



JOURNEY TO PEACE

Evaluative Book Report (2014 - 2018)

PROMOTING WOMEN'S ENGAGEMENT IN PEACE AND SECURITY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA



A European Union funded Programme implemented by UN Women, in partnership with the Federal and target State Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development, UNICEF, Search for Common Ground, UNDP, WANEP, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, CSOs, Media and Women Groups/Networks.



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OVERVIEW

PROMOTING WOMEN'S

ENGAGEMENT IN PEACE AND SECURITY

IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

Plateau, Gombe and Adamawa



TARGET COMMUNITIES

The Programme was implemented in Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau State, with focus on 4 Local Government Areas (LGAs) and a total of 48 communities i.e. 16 communities per state.

Programme Target Areas.

State	Senatorial District	LGA	Community
Adamawa	Northern	Mubi South	Gella, Nassarawo, Lamurde, Yawa
		Maiha	Mayo-Nguli, Pakka, Jalingo Maiha, Geri Maiha
	Central	Yola North	Alkalawa, Nassarawo, Jambutu, Bekaji
	Southern	Numan	Numan 1, Numan 2, Numan, Ngbalang
Gombe	Northern	Kwami	Malam Sidi, Bojude, Doho, Malleri
	Central	Yamaltu-Deba	Deba Town, Shinga, Hina, Kanuwal
	Southern	Kaltungo	Kaltungo town, Tula Yiri, Kamo, Awak
		Balanga	Talese, Dadiya, Gelengu, Cham
Plateau	Northern	Jos North	Rukuba Road, Jenta Adamu, Angwan Rogo, Farin Gada
		Riyom	Shonung, Attakar, Rim, Jol
	Central	Mangu	Mangu Town, Gindiri (kasuwa Ali), Langai, Mangu Halle
	Southern	Wase	Kadarko, Wase Town, Mavo, Bashar

CONTENTS

Abbreviations and Acronyms	5
Executive Summary	6
Introduction	7
Objective	
Strategy	
Target LGAs/Communities	
Security Analysis in Northern Nigeria	8
Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development- Federal Government of Nigeria	9
European Union Delegation to Nigeria	10
UN Women - Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS	11
Programme Manager, Women Peace and Security (UN Women)	12
SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS	13
Evolution on Nigeria's National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325	25
Objective 1 - Promote women's engagement in peacebuilding and conflict management processes at all levels	26
Objective 2 - Increase access to reporting mechanisms and protective services for girls and women affected by human rights abuses, including gender-based violence	33
Objective 3 - Enhance a conducive environment for implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the national level and in selected states, LGAs and Wards, and to promote access of women and girls to justice and other services	38
Gallery	45

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AU - African Union
CAN - Christian Association of Nigeria
CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO - Civil Society Organization
ECOWAS - Economic Commission of West Africa States
DPO - District Police Officer
EU - European Union
GBV - Gender Based Violence
FIDA - International Federation of Women Lawyers
FMWASD - Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
FOMWAN - Federation of Muslim Women's Association in Nigeria
GEMS - Girls Empowerment and Monitoring Scheme
GEOB - Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill
GSS - Government Secondary School
GTA - Gender Technical Adviser
HRH - His Royal Highness
IDP - Internally Displaced Persons
LAP - Local Action Plan
LGA - Local Government Area
MNJTF - Multinational Joint Task Force
MOU - Memorandum of Understanding
MWASD - Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
MDA - Ministries, Department and Agencies
NAC - National Advisory Committee
NAP - National Action Plan
NGO – Non-Governmental Organization
NPC - National Population Commission
NSRP - Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme
PCNI - Presidential committee on the North East Initiative
PHCN - Power Holding Company of Nigeria
PMU - Project Management Unit
SAP - State Action Plan
SDG - Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV - Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SOP - Standard Operating Procedure
UN - United Nations
UNFPA- United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF- United Nations Children Emergency Fund
UNSCR- United Nations Security Council Resolution
VAC - VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
VAPP - Violence against Persons Prohibition Act
WPS - Women, Peace and Security
ZAP - Zonal Action Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Programme 'Promoting Women's Engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria' is a 4-year initiative (2014-2018), designed to support the Nigerian Government, at both the federal and state levels to strengthen women's leadership, advance gender equality and improve protection for women and children in conflict settings, through the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. The programme has three inter-locked components, each with their own specific objective:

Objective 1 - Promote women's engagement in peacebuilding and conflict management processes at all levels.
Objective 2 - Increase access to reporting mechanisms and protective services for girls and women affected by human rights abuses, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV), in three states of Northern Nigeria.
Objective 3 - Support a conducive environment for implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the national level and in selected states, LGAs and Wards, and to promote access of women and girls to justice and other services.

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Programme is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by UN Women in partnership with the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development of the federal and state governments of Nigeria.

The programme approach was participatory with a result-based strategy, working with stakeholder government agencies at the federal, state and community level, UN agencies, Development Partners, CSOs and the media, among others. For sustainability and impact, an evidence-based approach was used to inform policy and practice, building on key partnerships and networks among organisations that work on peace and security, with a strong communications and knowledge management element documenting and disseminating best practices in expectation that it will contribute to positive societal change with valuable lessons learned for possible similar ventures.

A Programme Steering Committee comprising of the Government, the donor, key national stakeholders/authorities, UN Women and UNICEF provided guidance and oversight, while a Programme Management Unit (PMU) was responsible for Programme implementation and performance. In line with the objectives, the programme established and strengthened community-based networks of women for peace and security; selecting and empowering women mentors, engaging traditional and community leaders to promote women's participation in peace and security issues, establishing and engaging more media networks, introducing a case management and information system and an operational coordination mechanism for child protection.

At inception, a baseline survey was carried out leading to the implementation of WPS Programme in selected LGAs of the three focal states which include Adamawa (Maiha, Mubi South, Numan, Yola North), Gombe (Balanga, Kaltungo, Kwami, Yalmatu-Deba) and Plateau (Jos North, Mangu, Riyom, Wase). Though the project scope was extended to cater for Yobe and Borno states during the peak of the Boko Haram crisis.

A bottom-up approach assisted in ensuring a participatory engagement with interventions coordinated through a results-based strategy to raise the capacities of Nigerian institutions, women's groups and gender equality advocates over a 4-year programme cycle. The activities related to each thematic area (e.g. women's leadership in peace-making, improved rights-violation, monitoring/reporting and protection services, the national implementation of women, peace and security, and gender equality frameworks) will pursue the common overall objectives while remaining flexible to fit the specifics of each of the target states.

Recorded success through efforts of the Programme across the states include the Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) Law which had been passed since 2015 being gazetted by the Plateau state government in June 2018, the development of the 2nd Edition of NAP, and the development of four Local Action Plans in each of the target states. The gender-sensitive and human rights centred peace committees have also been established in each of these target states, awareness campaigns through print, electronic media and the internet have been enhanced by the establishment of the Programme's Media Network (the Nigerian Association of Peace and Gender Practitioners in Media) which has grown from 48 members in 2014 to 160 in 2018, drawn from the focal targeted states as well as Abuja, Yobe, Borno and Bauchi. More women mentors alongside the men across the three focal states have now been appointed as members of their Traditional Councils, this is a major achievement in a conservative society where such positions are usually reserved for men.

Our expectation is a future with more representation of women in governance, peace, security and humanitarian processes. Under the WPS Programme, UN Women working together with the EU, UNICEF and the Nigerian government will continue to champion the cause of women and young girls in vulnerable circumstances.

INTRODUCTION

Violent conflict in Nigeria is claiming more lives and more women and children are becoming victims of armed conflict every day. Women and children constitute a majority of internally displaced populations across the country. These vulnerable groups continue to be targets of various forms of violence which include gender-based acts in form of forced marriages, prostitution, rape, torture and being used as weapons of war as they are continually exposed to many armed actors.

Women and children often have fewer or no resources to protect themselves during violent conflict, especially where their men have been killed and the family unit left disintegrated, leading to many cases of women assuming the role of provider for all the family needs. They are also faced with the challenge of seeking justice where cases of human rights abuses occur in communities prone to attacks. Women are natural peacemakers in their communities and their crucial role in the family unit drives them to promote the message of peaceful coexistence.

Over the years, women have been excluded and under-represented in formal peace processes and negotiations, and their direct experience in such cases where they are caught up in the web of conflicts and in post-conflict crisis would be highly beneficial in developing policy and practice for sustainable peace and security. In most parts of Northern Nigerian states, women and girls still experience greater difficulties due to institutionalised cultural and religious beliefs which limit their opportunities and choices to gain basic education, financial independence and aspiration for leadership and political appointments.

The Programme and its implementing partners recognized the fact that women are invaluable agents of peace. By implementing the EU-funded Programme 'Promoting Women's Engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria', we seek to integrate women in all aspects of peace and security. The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Programme supports Nigeria's efforts to strengthen women's leadership, advance gender equality and improve protection for women and children in conflict settings.

Programme Objectives

The overall objective of the Programme is to ensure the practical implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in three northern states of Nigeria and to document its benefits to the management, mitigation and resolution of conflict on a demonstration basis. The Programme had three inter-locked components, each with their own specific objectives:

1. To promote women's engagement in peacebuilding and conflict management processes at all levels.
2. To increase access to reporting mechanisms and protective services for girls and women affected by human rights abuses, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV), in Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau State.
3. To enhance a conducive environment for implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the national level and in selected states, LGAs and Wards, and to promote access of women and girls to justice and other services.

Programme Strategy

The Programme concentrated its resources at the State and grassroots level, in order to maximise its development impact in conflict-prone areas to build a cadre of trained and experienced women peace advocates and to create a corpus of practical tools and know-how to guide further replication elsewhere.

