practices. While it is possible to negotiate land for agricultural purposes for women in some communities, the issue of registered legal ownership is a particularly challenging and can only happen in the long term.</li> </ul>	<p>Adopt a phased approach to the issue of land rights, which will focus primarily on negotiating land for agricultural use for more women.</p> <p>Track and document progress made with securing access to land for women in agriculture.</p>
12.	5. A.2.	Number of guarantees to women's equal right to land ownership in the country's legal framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Land Use Act and the Constitution both guarantee equal access to land for men and women.</li> </ul>	FMWASD to collaborate with Federal Ministry of Agriculture and with the councils of traditional rulers to expand access to

				land for women in Agriculture
13.	5. B.2.	Proportion of individuals who own mobile phones by sex.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action pending on this</li> </ul>	Collaborate with private sector and OSSAP-SDG's to conduct national study and develop a national action plan to address identified gender gaps.
14	5. C.1.	Number of systems to track and make public, allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget performance monitoring framework in place and used by the Ministry of Finance (MOF) to generate annual sector budget performance results</li> </ul>	Engage the MOF and OSSAP-SDG's to integrate gender performance indicators in budget performance framework.

## 2. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN OF THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION.

### Area of Concern 1: Women and Poverty

Key issues highlighted by the BDPfA within this Area of Concern include: the existence of gender responsive macro - economic policies, gender equality in economic power sharing and the rate of emergence of female headed households within this area of concern.

<p><b>National macroeconomic policies specify that gender equality is a major pillar and contain specific gender targets. (E.g. the National Economic Recovery and Growth Plan).</b></p>	<p><b>Federal Ministry of Agriculture/CBN/BOI continue to target increased women's participation in agriculture by providing input support, training, and improved credit access.</b></p>	<p><b>Social investment budget in place from 2016 to date.</b></p> <p><b>Women-only micro credit schemes are being run by FMWASD (BUDFOW &amp; WOFEE)</b></p>
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### *Gender responsive macroeconomic policies*

- National Economic Recovery and Growth Plan comprises a total of 4 pillars. One of these pillars is 'promoting inclusive growth through social cohesion and social inclusion'.
- Social Investment Portfolio budget integrated in National budget from 2016 to date.
- While there are still several gaps in terms of performance and results, women's groups, research institutions and civil society as whole have regularly brought the voices and experiences of women and girls to bear in macroeconomic policymaking.

### ***Gender disparities in economic power sharing***

- The Nigeria for Women project managed by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development is facilitating women's access to improved livelihoods through targeted assistance following key principles of inclusion, objective targeting, transparency and accountability, enabling culture, and openness to learning.
- Establishment of 6 cottage industries in Ekiti, Abia, Cross Rivers, Delta and Sokoto states respectively (Federal Ministerial Platform Report, 2015).
- Without official title to land and property, Nigerian women have fewer economic options and virtually no collateral for obtaining loans and credit for economic activities (ICRW, 2008). Lack of collateral hinders women from accessing credit through informal and semi-formal credit institutions despite the high volume of credits at these institutions (FMWASD, 2015).
- There has been continuity with respect to the programmes put in place to improve credit access for women entrepreneurs. These include:

#### *i. BUDFOW and WOFEE*

The Business Development Fund (BUDFOW) and the Women Fund for Economic Empowerment (WOFEE) are two 'women only' micro credit funds which were established by the FMWASD in collaboration with the Bank of Industry. They have continued to run and to date, an estimated 6,200 women business cooperative groups are estimated to have accessed it so far (FMWASD, 2016).

#### *ii. Women component of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Fund (MSMEDF)*

The MSMEDF is domiciled in the Central Bank of Nigeria. It is a N200 billion Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development Fund to provide cheap and long-term financial resources for the development of the MSMEs sector in Nigeria (CBN, 2012). The CBN has proposed that 60% of this fund should target women entrepreneurs, when implementation commences. In order to enforce this gender specific commitment, the CBN appointed a gender focal person in 2016.

#### *iii. Youth and Women in Agriculture business Investment programme*

This programme has provided training and agribusiness start-up support to an additional 2,421 women/girls across 17 agricultural value chains, within the period under review.

#### *iv. The CBN Financial Inclusion Policy*

The CBN continues to implement its 2012 financial inclusion strategy which aims to ensure that a clear agenda is set for increasing both access to and use of financial services in Nigeria by 2020. The Financial Inclusion strategy presents a roadmap for increasing financial inclusion in Nigeria for women and other excluded groups from 36% to 70% by 2020.

Despite the improved efforts at expanding women’s economic opportunities, there are challenges to women’s access to these opportunities. These include:

- Low financial literacy and awareness among women.
- Eligibility criteria often so stringent that they tend to exclude a lot of the women from accessing existing opportunities for financial support.
- Low levels of participation by women in the development of guidelines for accessing credit support leads to the emergence of eligibility guidelines that tend to restrict rather than expand women’s access.
- Large numbers of women entrepreneurs are situated at ‘cottage industry’ level and many of the existing support excludes this level of business from accessing their funds.
- Micro finance banks which can provide support to women who do not qualify for other support charge high interest rates (7 – 8 % per month) and this further excludes potential female beneficiaries.
- Many existing opportunities tend to (directly or indirectly) emphasize formal education within the eligibility criteria thereby excluding the 36% Nigerian women without formal education but who may otherwise qualify for the available support.

### **Area of Concern 2: Education and Training for Women**

For this area of concern, the BDPfA prioritizes female literacy; investment in formal and non-formal education for women and girls; as well as gender disparities in science education.

<p><b>National Home - grown school feeding programme introduced in 2015 to incentivize enrolment and completion of primary school by male and female students from poor homes across Nigeria’s 6 geopolitical zones.</b></p>	<p><b>In 2018, the Federal Government began a 1year collaboration with the ‘<i>Education Cannot Wait</i>’ coalition (UNICEF, Save the Children &amp; Plan International) to provide safe and equitable access to education for 194,000 conflict-affected children – 52% of whom are girls.</b></p>	<p><b>Safe schools’ initiative to protect girls and boys in North Eastern Nigeria launched. (Federal Government/World Economic Forum on Africa/UN.</b></p>
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### ***Female Literacy***

- Nigeria’s adult female literacy rate stood at 61.4% in 2015 while the literacy rate for female youth at the same time stood at 62.1%.

- While this is the national average, it is important to highlight that there are regional disparities when it comes to the education of women and girls in Nigeria.
- For instance, out of an estimated 10 million ‘out of school’ children in Nigeria, a majority are girls, mainly in the majority-Muslim north. (National Statistical Report on Men and Women in Nigeria, 2018)).

In order to improve female literacy rates Nigeria has:

- Sustained the Universal Basic Education programme with offices in the 36 states and the FCT
- Established in 2015, the National Home - Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP) as part of the social intervention portfolio to incentivize enrolment and completion at basic education level by students from poor households. This is aimed, eventually at reducing the current national drop-out rates from primary school which is estimated at 30%. The NHGSFP provides one nutritious meal a day per child at primary school level. The program seeks to address the poor nutrition and health status of many children whose learning outcomes have been affected as a result of poverty.
- The NHGSFP is currently running in 16 out of the 36 state with plans to ensure its spread across the remaining states within the next two years. When fully realised, the NHGSFP aims to support States to collectively feed over 24 million school children which will make it the largest school feeding programme of its kind in Africa.
- Collaborated with the UNICEF and DFID to implement the Girls’ Education Programme to boost girls’ participation in education in Northern Nigeria. The Program’s interventions have taken a holistic view of education, working simultaneously within schools and school functions, such as establishing school-based management committees and reviewing teaching materials, and in the wider community including awareness-raising and promoting synergies between girls’ education and poverty alleviation. It operates in 720 schools across six states in the North East and North West regions where many girls do not go to school and many more drop out early. The states are Bauchi, Borno, Niger, Sokoto, Jigawa, and Katsina. Non-formal learning centers have been supported alongside the GEP schools to provide income generation skills to out-of-school girls and women. (UNFPA, 2018).

