Promoting Women’s Engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Introduction/Background

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 (Federal level), three Northern States (Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe) and selected constituent Local Government Areas (LGAs) to strengthen women’s leadership, advance gender equality and improve protection for women and children in conflict settings. The overall objective of the project 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 has three inter-locked components, each with their own specific objective:

1) Strengthen women’s role in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peace building;
2) Mitigate the impact of conflict upon women and girls; and
3) Enhance a conducive environment for effective implementation of UNSCR 1325-NAP, and monitoring gender equality commitments in Nigeria.

Interventions are 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, and national implementation of women, peace and security, and gender equality frameworks) will pursue common overall objectives while remaining flexible to fit specificities of the three target states. Yobe and Borno States are secondary beneficiaries of the Programme; some activities are implemented in these states, while also creating opportunities for stakeholders in the states to benefit from major initiatives undertaken in the three target states.

The programme is funded by the European Union and has a budget of 9,700,000 Euro, with an additional 300,000 Euro available directly to the EU Delegation for communication and monitoring and evaluation activities. UN Women is the overall executing agency, but implementing the programme in partnership with UNICEF, responsible for implementation of component two, and the Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs. CSOs, Media Networks, Women Peace Advocates and Gender Advocates are among others engaged strategic partners.
Brief on the Inception Phase (April 2014 - April 2015)

The Inception Phase of the Programme was implemented between April 2014 - April 2015. As stated in the Description of the Action of the Programme, the purpose of the Inception Phase was to organise the Programme Management Committee (PMC) and select the States for Programme implementation; to establish the office and staff infrastructure; and to prepare a revised results and resources framework for the Programme.

The Programme Management Committee (PMC) was successfully established in July 2014, chaired by the National Planning Commission, and co-chaired by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. After changing its title to Programme Steering Committee (PSC), the Committee considered the choice of target States for the Programme, and established criteria for their selection.

The process agreed encouraged a competitive approach between five potential beneficiary States, which led to express written commitments from State authorities of practical support to achievement of the objectives of the Programme. Adamawa, Gombe, and Plateau States were selected to participate, although the PSC also requested that attempts be made to ensure Borno and Yobe States benefit from the Programme whenever possible. Offices were provided by the three state government for the Programme, with dedicated staff to work closely with UN Women. The offices required certain upgrade to meet UN security standards. Letter of commitment by state Government, through the Executive Governors, demonstrating willingness to cooperate and support UN Women for the successful implementation of the initiative were also obtained.

UN Women and UNICEF signed an overarching cooperation agreement to regulate their cooperation under the Programme, and office and staff infrastructure have been duly established. Key staff positions were filled; vehicles and office equipment have been procured. As per the agreement of the UN Agencies and the EU Delegation, work was initiated on those activities not dependent on the findings of the baseline study. In particular, this related to UNICEF establishment of monitoring mechanisms for rights abuses and to UN Women work in regard to support to the Federal Ministry of Women’s Affairs, advocacy at the State level, and public awareness of Programme issues.

Programme planning during the period was significantly affected by two factors. First, deterioration in the security situation in the north-east of the country delayed the ability of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) to gather information necessary for the baselines survey, upon which Programme activities are predicated. This necessitated an extension of the Inception Phase from six months to eleven months. The current situation and expected results are drawn from the baselines study, and activities have been discussed and agreed with all primary stakeholders. Findings from the survey undoubtedly provided additional strategic guidance in project design and implementation.
Brief on Progress: Year 2 (May 2015 – June 2016)

During this period, State Programme Steering Committees (SPSCs) were officially inaugurated in Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe States. The SPSC complement the role of the National Programme Steering Committee (NPSC) by providing strategic advice and overall guidance. The SPSC selected 16 communities, four per target Local Government Area (LGA), in each of the three states for programme intervention, though impact will extend beyond these areas. Consensus was reached with the NPSC to ensure that Borno and Yobe States benefit from the programme. UN Women, UNICEF, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD) and State MWASD are strengthening partnerships with relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other stakeholders in these states through engagement on programme activities.

Several activities were implemented in target states, LGAs and Communities by UN Women and partners. The Progress against the specific objectives (outcomes) of the programme are summarized as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Objective/Outcome 1: Promote women’s engagement in peacebuilding and conflict-management processes at all levels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 1.1 Gender-sensitive peace architecture in three selected states established or reformed, to include forums of dialogue, early warning systems and rapid response-mechanisms for conflict resolution.</strong></td>
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**Key Results**

i. The building blocks (formal and informal institutions/structures and individuals) for gender integration in peace architecture in Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe States have been identified, with stakeholders fully engaged.

ii. Increased public understanding of the values and benefits of integrating gender in peacebuilding in target states and communities. This was achieved through a wide range of activities conducted at all levels, during the period under review.

iii. Increased support for women’s representation in decision-making positions, including peace and security processes by stakeholders, including State Governors, Legislators, LGA Chairmen, CSOs, the media and the traditional institutions in target states and communities. This is evidenced by commitments made by state government and community leaders, in addition to the support for the review of state peace architecture from a gender and human rights perspective.