The 'bottoms-up approach' of the Programme was intended to be participatory, appropriate and empowering. A number of tools were used to stimulate legislative and social change:

- Sensitization at all levels
- Capacity Building for partners and key actors
- Strategic Advocacy
- Research and Documentation
- Local, National, Regional & International Networking
- Utilisation of culturally sensitive approaches

Target LGAs/Communities

Adamawa - Mubi South, Maiha, Yola North, Numan
Gombe - Kwami, Yamaltu-Deba, Kaltungo, Balanga
Plateau - Jos North, Riyom, Mangu, Wase

SECURITY ANALYSIS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

Between 2014 and 2016, the security situation in northern Nigeria had deteriorated significantly due to activities of the non-state armed group, Jama'atu Ahlus-Sunnah Lidda'Awati Wal Jihad, commonly known as Boko Haram. By the end of 2014, Adamawa, Yobe and Borno State Universal Basic Education authorities had reported a total of 338 schools destroyed, at least 178 teachers and over 100 school children killed. The abducted women and children were forced to marry the insurgents, and or used to support their activities. They were subjected to various forms of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). The situation took another dimension with the emergence of girls and women increasingly used as suicide bombers.

These developments however limited access to Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states, and other parts of the region. Due to the increased evidence of specific targeting of children, Boko Haram was listed in the UN Secretary-General's Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict to the UN Security Council in September 2014 (S/2014/339), for a pattern of killing and maiming of children, and for recurrent attacks on schools and hospitals. The presence of Boko Haram in the border regions of Niger, Chad and Cameroon enabled the group to intensify attacks against communities in Nigeria. The sect pledged allegiance to the ISIS Caliph in March 2015. Due to the volatile security situation in Nigeria, within the second half of 2015, more than 1.4 million civilians have been internally displaced (over two-thirds are women and children), while 400,000 have sought security in Cameroon, Niger and Chad, among other countries. These prompted Government in the region to establish a Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to combat the insurgents. The task force became operational in the field in 2015, with significant successes on Nigerian territory, national borders and Lake Chad.

The Nigerian Security Forces increased security operations, leading to the retaking of 17 LGAs earlier captured by Boko Haram. This led to increased security access and significant progress in the fight against the insurgents. In Adamawa State, over 200 women and children held by the insurgents escaped. Dozens of freed women and girls, many of them pregnant and battered, arrived at the internally displaced persons' camp in Maiduguri, Borno State. The Government is committed to rebuild and rehabilitate villages, towns, houses, markets and places of worships and infrastructure in all communities displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states.

The Federal Government of Nigeria identified prevention of, and response to violence against children and women as a priority agenda in the National Plan of Action for Vulnerable Children (NPA) 2013-2020, under the Vision 20:20 framework, and the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 (2013-2017), respectively. The implementation of the NAP was accelerated by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD), with support from UN Women, within the framework of the Northern Nigeria Women, Peace and Security Programme, funded by European Union. Nigeria also became the eighth country in the world and the first country in West Africa to release the National Violence against Children Survey in September 2015, undertaken by the National Population Commission (NPC), with support from the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF. It also provided the first nationally representative data on violence against children (VAC). In response, the President of Nigeria, launched the Year of Action to End Violence against Children on 15 September 2015. Each state in the country was called upon to launch priority actions and campaigns to end VAC.

Another major landmark in 2015 was the passage into law of the Violence against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act, following 14 years of concerted efforts by a number of actors, including UN Women. To this end, UN Women and partners engaged in advocacy and sensitization initiatives on the need to domesticate the Act at state level. Similarly, with support from the Northern Nigeria WPS Programme and other stakeholders, the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEOB) was passed into law in Plateau State on 12 May 2015 by the State House of Assembly and ratified by the Executive Governor of the state. Furthermore, the longstanding conflict between farmers/herders in northern states escalated in 2016 and 2017 due to competition over land, in addition to drought, which prompted pastoralists to move further south for livestock grazing. Plateau and Benue states recorded increased incessant attacks in various LGAs, alleged to be perpetrated by herders and gunmen against indigenous communities.

In late 2017, many Cameroonians arrived in Nigeria seeking asylum. To date, 20,485 Cameroonian refugees have been registered in Nigeria with 16,790 in Cross River, 3,517 in Benue and 178 in Akwa Ibom. While UNHCR and partners have been leading the response with food and non-food items, shelter and medical assistance, UNICEF country and field offices have been monitoring the situation of children closely, notably the number of unaccompanied and separated children. UN Women provided livelihood initiatives for the economic empowerment, as well as safe spaces for girls and women affected by the crisis in the north east

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS



Aliu Anetu-Anne
Director, Fed. Min. of Women Affairs & Social Development

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 is a welcome development for Nigeria. As a member state of the UN, Nigeria has an obligation to respond to the UNSCR 1325 which seeks to promote women's engagement in peace and security issues alongside other member states. In the last decade, Nigeria has gone through different forms of insecurity in different parts of the country, it was therefore apt for Nigeria to respond and do something tangible. With the rise of the insurgency in the North East of Nigeria which came unprecedented, there was a need to counter insecurity and bring about peace in such parts of the country and other isolated communities. The decision of the EU to support and fund the Programme, 'Promoting Women's Engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria', was a timely development as Nigeria develop its first NAP with support from UN Women and NSRP. The EU funded Programme implemented by UN Women and partners supported the implementation of the NAP at the national and state levels, as well as the development and implementation of the second generation NAP (2017 – 2020).

By 2017, there was a need to develop a second generation NAP to also cater for emerging issues that relates to peace and security in Nigeria due to the heightened insurgence the country was facing at the time. The dissemination strategy for the second NAP on the 9th May 2017 was more strategic to help the state agencies draw up their own action plans which were launched in at zonal meetings and disseminated to all three focal states; Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau states where the Programme was implemented. This helped to increase awareness, where every state would develop their State Action Plan (SAP) specific to their own context but drawn from the zonal action plans and the revised National Action Plan. These plans have set the pace for a strategic approach to engage women in the peace and security architecture of the country.

Many of the crisis situations or disturbances in the North East are in the form of cross border disputes, communal clashes and are as a result of the misunderstanding between neighbouring villages. Women suffer the most, because many are left widowed when their husbands are killed and in many scenarios their human rights are infringed upon.

“Naturally women are very vulnerable to issues around their environment and when they are engaged in the decision-making processes of peace and security they can give useful insights that benefit their community”.

To sustain the success of this Programme, the Ministry that anchors and coordinates the state has a whole branch dedicated at its secretariat for the continuous implementation and monitoring the state level activities of the WPS Programme in the country. The NAP serves to guide the approaches that are used to guide critical stakeholders at the national and state level where such activities for implementation are to be built into the everyday work plans of the state and that of the Ministry. The government has also set up a National Advisory Committee made up of core persons of every state, security agencies and critical stakeholders. This committee meets quarterly every year to oversee the development and implementation of the action plans as per their mandates and state peculiarities. The meetings provide members a platform to discuss strategies for implementation, identify milestones achieved, challenges and how best practices which can be built upon to improve states implementation of the NAP and SAPs. We are confident that the systems and structures in place make for a good foundation to extend the reach of the WPS Programme.

EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO NIGERIA



Kurt Cornelis
Head of Cooperation

The European Union played a lead role towards funding the Programme “Promoting Women’s Engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria” throughout its implementation stages. Our passion is geared towards empowering more women within such regions to play an active role in peace and security processes, policy design and to also fight against gender-based violence which are part of the spear heads of the European Union development corporation policy. Our focus was within the North East for many reason; poverty, the position of women and girls during crisis and the challenges they face post crisis. We made 10 million Euros available for this project which has run for more than four years with good results recorded.

We have been able to empower women to play an active role in peacebuilding, to provide protection for women and children in crisis situations and improve access to justice for women who were affected by gender-based violence.

Our core programming efforts was centred in specific LGAs of our three-focal states; Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau, though we were also able to extend the scope of the project to Yobe and Borno after the Boko Haram crisis had reached its peak in the North East during the early stages of the Programme.

The participatory nature of the Programme would help sustain the results achieved, furthermore we have a lot of new Programmes in the North East, in particularly Borno state but also in Adamawa and Yobe. These Programmes are meant to contribute to crisis response, in particular the Boko Haram issues and these programmes pay specific attention to the position of women, girls and the youth.

We streamline specific activities of empowerment for women, girls and the youth in general. We also try to stimulate employment generation opportunities and livelihood programmes for women and girls with reference to education as we look forward to more girls getting enrolled in schools and completing their studies.

We are working now with the UN including the UN Women on a new global initiative called “Spot Light”. Eight countries have been selected in Africa for this project where Nigeria will be a beneficiary of the value this Programme brings. We are also looking forward to receive funding for the implementation of programmes on this new project and such activities would also be centred at programming that challenge gender-based violence in Nigeria with specific focus to women in Northern Nigeria.

“We believe with the structures we have now laid we have a good foundation, although there is still much to do to improve the position of women, girls and minorities in Nigeria, especially in the Northern parts of the country. We need more women whose service and support will propel adequate legislations towards the implementation of the National Action Plan on the UNSCR 1325 to be adopted at both the federal and state levels”.

UN Women REPRESENTATIVE TO NIGERIA AND ECOWAS



Conflict globally can take diverse dimensions and Nigeria is not left out as we have our own peculiar conflict scenarios. We know that when conflict occurs there is insecurity and its impact on men, women, boys and girls differs as they experience conflict differently. And in order to build peace, we must consider these differences. However, traditionally both conflict and peacebuilding efforts are dominated by men in spite of the fact that women are the most vulnerable in such cases of conflict.

In 2000, the UNSCR 1325 was adopted which sort to promote the participation of women in peacebuilding and peace processes because they have a different experience when involved in conflict settings and also because women bring a different dimension to peacebuilding. Most times when men sit on the peacebuilding round table to discuss, the discussions may tend to be geared towards power sharing and who controls resources.

On the other hand, when women sit to discuss on these same matters, they talk about peace majorly from the perspective of silencing the drums of war and how to leverage on sustainable systems to move their communities forward after the conflict has ended. They come with that natural instinct to promote peace and protect the family interest especially their children, because their thoughts and reflections is normally geared to cater for everyone.

The UN Security Council has continually been promoting women's participation in peace processes across the world. In Nigeria, it became very important around 2014 to address conflict with support from the women folks, because conflict at the community level became very rampant in various states and were riddled with ethnic dimensions, persistent clashes between herders and farmers, boundary issues and access to natural resources. All these had significant impact on the lives of women especially at the community level, but the practice was such that women were still not invited to discuss and proffer solutions towards sustaining peace.

“It is women at the community level that can easily mobilise everybody to talk about justice, bringing the community together to build harmony and reconciliation”.