### ***Non - formal education***

The Government of Nigeria has further sought to expand access to vocational training for girls and women through:

- The establishment of a vocational skills curriculum and training programme, which is managed by the National Centre for Women’s Development. In the first quarter of 2019 alone, the Centre graduated 781 trainees in vocational courses including cosmetology and beauty therapy; Interior decoration and art; catering; hospitality and tourism. Graduates from this programme are usually provided with a starter pack comprising equipment and

tools to enable them set up small businesses. They are also provided with periodic mentoring and oversight support.

- The Agency for Mass Literacy which has offices in the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. This Agency has oversight over centers for Nomadic Education, Continuing Education, Quranic Integrated Education Vocational Education and Prison Education. In addition, some key policies which target improved access to education for women and girls have been put in place. These are enumerated in table 3 below.

#### ***Gender disparities in science education***

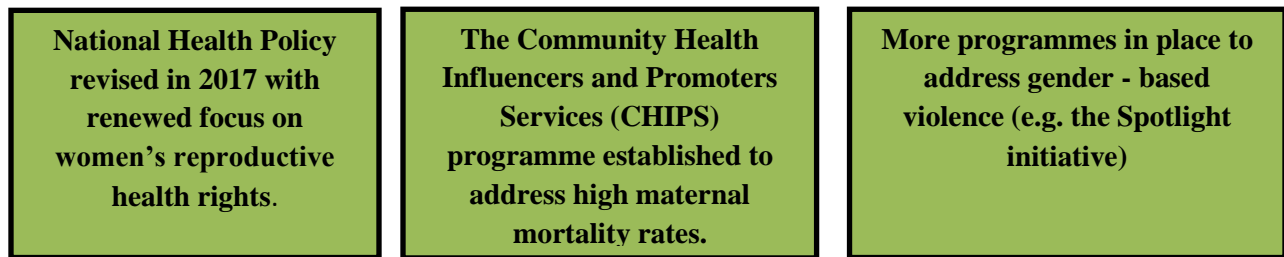
- 39.3% of females enrolled for university education between 2016 and 2018 were enrolled in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics. (FME, 2018)
- (STEM) One of the initiatives designed to address this issue is the African Development Bank (ADB) Assisted Skills Training and Vocational Education Project. The project was initiated to assist the Federal Government of Nigeria to restructure its supply-driven vocational and technical education (VTE) system into a demand-driven system that responds to the countries growing private sector. It was packaged to upgrade 5 Federal Science and Technical Colleges, 2 Teacher Training (Technical) Institutes, 2 nomadic non-formal vocational training centers, and 1 women's vocational training center to improve their effectiveness and efficiency. These institutions will serve as demonstration centers to promote nationwide education reforms in the VTE sub-sector.

#### ***Responding to the distortions in education access for women and girls in North Eastern Nigeria***

More recently, the emerging insurgency threat in parts of Northern Nigeria has led to the closure of several schools while Government continues to explore mechanisms for improving access for girls (and boys) who are most affected by this turn of events. One of these is the collaboration between the Federal Government and UNICEF, (the G4G initiative) which has established girls' primary schools in some communities in the northern part of the country. The G4G Initiative is a component of the Girls' Education Project Phase 3 being implemented in northern Nigeria to help support girls to remain in school and improve their learning achievement.

Another initiative targeting female literacy in the North East is the 'safe schools initiative'. This was launched in 2015 by the Federal Ministry of Education in partnership with the Office of the UN Special Envoy for Education, the United Nations Development Programme, the Multi Partner Trust Fund office and the Nigerian Global Business Coalition for Education. The initiative was launched at the World Economic Forum in Abuja, in the aftermath of the abduction of the 200 Chibok schoolgirls and the frequent and violent attacks of terror against girls and boys. The "Safe School Initiative" entails a combination of (1) school-based interventions; (2) community interventions to protect schools; and (3) special measures for at-risk populations.

### **Critical Area 3: Women and Health**



This critical area focuses on access to primary healthcare, gender responsive health policies and budgets; HIV/AIDS and other transferrable diseases; need and demand for family planning; as well as sexual and gender - based violence.

#### ***Access to and use of primary healthcare***

- The National Primary Healthcare Development Agency continues to work towards ensuring primary healthcare delivery across communities and villages where healthcare access is most challenging.
- Primary healthcare centres which were established in each of the 774 local government areas in Nigeria continue to operate. Their primary functions are to deliver preventive medicine and health-care services at grass root level; ensure exclusive breast-feeding practice; introduce free immunization to children; encourage the use of oral rehydration therapy by nursing mothers; make compulsory the recording of maternal deaths; encourage continuous nationwide vaccination; and facilitate effective HIV/AIDS campaigning.
- The Midwives Services Scheme (MSS), is jointly run by the National Primary Healthcare Agency and the OSSAP-SDGs Fund. The MSS seeks to ensure higher quality care at primary health clinics, particularly rural facilities in underserved LGAs. Intended as a partnership among the three tiers of government, the MSS initiative deploys newly qualified, unemployed, and retired midwives to rural communities for one-year stints. Midwives are posted to selected primary care facilities that have the capacity to provide basic essential obstetric care, “clustered” around secondary care facilities that can provide emergency obstetric care. Salaries are paid by the federal government, supplemented by an additional stipend from state governments and accommodation provided by LGAs<sup>5</sup>. So far, 4000 midwives have been deployed to 1,000 primary health care centers.

- The NPHCDA has also, within the period under review established the Community Health Influencers, Promoters and Services (CHIPS) programme to integrate all existing community-based health services and personnel. This approach promotes efficiency by ensuring the use of a harmonized database of community-level human resource for health across all levels of government. The CHIPS programme is expected to reduce the particularly high maternal mortality (33,000 per annum according to the FMOH) and infant mortality rates (540,000 per annum), by tackling some of the preventive causes of these issues.

There are some challenges in terms of linking the PHCs and other levels of care, which the Federal Ministry of Health is currently partnering with the European Union to identify and address. These include:

- The challenge of linking comprehensive and maternal health services to efficient referral systems.
- Lack of sufficiently skilled personnel, drugs, equipment, vehicles and other supplies.

#### ***Gender responsive health policies and budgets.***

- The revised National Health Policy (2017) lays emphasis on primary healthcare as the bedrock of the national health system in addition to the provision of financial risk protection to all Nigerians particularly the poor and vulnerable population (FMOH, 2018).
- Other areas of focus within the revised policy include ensuring the reduction of maternal and child mortality, wider immunization coverage and better control and prevention of public health emergencies. The priority areas of the revised health policy are areas which have implications for women's health rights. The key challenge at this point, has to do with state level implementation and developing a context monitoring framework to track policy results.
- The country currently allocates 6.5% of the budget, for healthcare spending (FMOH, 2018). This is well below the 15% threshold that Nigeria pledged to spend when it signed the African Union's Abuja 2001 Declaration. It has yet to meet its obligation to spend the equivalent of US\$31.63 per capita. More recently, on 18 October 2011 at a Conference of Speakers from African Parliaments, Nigeria pledged to increase the budget allocation to 15% by 2015.

#### ***Need and Demand for Family Planning***

The 2018 National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) indicates that sexually active unmarried women are more likely to use a method of contraception than married women. 37% of sexually active unmarried women use a method of contraception, with 28% using a modern method. The



most popular method among these women is the male condom (19%), followed by withdrawal (5%). Three percent of sexually active unmarried women use the pill, while 2% use emergency contraception. The use of contraception increases with educational attainment, from 5% among women with no education to 19% among those with a primary education, 27% among those with a secondary education, and 33% among those with more than a secondary education. Women in the highest wealth quintile are more likely to use a method of contraception than those in the lowest quintile (33% versus 4%).

