



► Policy Brief

ANALYSIS

OF GENDER AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS FUNDING IN NIGERIA:

Issues for Engagement and Advocacy

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Canada 



GLOBAL HOPE
FOR WOMEN
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I. INTRODUCTION

1

Women have less access to economic opportunities and public services and are also underrepresented in political and governance spaces¹. While the activities of development partners, civil society organizations (CSOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can help improve the situation², understanding the funding landscape is critical to guiding effective actions.

2

Volatility in the domestic and global economies also affects women more than it does men. Socio-economic indicators³. Challenges due to insecurity also worsen livelihood conditions for women as they are exposed to harsh living conditions in internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps. Women also lag behind men in access to health care⁴, learning spaces⁵, and paid work opportunities⁶. Despite these baseline challenges, women and girls are the victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)⁷ and exposed to humanitarian crises emanating from floods, forced migration, the COVID-19 pandemic and livelihood shocks⁸. A report by Action Aid Nigeria and DANIDA⁹ showed that the COVID-19 pandemic, and its associated lockdowns severely impacted the livelihood of young people (including girls). The out of school phenomenon is also worse for girls than their male counterparts. Health care centres in rural communities are also often not within easy reach for pregnant and nursing women¹⁰. Despite these challenges that women face on multiple fronts, funding for humanitarian response that targets women is often generalized, which requires refocusing to achieve desired results for women and girls.

3

Organizations that focus on women play a critical role in meeting the immediate needs of women and responding to pre-existing gender inequalities¹¹. A report by the OECD¹² shows that bilateral aid targeted at women's rights is focused on gender equality and women's empowerment. Within 2017-18, it accounted for 42% of total aid and was channeled to programmes on gender integration,

gender mainstreaming, or gender policy. Studies have shown that having more women humanitarian leaders contributes to transforming the humanitarian system¹³, enhances outcomes for women¹⁴, and ensures that girls get equal rights¹⁵.

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Even though these opportunities abound, other reports¹⁶ also show that women's organizations are not able to access the needed funding due to the outcome and impact evaluation indicators associated with these programmes and projects, which are difficult to benchmark and track with women-related interventions¹⁶. Some funding is considered too large to suit the needs of women's organizations because of what is required of the organization, including strategic plans, policies, and financial reporting, to access the funds¹⁸.

5

The last 10 years have also seen a rise in humanitarian crises in Nigeria that have more impact on women¹⁹. The floods in 2012²⁰, 2014²¹, and 2022 displaced many smallholder women farmers²². The insecurity in the north-east and related crises across the other geopolitical zones also leave more to worry about for women and children.

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According to a study conducted by UN WOMEN²³, 27,000 people have been killed and thousands of women and girls have been abducted by Boko Haram and related groups. In addition, 1.8 million people have been internally displaced, of whom 80% are women and children²⁴. Also, in Nigeria, the amount of public spending benefiting men is disproportionately greater than that benefiting women.

7

The conceptualization of women's rights also highlights the challenges that characterize the funding of women's organizations. Yes, women's rights are human rights²⁵. Therefore, if everyone has the right to food, education, health, and access to public services, then women should not be treated differently²⁶. The challenge to this view, however, is that access to these rights over the years in many countries, including Nigeria, has not been inclusive, and from all perspectives, women have been left behind.

In 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Many countries, including Nigeria, have ratified CEDAW. Article 2 of CEDAW prohibits direct and indirect discrimination against women. Likewise, Article 3 requires that women have both formal and substantive equality. The situation of women's exclusion in the socio-economic and access to public service spaces suggests that the CEDAW articles have been violated in a number of ways. Article 7 therefore calls on governments to take measures to eliminate discrimination in political and public life and, particularly, to ensure that women have the right, on equal terms with men, to participate in the formulation and implementation of government policy, to hold public office, and to participate in non-governmental organizations.