We see a Programme like this relevant for Nigeria and the EU funding to the Programme through 2014 – 2018 served as a major pillar for UN Women's work in Nigeria. There are plans for a successor Programme that would be able to sustain the gains on the foundation that have been laid especially in Northern Nigeria to address conflict in other parts of Nigeria and have women actively participate in such programming.

It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm of the various stakeholders through the federal and state ministries, women peace and security networks, traditional councils across communities of intervention and the established media networks. They have seen the merits of involving women in peacebuilding and they are focused at sustaining the gains of the Programme and that is the best way to go. We look forward to such communities also investing further in the Programme as this would be a key indicator for sustainability.

What we would like to see, is where such communities take bold steps to invest in the gains of the Programme established within their communities to foster increased participation of women in peacebuilding processes. We want to see that women who have acquired skills in leadership are part of leadership processes and encourage these participations because conflict and peace are two parts of the same coin.

To the general Nigerian public what we have done is a sound prototype which can be replicated in other parts of the country. The UN Women would be working with various Nigerian stakeholders across the country to assist in feeding such good practices established from this Programme in Northern Nigeria to other parts of the country.

UN Women - WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY PROGRAMME



During the course of the Programme we have seen a shift from the traditional security systems where it was solely the state's role to protect the public to an era where there is an increased public engagement where citizens are now more active and engaged on security matters.

Policy impacts on men and women differently and there is a deficiency that still needs to be addressed as policies that impact on the wellbeing of women are being made in the absence of women and where many decision-making positions are mostly male dominated. Women need to be more engaged institutionally and even more so at the community, state and national level. At the international level the UNSCR 1325 was adopted in 2000 to ensure that there was more engagement of women through effective participation and promotion of women's engagement in peace and security.

Our experience on the project was that the engagement of women at all decision-making levels was still very low. We also found that literacy levels among women were still very low. The first activity of the Programme was to undertake a baseline study for the states we were working in; Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau. This gave us a better perspective on the role of women in peace and security as well as in leadership position. When dealing with conflicts or issues of peace and security, we observed that most of the traditional councils had no women representation, which was a big challenge considering that these were institutions that are critical in peace and security in the country. It was therefore important to work with them and yet there were no women in these councils.

“How do you change their attitudes? How do we change the practices that have been entrenched over a long period of time? At the time these were some of the challenges for we had to deal with, because these structures were important and we needed to penetrate and have them engage women more effectively”.

After several consultative meetings, capacity building trainings and sharing of global and national international best practices on UNSCR 1325, the traditional council leaders in target states became receptive when we discussed the value of having the women involved in decision-making processes. Plateau state, which had no women on the traditional councils at the beginning of the Programme, went from zero to about 107 women in four years. Adamawa had very few women and now we have 485, Gombe's number also rose from 40 to 240. That is a big achievement. The women's initial interactions with the traditional leaders was such that they were secluded as they could not talk directly, but now when we go to meetings, the women are now actually the ones advocating for themselves at their respective traditional councils. This is a great improvement from where we started.

Our approach was not to fight and agitate that women should be on the traditional council but to speak and show the advantages of having women who will be representatives to mentor other women within the system. We sought out women who were experienced, respected professionals in their fields and totally engaged at the community and state levels. Women appointed to the traditional council are effectively serving in an advisory capacity; we have seen changes in terms of how conflict is now resolved as more women are being consulted and engaged in the decision-making processes. This Programme has an element of social behavioural change which requires time to actualise sustainable impact. Lessons learnt in creating increased women's engagement needs to be systematic. The baseline helped to give insights on the issues on the ground leading to evidence-based programming. We managed to identify cultural dynamics and challenges across diverse communities which helped in developing our advocacy strategy. The UN Women in building continuous strategic collaborations with government agencies especially the State Ministries of Women Affairs engaged Gender Technical Advisers to provide technical support on a day-to-day basis. The technical support provided feeds into the capacity development for the officials of the Ministry, thus strengthening their capacity to continue with the work at the end of the WPS Programme.

Advocating to selected state governments at the start of the Programme helped to gain a strong commitment of State Governors towards creating the peace and security architecture to support the engendering of the peace and security architecture from the community to the state level. Integrating women's role in peace and security with the state governments full support will provide a platform for more women's engagement in elective and non-elective positions in every state to further support to the project and sustainability.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

The implementation of the Programme over the years achieved substantial results at national, state and LGAs levels. As secondary beneficiaries, Borno and Yobe States also benefited through capacity building, exchange of good practice and lessons learnt with stakeholders and beneficiaries in the three target states.

OBJECTIVE 1: Promote women's engagement in peacebuilding and conflict management processes at all levels.

Expected Result 1.1

Gender-sensitive peace architecture in Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau state established or reformed, to include forums of dialogue, early warning systems and rapid response mechanisms for conflict resolution.

Strategies:

- Research and Documentation
- Capacity and Need Assessment of institutions
- Strategic Advocacy
- Capacity Building Trainings
- Procurement of Desktop/ Laptop Computers, Printers, Projectors and Camera for the EWER Systems
- Media Sensitization Programmes (TV, Radio & Social Media)
- Inter-State learning visits and exchanges by components of the EWER System and Peace Architecture Components



Key Results Achieved:

Functional Peace Architecture in Place

- The Peace Architecture in Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau state were reviewed from a gender and human rights perspective, gaps identified and recommendations made for policy and programmatic interventions.
- Gender-Sensitive Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) Systems established in Adamawa & Gombe States and strengthened in Plateau State.
- Gender-Sensitive indicators for the EWER Systems, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the operationalisation of the State Peace Architecture in place.
- Gender Sensitive Peace Councils/Committees for the Peace Architecture established in the 3 states.
- The capacity of the various components of the State Peace Architecture on Gender, Conflict Prevention, EWER and other aspects of peacebuilding, including UNSCR 1325 enhanced.

Increased number of Women in Decision Making Positions:

- Increased representation of women in decision making positions, including peace and security processes at all levels. For example, in the Traditional Institutions, a major milestone was achieved. Breaking discriminatory cultural practice that excludes women in decision making positions:
 - From Baseline of 0, Plateau State now have 107 women as Members/Advisers in Traditional Council.
 - From Baseline of 0, Adamawa State now have 486 women as Members/Advisers in Traditional Council.
 - From Baseline of 40, Gombe State now have 246 women as Members/Advisers in Traditional Council.

Strategies:

- Strategic Advocacy
- Capacity Building Trainings
- Inter-State learning visits and exchanges
- Media Sensitization Programmes (TV, Radio & Social Media)



Expected Result 1.2

Enhanced community peace-making capacities of women in the three target states.

Strategies:

- Capacity and Training Need Assessment
- Strategic Advocacy
- Capacity Building Training
- Mentoring of girls and young women
- Media Sensitization Campaign
- Inter-State learning visits and exchanges by WPS Women Peace Mentors

Key Results Achieved:

Functional Peace Architecture in Place

- Increased appointment of women in Strategic Government positions. In Plateau state, there are currently 54 female appointees. Some of the WPS Women Peace Mentors were appointed to occupy the following positions:
 - Senior Special Assistant to the Executive Governor
 - State Coordinator of the Social Investment Program
 - Director of Programs for the Plateau Peacebuilding Agency
- In Gombe state, with baseline of 2 female Commissioners and 2 female Permanent Secretaries, we now have 6 female Commissioners and 6 female Permanent Secretaries.
- Through the WPS Programme, the capacity of these women was enhanced to be strategic and result-oriented.

Key Results Achieved:

Building a Critical Mass of Women for Peacebuilding:

- A network of 121 Women Peace Mentors were established in Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau state.
- The capacity of the Women Peace Mentors on Peacebuilding, UNSCR 1325, Strategic Advocacy, Project Management and Mentoring was enhanced. The network have coordinating structures at both state and LGA levels, with context specific intervention strategies and periodic work plans.
- The strategic initiatives of the Women Peace Mentors reached 2,820 women and girls in Plateau, 4,860 in Gombe and 3,550 in Adamawa; these girls and women are mentored as peace advocates.



Some of the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding initiatives by the Women Mentors include:

Gombe State

- Conflict Prevention and Resolution between youths and herder crisis in Shinga community; Conflict at a prayer ground at Awak community in Gombe; 54 Divorce cases resolved; Rehabilitation of 135 young people in communities; 13 vendors banned from selling harmful substances to youths; 33 rape cases reported; 10 Girls with teenage pregnancy reconciled with parent and enrolled in school.
- The Women Peace Mentors were integrated into a state-wide Women, Peace and Security Network where they coordinated joint advocacy, sensitization campaigns and networking. Thus, increasing a critical mass of women actively engaged in Peace and Security processes.
- To enhance sustainability, the Lead Women Mentors in Gombe and Plateau was registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) Nigeria, with the name Women Peace Mentors and Mediators Forum in Plateau and Women Peace and Mediation Network in Gombe.

Mentoring School Girls as Peace Makers:

- Peace clubs were established in secondary schools (8 and 4 schools in Plateau and Gombe respectively). Students in these clubs (400 in Plateau & 200 students in Gombe) are being mentored by the Women Peace Mentors. The students were actively engaged in various innovative intra and inter-school peacebuilding initiatives, including peace songs, peace drama and peace debate completion, among others.
- Increased number of girl's enrolment in schools through community mobilization and sensitization by Women Peace Mentors. In Gombe, targete areas there was 156 & 89 increase in the number of girls and women enrolment, respectively and 20% increase in Plateau.

OBJECTIVE 2: Increase access to reporting mechanisms and protective services for girls and women affected by human rights abuses, including GBV, in three states of northern Nigeria.

Expected Result 2.1

Capacity of national and local government, state agencies and NGOs strengthened to effectively monitor, collect and analyse data on violations of the rights of children and women, with a focus on VAC and GBV.