- According to the 2018 NDHS, 47% of the potential demand for family planning is being met. Both awareness and demand are being hindered by social norms which mute conversations around issues such as this.
- 19% of currently married women have an unmet need for family planning services, while 17% of married women are currently using a contraceptive method.
- Therefore, 36% of women have a demand for family planning at present. 17% of women use a method of family planning, with 12% using a modern method and 5% using a traditional method. (NDHS, 2018)
- The most popular methods are implants, injectables, and withdrawal (each used by 3%), followed by male condoms (used by 2%).
- The contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) varies with age, rising from 3% among women age 15-19 to a peak of 23% among women age 35-39 before declining to 13% among women age 45-49(ibid).
- Women in urban areas are more likely to use a contraceptive method than women in rural areas (26% and 10%, respectively).

### ***HIV/AIDS and other transferrable diseases.***

The 2018 National Demographic Health Survey suggests gender parity in HIV/AIDS awareness. An average of 94% of women and 95% of men have heard of AIDS. 73% of women and 78% of men age 15-49 know that consistent use of condoms is a means of preventing the spread of HIV. 85% of women and 86% of men know that limiting sexual intercourse to one faithful, uninfected partner can reduce the chance of contracting HIV. Finally, 71% of women and 74% of men know that both using condoms and limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner are means of preventing HIV.

Some of the efforts being made to further improve the country profile on this issue include:

- The Federal Ministry of Health continues to partner with the Center for Disease Control to supports the scale-up of high-quality HIV prevention, interventions including HIV treatment and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services.
- The Ministry is also working to improve and expand HIV counseling, testing, and TB/HIV integrated service delivery.

- Specific laboratory capacity building efforts have included the expansion of laboratory services to support the rapid scale-up of HIV treatment services as well as the establishment of a national reference lab capable of performing diagnostics for TB and other infectious and noninfectious diseases.
- CDC is also providing support for Phase II field evaluation of HIV rapid test kits and the development of the National Medical Sources: Population and Housing Census 2015, World Bank 2015, World Health Laboratory Strategic Plan.

#### **Area of Concern 4: Violence against Women**

**I – Report mobile app launched by NAPTIP to track cases of trafficking in persons.**

**Call to Action on Protection from GBV in emergencies adopted & signed on to by over 18 development partners. The 2018 – 2019 Road Map adopted also.**

**Women’s situation room established to track, document and address gender based violence during elections.**

Within this area of concern, the BPPFA focuses on sexual, physical and psychological abuse at the following four levels: domestic violence; non – intimate partner violence; GBV caused by human trafficking; and violence by the state or its agents.

Generally, nearly 3 in 10 Nigerian women have experienced physical violence by age 15 through either forced and early marriages or the physical, mental or sexual assault on a woman, (NDHS 2013). It is important to note that many cases of GBV in Nigeria are not documented as victims and survivors prefer not to speak out about their experiences due to the fear of being stigmatized and blamed by society. Available data on GBV occurrence rates, therefore, is at best tentative.

Several efforts at addressing gender - based violence (GBV) are ongoing. These include

- The establishment of shelters for victims and survivors of GBV. This has been initiated at both governmental level by the FMWASD in the country’s six geopolitical zones and at non - governmental level by women focused civil society groups in Lagos and Enugu states. The civil society groups include the Project Alert on Violence Against Women, the Women Aid Collective (WACOL) and the Mirabel Centre.
- Laws and policies which address this issue have been put in place. These include: The Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (2015), the National Gender Policy and the Child Rights’ Act. The latter has been passed into law by 24 out of 36 States; the Draft Sexual Harassment Policy for Educational Institutions by Federal Ministry of Education; the Policy prohibiting Sexual Harassment in the workplace by Federal Ministry of Labor.

***Intimate Partner Violence***

- The 2018 National Demographic Health Survey estimates that the rate of sexual intimate partner violence among women currently stands at a prevalence rate of 16%.
- In addition, the prevalence rate for GBV among female children due to early marriage is 44%.

***Non – Partner Sexual violence***

- Non - partner sexual violence was estimated to have occurred at a national prevalence rate of 2% of adult women (NDHS, 2018).
- In addition to this, the prevalence rate for GBV as a result of Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting is 18%. (ibid)

***GBV perpetrated by Agents of the state***

- The Independent National Electoral Commission adopted a Gender Policy in 2015, to clarify what GBV means within the context of the electoral process and what steps have been put in place to prevent this from happening.
- The Nigeria Police had launched a Gender Policy in 2012 to check the occurrence of GBV within or by the Force through its officers.
- The women's situation room was established to track and document incidences of violence against women candidates, voters and in some cases, electoral officers. This information was made available through the Women's Situation Room. The Women's Situation Room was established by the FMWASD in collaboration with UN Women and have in the last two electoral cycles provided the space for women to track, document and address gender based electoral violence.

***GBV in the context of the North East***

- An estimated 7.1 million individuals need humanitarian assistance and protection in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states (UNFPA, 2018).
- Out of this estimate, 3.0 million people need GBV protection and response, which underscores the need to prioritize lifesaving GBV protection services and mainstreaming across humanitarian intervention sectors (ibid). The FMWASD is collaborating closely with the UNFPA and United Nations Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to reach 1.3 million women and girls with life-saving interventions to prevent gender-based violence and respond to the needs of survivors.
- The Call to Action on gender - based violence has been adopted with Nigeria as a pilot country to bring concerted attention and contribution of national and international humanitarian partners to bear to address and prevent GBV in North East Nigeria. To date, over 18 partners have signed on to the Call to Action.

- The Nigerian government is also in partnership with UNICEF and the European Union Trust Fund to provide transit centers for women and girls who were rescued from Boko Haram captivity by the Nigerian military. The transit center provides the survivors with psychosocial support and peer to peer support before they are taken either back to their homes or as in most cases, to a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

**Table 4: Showing levels of physical violence against women in Nigeria**

Background characteristic	Percentage who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 <sub>1</sub>	Percentage who have experienced physical violence in the past 12 months			
		Often	Sometimes	Often or sometimes	Number of Women
<b>Current age</b>					
<b>15 -19</b>	26.7	1.8	14.4	16.2	3,865
<b>20 – 24</b>	28.2	1.7	12.7	14.4	3,881
<b>25 – 29</b>	30.0	1.9	14.1	16.0	4,201
<b>30 – 39</b>	27.4	1.9	13.0	14.9	5,718
<b>40 – 49</b>	25.9	1.8	11.5	13.4	3,802
<b>Employed past 12 months</b>					
<b>Not employed</b>	23.2	1.3	11.6	12.9	7,726
<b>Employed for cash</b>	28.1	1.9	12.6	14.4	10,938
<b>Employed not for cash</b>	38.4	3.2	19.8	23.0	2,752
<b>Missing</b>	26.4	3.8	13.1	16.9	52
<b>Marital status</b>					
<b>Never married</b>	33.2	1.5	14.0	15.5	4,705
<b>Married or living together</b>	25.1	1.7	13.0	14.7	15,852
<b>Divorced / separated/ widowed</b>	44.0	5.7	11.7	17.3	910
<b>Number of living children</b>					
<b>0</b>	30.0	1.5	13.0	14.5	6,094
<b>1 -2</b>	27.3	2.0	12.7	14.7	5,665
<b>3 -4</b>	26.1	2.1	13.2	15.3	5,110
<b>5+</b>	26.8	1.9	13.7	15.6	4,598
<b>Residence</b>					
<b>Urban</b>	30.2	2.0	12.7	14.7	7,592
<b>Rural</b>	26.3	1.7	13.4	15.1	13,875
<b>Zone</b>					
<b>North Central</b>	31.0	2.5	17.5	20.0	3,176
<b>North East</b>	19.7	2.1	12.5	14.6	2,859
<b>North West</b>	13.1	0.5	5.9	6.4	5,446
<b>South East</b>	29.6	2.2	13.4	15.6	2,501