¹<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures>

²https://fisherpub.sjf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1074&context=intlstudies_masters

³<https://www.oecd.org/employment/50423364.pdf>

⁴<https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/backgrounders/Pages/bridging-the-gender-divide.aspx>

⁵<https://www.unicef.org/gender-equality>

⁶https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf

⁷<https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/Protecting%20forcibly%20displaced%20women%20and%20girls%20during%20Covid-19%20March%202021.pdf>

⁸https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ocha_nga_humanitarian_needs_overview_march2021.pdf

⁹<https://nigeria.actionaid.org/sites/nigeria/files/publications/YDE%20Nigeria%20Project%20Report%202021.pdf>

¹⁰<https://nigeria.actionaid.org/sites/nigeria/files/publications/YDE%20Nigeria%20Project%20Report%202021.pdf>

¹¹<https://wrds.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/GiHA%20Gender%20and%20Funding%20in%20COVID-19.pdf>

¹²<https://www.oecd.org/development/gender-development/Aid-Focussed-on-Gender-Equality-and-Women-s-Empowerment-2020.pdf>

¹³<https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-020-00330-9>

¹⁴<https://press.un.org/en/2021/sgsm20615.doc.htm>

¹⁵<https://plan-international.org/girls-get-equal/>

¹⁶Collinson et al (2008) for the UK Gender and Development Network

¹⁷<https://www.oecd.org/derec/adb/tool-kit-gender-equality-results-indicators.pdf>

¹⁸<https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/40954592.pdf>

¹⁹<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigerias-decade-long-conflict-leaves-millions-need-humanitarian-aid>

²⁰<https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/82644>

²¹<https://floodlist.com/africa/ongoing-flooding-southern-nigeria-kills-15>

²²<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/deadly-flooding-nigeria-leads-major-cholera-outbreak-irc-scaling-flood-and-health-response>

²³<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2020/Funding-for-GEEWG-in-humanitarian-programming-Nigeria-en.pdf> (page 6)

²⁴<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-humanitarian-response-strategy-2019-2021-january-2019-december-2021-december>

²⁵<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Events/WHRD/WomenRightsAreHR.pdf>

²⁶<https://hbr.org/2018/05/what-most-people-get-wrong-about-men-and-women>

II. OBJECTIVES



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This report examines the landscape of funding for gender and women's rights in Nigeria. Specifically, it examines:



II. FINDINGS



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Development partner funding accounts for 90% of the total fund of US\$854.6 million received by Nigeria for humanitarian crisis response. Analysis of the funding shows that 40 humanitarian agencies account for 82% of the US\$854.6 million received by Nigeria in 2022–2023. These organizations include: World Food Programme, International NGOs (confidential), United Nations High Commission for Refugees, International Organization for Migration, World Health Organization, Nigerian Humanitarian Aid, UNICEF, Norwegian Refugee Council, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Action Against Hunger, International Rescue Committee, Save the Children, UNDP, Solidarites International, UN FAO, Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, and Plan International. These organizations have individual funding for humanitarian response ranging from US\$2 million to US\$300 million.

TABLE 1: HUMANITARIAN FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS BY FUND SIZE AND NUMBER OF PROJECTS

S/N	ORGANIZATIONS	AMOUNT	PROPORTION OF FUNDING IN TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED	NO OF PROJECTS
1.	Solidarités International	\$ 3,725,000.00	0.53	4
2.	United Nations Development Programme	\$ 5,339,042.00	0.76	2
3.	United Nations Development Programme	\$ 5,893,335.00	0.84	7
4.	Save the Children	\$ 5,974,735.00	0.85	7
5.	International Rescue Committee	\$ 6,744,755.00	0.96	18
6.	Action Against Hunger	\$ 7,563,405.00	1.08	10
7.	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	\$ 8,067,178.00	1.15	8
8.	Norwegian Refugee Council	\$ 23,325,038.00	3.33	50
9.	United Nations Children's Fund	\$ 28,890,461.00	4.12	16
10.	Nigeria Humanitarian Fund	\$ 37,020,445.00	5.28	14
11.	World Health Organization	\$ 37,647,448.00	5.37	28
12.	International Organization for Refugees	\$ 38,110,887.00	5.44	62
13.	International NGOs (Confidential)	\$ 176,742,292.00	25.21	65
14.	World Food Programme	\$ 297,260,014.00	42.40	63
	TOTAL	\$ 682,304,035.00	97.32	

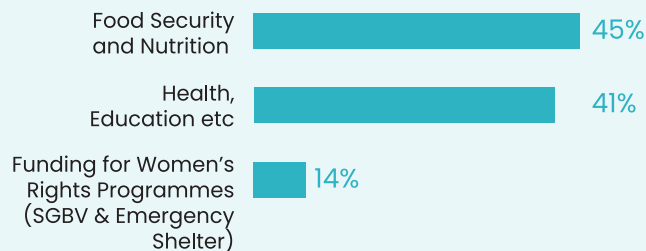
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The funding offered by these organizations is either 'paid contribution' or 'commitment'. During the 2022 period under review, the top funding organizations had a total of 381 projects under these two broad funding arrangements. Paid contributions accounted for 75%, while commitments accounted for 25%.