Strategies:

- Capacity and Training Need Assessment
- Strategic Advocacy
- Capacity Building Trainings
- Media Sensitization Campaign

Key Results Achieved:

Child protection information management capacities and system in target states strengthened:

- The Gombe and Plateau Government led integrated child protection case management and information management frameworks were agreed between partners. Information management tools used in North East conflict affected states (Borno, Yobe and Adamawa) were contextualized for use in development context in Plateau and Gombe.
- To respond to the cases reported, a case management system and the information system for child protection were successfully piloted in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states in coordination with the states' Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development. A total of 8,862 cases of VAC and GBV were entered into the database. Information management and monitoring and evaluation officers were identified, and their capacity built to manage the system.
- A total of 626 information officers and case workers were trained on information management systems resulting in regularly data collection by agencies handling cases, information is shared with MWASD and fact sheets produced for all targeted states.
- Coordination mechanisms and regular data collection: Gombe and Plateau MWASD established and led information management TWG who regularly collected data on service provision to child survivors of violence. Fact sheets were produced recording progress against case management baseline.
- A total of 6,447 cases of unaccompanied and separated children were entered into the database in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe State.

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave Violations strengthened:

- The capacity of 70 individuals in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe State on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave Violations of Children's Rights

Expected Result 2.2

Ensuring an effective and coordinated response to violence against girls and women.

enhanced. The MRM team also focused on the mainstreaming of the mechanism within sectors and sub-sectors as well as within main UN agencies and partners. Force in September 2017.

- Nigeria contributed to the UNSG Annual Report on grave violations against children, and a country Action Plan to end the recruitment of children by the Civilian Joint Task Force was signed by the Civilian Joint Task Force in September 2017.

Key Results Achieved:

Integrated child protection regulatory framework and case management and referral system in target states strengthened resulting in service provision for children survivors of violence.

- **Baseline data set:** Case management mappings in Gombe and Plateau and baseline of service provision data in both states completed.
- **Regulatory framework strengthened:** Gombe Governor established a Child Rights Act domestication committee and a draft state law is being revised. Plateau gazetted the Child Rights Law. Plateau key partners, MWASD and MOJ committed to the development of secondary legislation to the CRL.

Standard service delivery guiding documents developed

- Government led integrated child protection case management frameworks were agreed between partners, accompanied by referral and service directories and minimum package of services and draft inter-agency protocols in Gombe and Plateau.
- In Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, the inter-agency case management and information management tools developed in previous years continued to guide services provision.
- Institutional SOPs for social workers (Plateau and Gombe), specialized gender and children's desks police units (federal level), prosecutors and legal aid providers (Plateau) on the handling of cases of children



victims or perpetrators of a crime developed.

- Mandatory reporting policies in education and health sectors developed in Plateau state developed.

Key Results Achieved:

- **Coordination mechanisms:** Plateau State Child Rights Implementation Committee inaugurated. Gombe and Plateau MWASD established and led case management TWG who regularly collected data on service provision to child survivors of violence. The coordination mechanism for child protection in emergencies is operational and effective at the national level and in Adamawa, Yobe and Borno State, ensuring greater coverage of services and support for children affected by the conflict and avoiding duplication of efforts.
- Increased knowledge and understanding among stakeholders and beneficiaries in target states on key protection issues.
- Capacities, knowledge and systems strengthening efforts resulted in improved service delivery for child survivors of violence in all targeted states:
 - An increase in the proportion of child survivors of violence who report and receive at least one support service to one hundred percent in Gombe and Plateau (from national average of less than 5 per cent).
 - To date, a total of 14,147 children (7,341 boys and 6,806 girls) impacted by the conflict were reached with psychosocial support services in Adamawa to help them recover.
- Similarly, government officers and CSOs in Plateau and Gombe were trained on child protection systems and strategies. To further this effort, a vision for child protection and the components of a child protection system in Nigeria was agreed on by nine states, including Gombe and Plateau States that form the Child Protection Systems Strengthening Learning Group. The Learning Group developed a model M&E framework for child protection systems and corresponding draft state frameworks and action plans,

Expected Result 2.3

Selected communities and key state and non-state actors mobilized and supported to increase awareness and address social norms and behaviour in order to prevent VAC and GBV and increase reporting.



and an information management system and case management framework was also agreed on.

Key Results Achieved:

- A total of 1,106 people reached through town hall meeting in Plateau and Gombe states to increase reporting and prevention of cases of violence.
- A total of 84 people trained on strategies to change social norms around violence against children and training materials developed at federal level and Gombe and Plateau states.
- An End VAC communication materials package developed to be used in schools, churches, mosques, health facilities, social media, TV and radio.
- An End VAC social media communication campaign reached a total 33,000 accounts and 200,000 impressions under #EndVACNgr.
- A communication campaign conducted by Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN) through churches conducted reaching a total of 4,583 religious leaders and an estimated 25,000 people through the dissemination of prevention messages across congregations.
- Parenting guidelines and code of conducts developed by CCN and JNI.

OBJECTIVE 3: Enhance conducive environment for implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the national level and in selected states, LGAs and Wards, and to promote access of women and girls to justice and other services.

Expected Result 3.1

Implementation of Resolution 1325 National Action Plan (NAP) at national level and in Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau states enhanced.



Key Results Achieved:

At National Level:

- The capacity of staff of the Federal and target state Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development (FSMWASD) to monitor, track and coordinate implementation of Nigeria UNSCR 1325 NAP enhanced through capacity building trainings, mentoring and technical support from UN Women.
- Technical and financial support to the FMWASD for the effective implementation of the NAP at federal and state levels.
- Nigeria's 2nd National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (2017- 2020) developed, launched in May 2017, and 17,000 copies widely disseminated in the 36 states of Nigeria, including FCT.
- The simplified/abridged version of 2nd NAP, and the translation of the document into three (3) Nigerian major languages were also produced.
- The NAP was widely disseminated in the Six Geo-Political Zones OF Nigeria, states and LGAs through FSMWASD and other MDAs.
- A National Advisory Committee, with members drawn from the 36 states were inaugurated and trained on UNSCR 1325 and the NAP. The Committee is responsible for driving the process for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the NAP at federal, state and LGA levels; particularly the development of State Action Plans (SAPs) and Local Government Action Plans (LAPs).
- The National Advisory Committee meets on quarterly basis to collate feedbacks, updates and assess the level of implementation of NAP and SAPs for reporting to the UN, SDG, AU and ECOWAS obligations.
- National and the three target states MDAs were trained on their roles and responsibilities in the implementation and reporting of the 2nd NAP.
- Security agencies were also engaged in the Programme to increase their capacity to track, monitor and report on the NAP, through capacity building and trainings for security personnel in the target states. A network of security agencies contributing to tracking, monitoring and reporting on the NAP was established.

Strategies:

- Strategic Advocacy
- Capacity Building
- Media Sensitization Campaign
- Inter-state learning visits and exchanges by WPS Women Peace Mentors



Key Results Achieved:

- The Gender Desk in the various Government MDAs have been revitalized to be more active in the implementation of their areas of commitment in NAP.
- Lessons drawn from the Nigeria NAP were shared at the 61st Session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, 1st meeting of WPS Focal Points Network in Spain, Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre, Ghana.
- Peace and security issues now in front burner of government's policies and programmes. e.g, Presidential committee on the North East Initiative (PCNI). MDAs now committed to integrate into their planned activities and budget.
- National MDAs and critical stakeholders now understand their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of 2nd NAP.

At State Level:

- State Governments provided support and cooperation in the development and implementation of Zonal Action Plan (ZAP) and State Action Plans (SAPs).
- The SAPs were developed, launched and widely disseminated in Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau state. Nigeria now have 11 SAPs domesticated. The states with SAPs are: Bayelsa, Borno, Delta, Kaduna, Kano, Kogi, Plateau, Rivers and Yobe).
- The WPS Programme engaged stakeholders at state and target LGAs, which resulted to the development of Local Action Plans (LAPs) in the following LGAs:
 - **Plateau:** Jos North, Riyom, Mangu and Wase.
 - **Gombe:** Kaltungo and Yamaltu-Deba.
 - **Adamawa:** Yola North, Numan, Maiha and Mubi South.
- **Plateau has translated the LAPs into 8 different local languages and further** developed the SAP in sign languages and braille for the visually impaired. This encourages an inclusive approach, and 'leaving no one behind', especially the vulnerable groups.

Expected Result 3.2

Increased engagement with key stakeholders for the passage of relevant gender equality bills.

Strategies:

- Strategic Advocacy
- Capacity Building
- Media Sensitization Campaign
- Inter-state learning visits and exchanges by WPS Women Peace Mentors



The successes recorded furthermore serve as a model for other states to emulate.

Key Results Achieved:

The Programme provided technical support to the 3 state Ministries of Women Affairs and other stakeholders with regards to the Gender & Equal Opportunity Bill (GEOB) and made significant progress:

- In Plateau state, the GEOB was passed into law by the State House of Assembly and assented by the Executive Governor with support from the Programme.
- UN Women provided support to the Plateau State Government to gazette and popularize the implementation of the GEO Act.
- The lessons drawn from Plateau facilitated the process in Adamawa and Gombe states. Committees with a wide range of stakeholders were established to facilitate the processes for the drafting, advocacy and passage into law the GEOB.
- Legislators in the Adamawa and Gombe State House of Assembly, State Executive Council Members, Traditional and Religious Leaders and Media, among others were trained on Gender, the GEOB, UNSCR 1325 and other related issues. This gained their support and commitment on these issues.
- The GEOB for Adamawa and Gombe state were developed and popularized by stakeholders. The bill has successfully passed through the first and second reading in the Adamawa State House of Assembly, while that of Gombe state was received by the Executive Governor and presented to the Attorney General. Both state government committed to passing the GEOB into law.
- In Adamawa state, the Programme supported the Ministry of Women Affairs, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice to train Staff drawn from the Ministry of Justice, Health, Women Affairs and Social Welfare Workers to designated to the Special Rights Agency. The Agency building was renovated and equipped to house FIDA and the Gender Rights Department of the Agency.



Expected Result 3.3

General population awareness raised at community level in three selected states in regard to national and local implementation of the 1325 NAP, as well as to the importance of increased access for women and girls to justice and other services.



- The Special Rights Agency (SRA) in Adamawa state was established to coordinate implementation for the protection of persons with disability, Gender and Child Rights with 4 departments.