<b>South South</b>	52.1	3.0	20.9	23.9	3,342
<b>South West</b>	28.9	1.8	13.4	15.1	4,146
<b>Education</b>					
<b>No education</b>	14.9	1.3	8.6	9.9	8,033
<b>Primary</b>	35.6	2.8	17.4	20.2	4,308
<b>Secondary</b>	36.5	2.2	16.6	18.8	7,268
<b>More than secondary</b>	30.1	0.7	9.5	10.2	1,858
<b>Wealth quintile</b>					
<b>Lowest</b>	18.8	1.4	11.3	12.7	4,177
<b>Second</b>	21.3	1.8	10.9	12.7	4,123
<b>Middle</b>	29.3	2.0	14.0	16.0	4,075
<b>Fourth</b>	34.1	2.2	15.7	17.9	4,361
<b>Highest</b>	33.7	1.8	13.6	15.4	4,732

*Source: Gender Country report 2012*

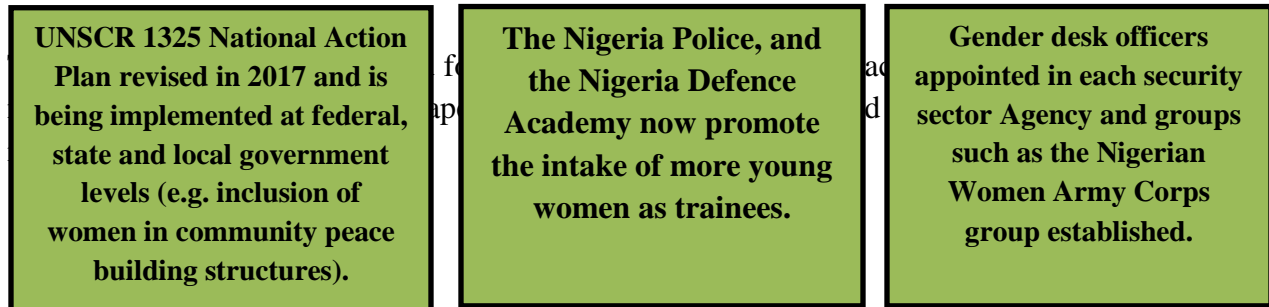
### **Human Trafficking**

Nigeria is a source, transit and destination country when it comes to human trafficking. According to the 2018 Global Slavery Index (2018) Report, Nigeria ranks 32/167 of the countries with the highest number of slaves (1,386,000). According to the National Agency for the prevention of trafficking in Persons, (NAPTIP) the average age of trafficked children in Nigeria is 15. NAPTIP further contends that 75% of those who are trafficked within Nigeria are trafficked across states, while 23% are trafficked within states. Only 2% of those who are trafficked are trafficked outside the country, according to NAPTIP.

- Since its creation in 2003, NAPTIP has secured convictions for 359 cases.
- In 2018 NAPTIP launched the i-report mobile application, which allows people to report cases of human trafficking within the country, in real time.
- NAPTIP has also partnered with the National Center for Women Development to establish skills acquisition centers for formerly trafficked women and girls who are rescued/deported and returned to Nigeria. These centers are present in each of the 36 states and the FCT.
- NAPTIP continues to partner with agencies such as UNICEF and UN Women to carry out public advocacy campaigns to improve public awareness around human trafficking generally, and its implications for women and girls within the context of national development.

- In 2019, NAPTIP set up an offender's register in order to name and shame sex offenders and traffickers. This is meant to reduce the menace of human trafficking and sex slavery.

### **Area of Concern 5: Women and Armed Conflict**



#### ***Women's participation in peace, security and conflict resolution***

In 2017, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, with support from UN Women and the European Union, launched the revised National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325. The revised NAP focuses on women's participation in security sector governance within the following 5 key pillars:

- i. Prevention and Disaster preparedness
  - ii. Participation and representation
  - iii. Protection and prosecution
  - iv. Crises management, early recovery and post conflict reconstruction.
- The revised NAP contains a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework for which the National Technical Working Group is expected to play a critical role.
  - A national advisory committee comprising representatives from different security agencies (including the police, the road safety commission, the Nigerian Navy, the Nigerian Armed Forces, the Nigerian Prison service, etc.) meets every quarter to review implementation progress.
  - One of the unique features of the revised NAP is the inclusion of zonal master plans for each of the 6 geopolitical zones. The zonal master plans were developed using the same framework as the national plan with priority actions, outcomes, indicators baseline information and targets per geopolitical zone clearly identified.
  - The NAP also enabled the development of a training Manual on '*Gender Sensitive Early Warning and Response Strategies in Northern Nigeria*', in 2018. It seeks to strengthen the skills of community women leaders, traditional and religious leaders, women peace

mentors and relevant state institutions in peacebuilding processes and to enhance the space for their contribution to peace and security in the affected states

- Each of the states have disseminated the NAP at state level. Delta state has produced 3 action plans in 3 local government areas with 6 more in view. Jigawa, Taraba, Niger, Sokoto, Abia, Kano, Enugu, Edo, Ogun and Borno states have had several stakeholder consultations. Bayelsa, Gombe, Adamawa and Plateau states have developed their respective State Action Plans.
- The Nigerian Army Women Corps group was also established as part of the UNSCR implementation mechanism.
- Also, some security sector agencies have taken steps to upgrade the participation of women in their operations and ensure gender responsive institutional practices. For instance, the Nigerian Police, and the Nigerian Defence Academy now organize periodic training on gender for their officers and promote the intake of more young women as trainees. However, women still form less than 10% of senior level cadre within the security sector.

#### **Area of Concern 6: Women and the Economy**

<p><b>Within the past 5 years, female technocrats have been consistently appointed to cabinet level, economic decision - making positions.</b></p>	<p><b>The GEEP and TRADER MONI initiatives were launched as part of the social protection budget, to promote ease of access to micro credit for women in business.</b></p>	<p><b>The N-POWER initiative was introduced in to re - train female and male graduates in order to match their skills to emerging demands in the labour market. At least 60% female beneficiaries.</b></p>
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The BDPfAs focus here is on women's participation in economic policy making; the use of gender disaggregated data and gender analyses to set gender targets in macroeconomic polices; gender and taxation; and women's access to means of production such as land and credit support.

#### ***Women's participation in economic policy making***

Women are gradually becoming more visible in economic policy making especially at federal level particularly since 1999 when Nigeria returned to civilian rule. From that time, the Federal Ministry of Finance has been led through successive regimes by female technocrats.

- With the elevation of the Federal Budget Office to the status of a Ministry for Budget and National Planning in 2015, a female technocrat was also appointed as, Minister of State for Budget and National Planning. The Minister of State is a federal cabinet position, the

second ranking officer in the Ministry and plays a supporting as well as a deputizing role to the substantive Minister.

- A female legal luminary and technocrat, Mrs. Maryam Uwais currently coordinates the Special Intervention Programmes portfolio within the Vice President's office. She is responsible for coordinating the SIP team and providing overall technical, strategic direction for the implementation of Nigeria's social protection budget and programmes.
- The implementation of the SDGs is overseen by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the SDGs Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, a former deputy governor of Lagos state.
- The National Economic Council is tasked by the Third Schedule, Part I, Section 153 Constitution, with coordinating the economic planning and programmes of the various Governments of the Federation. It comprises the 36 state governors and the governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) who meet on a monthly basis. The Council is male dominated as female representation will depend to a large extent on the emergence of women as state governors.
- Also, a 7-person National Economic Management Team, provides specific thematic advice to the Federal government on specific economic issues. The team, which is chaired by His Excellency, the Vice President also includes the Minister of Finance, who is female even though there is no policy requirement to include a woman as a member.