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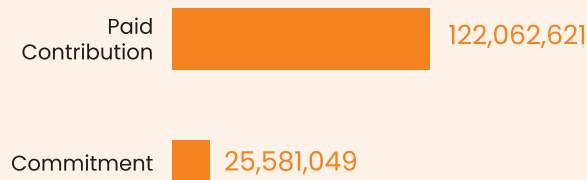
The funding for gender and women's rights is represented by activities in the humanitarian sector. That funding for the women's rights programme is lumped into the overall funding for the humanitarian response programme in Nigeria. Funding for food security and nutrition receives 45% of the overall funding; health, education, and others receive 41%; and programmes targeted at addressing issues that affect women, such as SGBV and emergency shelter, account for 14%. Thus, while funding for gender and humanitarian affairs accounts for 86% of the funding, funding for women's rights accounts for 14%.

Fig 1: Total Funding Available for Humanitarian Response for Nigeria in 2022



Source: UNOCHA

Fig 2: Type of Funding Available for Women's Right Programmes (US\$ Million)

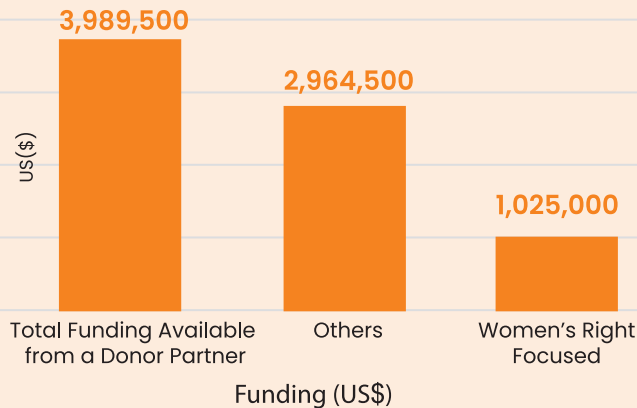


Source: UNOCHA

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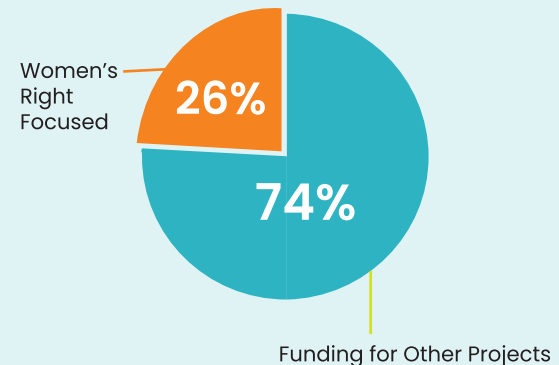
Secondary data shows that even though there are organizations with a focus on women's rights, their activities are typically not limited to women's rights. For instance, an examination of the funding for Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) showed that of the total funding available from 2005 to 2022, only 26% was targeted at women's rights activities.

Fig 3: Funding for Women-Led Organization and Others (US\$)