Key Results Achieved:

- Increased visibility and support to the Programme by reaching millions of listeners in target areas, states, national and at international levels with information on Resolution 1325 and the WPS Programme through weekly live television and radio discussion programmes, newspaper reports, web site publications and other social media portals.
- The capacity of over 200 print and electronic media (including NUJ and NAWOJ) on Gender, Conflict Sensitive Reporting, UNSCR and NAP, enhanced through several capacity building trainings. This led to the establishment of a network tagged Nigeria Association of Peace and Gender Practitioners in Media
- Members of the Media Network have been active in the promotion of UNSCR 1325 issues through their various platforms – Print, Electronic & Social Media (2014 to date). Approximately 15.7 million listeners have been reached via the weekly TV/Radio programmes in the target states.
- In order to reach the larger scope of media practitioners in the country and beyond, a comprehensive media toolkit on UNSCR 1325 and the Programme was produced to serve as a resource tool for media practitioners. A Knowledge Management Strategy was also developed to support networking and advocacy of a community of activist practitioners, sharing of experiences and access to documentary resources, and the capture and dissemination of lessons from WPS Programme.
- To enhance sustainability, the Media Network: was registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) Nigeria, with the name Media Advocates for Peace Foundation
- The Media Network serves as a model to Sierra Leone, providing technical support; this led to the establishment of same network in Sierra Leone.



- The West Africa Association of peace and Gender Practitioners in Media is also in the process of being established with Nigeria as interim Secretariat.

EVOLUTION OF NIGERIA'S (NAP) ON UNSCR 1325



Aerial view of Jos North Township Outskirts, Plateau

After the adoption of Resolution 1325 by the UN Security Council, UN state members are expected to develop their National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of the Resolution. Nigeria in August 2013 developed its own first National Action Plan with five strategic pillars (Prevention, Participation, Protection, Prosecution and Promotion) for the implementation of Resolution 1325. The first NAP was due for revision by 2016 after the stipulated three years period as recommended by Security Council. On the 9th May, 2017 Nigeria developed and launched the second National Action Plan taking into consideration all the emerging issues that relates to peace and security in Nigeria.

Strategies for the implementation of the second NAP

Dissemination of the second NAP in the six geo-political zones was carried out in 2017 by the Ministry and copies distributed to states, LGAs through the states and federal MDAs.

Inauguration of the National Advisory Committee with all the states of the federation being members and relevant stakeholders with the sole aim of driving the process of implementation at the federal and state levels and particularly the development of State Action Plans (SAPs) and Local Government Action Plans (LAPs.)

The National Advisory Committee is expected to meet on a quarterly basis to collate feedbacks and updates and assess level of implementation for reporting to the UN, SDG, AU and ECOWAS.

Federal and target states Ministries Department and Agencies (MDAs) consultative meeting was also organised to identify the roles, responsibilities and entry point of the relevant Government MDAs in the implementation of the 2nd NAP.

The first quarterly meeting of the Advisory Committee was held in June 2018 in Abuja in order to get feedback and updates on the implementation and also states efforts on the development of their SAPs

Production of simplified/abridged version of 2nd NAP and the translation of the document into three (3) Nigerian major languages.

To date the SAP have been developed in Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau, including eight other states; Bayelsa, Delta, Ekiti, Kaduna, Kano, Kogi, Lagos and Rivers.

States that have their LAPs developed include:

Adamawa – Maiha, Mubi South, Numan, Yola North LGAs

Gombe – Kaltungo, Yamaltu-Deba LGAs

Plateau – Jos North, Mangu, Riyom and Wase LGAs

Kano – Fagge LGA

Successes recorded in the implementation of 2nd NAP till date

Establishment of the National Advisory Committee (NAC). Some States Action Plans were developed and launched as a result of the advocacy and sensitization of the NAC.

Peace and security issues now is the front burner of government's policies and programmes. e.g, Presidential Committee on the North East Initiative (PCNI). MDAs are now committed to integrate into their planned activities and budget.

National and target State MDAs and other critical stakeholders now understand their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the 2nd NAP.


The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD) is now able to present a result oriented CEDAW report (A framework developed for data collection and stakeholders/FMWASD officials now acquainted to use it). Staff of the FMWASD now have the capacity to effectively monitor, track and coordinate implementation of the 2nd NAP at all levels.



OBJECTIVE 1

**PROMOTE
WOMEN'S
ENGAGEMENT
IN
PEACEBUILDING
AND
CONFLICT
MANAGEMENT
PROCESSES
AT ALL LEVELS**

HAJARA ALIYU
WOMEN MENTOR, KWAMI LGA, DOHO - GOMBE

A portrait of Mary Bature, a woman with dark skin, wearing a black and white patterned headwrap and a black top. She is looking slightly to the left with a serious expression. The background is blurred, showing some greenery and a building.

“ They have given us a voice. We will shout and the whole world will hear us. That is the greatest thing the UN Women programme has done for us ”

Mary Bature
Women Lead Mentor - Nassarawa Gwom, Jos North - Plateau

Mary Bature, a WPS Women Lead Mentor from Nassarawa Gwom in Jos North LGA of Plateau State have been working with other women in her community, helping to build the capacity and confidence of women in the community through public speaking and advocacy skills she learned during the UN Women training Programme, which she went on to share with other women folk in her community. Women have been selected from her community and other neighbouring communities to attend and participate in various trainings centred around Justice, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation. These women have come back to impact other community women with the knowledge they have acquired. This has assisted greatly in finding lasting solutions to issues in these communities.

Nassarawa Gwom is a community which borders between other Muslim and Christian neighbouring communities. Prior to the inter-religious crisis experienced in their community, Nassarawa Gwom was a community inhabited by both Muslims and Christians who co-existed peacefully with one another, but this has long changed as the community is now categorised as a predominantly Christian community. Series of neighbourhood clashes after the 1994 and September 2001 attacks have made these environs vulnerable to subsequent packets of violence. Christians and Muslims in this community now leave apart from each other and this has further increased tension and created a breakdown in relationships.

“We see ourselves as though we already created a wall, why should we go there, why should we have anything to do with them. Let them be on their own and let us be on our own”.

Before the UN Women training programme, which was centred around public speaking, teachings on advocacy, trauma healing and women in leadership within their communities. Muslim and Christian communities were very much alienated at this time, but the Programme was able to bring the people together once again and help them see the beauty that lies in their diversities. The workshops and trainings brought together many women from affected communities; Angwan Rogo, Nassarawa, Farin Gada and many other communities affected by the crisis. Christian and Muslim women are now able to come together and discuss solutions to the challenges in their communities and this is building more religious tolerance and respect. The women were taught to share their problems and they got to understand that their issues were very common.

These trainings have helped to mentor good behaviour among the youths in the community as rallies were organised by the women to promote peaceful coexistence. The women are now empowered economically and are more supportive of each other towards building their small-scale businesses. Example: The women organised themselves, went to the PHCN office in Nasarawa and met the manager to complain about challenges with their electricity supply. They wrote a letter which went through the district office and further to the zonal office and within two weeks the community transformer was fixed.

The Nassarawa District Police Officer (D.P.O) also addressed the women on the need to be more security conscious which improved the women's ability to diagnose some of the triggers of violent conflict in their community. They agreed to place a curfew of 10 p.m. for all the beer parlours and the sale of illicit drinks to prevent the uprising of violence in their community. Towards maintaining sustainability of the project values, the women meet frequently to educate more younger women to take part in their activities.

“Before the arrival of UN Women WPS Programme, women were not involved in peace and security decisions, neither were they outspoken nor did they engage in activities like politics”.

Prior to the commencement of the UN Women Programme in Mangu community, the women were popularly regarded as only useful for cooking, farming and domestic chores and were side lined.

“The arrival of UN Women was important as they trained us on advocacy, communications, and public speaking, because they noticed our capacity was weak. By building our capacity, they were able to show us the importance of engaging in politics”.

Direct beneficiaries of the UN Women’s training sessions took it upon themselves to share the knowledge they had acquired from the Programme with other community women.

“After the training, we started advocacy. We went to the district head and to the chairman to tell them about the trainings. After that we organised a stepped down training for the other women”.

After these trainings, the women developed so much confidence without fear or intimidation to speak in public and even to address large crowds. Many of them joined various unions and associations which further helped to build up their advocacy, confidence and public speaking skills.



Grace Joseph Gora
Coordinator WPS, Mangu - Plateau

Peace Mentors established by UN Women, and also the Coordinator of Mangu Peace and Security Network in Plateau state; she also serves as the National Women Secretary at the National Association of Mangu Development.

The UN Women WPS Programme emphasized on peaceful co-existence between the community people and their neighbouring communities. Monthly meetings are held by the direct beneficiaries of this project to discuss more ways in which women could become more productive in peace building and developmental objectives within their communities’.

“About 50 women were trained on various skills like soap-making and bags making, etc. This brought a lot of changes in our families, women were also encouraged to go into farming by giving them fertilizers”.

We worked together from village to village to fish out those selling illicit drugs and reported such cases to the authorities and the courts have passed judgment in our favour.

“We make use of the Magavo Youth Movement leaders to properly investigate such cases in the community”.

Although, there has been a few challenges in carrying out peacebuilding activities within the community but the women have not relented. The Magavo youth led movement have since been active as agents of peace in Mangu community as they help in fostering peaceful activities within the community.

The existence of the UN Women Programme has been an eye opener for the women as it has equipped them with the necessary skills needed to make the women voices heard for the common good of their communities. Mangu community women hope for a possible expansion by registering their movement with the local government.



“I started hosting IDP’s in my house about five years ago when they came to my children, we showed kindness to them so much that my children started sharing food in different IDP camps and taking care of them after hearing the ordeals they had gone through”, says Rebecca.


Rebecca Kwabe is a very passionate peace ambassador, the first Vice President of the National Council of Women Society and the Vice President of Adamawa Women Council for Peace Forum. She has been working really hard to advocate for women in the fight for peace in her community and is actively involved in the various UN Women trainings centred around gender related issues, violence prevention and women participation in peace and security issues. This has further strengthened her will to strive for peace, serenity and women’s well-being in her community.

There were series of crises in the community prior to the start of the UN Women Programme, from an influx of herdsmen into people’s farmlands to destruction of crops and various conflicts which sometimes escalated into major crisis. The UN Women WPS Programme taught the women about peacebuilding and peaceful co-existence. Ever since then, the women have strived to seek peace in all their dealings.