***The use of gender disaggregated data and gender analyses as a basis for gender targets in macroeconomic policy making.***

- A number of studies around women and the economy have been carried out by research institutions and civil society organizations within the review period.
- The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has also within the past decade begun to include gender specific indicators in its more generic economic reports such as the periodic unemployment and economic performance reports.
- The National Center for Women Development (NCWD), which is a parastatal within the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, also established a national gender data bank in 2006. The data bank is still being managed by the NCWD and has continued to generate gender disaggregated data on several thematic issues including governance and politics.



Despite the above efforts the challenge of institutionalizing the collection, dissemination and updating of gender disaggregated data is still a major one. Also, the modalities for linking such data with a very dynamic policy space in a timely manner such that macroeconomic policy targets and planning clearly reflect updated disaggregated data remains a challenge.

### ***Gender and Taxation***

The tax system in Nigeria has been undergoing a series of reforms within the past decade. These have been structured mainly to address tax administration and evasion with a view towards steering the Nigerian economy from oil revenue dependence. There are some gender disparities within the tax regime which need to be addressed (Okojie,2018).

- Due to the fact that the majority of working women in Nigeria are self - employed in the informal sector and also tend to occupy the lower levels in the wage sector, they are situated outside the income tax net or at the lower levels of the tax base (ibid).
- As a result of this, men are likely to bear a greater proportion of the income tax paid. Under the personal income tax system, children's allowances are expected to be claimed by the husband if he is not legally separated from his spouse.
- A widow is only entitled to 20% of the tax relief per child for children born to her late husband only.
- Furthermore, majority of self-employed women with makeshift shops or none at all are not likely to benefit from the various expense allowances provided for in the income tax law such as reliefs from interest rate on capital (women have limited access to capital), rent and premiums on lands and buildings occupied for purposes of earning income, and expenses on repairs of buildings and equipment. Women also keep poor records of purchases and receipt which can be used for income tax exemption purposes.

This is an emerging area of concern in the Nigerian context and is yet to be addressed from a holistic policy reforms perspective.

### ***Women's access to means of production***

Women contribute to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace. Despite these contributions however several gender specific disparities exist as far as the country's economic indices are concerned.

- In 2018, the Federal Government, through the FMWASD and in partnership with the World Bank designed the '*Nigeria for women project*'. This is a pro-poor program specifically targeted at marginalized and disadvantaged women in rural and peri-urban communities with the overall objective of supporting women's improved livelihood opportunities in selected communities across Nigeria's 6 geopolitical zones. Program implementation is in its first phase
- Nearly six million young women and men enter the labour market each year but only 10% can secure a job in the formal sector, and just one third of these are women. Significant rural-urban differences in income distribution impact particularly on women, because 54 million of Nigeria's 80.2 million women live and work in rural areas, where they provide 60-79% of the rural labour force. (British Council, 2012).
- Though many women are involved in subsistence agriculture and off farm activities, men are five times more likely than women to own land. Women own 4% of land in the North-East, and just over 10% in the South-East and South-South (ibid). Land ownership and land tenure give women security and provide a key to access other resources and opportunities.
- The level of provision of social services in Nigeria is generally less than the demand for these services. Ultimately the impact of these inadequacies on women is greater because they are primary managers and caregivers at the household level and therefore often must bear the burden of coping under very difficult circumstances.

Some of the key gender features in relation to the Nigerian economy were highlighted in the 2012 Country Gender Report and in the 2018 NBS survey on 'The situation of men and women in Nigeria'. They are:

**Nigerian labour markets are gendered. A majority of those in formal employment are men.** NBS data (NBS, 2018) confirm that in 2007 only 32.5% of women were employed in the (non-agricultural) private sector.

**Women run only 20% of enterprises in the formal sector**

(World Bank, 2009). 23% of these enterprises are in the retail sector. Women make up 37% of the total work force in the garment industry. They are very poorly represented in the wood, metals, chemicals, construction, and transport industries. In general, the report finds that more women are in the formal sector in the South than in the North, and that the rate of female entrepreneurship in the micro sector is higher in the more industrialized States of the South (36%) than in the North (23%). This suggests that many of the opportunities for micro-enterprises are linked to the formal manufacturing sector.

**Limited opportunities for employment and a rather small medium-scale enterprise sector have meant that micro or informal enterprise has become a default strategy for many Nigerians.**

A majority of the 43% of women cited as economically inactive make their living through micro-enterprises. The recently completed “2010 Access to Financial Services in Nigeria” shows that owning a business has become the main source of income for 19.5 million adult Nigerians (EFInA, 2011). 23% of the respondents in this survey indicated “own business” as the main source of income, ahead of farming (18.7%) and wage employment (12.6%). The importance of micro-enterprises as the main source of income makes it a strategic area for the empowerment of women. Recent work (World Bank, 2009: 92) shows that women in the micro-enterprise sector tend to be better educated, and that more of them report vocational and graduate education compared to men. There are suggestions that barriers to both formal employment and opportunities for formal enterprise may in part explain this (Kwakwa *et al.*, 2008). Also, ethnographic work suggests that women play an active role in market associations (Porter *et al.*, 2010).

**Access to finance**

Data from the NBS (2009) show that men are twice as likely to secure finance compared to women. In 2007, for example, some 20,098 men accessed loans compared to 8,550 women. About 64% of the N528, 251 of disbursed loans went to male applicants. Some of the reasons behind this include stringent prequalification criteria and disconnect between available opportunities and women in the rural areas. It was in response to this, that the FMWASD established the BUDOW and WOFEE funds (discussed on page 24 of this document). This disparity is also currently being addressed by the GEEP programme within the Social investment programmes portfolio, launched in 2016 (discussed on page). So far, 350,000 small and medium enterprises (mostly women) have benefitted from the federal government's interest free loan provided through the GEEP programme.

**Women's access to land, a key productive asset, is limited**

Although the Nigeria Land Administration Act is egalitarian on paper, further work is required to operationalize the Act as the predominant practice is patrilineal inheritance (from father to son). Also, in line with the provisions of the Land Use Act, there is the need to re-allocate lands to women and men at community level in cases where farmlands are taken over by the Local Government for other approved industrial purposes.

**Women are significantly under-represented in secure wage employment in both the private and public sectors.**

Those who have formal sector jobs are constrained by the reproductive roles they play. As a result, many women occupy low level posts that offer them the flexibility they need to manage their households while working in the formal sector. They spend most of their time doing unpaid household work. One of the laws which has been passed to promote women's participation in the

formal economy is the Labour Standards Law, which was passed in 2010. It includes a 16-week maternity leave provision for women in the federal public service as well as the private sector. This is in line with Convention 183 (Maternity Protection Convention, 2000) which recommends a **minimum** of 16 weeks maternity leave for women. At state level, the Kaduna state government, in 2019, extended the maternity leave period for female civil servants to six months.

### **Area of Concern 7: Women, Governance, Power and Decision Making**

<p><b>More women appointed as career diplomats and Permanent secretaries in Federal Ministries.</b></p>	<p><b>Marginal rise in number of women judges appointed to appellate courts and courts of first instance.</b></p>	<p><b>In 2015 Nigeria had exceeded the 30% threshold for female appointees in the Federal cabinet</b></p>
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The BDPfA focuses here on women in parliament, and women in ministerial positions. This thematic area has also been covered in 1.1.2 of this report.

The process of ensuring increased women's involvement in governance, power and decision making is still work in progress, even though there have been significant gains over the past two decades. Nigerian women constitute about half of the population of the country. But despite their numerical strength and active participation as campaign agents, mobilizers and most faithful voters at every election, they have always faced challenges and resistance when efforts were made by them to participate in politics or to be politically empowered. Table 1 above provides information on the number of women elected to public office from 1999 to 2019.