Source: MacArthur Foundation/ WRAPA, 2023

Fig 4: % Share of Funding for Women Focused Organization

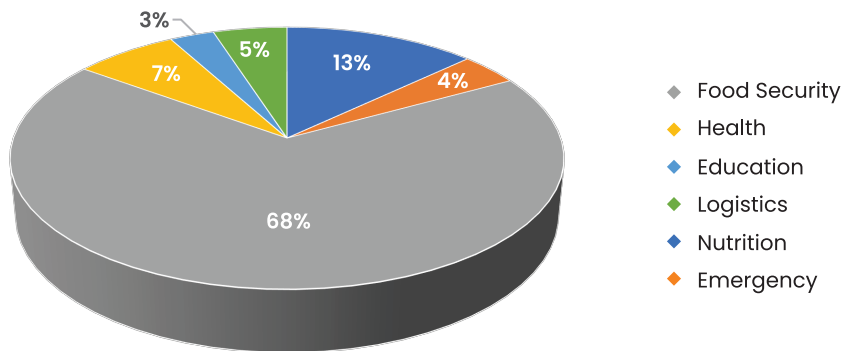


Source: MacArthur Foundation/ WRAPA, 2023

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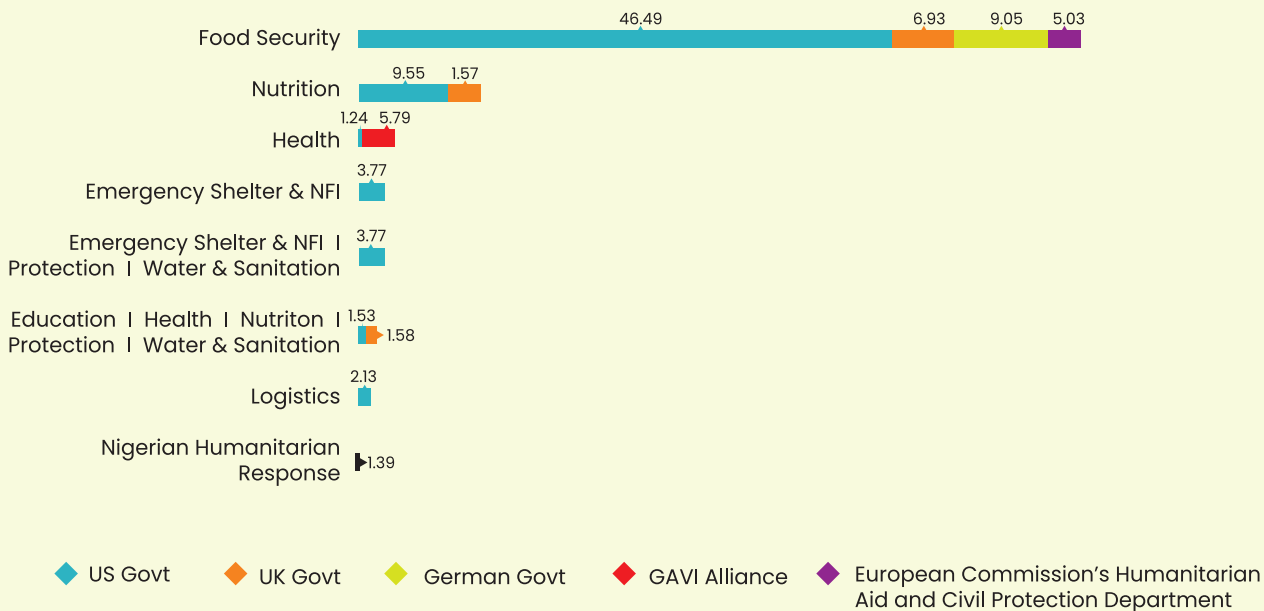
The funding from these organizations is concentrated on food security and nutrition. Other aspects are health, emergency shelter, and education programmes and interventions. The proportion of all development partner funding is such that food security gets 68% of all allocations, while funding for emergency shelter gets 4% of total funding. By source of donor contribution, the contribution from the United States government accounts for about 47% of funding for food security, while funding from the Belgian government accounts for the Nigeria Humanitarian Response.

Fig 5: Development Partner Funding for Gender and Women's Rights Thematic Areas (% of Total Funding)



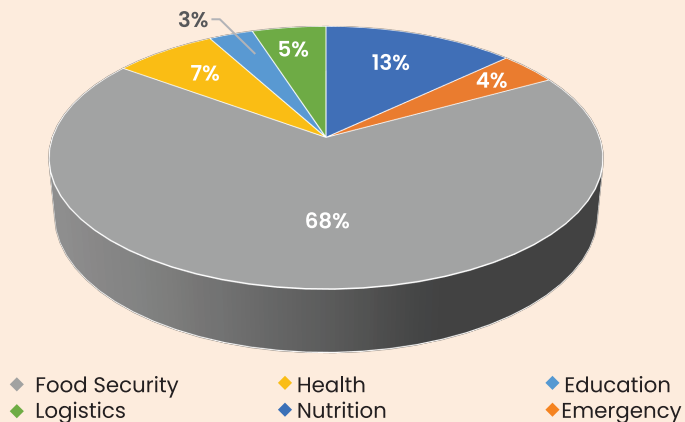
Source: UNOCHA, 2022

Fig 5: Donor Funding by Sectoral Priority by Donor Source: 2022 (%)