More so, the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEOB) into law in Plateau State and its assent by the Executive Governor is a practical commitment. UN Women is currently supporting gazetting of the Act, its popularization and implementation. Similarly, Committees for the GEOB in Gombe and Adamawa have been
established. The legislators and other stakeholders are engaged to achieve similar success as recorded in Plateau State.

iv. State Government and community stakeholders committed to be fully involved in the review and implementation of recommendations expected from the redefined States’ peace architecture.

### Output 1.2 Enhanced community peace-making capacities of women in the three selected states

#### Key Results

i. Increased understanding of resolution 1325 and the programme among 180 CSOs and development workers in in Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe States. Following the mapping of CSOs in the three target states, orientation workshops on UNSCR 1325 and the Northern Nigeria WPS Programme were conducted for representatives of these organizations. This contributed to the submission of over 40 proposals by these CSOs, expressing interest to contribute to the Programme. Prior to the orientation, only few CSOs responded to the request to submit proposals as possible implementing partners to the Programme.

ii. The Network of Women Peace Mentors for the WPS Programme in Northern Nigeria established in Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe States, with 121 members.

iii. The Network of Women Peace Mentors for the WPS Programme in Northern Nigeria engaged in various community peacebuilding initiatives in target states, using strategic, coordinated and result-oriented approaches for sustainable impact.

i. Traditional and community leaders in 64 communities (16 per target state) are engaged in promoting women’s participation in peace and security, in both formal and informal settings.

ii. The Emir of Kaltungu, Gombe State, engages women in his chiefdom to provide strategic advice and support conflict resolution and decision-making, which is uncommon in most parts of Nigeria; 50 women are currently titleholders in his chiefdom.

### Specific Objective/Outcome 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

#### Output 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

#### Key Results

i. A case management system and the information system for child protection were successfully piloted in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States, in coordination with State MWASD.
ii. Dedicated data clerks have been identified in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States to implement the information-management system, in partnership with UNICEF partners.

iii. A total of 743 of 2,657 cases of VAC and GBV were entered into the database. The full caseload is due to be entered by the end of February 2016.

iv. The MRM for grave violations of children’s rights is operational at the national level and in the three states of emergency. During the reporting period, five Global Horizontal Notes and Nigeria’s Annual Report on grave violations of children’s rights were submitted in a timely manner to the Office of the Special Representative of the United National Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict.

Output 2.2: Capacity of government, state agencies and NGOs strengthened to effectively respond to VAC and VAW in conflict and non-conflict settings

Key Results
i. The coordination mechanism for child protection in emergencies is operational and effective at the national level and in Adamawa and Borno, ensuring greater coverage of services and support for children affected by the conflict and avoiding duplication of efforts.

ii. Capacity of child protection officers, social workers and police on child protection in emergencies strengthened. Three sets of training on this subject areas were delivered in Adamawa: (1) in April 2015, 25 child-protection officers, social workers and the police (11 were women) were trained on the protection of and case management for unaccompanied children; (2) in June 2015, 29 social welfare officers (11 were women) from the State MWASD were trained on case-management for child protection and unaccompanied and separated children; and (3) in July 2015 a refresher training was provided to 15 previously trained social-welfare officers (five were women) to further strengthen their capacity on case management.

iii. As a result of training, 803 (458 boys, 345 girls) unaccompanied and separated children were identified, registered, monitored and supported in Adamawa during the reporting period; 48 children (26 boys and 22 girls) were reunified with their families; 80 foster parents (42 men, 38 women) were trained to provide care for children who cannot remain in the current living arrangement; and 277 children (149 boys and 128 girls) were placed in or supported in alternative care placements.

iv. To strengthen child protection: (1) five Community-Based Child Protection Committees were established with 50 trained members (36 men, 14 women) in Numan, Mubi South, Hong Gerei and Yola South LGAs that supported 105 children through mediation with families and referral to services providers (i.e. cases included girls engaged in commercial sexual activities and family conflicts); (2) 41 Community-Based Child Protection Committees were established in nine LGAs in Adamawa State, consisting of 651 sensitized members (282 are women); and (3) 41 Community-Based Child Protection Committees were established in four LGAs in Gombe State with 656 sensitized members (140 are women).

v. Some 1,465 children received psychosocial support services in five sites in Adamawa State (Sangare A, Sangare B, Daware, Uba and Lamorde LGAs) through the partnership with the IRC; 9,747 children (5,204 boys, 4,543 girls) received psychosocial support services in partnership
with the Adamawa State MWASD (in the Fufore, Girei, Gombi, Hong, Madagali, Michika, Mubi South, Numan and Yola South LGAs).

vi. The November 2015 high-level workshop with religious leaders and government stakeholders in Gombe State resulted in the issuance of a communiqué cementing the commitment of the Government of Gombe to domesticate the Child Rights Act.

vii. 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.