- As at 2015, female Ministers made up 31% of the Federal cabinet.
- At the level of the Judiciary, the Chief Justice of the Federation and the President of the Court of Appeal are women.
- 16 out of the 25 recently appointed Judges of the Court of Appeal are also women; while 3 women were appointed justices of the Supreme Court for the first time in the country's history in 2012.
- Also, 6 female judges have been appointed to the National Industrial Court. (Federal Ministerial Platform Report, 2015). Within the past five years, Nigeria has also recorded marginal increments in the numbers of women appointed as ambassadors (10 female Ambassadors) and permanent secretaries (11 female Permanent Secretaries)

- As part of efforts to encourage more women to participate in politics, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, in collaboration with the then OSSAP MDGs established a Women's Trust Fund to provide support to female politicians bidding for elective offices. This Fund, which was launched in 2011, remains active to date and continues to support female aspirants with technical and operational assistance in areas such as messaging, leadership skills development, conducting research and generating information. The fund as well as other women focused Ngo's and groups, continues to advocate for increasing both the numbers and quality of women's political participation.
- Also, in response to ongoing advocacy efforts, many political parties have institutionalized fee waivers for women intending to compete in general elections.

### **Area of Concern 8: Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women**

<p><b>Gender units and gender focal point system sustained in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies at federal and state levels.</b></p>	<p><b>Over twenty states have passed and are currently implementing various gender specific laws (see table 1)</b></p>	<p><b>Some critical International frameworks on women And children have been Domesticated and are Being implemented</b></p>
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Within this area, the BDPfA emphasizes the establishment of a central coordinating unit on gender within government, to be led by a cabinet Minister; and the institutionalization of gender analyses processes as part of government policy making.

- The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development is Nigeria's central coordinating unit on gender issues within the government.
- In line with critical area 8, the Ministry is managed by a Federal Cabinet level Minister at federal level and in the states by Commissioners of Women Affairs who also have state level cabinet status.
- Integrating a gender analyses system within public policy making processes remains a challenge even though some Line Ministries have undertaken gender studies on an adhoc basis.

- Apart from ongoing law and policy reforms, the focal point system approved by the Federal Executive Council, (in 2011) has been sustained and is still active. This system establishes Gender Units in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and the appointment of the Directorate Cadre to head such units.
- One of the key challenges to achieving gender equality in Nigeria is the existence of a tripartite legal system that accommodates civil, religious and customary laws
- An attempt to effectively harmonize these laws was made in 2006 when the office of the Attorney General of the Federation instituted a Committee on Reform of Discriminatory Laws against Women. The report of this committee formed the basis of the “*Abolition of all forms of Discrimination against Women in Nigeria and Other Related Matters Bill 2006*”, which is before the National Assembly for enactment into law.
- Another challenge is the acceptance of some forms of gender discrimination as cultural norms and the use of violence to maintain patriarchal hegemony. The gender specific paradigms which have resulted from these limitations will require sustained advocacy in the long term, in order to ensure notable gender equality shifts in Nigeria.

### **Area of Concern 9: Human Rights of Women**

<p><b>Some of the major commitments in CEDAW incorporated into the 2015 VAPP Act; Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities Prohibition Act 2018</b></p>	<p><b>9 out of 13 global human rights frameworks ratified.</b></p>	<p><b>Child Rights Act passed into law at Federal level and in 24 states and is being implemented.</b></p>
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This area of concern focuses on the ratification and domestication of international human rights Conventions especially those that have implications for women’s access, and choices.

Nigeria has ratified 9 out of the 13 major global human rights frameworks in existence. They are:

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (04-1-69)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (29-10-93)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (29-10-93)
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (13-7-85)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (28-7-01)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (19-4-91)

- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (08-9-00)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (08-9-00)

2 out of these have been domesticated or integrated as part of the country's national and state laws. These are the Protocol to prevent trafficking in persons and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 was adopted by the Federal Executive Council while some aspects of CEDAW were integrated in the VAPP Act.

- The African compliment to the UN declaration on Human Rights (UNDHR) is contained in the African Charter on Human and People's Rights which was adopted by OAU (now AU) member states in 1981.
- The Charter is unique to the extent that it addresses some of the limitations in access and opportunities that are contextual to the African continent because of factors such as patriarchy, religion, and cultural beliefs. For instance, in Article 18(3) the Charter provides that *'The State shall ensure the elimination of every discrimination against women and also ensure the protection of the rights of the woman and the child as stipulated in international declarations and conventions which are a product of cultural, religious and social factors...'*
- The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (also referred to as the Maputo Protocol) was conceptualized as a way of providing further clarity to what exactly the state is expected to do in order to prevent and eliminate discrimination against women.

In 2018 the annual Human Rights Watch report identified farmer/herder conflicts and the Boko Haram insurgency as the two leading causes of women's human rights abuses in Nigeria between 2017 and 2018. However, many of the breaches in women's human rights are underreported and therefore not documented especially in the area of economic social and cultural rights. For many of these ECOSOC rights, issues such as patriarchy and cultural norms tend to limit women's access and opportunities even as the national law and policy context does not leave much room for redress or remedial action when there have been breaches. This is a major deficit within Nigeria's architecture for the protection for rights protection as more women by virtue of their roles as primary care givers and managers at the micro level are affected when ECOSOC rights are not enforced.

Some of the institutional mechanisms which currently exist in order to safeguard and advance the human rights of men and women in Nigeria include:

- The establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, the Legal Aid Council, and the Directorate for Citizens' Rights which has been established in some states.
- The production of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill which currently awaits passage in the National Assembly.
- The passage of the Prohibition of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities Act 2018
- The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN). The CFRN covers many of the rights that are identified within both international and regional human rights paradigms. Chapter four of the Nigerian Constitution 1999, which is also known as known as the 'Fundamental Rights' Section of the Constitution has extensive provision on Human Rights. The following rights, which are covered in chapter 4, apply to both women and men:
  - Right to life, S.33(1)
  - Right to Dignity of Human Person, S.34(1)
  - Right to Personal Liberty, S.35(1)
  - Right to Fair Hearing, S.36(1)
  - Right to Private Family Life, S.37
  - Right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion, S. 38(1)
  - Right to Peaceful Assembly and Association, S.40
  - Right to Freedom of Movement, S. 41(1)
  - Right to Freedom from Discrimination, S. 42(1)
  - Right to Acquire and Own immovable property anywhere in Nigeria, S.43
- Chapter 2 of the Constitution deals with Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, also known within the human rights paradigm as ECOSOC rights. It provides in section 14 that every Nigerian (male and female) has the right to security and welfare of the people as this is the primary purpose of government. Other areas covered in chapter 2 include the right of women and men to economic development [section 16(2) (a)]; the right to freedom from employment related discrimination for women and men [section 17(3)]; and the right to equal educational opportunities at all levels [section 18]. The provisions in chapter 2 are not enforceable in a court of law but rather serve as an indicative guide for all Nigerians. Chapter 4 however can be enforced via an application brought before a State High Courts by an aggrieved party.



### **Area of Concern 10: Women and the Media**

**1<sup>st</sup> women's radio station established (WFM 91.7) to challenge gender stereotyping in media reportage & present issues from the perspectives of different categories of women.**

**The Smart Woman' App which was earlier developed by the ICT Ministry was adopted across other sectors to improve women's access to information around issues such as business opportunities, credit access, and women's health.**

**Targeted programmes being championed by the Federal Government to reduce the country's gender digital divide. E.g. the '1000 girls in training' programme.**

This area of concern emphasizes the elimination of gender stereotyping in media reportage; and, women's access to alternative sources of information through new technologies of communication.

#### ***Gender stereotyping within the media***

The media the world over and Nigeria in particular, tend to increase women's vulnerability to gender discrimination by feeding into discriminatory stereotypes about women's roles and value to society. In several instances stories about the rich tend to dominate media headlines, which systematically excludes the poor of which 70% are women.