The women give themselves take home tasks centred around peacebuilding in other to spread the message to every single person in their community. “This has inspired me to start an NGO which attends to education, environmental development and peace in the community”, says Rebecca. Insights gotten from the UN Women organised trainings has led to the commencement of various projects centred around the promotion of women in peace building, and as a result of these trainings, some of the beneficiaries have been able to teach the other community women new skills they have learnt. Rebecca is happy about putting resources on the project because many people are now willing to support the cause without complaining as they know the resources are used judiciously. She was honoured by the Environmental Care Foundation in Michika LGA and feels greatly honoured by it.

“I have been able to reach out to about two thousand women as a result of this Programme”, says Rebecca.

The UN Women Programme has impacted on the lives of the women by creating an enabling environment where women can advocate for peace in their communities. Religious institutions have also been working to promote peace in the community by engaging with members in peacebuilding activities. The women have become a lot more conscious about their community and the welfare of the people and contributions are made at different levels to encourage the continuation of peacebuilding activities to cater for crisis victims and survivors.



“I am also calling on other chiefs to consider including women as members of their traditional council”.

His Royal Highness (ARH) Lanko Umaru Adamu
Gindiri District Traditional Council, Mangu - Plateau

Before the coming of UN Women Programme on UNSCR 1325, women were not aware of their potential and the value of their contribution to the society. There was no inclusion of women in various aspects of life within the community except in their domestic activities.

The UN Women WPS Programme introduced and encouraged the radical mobilisation of women into decision-making processes in the community. This has resulted in various situations where women have been able to make use of their peacebuilding skills to resolve a lingering conflict between two disagreeing tribes.

“The Programme has enlightened our women, and issues which were domestically buried are not buried anymore, rather they are taken to the council where they are resolved. An issue came up and it was the single effort of a trained WPS woman that helped us solve that issue between Punbush and Kasha district”.

After honouring an invitation by the UN Women to attend an event in Jos where all the traditional rulers were encouraged to allow women to have a say in the decision-making process of their community, other engagements and trainings on UNSCR 1325, His Royal Highness (ARH) Tanko Umaru Adamu (Gindiri District Traditional Council) and his chiefs decided to appoint two women as members of the traditional council.

“I brought two women into my council and asked all my 22 chiefs to include one woman each in their council. A women assembly consisting of 29 women was constituted, and they sit to discuss on issues as it affects the progress in the community”.

The community women have become a lot more informed and educated about the happenings in their immediate surroundings, and they have taken it upon themselves to address issues that were previously considered trivial and domestic.

“We really appreciate the efforts of women because they have been able to help us resolve some of the problems that have existed for a long time in our community, even before my sitting on this stool of authority”.

Other neighbouring communities; Punbush, Kasha District, Langai, Mangu, Riyom and some parts of Jos North have engaged women in their traditional councils. The inclusion of women in the traditional council of the community has greatly benefitted the entire community and they hope that more women can be trained in order to increase the number of women with improved knowledge and skills to make a positive impact in their community. HRH (ARH) Tanko Umaru Adamu noted that the number of women in his council have showed a great improvement and hopes that the WPS Programme continues as there is a need to train more women in the community.

“Prior to the commencement of the WPS Programme in Doho ward, Kwame LGA in Gombe, our community experienced a lot of crises and our youths were deeply involved in hard drugs. We also did not have access to portable water like other neighbouring communities and this made life difficult for us”.

Asabe has been working alongside other members of her committee to raise awareness on various social vices in her community. They would go round all the temples to address the youths and educate them about the negative effects of taking hard drugs and the role they ought to play in peacebuilding activities.

Many of the women were made para-legal officers and given identifications cards, which gave them the power to practice as local lawyers in resolving disputes within their community without necessarily going to the courts. Many of the marital issues did not have to be taken to courts as such conflicts were resolved amicably.

The UN Women Programme also encouraged the men to become more socially responsible while they held various meetings to ensure there was portable water in the community. This achievement has inspired the women and they have in turn held meetings to discuss how to contribute their quota to the development of their community, says Asabe Maman one of the WPS Women Peace Mentors Network in Gombe State, established by UN Women .



Dukur Jacob, a one-time drug addict and beneficiary of the UN Women Programme has been working to create awareness on the negative effects of hard drugs on the mental health, body and attitude of young people in his community. He lives in Kaltunga, a settlement in Numan LGA of Adamawa state, known for notorious acts where the neighborhood boys hide in the street corners to smoke Indian hemp and other hard drugs.

“There are times I took drugs and wish I could stop, but I realized I was addicted to it. The intervention of the WPS Programme through the Community Women Peace mentors and what we have learnt from the Programme has changed things positively for me”.

The UN Women Programme organised workshops where virtual pictures of the human heart were shown to the boys in the community for them to compare the view of a healthy heart to that of a drug addict. This was an eye opener for them as they were also taught the health risks involved in the intake of hard drugs, the effect on the family life and the grave consequence of death.

These inspired many of the drug addict to make a conscious decision to stop abusing hard drugs. Dukur had a ring of drug peddlers under him, so when he decided to stay off drugs and stay clean in other to maintain a healthy, peaceful and safe lifestyle, he was also able to influence many other boys. Many of the community people are now more responsible and have stopped engaging in violent activities as many of the atrocities committed were connected to the use of hard drugs.



Lydia Orji

Acting President GEMS Club/Head Girl, GSS Mangu - Plateau

Girls Empowerment and Monitoring Scheme (GEM) was established in Government Secondary School (GSS) Mangu under the UN Women Programme to build the capacity of the girl child by engaging them in peacebuilding activities and projects. Prior to the establishment of GEMS club in GSS Mangu, girls were often left out of many school related activities. They lacked the courage to speak up like their male counterparts, hence they were side-lined from participating in school competitions. The club gave them a platform to compete equally with the boys in any activity, subject or sports.

“In other clubs, girls were not allowed to talk as they were seen as weaker vessels. Also, in my class, they were not allowed to voice their opinions. The introduction of GEMS club allowed girls to speak up about issues they wanted to share and provide solutions to problems”, says Lydia.

GEMS club has been able to teach young girls the dynamics of communication and also enhance their advocacy and public speaking skills.

“The club taught me how to communicate using the magic words; Please, Excuse Me, Sorry and Pardon Me. So, whenever I am talking to someone at home or wherever I find myself, I know the right time to use these words and also to say exactly what I feel about anything because it is my right as a girl”.

Many of the young girls are a lot more confident in themselves and are learning vocational skills like bead making, making soaps and baking. The club has created an avenue for the girls to express themselves without fear or discrimination. Contrary to the stereotyped perception of the female gender as only useful for kitchen work and other social norms that limit their access to quality education through early marriages, the GEMS club has spurred the interest of many young girls and awakened their consciousness to knowing that they could achieve whatever they set their minds to do.

“Through this club, I realize that a girl should be allowed to do what she wants to do, because she can do it”. Before, when my dad calls for a family meeting, I don’t participate in such discussions, but ever since I joined the club, I have the boldness and freedom to give my opinion on issues discussed”.

Members of GEMS club have made efforts to inspire other students by their actions and diffuse the knowledge they have gained from the club to other students in the school by organising talk sessions and making presentations to discuss the importance of the girl child to the society such that other girls are not segregated. Lydia noted that talks were organised for students on the assembly ground and on clean-up days with the boys and other students, which garnered the support of the school authorities as they were impressed with their efforts.

Many of the girls are now inspired to strive for academic excellence to measure up to any of the boys. Now beneficiaries of GEMS club serve as mentors to other students joining the club in the school, because of the positive values and skills they exuded, younger students try to emulate them.


“In my class, I am the best student in Chemistry, Biology, English Language and Mathematics. I am a mentor to many junior students who want to be like me. So, when the school called us for interviews to be prefects, I answered every question boldly and courageously, and that was how I became the Head Girl”.



OBJECTIVE 2

**INCREASE ACCESS
TO REPORTING
MECHANISMS
AND PROTECTIVE
SERVICES FOR
GIRLS AND
WOMEN AFFECTED
BY HUMAN
RIGHTS ABUSES,
INCLUDING
GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE (GBV), IN
THREE STATES OF
NORTHERN NIGERIA**

REGINA PAM
HEAD OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT, RIYOM - PLATEAU

A portrait of Hasana Ayika, a woman with a warm smile, wearing a bright blue headwrap and an orange patterned top. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting.

June, 2018

GEO LAW GAZETTED IN PLATEAU STATE

Hasana Ayika

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs - Plateau

Plateau State was the first in Northern Nigeria on June 27th, 2018 to gazette the Gender and Equal Opportunities Law (GEO) passed in 2015, with support from UN Women and a wide range of partners. This was a positive step that will also serve to protect women from all forms of violence and discrimination on the basis of their gender. This in the long-term would also encourage more women vying for political positions as they would be assured of the protection of their rights and different forms of discrimination.

All partners of the WPS Programme, from inception have played a key role through legislative advocacy in actualizing the gazette of the GEO Law in Plateau state. Moving forward in line the NAP, we have gained much support from the state government and developed the SAP and four local actions plans for LGAs where the programme is been implemented which has also been transcribe in braille for the visually impaired. Search for Common Ground played a useful role as a technical support to the partners and the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD) who had for long advocated for the gazetting of the GEO Law in Plateau state.

Regina Pam

Head of Crisis Management, Riyom - Plateau

Riyom community now enjoys relative peace and serenity as the people have started working closely with security agents in ensuring peace in the community after they had undergone capacity building under the WPS Programme. The Programme supported the emergence of positive change and reforms in the security units of the community, educating the security agents and authorities of the role they ought to play in crisis situations, it has also reiterated the important role women play in peacebuilding. One of the beneficiaries, Regina Pam, is a member of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps.

"I am so glad that the Programme came into existence at this time. It brought women into decision- making roles with active participation in peace processes, an achievement which was not in practice before as a result of culture, religion and so many other stereotypes. The Programme has made our job easier, because the people now have an understanding on the benefits of peaceful co-existence".