**Output 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**

**Key Results**

i. Two consultative workshops in December 2015 in Plateau and Gombe States sensitized 60 religious and community leaders and resulted in the issuance of a public communiqué by participants on their commitment to end GBV, increase women’s role in WPS and led to the development of an action plan for each state.

ii. An approximate 10,000 adults were reached in Adamawa State through the dissemination of leaflets on the importance of supporting unaccompanied and separated children and via radio jingles on radio and phone-in programmes.

**Specific Objective/Outcome 3: Support a conducive environment for implementation of resolution 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.**

**Output 3.1: Implementation of the resolution 1325 NAP at national level and in three selected states enhanced.**

**Key Results**

i. Enhanced capacity of staff of the Federal and the Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe State MWASD to implement resolution 1325 NAP through technical support in form of training and capacity-development workshops, joint advocacy and strategy meetings and mentoring of staff and the provision of financial resources. The GTAs stationed in the offices of the State MWASD provided strategic guidance and mentoring to Ministry departments dedicated to the implementation of the 1325 NAP at state level.

ii. Strengthened capacity of staff of the Federal and the Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe State MWASD on UN Women financial management procedures and RBM strengthened through a capacity building workshop. Following the workshop, MWASD staff have demonstrated improved approaches to programmatic and financial management.
iii. Developed recommendations in the form of strategic guidance for the MWASD to increase the impact of the 1325 NAP implementation during a two-day National Stakeholders Assessment Workshop on the 1325 NAP, held in February 2016.

iv. Selected 10 women inductees as Gender Peace Ambassadors that will work to inspire and motivate others towards women’s active role in peacebuilding processes.

v. Improved the capacity of security agencies to track, monitor and report on the 1325 NAP through the mobilization and training of 25 security personnel and the formation of a network of security agencies contributing to the 1325 NAP.

vi. Produced a database for a National Advocacy Network for WPS and GBV, comprised of over 300 multi-sector gender advocates drawn from across the country. Network members constitute members of community of practice under the Knowledge Management Platform (KMP) of the programme.

vii. Contributed to the development and launch of the Plateau State MWASD 1325 Action Plan 27 August 2015. The Action Plan has been integrated into the State Government’s Strategic Action Plan, thus, demonstrating government commitment to implementation. Wase LGA also developed the first ever LGA Action Plan on resolution 1325. The programme is supporting the state government in the implementation of some major components of the 1325 Action Plan.

viii. Established SPSC in Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe that will advise and provide guidance on programme implementation in target communities.

ix. Enhanced the environment for the implementation of the resolution 1325 NAP in Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe States through support to key stakeholders, including State Governors, LGAs, traditional and community leaders, security agencies and the media.

x. Strengthened and expanded partnerships with national and international institutions committed to the implementation of resolution 1325 in Nigeria, including the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, the Nigeria Film Corporation, NAWOJ, the Department for International Development’s NSRP, Ufuk Dialogue Foundation, and Inclusive Security.

Output 3.2. Increased engagement with key stakeholders for the passage of relevant gender equality bills

Key Results

i. With support from the programme, the GEOB passed into law in Plateau State by the legislators in the State House of Assembly, and was assented by the Executive Governor.

ii. Established Committees to facilitate the processes required for the drafting, advocacy and passage of the GEOB in Gombe and Adamawa States and strengthened the capacity of five sub-committee members in Gombe State on the GEOB.
iii. Mobilized and sensitized key stakeholders and the public on the benefits of GEOB in Abuja and in Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe States.

Output 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.

Key Results
i. Developed a Knowledge Management Strategy for the programme, which will support networking and advocacy of a community of activist practitioners, the sharing of experiences and access to documentary resources, and the capture and dissemination of lessons on WPS.

ii. Created a Twitter campaign for IWD using the hashtags #IWDNigeria and #WPSNigeria that reached 644,028 accounts, with 2,591,136 discreet impressions.

iii. Reached millions of viewers and listeners in target areas, states and at international levels with information on resolution 1325 and the programme through television and radio programmes. Newspaper publications also increased visibility for the Programme.

iv. Increased public awareness and commitment through a National Stakeholders Consultative Forum on IWD, which led to the development of policy and programmatic recommendations.

v. Engaged stakeholders in Nigeria in the review of the 1325 NAP to identify gaps and emerging peace and security issues that need to be integrated in a future revised NAP.

