

COMPONENT BRIEF: SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

OBJECTIVE

Support the development and implementation of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security, which promotes the participation of women in peace-building processes.

CONTEXT

Women and girls are mostly impacted by displacement, sexual violence, food insecurity, kidnapping and trauma during violent conflict. However, despite the above and their contributions to easing tensions, promoting dialogue and rebuilding of their communities, they are excluded from formal peace-building and governance processes. As a result, decisions rarely take women's realities into account or address their security concerns. Their expertise and capacity are not utilised.

OUR APPROACH

We support the Nigerian government to develop its National Action Plan to ensure women are involved in peace and security efforts and to drive forward political will to implement. We also support Women Peace and Security Network members to raise awareness of the NAP and monitor its implementation and impact.

'... I call upon the government, civil society and those in relevant sectors of the economy to ensure the successful implementation of the UN Resolution 1325 because the role of women in society is unquantifiable.'

Hajia Zainab Maina, Minister of Women's Affairs and Social Development

WHERE WE WORK

We work with federal institutions and in eight states: Bayelsa, Borno, Delta, Kaduna, Kano, Plateau, Rivers and Yobe.

WHO WE WORK WITH

- Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development (federal and state)
- Civil society Women, Peace and Security networks



The National Action Plan is the response of the Government of Nigeria to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1,325 (UNSCR 1,325) on women peace and security. The NAP is led by the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development (MoWASD) and provides a legal framework for integrating women and girls into all peacebuilding efforts.

OUR WORK

Drafting and launching the National Action Plan:

We provided technical and financial support to MoWASD for the drafting, publication and launch of the NAP. This national framework includes provisions on women's participation in peace building, conflict management and tackling violence against women and girls.

Supporting the national policy environment for the NAP:

We support efforts to drive this agenda forward across government ministries, departments and agencies. In collaboration with the MoWASD, a policy brief has been produced to highlight key recommendations of the NAP. 15,000 copies of the policy brief have been disseminated to raise awareness across government and civil society. We also maximise opportunities to ensure commitment to the women, peace and security agenda is made by all stakeholders with which we engage.

State-level implementation: We work with state government departments and agencies to develop NAP implementation plans. Borno and Delta States have completed their plans.

Building partnerships between civil society and government:

We support the establishment and co-ordination of women, peace and security networks in eight states and at the federal level. In addition to providing co-ordinated action and raising awareness of issues, the networks monitor the implementation of the NAP.

CASE STUDY

Making early gains in Borno State

In Borno State, strides are being made to address women's peace and security issues. The State Ministry of Women's Affairs developed a plan for its implementation – the first of such plans developed in the country. The Women, Peace and Security Network is active. The WPS was the first national group to issue a public statement condemning the abduction of girls from a secondary school in Chibok. The statement by the group has been considered a catalyst for the ongoing national and international campaign for the release of the abducted girls.

'The abduction violates the girls' human rights. The act is a crime against humanity, prohibited under international humanitarian law.'

Hauwa Biu, spokesperson, Women, Peace and Security Network in Borno State

Raising awareness about peace and security issues facing Nigerian women

In collaboration with the Justice for All (J4A) programme, we hosted a seminar themed Women, Peace and Security: the Missing Millennium Development Goal. The event was held on International Women's Day and aimed to raise awareness about the National Action Plan. Discussions focused on finding ways to include women's rights in conflict prevention and peace-building efforts in Nigeria. The event brought together civil society organisations, human rights activists, women, peace and security specialists, and the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

Study on the Role of Women in Peace Initiatives in Nigeria

We conducted a study on 'the Role of Women in Peace Initiatives in Nigeria'. The research findings confirmed that women in Nigeria have a powerful role to play in conflict resolutions, but gender discrimination and violence often hinder their participation. The report was presented by NSRP at the 57th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNSCW). The UNSCW is the principal global policy-making body dedicated to setting standards and policies for gender equality and advancement of women.

FIND OUT MORE

Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme
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