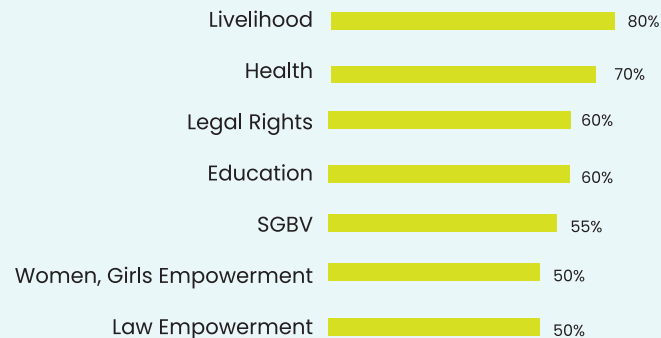
Source: UNOCHA, 2022

Fig 5: Development Partner Funding for Gender and Women's Rights Thematic Areas (% of Total Funding)



Source: UNOCHA, 2022

Fig 7: Effectiveness of Grants Received for Gender and Women's Rights Work



Source: GLOHWOC Field Data, 2022

The funds from the source organizations are channeled to CSOs and NGOs in Nigeria through the receiving organizations. For instance, the funds from the United States government are channeled to World Food Programmes, International NGOs (confidential), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Organization for Migration, and the World Health Organization. These organizations in turn implement the programmes and interventions in their specific thematic areas through international NGOs (iNGOs), which in turn partner with local NGOs in the community of the project area to implement the programmes and interventions.

TABLE 2: HUMANITARIAN FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS BY FUND SIZE AND NUMBER OF PROJECTS

SOURCE ORGANIZATIONS	RECEIVING ORGANIZATIONS
US Govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ World Food Programme ◆ International NGOs (Confidential) ◆ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ◆ United Nations Children's Fund ◆ International Organization for Migration ◆ World Health Organization
UK Govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ World Food Programme ◆ UNICEF
German Govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ World Food Programme
GAVI Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ World Health Organization ◆ United Nations Children's Fund
European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ World Food Programme
Central Emergency Response Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ World Food Programme ◆ United Nations Children's Fund
Belgium Govt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Nigeria Humanitarian Fund

The funding offered by these organizations are either by paid contribution or by commitment. During the 2022 period under review, paid contribution accounted for 75% while grants from commitment account for 25%.

TABLE 3: FUNDING MODALITY OF DONOR GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS

COMMITMENT	PAID CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL
25%	75%	100%

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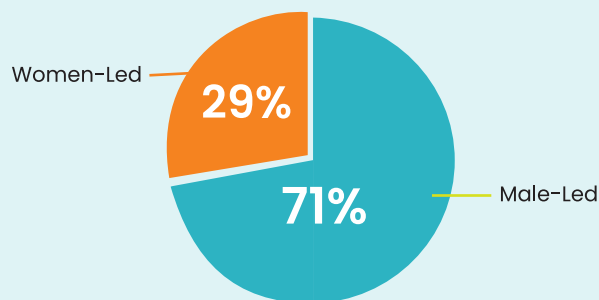
The allocation of funds to projects and interventions shows that gender and women's rights programmes are broadly classified as humanitarian responses. Delivering on specific gender and women's rights programme is, therefore, entirely up to the local CSOs and NGOs. In this regard, the report examined whether or not the leadership (by gender of the country of the programme lead) matters. It was found that women-led organizations prioritize women's rights and women's specific projects. However, engagement in these areas would require long periods of time as they would have to identify and address cultural and traditional barriers as well as pre-existing patriarchal values that have been long enshrined in the country. Funding requirements from donor agencies are often met within a shorter time frame. To yield results in women's rights interventions, programmes have to be within a longer time frame.

TABLE 4: TIME FRAME FOR SELECTED WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS BY A WOMEN RIGHTS AND WOMEN-LED ORGANIZATION IN NIGERIA

YEAR	AMOUNT (US\$)	DURATION	DOMAIN	PROGRAMME FOCUS
2014	100,000	2 years 7months	To increase access to justice for women across all three legal systems in Nigeria: common law, traditional law, and Shariah law.	Support the coordination with government agencies; development of coordinated citizen responses to the insurgency responses to the insurgencytraditional law, and Shariah law.
2018	1,062,000	3 years	Actualizing the legal rights of women in private and public spaces.	Encourages widespread demand for accountability and reinforces an important foundation for anti-corruption in Nigeria.