The security units serve as a technical body that lends support to the UN Women Programme during the various meetings and trainings, by providing security and back up to the mentors and the beneficiaries, especially in crisis prone areas. Our divisional offices are utilised in the local government to provide security, advice and technical support to the people. The security units have developed the habit of working together for the common good of the society, without any discrimination as to gender or religious affiliation. Penalty sanctions have also been put in place for violators of peace in the community to uphold the law.

There was a responsibility of UNICEF to support towards an increase in available access to services for girls who survived different forms of violence as they were not getting the required support services. In 2014 NPC conducted an important national survey on the prevalence of VAC and the findings were alarming.

1 out of 2 children in Nigeria suffer severe forms of physical violence before the age of 18 years.

1 in 4 girls suffer sexual violence which is at a high prevalence. More shocking is that for those children that suffer such violence less than 7% seek any help and less than 5% of those that seek support receive any support services.

The WPS Programme has contributed greatly, as Nigeria became the 8th country in the world to have conducted such a national survey. The first in West Africa which is also a great contribution. Following these shocking findings, the President of Nigeria immediately reacted



Rocio Aznar Daben
*Manager, End VAC and Protection
Systems Strengthening - UNICEF*

launching the National Campaign to end VAC and set road map making firm commitments. About nine states of the federation came forward to strengthen their child protection services which have helped to create a positive change. Overtime, Gombe and Plateau states have an improved child protection service and cases of VAC that were reported to institutions in such focus LGA all received at least one child support service where 31 percent received two or more services.

A promising foundation has been laid, the FMWASD is also committed to document the programme towards the development of a National Replication Guide for other states to replicate and this would help in strengthening the services for children who are victims of violence. This is a very good result in a short period of time, taking the increase in support services of reported cases of VAC from 5% to 100% of children who have received some form of support service. Yobe, Adamawa and Borno had required immediate humanitarian support due to the rise in insurgency and we have set services for girl survivals of sexual violence and violence against women. A monitoring and reporting mechanism has also been setup following the directive from the General Assembly of the UN to report on grave violations of children to document cases. There is a component to support children who have been associated with violent groups in the north east to be released and properly reintegrated back into their community.

Looking broadly, emergency states have been able to strengthen their legal frameworks and in Plateau state the programme had helped towards the gazette of the Child Rights Law in 2017 which was pending since 2005 and other focal states are picking up the pace towards this positive trend. Institutions have been strengthened and this has helped improve child support services at the state and community levels with more social workers assigned for child support services. We have been able to support the MDAs to develop in-service training packages for the Police, Family Courts, Persecutors, Legal Aid Providers, Social Workers and also SOPs to guide how service providers should interact with children where cases of VAC are reported such that procedures taken are children friendly as well as gender-sensitive. These have helped to strengthen the institutions and the service provision where we have seen the results is an increased child support service coverage to 100%.

For sustainability the design of the programme with the government partners was to strengthen the prevention and responsive systems within key institutions in such a manner that when the project ends the services still remain functional. This has been the vision from the onset with the government counterparts for child protection. The Presidential drive to end VAC, the commitment of nine states in the federation which came forward volunteering to strengthen their systems and modelling the programme, two of which are from the WPS Programme; Plateau and Gombe and plans with the government to document the learnings are key drivers for sustainability and replication by other states.



Aishatu Margima
Women Lead Mentor, Adamawa

Aishatu Margima, one of the beneficiaries of the UN Women Programme has been very active in the reintegrating of young girls and women who were once victims of abduction by the dreaded Boko Haram sect back into their communities. Before now, girls who escaped from Sambisa forest have been referred to her for shelter and livelihood support. She trained them on skills they can use to empower themselves financially to start a new life, and later on took them through the path to reintegrate them back to their own respective communities.

“The training I got from WPS has further equipped me to teach women about self-confidence and how to move forward in life. I have successfully rehabilitated about two hundred and twenty-five girls and women (225) back into their communities and taken many of them through a self-acquisition skills training”.

The UN Women Programme has been able to teach the community women various skills and approaches towards achieving sustainable peace in the community. The community women received trainings to improve their personal hygiene, the negative effect of the use of hard drugs, rape, how to communicate effectively and explore various economic activities in order to become a lot more relevant to themselves, their families and male counterparts.

Some of the girls that have passed through Aishatu now participate in the community speak forum where they discuss solutions to issues such as drug abuse and rape in their immediate communities.

As a result of the trainings gotten from the UN Women Programme, the community women are a lot more security conscious and pay attention to little details in their community in regards to peace and security.

“I learnt about the early warning/early response systems and my NGO has two of our staff trained who currently make use of these skills in our mode of operations”, says Aishatu.

Prior to the start of the Programme, Gender Based Violence was pronounced in Kaltungo LGA of Gombe State. Women were often at the receiving end. An incident occurred between a man and his wife who had four children for him. The husband battered her to the extent that she sustained severe injuries due to the consistent abuse she received, the woman wanted to leave the marriage out of frustration. Later on, the man picked a new wife complaining that the first wife was not respectful and she was not offering him sex. While she on the other hand complained that he often abused her by physical battering her and does not provide food or clothes for her.

Rabi alongside other women counselled the couple, this helped them understand the challenges in their marriage as they owned up to their individual responsibilities to work out their differences. Now they are living peacefully with each other and the second wife has left.

The UN Women Programme has equipped its beneficiaries with so many skills focused on peacebuilding and peaceful co-existence. As a result of these trainings, disputes and conflicts situations have been resolved without resorting to violence and more women are taking up leadership roles.

In Kaltungo LGA, some women were fighting with each other over a sum of money a politician gave them, Rabi also counselled the women and made them understand the fact that many politicians use the masses for their political aspirations, thuggery and later discard them. After explaining the role of women in peace and security to them, they decided to stop fighting and live peacefully with each other.

Asabe Adamu
Women Mentor, Kwame, Gombe

Asabe Adamu, a community Women Peace Mentor in Malam Sidi Kwame LGA of Gombe State shares the story of a young girl who was raped by a boy in her community. This led to an early pregnancy which the boy denied being responsible for. In a bid to cover up his deeds, he hurriedly made a report to the court, accusing the young girl of false accusations. The court gave judgment in his favour and ordered the girl's father to pay a sum of Twenty Thousand Naira to the boy.

"Issues of rape were most times swept under the carpet because of the stigma attached to it, but the trainings we got from the UN Women Programme inspired us to take up this case and fight for the girl. We took care of her all through her pregnancy and provided her with toiletries, clothes and food till she delivered her twins".

The women paid a courtesy visit to the girl's parents accompanied by the Women Development Officer, CAN and FOMWAN mentors to show their support for her. Photographs were taken with the girl and her twin babies to serve as evidence which could be presented to the women affairs division. The team was directed to the Human Rights Commission and later to the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) who took up the case and are still currently handling it. The UN Women Programme taught the women how to fight for the rights of women and children. They also gained the skill of public speaking which inspired them to stand up and protect women, whenever they are in need.

More so, the various capacity building trainings from the UN Women WPS Programme supported the women to educate the youths on issues of rape, hard drugs and thuggery, and there has been a great decline in these negative vices. However, in as much as there are positive changes, there exist some challenges. The parents of rapists and the victims who are raped tend to always cover up these acts because of the social stigma attached to it. Another challenge is poverty, as many parents send their daughters to hawk goods. In a bid to sell off all their goods, in the hope that they would make a sale, these young girls end up giving themselves up to men who make sexual advances towards them, sometimes without their consent.

A portrait of a woman, Maisaratu Bello, wearing a colorful patterned headscarf and a matching lace-trimmed top. She is seated and looking slightly to the right. A semi-transparent blue box with white text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

OBJECTIVE 3

**SUPPORT A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR
1325 AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND IN
SELECTED STATES, LGAs AND WARDs,
AND TO PROMOTE ACCESS OF WOMEN
AND GIRLS TO JUSTICE AND OTHER
SERVICES**

**MAISARATU BELLO
PERM. SEC. MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS, YOLA - ADAMAWA**

Halima Mohammed Hayatu, one of the Women Lead Mentors in Adamawa State on the WPS Programme has been working with other women to foster peace and enlighten the community about issues relating to human rights and their welfare in Numan, Mubi South, Yola North, and Maiha LGAs in Adamawa state. she also previously served as a Commissioner of Women Affairs in the state.

The heightened activities of the Boko Haram sect created unrest in the communities. Following the deaths of many men which have led to an increasing number of single mothers and untimely widows, women were forced to assume the role of the provider for the family. This disfunction of the family unit has led to more boys and girls who engage in drug abuse and we have seen a rise in rape cases and surprisingly married women also participate in the abuse of hard drugs.

UN Women timely interventions in Maiha LGA was able to support and counsel a former drug addict, an unemployed university graduate at the time who had become a major problem over the years to virtually everyone due to his drug peddling activities. He opened up and was later enrolled for counselling where he later publicly repented and has since turned a new leaf.



Through his confession, UN Women discovered that the different gangs operating under the sheds in Maiha were peddling in hard drugs. Four of such sheds were uncovered and the names of the boys raping girls and a network of girls who go in disguise to family houses to sell drugs to the women were discovered. The case of the married women who were also using hard drugs was uncovered and was linked to the neglect from some of their husbands who were engaged in blue collar jobs. An instance is the case of husbands whose nature of their job keeps them travelling frequently, e.g. tanker drivers. In some cases, some of these men have more than one wife, and satisfying them emotionally, physically and financially poses a challenge. Women in this scenario then resort to taking hard drugs for solace.

Another noticeable trend in Mubi is the case of mothers willingly giving out their young daughters to members of the Boko Haram sect with the notion that the family will be saved from been killed by the sect. As a mother-in-law to the sect members, these women enjoy some benefits, where they have houses built for them and are well taken care of by their sons-in-law. This raises their status in the communities, especially where higher ranking Boko Haram men marry their daughters. UN Women intervened in the case of Sadiya Mohammed who was earlier captured, married off and gave birth to a baby. Security officials rescued her and took her to her parents but she said she wanted to go back to Mohammed, her husband because she preferred staying with him. She said life was better at the camp, she had everything she needed. She did everything possible to go back to him but she could not because the security officials had already captured Mohammed.