vi. Produced a comprehensive media toolkit on resolution 1325 and the programme that will serve as a resource tool for media practitioners in the target states and other parts of the country.

vii. Expanded and supported the project’s Nigeria Association of Peace and Gender Practitioners in Media, by helping to: (1) increase its membership from 28 to 36 with new members from Borno, Yobe and Bauchi States; and (2) raise public awareness on resolution 1325 and related issues through the hosting of television and radio programmes (featuring UN Women and its partners), newspaper publications, and engaging in advocacy with stakeholders on WPS.
Brief on Progress: Year 3 (July 2016 – April 2017)

The third year implementation of the Programme is currently on-going. The progress and consolidated results recorded from July 2016 to January 2017 are summarized as follows:

Objective1: Promote women’s engagement in peacebuilding and conflict-management processes, at all levels.

Key Results:

i. Baseline Survey report for the Programme published, launched in October 2016 and widely disseminated among stakeholders at national and state levels. The report contained key findings and policy and programmatic recommendations for Women, Peace and Security.

ii. State Peace Architecture in Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe reviewed from a gender and human rights perspective. Existing gaps identified, and key recommendation for programming defined. Findings from the review were validated by stakeholders in target stats.

iii. Increased representation of women in leadership and decision making positions, including peace and security, largely attributed to the Programme.

Adamawa State:

a) 49 Women appointed as Advisors to the Paramount Ruler in Bachama Kingdom in Numan LGA of Adamawa State;
b) 4 Women appointed as Assistant Chiefs/Ward Heads on Security and other community Development initiatives;
c) 4 Women Commissioners and 3 permanent Secretaries retained by the present administration.
d) One of the WPS Women Peace Mentor from Yola North elected as councilor.

Gombe State:

a) The District Head of Doho in Gombe State appointed 2 women as members of his Traditional Council and Advisors.
b) The District head of Zambuk in Gombe State appointed 15 women among his advisers.
c) The Emir of Kaltungu engaged over 40 women as Advisers in his Traditional Council. He was motivated by the Programme to sustain the initiative; the women appointed also established strong partnership with UN Women, receiving technical support and opportunities for learning and exchanges/sharing of good practices.

Plateau State

a) 2 UN Women Peace Mentors appointed as members of the Gindiri Traditional Council in Mangu LGA of Plateau State.
b) Each village head nominated at least one woman for mentoring by the Women Peace Mentors.
iv. Small grants awarded to 5 civil society organizations who are currently implementing a wide range of initiatives aimed at contributing to the set goal and objectives of the programme in the three target states.

**Specific Objective/Outcome 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.**

**Key Results:**

i. The President of Nigeria followed up the successful Year of Action to End Violence Against Children (VAC) with the launch of the Campaign to End Violence Against Children by 2030 to achieve Target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, creating an unprecedented platform for advocacy and programming at national and state level on VAC.

ii. Nigeria announced its intention to become a Pathfinding Country under the new Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children – the fifth country in the world to do so.

iii. Child protection information management system strengthened with up to 5,705 cases uploaded in the system.

iv. 4 Global Horizontal Notes submitted thus strengthening reporting of grave violations of children’s rights in the North East.

v. Not less that 60 children affected by armed conflict received psychosocial support.

vi. Plateau State End Violence Against Children Campaign launched, state priority actions High level and inter-ministerial committed to take concrete action to prevent and respond to violence against children.

vii. 205 state and non-state actors (in Plateau and Gombe) trained on child protection systems strengthening, violence against children and GBV.

**Specific Objective/Outcome 3: Support a conducive environment for implementation of resolution 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.**

**Key Results:**

i. Technical and financial support to the Federal and State ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development in the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan (NAP).

ii. Office equipment and ICT training provided to target State Ministry of Women Affairs officials for enhanced knowledge management system.

iii. 4 zonal consultations with stakeholders to review the Nigeria NAP on UNSCR 1325 conducted; emerging Women, Peace and Security issues identified;

iv. The capacity of formal Security officials in the tracking, monitoring and reporting on the UNSCR 1325 enhanced through capacity building workshops and review meetings.

v. Increased access for women and girls to justice and other services:
   Adamawa State:
   a) 1 Referral Pathway on SGBV reviewed.
b) Increased synergy between line Ministries, development partners, 16 ward councilors and the media on the passage of gender bills.

c) Councilors in Mubi-South LGA inspired by the WPS Programme to pass legislation on SGBV in the LGA.

Gombe State:

a) The Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEOB) zero draft submitted to the Ministry of Justice for review.

b) Enhanced capacities of stakeholders on the implementation the UNSCR 1325.

vi. Women and Traditional/Community leaders plan and implement various community-based Women, Peace and security initiatives

vii. Increased support and cooperation by Government, Traditional and Religious Leaders for women engagement in peace and security, at all levels.