- The FMWASD has collaborated with international partners such as the UNDP and with civil society organizations working with the National Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), to address the gender stereotyping of female aspirants to political office.
- Part of this outreach has involved organizing gender training awareness training for senior management teams and proprietors of major media establishments. However, this is an area that requires some further effort, which needs to be sustained over a long-term period.
- In response to the lack of women targeted programmes on Radio, and to the stereotypical presentation of women and their issues in the media, the first women's radio station (WFM91.7) was established during this reporting period. WFM 91.7 is a tool for development which focuses on presenting issues and entertainment from the perspectives of women themselves.
- The FMWASD has also been involved in systematic efforts to integrate media participation in all gender equality and women empowerment initiatives. This is being

done through media training, inclusion of media representatives as participants in all activities and programmes.

### ***Access to new technologies of communication***

The gender digital divide in Nigeria currently stands at an estimated 76.2%, with women and girls enjoying less access to information technology than men and boys. (FMF, 2013)

Some of the factors responsible for this disparity include lower levels of computer literacy, social norms which steer women and girls away from interest in the communications technology sector, as well as non-availability of ICT infrastructure in some states and local government areas.

- Within this current reporting period, the Smart Woman' App was disseminated and adopted across other sectors (such as the Agriculture sector) to improve women's access to information around issues such as business opportunities, credit access, and women's health.
- The "Smart Woman Nigeria initiative was launched by the Federal Ministry of Communication Technology in collaboration with US-based social enterprise, ChangeCorp and the Association of 'Women in Management and Business' (WIMBIZ). "Smart Woman Nigeria" is a software designed to provide low- to middle-income urban and high-income rural women business with ready access to relevant to women's health and business support opportunities in order to promote work/life balance.
- Two of the Ministry's earlier programmes also continued to run during this reporting period. The '1000 Girls in Training' Programme which seeks to create an ICT talent pool with a commitment from Huawei to recruit some of the trainees as employees, is one of them.
- The other is the ICT Girls in partnership with two NGOs, the Women in Technology in Nigeria WITIN and Women Empowerment Centre WTEC, in selected schools across the country's six geo-political zones. The goal of the ICT Girls club is to ensure that more girls embrace and adopt careers in ICTs. The clubs focus on providing training in the areas of animation, website development, blogging, software development, graphics design, games and computer programming.
- It is important to highlight the impact of new media on issues pertaining to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Women's groups such as the national feminist movement are one of the many online groups addressing gender justice from diverse viewpoints. They have played a major role in shaping and influencing public opinion on women's concerns.

### **Area of Concern 11: Women and the Environment**

<p><b>Department of Climate Change established in Federal Ministry of Environment to oversee implementation of the Paris Agreement, (which Nigeria ratified in 2017) and other policy commitments.</b></p>	<p><b>The national agriculture policy (Agriculture Promotion policy, 2016 – 2020) makes budgetary commitments to support green technology and the adoption of sustainable food production approaches.</b></p>	<p><b>Flagship project on Women’s Economic Empowerment through Climate Resilient Agriculture jointly Developed by FMARD, FMWASD, UNWOMEN, and is at first phase of implementation.</b></p>
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In this area, the BDPfA focuses on sustainable and ecologically sound consumption and agricultural production patterns; gender analysis and mainstreaming in environmental policy making; as well as women’s participation in environmental policy formulation.

#### ***Ecologically sound consumption and agricultural production patterns***

Agriculture is one of the sectors most sensitive to climate change in Nigeria, with productivity set to decline by 10-25% by 2080 and yields of rain-fed agriculture in some northern areas predicted vulnerable to declines of up to 50%. (FME, 2018). This may result in a 4.5% reduction to GDP by 2050 and critically to loss of livelihoods and increased poverty for the over 90m households engaged in farming as subsistence farming accounting for 80% of farm holdings. The sector is highly vulnerable to a wide range of impacts including increased temperatures, ecosystem degradation, drought, flood and an increase in extreme weather events. During the 2012 flood \$16.9bn of damages were incurred, affecting 1.5m ha of staple crops and over ½m households dependent on livestock farming (ibid).

- The Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) 2016 – 2020 also known as the ‘Green Plan’, is Nigeria’s current policy and strategic framework for agriculture reforms. It comprises 11 pillars one of which is climate change and environmental sustainability. The commitment of the Federal Government within this pillar is to focus agriculture reforms on *‘the sustainability of the use of natural resources (land and soil, water and ecosystems) with the future generation in mind while increasing agricultural production, marketing and other human activities in the agricultural sector’*.
- The APP introduces introduction of climate-smart input pilots, bringing drought resistant seeds and new varieties.

- Large-scale investments into irrigation schemes for small-holder farmers, ensuring the entire regions are able to manage water resources more effectively.

Also, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with UN Women is currently implementing a targeted intervention on women's economic empowerment through climate resilient agriculture (WEE CRA) with UN Women. This intervention is specifically focused on upgrading women's participation in selected crop value chains through a continuum of action which includes the adoption of new technology that are climate resilient and contextually relevant.

While there is still substantial work to be done in this area, Nigeria is taking an increasingly proactive and engaged approach to climate-proofing its agriculture sector, however significant additional activity and partnerships will be needed to ensure the transformation required

### ***Policy making in the environment sector***

Recognizing the consequences and adverse impact of climate change on Nigeria, the country has adopted several treaties and frameworks, which are meant to tackle climate change.

- The country became a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and ratified the Convention in 1994. It also became a party to the Kyoto Protocol in 2004. Nigeria ratified the Paris Agreement in March 2017, which was approved by the UNFCCC on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and entered into force on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017.
- Due to the importance attached to the issues of climate change and global warming, and in view of the enormity of activities required for the implementation of the climate change treaties to which Nigeria is a Party, the Federal Government of Nigeria established the Department of Climate Change in the Federal Ministry of Environment to serve as the vehicle for driving National Climate Action efforts/actions.
- The Ministry has made some effort to integrate the experiences and challenges of different categories of women in policy consultations and programme design, through ongoing collaboration with non-governmental organizations such as the Women Environment Programme WEP. For instance, the Federal Ministry of Environment, working with WEP has established the Rural Women Energy Security (RUWES) programme which aims at lowering market entry barriers of the clean energy market at every step, from the design of clean energy products, to building a lasting market for reliable, practical and affordable clean energy technologies. The RUWES programme aims to empower women economically by making them marketers and distributors of clean energy products.

## Area of Concern 12: The Girl Child

**24 states and the FCT have passed and are implementing the Child Rights Act.**

**Concerted advocacy ongoing to end girl child marriage in Nigeria.**

**Targeted initiatives ongoing to reinforce safety for girls in Northern Nigeria and also, in IDP camps. E.g. the GEP initiative.**

In order to ensure continued protection for the girl child, Nigeria passed the Child Rights Act (CRA) into law at Federal level in 2003. Since that time 24 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have also passed the CRA into Law.

- The Act comprises 24 parts and 278 sections including provisions to address the rights and responsibilities of the child, the responsibilities of parents and guardians, the provision of care to particularly vulnerable children and the steps for legal remediation where these rights have been violated.

Some of the provisions of the Act which address the girl child in include section (right to freedom from discrimination); section 15 (right to free, compulsory and universal primary education) and section 16 (rights of a child in need of special protection measures). Of relevance to the advancement of the girl child, is Section 21, which deals with the prohibition of child marriage. This section provides that: *‘No person under the age of 18 years is capable of contracting a valid marriage, and accordingly a marriage so contracted is null and void and of no effect whatsoever.’*

Section 22 deals with the Prohibition of child betrothal. It provides as follows:

- (1) No parent, guardian or any other person shall betroth a child to any person.
- (2) A betrothal in contravention of subsection (1) of this section is null and void.

In section 23, the Punishment for child marriage and betrothal are outlined. This section provides that:

A person-

- (a) who marries a child; or
- (b) to whom a child is betrothed; or
- (c) who promotes the marriage of a child; or
- (d) who betroths a child,

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of N500, 000; or imprisonment for a term of five years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

The Child Rights Act has provided an effective, overarching institutional framework for ensuring the advancement of the girl child in Nigeria. Ongoing efforts need to focus on its implementation and monitoring.