UN women played a key role to encourage women to contribute their quota at both the traditional and the state level prior to this Programme, women were not given traditional titles. Now, in Numan, all the assistant chiefs are women. The district head of Jimeta in Yola North ordered the Maiungwas to appoint positions to women in their council. More male champions now support this process, as the Lamido of Adamawa also appointed a female adviser. The women are now more politically conscious and are now vying for political positions. There are now four females out of twenty-seven commissioners in Yola, we also have twenty-seven seats in the house of assembly with two women occupying those seats. It is hope that this will further improve after 2019 elections where more women will show interest in running for political positions.



Rhoda Zira Dia
Gender Technical Advisor, Gombe

The crisis and problems in the North Eastern Regions of Nigeria is not an alien news, insurgencies have displaced so many people and rendered them homeless. Prior to the commencement of the UN women programme, women were not involved in decision-making or peace and security matters in their community, and most times, they often the most affected when crisis situation arises.

Rhoda Zira Dia, the Gender Technical Adviser for UN Women Peace and Security project in Gombe State has been working with her team to ensure that the voices of women are amplified to bring about sustainable change in the society.

The basic approach employed is a 'bottom up approach' whereby, people from the grassroot are involved in the programme from inception. These grassroot women were trained on various skills centred around peaceful co-existence and the role of women in decision-making processes, which equipped them to carry out peacebuilding activities.

This approach enabled the community women contribute their opinion when issues concerning peace and security are been discussed in their community. During meetings with people from the grassroot level, lessons are shared, challenges are discussed and solutions are proffered to lingering problems. This created a sense of belonging for the grassroot women who are now very confident of themselves and will do all they can to ensure the continuation of the project.

The objectives of the UN Women programme has received positive responses from the State Government who have shown political will towards the implementation of UNSCR 1325 project and its impact on the lives of women in the State.

"We were given offices to operate from and the government has been very committed and supportive in ensuring women's participation in decision making" says Rhoda.

When we came on board, we had about three female commissioners and three female permanent secretaries, but at the moment, we have six female commissioners and six female permanent secretaries and so many other political appointments have been given to women as a result of the advocacy of the WPS Programme.



Lilian Yashin
Women Leader, Ataka Community, Plateau

The 2013 herdsmen attack in Riyom community Plateau state, led to the desertion of property and so many unconducive living settlements amongst the community people. Women experienced so many problems during this time as they lacked the will to speak up against any violation of their human rights.

“Women and children had no food to eat, they were deprived of decent livelihood, life was so unbearable for us at that time and there was no hope for women”, says Lilian Yashim, a Women Leader from Ataka Community.

The UN Women Programme brought with it the message of peace by educating the community women on peacebuilding. Ten women were selected from Ataka, inclusive of Fulani women. The women participated in the trainings on peace and resolution of conflicts where the knowledge acquired was also diffused to the other community women to ensure the spread of the message of peace around the communities.

Seven Ataka women and three Fulani women were trained on the message of peace and resolution. More women were introduced and trained at their homes. The Fulani women that were trained further engaged other women with the new knowledge they had acquired within their network of friends; this style of knowledge transfer was also seen among the women in Ataka community.

Several meetings were held between the women until they all decided to co-habit together in peace and tranquility. The women thought it wise to share their knowledge to the men in their communities and this continued until both parties agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for peaceful co-existence. There have been a few challenges, that delayed the signing of the MoU, but the women hope that it would be signed in the nearest future so as to ensure peace in their community .

The UN Women Programme has brought about self-realization among themselves, they are a lot more confident in themselves and have great passion towards ensuring peaceful co-existence in their community.

“I am now a wife to the community, I am now known in the community and it has gained me more respect. Before now I didn’t have the strength to stand and talk to people but now I can. I was selected to talk in a congress in Abuja”, says Lilian.

A portrait of Hon. Barr. Jamila Babuba, a woman wearing a vibrant pink hijab with a large polka-dot pattern. She is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred, textured wall.

Hon. Barr. Jamila Babuba
Adamawa State House of Assembly

I was considered as just a wife and a female lawyer who wasn't necessarily giving anything back to her society. So many times, I have been looked down on because I am a woman. So many times, because we constitute majority of the voters, our women were used to gain political victories without any form of compensation, says Hon. Barr. Jamila

Hon. Barr. Jamila Babuba, a legal practitioner who works with the Adamawa State House of Assembly's Legal department has been actively involved in the politics within her community ever since she participated in the UN Women programme trainings centred around social justice, domestic violence and participation of women in politics. The commencement of the UN Women programme in Yola South has helped to evolve the minds and raise the consciousness of many of the women in the community towards peace and security issues.

"I learnt about security measures in times of conflict and my participation in the UN Women trainings earned me three titles; Gimbiyan Jebolo, Jariman Jimeta and Tauraruwar Chika Staro".

As a result of her participation in the UN Women trainings, she was invited to a program which was previously organized for only men, where she was opportune to take up the leadership position of sponsoring a tournament. Seminars and trainings were organized in Abuja to discuss political matters and she was recognized as one of the most influential women in Adamawa State. The UN Women trainings on advocacy and public speaking has helped to boost her confidence. Jamila who used to be an introvert, is now inspired to come out of her shell and contest as member representing Yola North, Yola South and Gire Federal Constituency representing her people in the House of Assembly and making good use of the media to make her opinions heard.

She has successfully trained thirty youths in computer appreciation skills and has tried to harmonize the youths by organising football tournaments, with the view of encouraging peaceful relationships between them. Campaigns were organised in the community to encourage women to support each other and amplify their voices together for the good of the society and the issue of gender has taken a positive approach in Adamawa State.

Though, there still remains a challenge of funding women who aspire to go into politics because of the present state of commercialisation in politics in the country, she hopes to keep enlightening women about their rights and provide them with soft loans which will enable them start up small businesses to support their families and venture into politics.



Alhaji Mohammed Magagi Abubakar
Village Head (Doho) - Gombe

“Going back to history, we already had women traditional title holders who usually attend meetings meant for holders of such traditional titles. I was told by my father that women have been part of traditional council because of the role they played in the community. He said that anytime rain refuses to fall here in Doho community during the rainy seasons, the women would usually go out of the community with cooking utensils and foodstuffs to offer food sacrifices to the gods to enable rainfall and immediately this was done, heavy rainfall would pour down”, says Alhaji Mohammed.

The UN Women Programme widened the horizon of the people and enlightened the women more. Through the various seminars and workshops attended, they realized that there were many ways women could be instrumental towards attaining sustainable peace within the community. This led to the inclusion of educated women into the traditional council, as opposed to the inclusion of women who only speak the native dialect or Hausa.

“Before the coming of WPS, we had 47 women in our cabinet but now, we have added four educated women”.

The inclusion of educated women into the traditional cabinet was very resourceful and led to making an enquiry as to why many of the young girls in the community were not attending school. The women were instrumental in giving them advice on the benefit of gaining an education especially for the girl child and dangers where their education is truncated. Some of these dangers discussed include unwanted pregnancies and other negative social vices.

The women in the traditional council also helped in fishing out a girl in the community who dumped her new-born baby in a carton in front of the temple. As a result, we have been encouraging women to speak out and be confident. This led to a rule being passed that ensures the inclusion of a woman on every committee set up in Doho community.

“We have an association called Doho Development Association which was dominated by male executives, but we plan to include women as executives in this association at the end of the current tenure”, says the Village Head.



Phibe Yusuf Dutse

Director, Women Development in the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare - Gombe

Phoebe Yusuf Dutse, the Director, Women Development in the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare and the Coordinator attached to UN Women from the Ministry of Women Affairs has been working in partnership with the UN Women to ensure and promote the role of women in peace and security issues in Gombe state. The Ministry of Women Affairs have been working to support the work of the UN Women Programme by providing an operating office and CSOs that can contribute to the success of the project.

“There used to be a gap in the system because women did not have a voice, and they could not speak their minds”, says Phoebe.

The UN Women programme was able to sensitize religious and traditional leaders on the role of women in peacebuilding. Now about four local governments have involved women as active players in decision-making processes. Women were known to be shy but the sensitization and advocacy to traditional and religious leaders has created confidence in women and they are willing to speak up for themselves. Initially, women and young girls were not reporting rape cases because of the fear of stigmatization and lack of confidence, but the UN Women through UNFPA organised an enlightenment programme on sexual and gender-based violence. Ever since, there has been a significant increase in the reporting of rape cases.

Lead mentors were formed from the beneficiaries of the programme, and these lead mentors went to the communities to form smaller units of community peace mentors. These women are in their LGAs helping in family dialogue, educating the youths about the negative effect of hard drugs, sensitizing the community on peacebuilding and peaceful co-existence. There are current plans by the Ministry of Women Affairs to ensure the continuity of the UN Women programme in the state. The WPS programme has greatly helped in enhancing the process involved in the GEO Bill which supported the sensitization of the people and the formation of a committee to ensure the successful implementation of the bill.

“These committees are categorized into; the advocacy, the media, the mobilization and those that will make sure that the bill is in order”.

This bill, when passed will be very beneficial to the women as it will widen the scope of their rights, especially rights to inheritance. The bill will help women to have equal opportunities.



Hon. Nanchin Samuel Timothy, Women Mentor WPS, (Halle Ward) Mangu LGA - Plateau



Alhaji Mohammed Magagi Abubakar (Doho Village Head) and other WPS Women Mentors from the Traditional Council, Doho LGA - Gombe



Women Beneficiaries of the WPS Programme from Langai Community, Mangu LGA - Plateau



Praise Betu Matahula, WPS Women Mentor, Numan LGA - Adamawa



Hassana Mohammed (FOMWAN) Women Mentor, Doho LGA - Gombe



Marvellous Yakubu, Junior Class Student from GSS Mangu and member of GEMS Club, Mangu LGA - Plateau



Habiba Galadima, Women Peace Mentor, Yola North LGA - Adamawa



Ruth Amos, WPS Beneficiary aspires to complete her school and also go into politics, Jos North LGA - Plateau



Veronica Agabus, Women Peace Mentor, Yola North LGA - Adamawa



Rabi Haruna, Women Development Officer, Kaltungo LGA - Gombe



Asabe Adamu, Community Women Mentor, Malam Sidi - Kwami LGA, Gombe



An elderly woman (WPS beneficiary) singing praises after a WPS Programme, Langai LGA, Mangu - Plateau



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