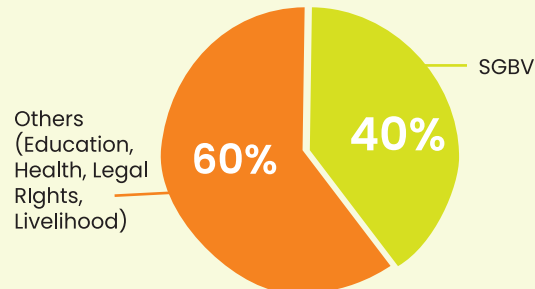
2020	50,000	6 months	Protecting the legal rights of women, in private and public, through mobilization, sensitization, and the provision of legal services and other support.	Educate the public, advocate for basic needs, and protect women and children from abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2021	1,165,000	3 years	Women's access to justice by actualizing women's legal rights in private and public spaces.	Strengthen the participation of marginalized voices, build community accountability practices, and contribute to a reduction in corruption.
2022	37,500	5 months	Women's access to justice by actualizing women's legal rights in private and public spaces	Electoral integrity and accountability

Fig 8: Gender Leadership of CSOs/NGOs



Source: GLOHWOC Field Data, 2022

Fig 9: Programme Focus of CSOs/NGO Engaged During the FGD/KII



Source: GLOHWOC Field Data, 2022

Field data from Adamawa, Bauchi, Kwara, Imo, Kebbi, Oyo, Borno, Edo, Enugu, and Lagos showed that women-led organizations account for 29% of the organizations. Yet, these women-led organizations are able to champion programmes and interventions in SGBV that accounts for 40% of the programme implemented by these organizations. Funding for women's rights programmes and interventions should therefore be sustained and tailored within a longer time frame, which would yield results that show improvement from the baseline.

IV. ADVOCACY POINTS

1

This report advocates for increased funding for women's rights as its findings show that the portion of funding by development partners, CSOs, and NGOs is small: about 14% from development partners and 26% of programme budget for CSOs.

2

Although male-led organizations that are abreast of the he-for-she principles are also advantageous to promoting women's rights, this report shows that women-led organizations are able to yield tangible results since they know where it bites the most.

The funding model for women's rights should also be based on paid contributions rather than expressing commitments.

3

Women's rights funding is a subset of humanitarian response funding. Women's rights are dependent on other factors such as food security, health, and education, but tailored programmes and interventions should be considered as well.

4

Since women's rights issues contend with traditional, cultural, and patriarchal norms and values, such programmes should be contextualized over a longer period of time, say three to five years, rather than the typical period of one to three years. A longer intervention period is crucial to achieving tangible results that can change the current situation of gender inequality.

5

6

A toolkit for what women's rights programmes entail should also be developed and mainstreamed within development practice. The report shows that most programs grouped as food security, education, health emergency shelters, etc. carry the label of women's rights interventions. The most apparent programme intervention that stands out as a women's rights programme is the advocacy on SGBV. One of the activities of the women's rights organization reviewed showed that programmes

7

While advocacy for women's rights is vital for inclusive development, it is equally important to situate women's rights issues within the wider context of the global economy. Global funding for humanitarian response can be affected by economic, climate change, and environmental shocks from the originating countries. The heat wave in Europe is a typical case. CSOs and NGOs should also advocate on global issues with local impacts, as issues can roll back women's gains in certain aspects of the economy.

8

In addition, the field data indicate that there is a gap in capacity regarding women's rights interventions as understood by the development partner, international NGOs (such as Action Aid Nigeria), and community-based organizations responsible for implementing women's rights programmes. This calls for capacity building of the international NGOs by development partners and training of the community-based organizations by the international NGOs. This would enable a deeper understanding of the issues and how to coordinate actions towards ensuring that inputs lead to desired outputs, which lead to outcomes, and that outcomes from women's rights intervention lead to the desired impact on gender equality and women's empowerment.

act!onaid



Abuja

ActionAid Nigeria
Plot 477, 41 Crescent,
off Sa'adu Zungur Avenue
Gwarimpa, Abuja.



Lagos

1A, Adeboye Solanke Street
Off Allen Avenue (behind
Zenith Bank)
Ikeja, Lagos.
Tel: +2348126644268



Borno

Old G.R.A. Beside
Lodge 7, Maiduguri.



+234 (0) 812 8888 825-7



ActionAidNigeria



nigeria.actionaid.org



ActionAidNigeria



@ActionAidNG