- The National Human Rights Commission, in 2017 with the support of the EU and UNICEF adopted the Child Protection Information Management System. The Child Protection System Approach is aimed at promoting a holistic system capable of preventing and responding to different forms of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. The forum also addressed known risk factors to minimize children's vulnerability and response to abuses accordingly. It is geared towards ensuring protection for children and freedom from different forms of threats and violence

### **SECTION THREE: DATA AND STATISTICS**

The FMWASD works closely with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to ensure that statistics on GEWE are collated and interpreted from time to time. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) as the coordinator of the National Statistical System in Nigeria has the mandate of advocating the use of statistics in government plans and programmes. Some of the GEWE data, which have been generated by the NBS are accessible at:

<https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary?page=2&offset=10>

The National Gender Data Bank (NGDB) project was initiated in 2006 by the National Centre for Women Development (NCWD), with the support of UNICEF and the OSSAP MDGs. The latter also provided support for the second phase of the NGDB in 2009. The National Centre for Women Development (NCWD) is the only parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. It is an institution created for gender training and capacity building, research, and documentation. This makes it a cross-sectional and trans-disciplinary instrument for sustainable human development.

The NGDB was established to generate, store and access gender specific data as a means of pooling and harmonizing data sources from all sectors of the Nigerian economy at all levels into a one stop referral point. The data bank in its section 5 contains a National Gender sensitivity tracking programme (GEN - TRACK) which is managed by the NCWD.

The collection and compilation on the minimum set of gender indicators, agreed by the UN statistical Commission is yet to commence due to funding constraints. The collation of data on the nine indicators on violence against women has also been stalled for the same reason. As part of efforts to improve data collection and compilation at national level, the NCWD is working assiduously to enrich the process of establishing the National Gender Data Bank, and also ensure sustainability of the project. A 29 - member Multi-Technical Team (MTT) was constituted with

membership from the National Bureau of statistics, MDAs, the academia, civil society groups and gender experts was established to provide ongoing technical support to the NCWD in upgrading the information contained within the data base. Also, the recently launched Spotlight initiative is also expected to support the collection and collation of gender- disaggregated as it relates to VAWG.

Data generated by civil society and international partners have also been extremely useful for purposes of policy and programme planning.

## **SECTION FOUR: CHALLENGES, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND EMERGING PRIORITY AREAS.**

### **4.1. Major Challenges and Recommendations:**

The major challenges to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in Nigeria since the adoption of the BPFAs include:

- Gender stereotypes, social norms and cultural barriers
- Lack of enough, up – to - date gender disaggregated data
- Addressing the intersectional nature of gender inequality
- Inadequate funding to implement programmes and policies
- Insecurity, Gender violence (GBV) and conflict
- Non domestication of major treaties and poor implementation of some of the sector specific laws and policies

#### **1.2.1. Gender stereotypes, social norms and cultural barriers**

Despite higher levels of awareness and acceptance within this review period, the term ‘gender equality’ and programmes associated with it, are still strongly resisted across geopolitical zones, based on perceptions around the ‘place’ of men, women, boys and girls in different spheres of life. These perceptions are shaped by patriarchal social norms and cultural beliefs, which also influence the character of social institutions and make it more challenging to achieve gender justice. While it has been possible to renegotiate a few of them (such as the inclusion of women chiefs in traditional leadership hierarchies in some states), most of these social norms and cultural beliefs are deeply entrenched and have remained in place.

Renewed community level advocacy initiatives through sustained partnership with local, national and international NGO’s over the next five years, are recommended in order to address this. Women focused NGOs and CBOs are uniquely positioned to partner with

the Ministry on this, given the social capital which many of them have built up with traditional institutions and gatekeepers.

### **1.2.2. Lack of enough up-to-date gender disaggregated data/addressing intersectionality**

The availability of gender disaggregated data is skewed, with some social sectors (e.g. health and education) having more readily available data than the non-social sectors (e.g. Science, ICT and Power). In most cases, available gender disaggregated data does not reflect the heterogeneous nature of the female demographic. (E.g. information about women and girls with disabilities). As a result, groups like this remain largely invisible within official statistics relating to women.

It is recommended that the 2012 national gender in Nigeria country report be revised to reflect more recent data. The FMWASD working with women focused NGOs, women in the academia and international partners like UN Women are uniquely positioned to handle this. Deliberate attempts should also be made to disaggregate the participation of different categories of women and girls in national reportage and at various policy engagement processes such as workshops, policy dialogues, etc.

### **1.2.3. Inadequate Funding**

Lack of finance remains a major impediment to the implementation of interventions, which target the closure of gender gaps. Limited involvement by the private sector, insufficient government budgetary allocations and short - term donor support have consistently limited the capacity of state and national gender machineries to meet up with their annual targets. This has restricted the success rate for achieving agreed gender equality targets.

Additional funding support on GEWE through government budgets and the expanded support by international partners, as well new private sector funding support are recommended to address this challenge.

### **1.2.3. Insecurity, Gender violence and conflict**

Nigeria's success in terms of realizing the BDPfA targets is a sum of the progress made in the 36 states within the 6 geopolitical zones. Insecurity in the North East, and the gender distortions that come with it such as high numbers of internally displaced persons, high incidence of gender violence, erosion of livelihoods and feminized poverty, etc., have undermined national progress towards realizing gender equality commitments.

It is recommended that ongoing efforts to address the gender disparities arising from insurgency in the North East be reinforced and sustained.



#### **1.2.4. Non - implementation of some gender specific laws and policies**

Implementation of some of the gender specific laws and policies has been slower than anticipated in some cases. For instance, the implementation of the Child Rights Act and the National Gender Policy. Reasons for this include a failure to domesticate the laws in some states, insufficient funding and gender capacity deficits within key government institutions particularly state and local government levels respectively.

Support for improved institutional tracking of gender results per sector, by the FMWASD in partnership with other stakeholders, is recommended to address this challenge.

#### **4.2. Priority Areas of Action (3 – 5 years)**

The 3 key priorities for action on gender equality and women empowerment over the next 3 – 5 years are:

##### **4.1.1. Securing increased funding for GEWE interventions**

The FMWASD intends to engage in sustained advocacy for increased budget allocations and new funding windows for GEWE programmes and interventions. Within this context, efforts to engage the organized private sector will be accelerated.

##### **4.1.2. Improve the tracking of gender results through an upgrade and institutionalization of national gender data bank.**

It is critical that a national mechanism for tracking gender results across sectors is put in place to complement and regularly upgrade the gender data bank. Within the next 3 – 5 years, there will be ongoing efforts to upgrade and improve the country's sex disaggregated database. This effort will be driven by the FMWASD, working with the National Bureau for Statistics and the National Center for Women Development; civil society groups, international partners like UN Women; and representatives from a range of MDAs. As a complement to this, there will be ongoing collaboration between academic institutions, CSO's and the FMWASD for purposes of carrying out gender specific research around emerging contextualities. These will be used as a basis for influencing policy and practice changes at national, state and local government levels respectively.

##### **4.1.3. Domestication of major treatise to support Increase numbers of women in political/public life and provide ongoing support for improved quality of women's leadership in public life**

A range of multi stakeholder actions will be conceptualized to meet this goal. These will prioritize advocacy at political party level; ongoing technical and financial support to female aspirants; mentoring young female aspirants; training and other forms of support to women in public office

## **CONCLUSION**

Nigeria's commitment to the broad principles of the BDPfA is clear from the various efforts being made to translate policy rhetoric to action. The country's size and population spread make it more challenging to fast track some critical policy interventions and reinforces the contest of diverse priorities within a context of limited resources. However, we shall continue to explore emerging entry points for collaboration, for instance within the private sector, in order to ensure that our national, regional and international policy commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women are upheld.

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