

GLOHWOC POLICY BRIEF

Analysis of Gender and Women's Rights Funding in Nigeria: Issues for Engagement and Advocacy

July/August 2023

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 to improve the situation², understanding the funding landscape is critical to guiding effective actions.
2. Volatility in the domestic and global economy also affects women more than it does for men. Socio-economic indicators³. Challenges due to insecurity also worsened 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 base-line challenges, women and girls are the victims of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV)⁷ and exposed to humanitarian crisis emanating from floods, forced migration, the COVID-19 pandemic and livelihood shocks⁸. 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). Out of school phenomenon is also worse for the girl-child than their male counterpart. 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 multi-fronts, funding for humanitarian response that targets women is often generalized thus, 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. Report by the OECD¹² shows that bilateral aid targeted at women's right is focussed on gender equality and women's

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

² https://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>

⁶ https://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>

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https://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://wrd.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>

empowerment. Within 2017-18, it accounted for 42% of total aid and was channeled to programmes on gender integration and, gender mainstreaming or gender policy. Studies have shown that having more women humanitarian leaders contributes to transforming the humanitarian system¹³, enhance outcomes for women¹⁴ and ensures that girls get equal¹⁵.

4. Even though these opportunities abound, other reports¹⁶ also show that women's organizations are not able to access the needed funding due to outcome and impact evaluation indicators associated with these programmes and projects but are difficult to benchmark and track with women related-interventions¹⁷. Some funding's are 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 crisis 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 crisis across the other geopolitical zones also leaves more to worry for women and children.
6. 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 benefitting men is disproportionately greater than that benefitting women.
7. The conceptualization of women's rights also highlights the challenge that characterize the funding of women's organizations. Yes, women's right is human rights²⁵. Therefore, if everyone has right the 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 and Nigeria, have not been inclusive and in all perspectives, women have been left behind.
8. 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 the CEDAW. Article 2 of the CEDAW prohibits direct and indirect discrimination against women. Likewise, Article 3 requires that women have both formal and substantive equality. The situation of women exclusion in the socio-economic and access to

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/>

¹⁶ Collinson 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>

public service space 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 organization.

II. Objective

9. The broad objective of this report is to examine the trends and implication of Funding for Gender and Women's rights in Nigeria. Specifically, it examines:
 - i. The structure of development partner funding (donor funding) in women's rights;
 - ii. How large are grants for gender and women's rights work compared to other areas of development work;
 - iii. Which thematic areas get more funding and the effectiveness of the grants given for gender and women's rights work;
 - iv. Whether the projects and interventions through these funding is helping to achieving gender equality;
 - v. The gender-leadership of these organizations and examines the which organizations deliver better on gender and women's rights;
 - vi. The gaps in the funding to these organizations vis-à-vis their women rights objectives, examines what donor's can do to achieve more results in the area of gender and women's rights; and
 - vii. Lastly, it makes recommendations on areas to fund, types of grants, scope, organizations to grant and the conditions for the grant.

III. Findings

10. Development partner funding accounts for a 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, the Nigerian Humanitarian Aid, UNICEF, Norwegian Refugee Council, Office for the coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Action Against Hunger, International Rescue Committee, Save the Children, UNDP, Solidarités International UN FAO, Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development and Plan International. These organizations have an individual funding in humanitarian response ranging from US\$2 million to US\$300 million.

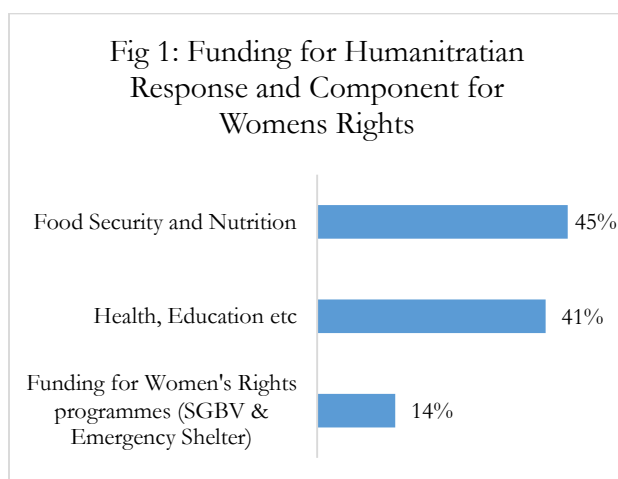
Table 1: Humanitarian Funding Organizations by Fund Size and Number of Projects

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

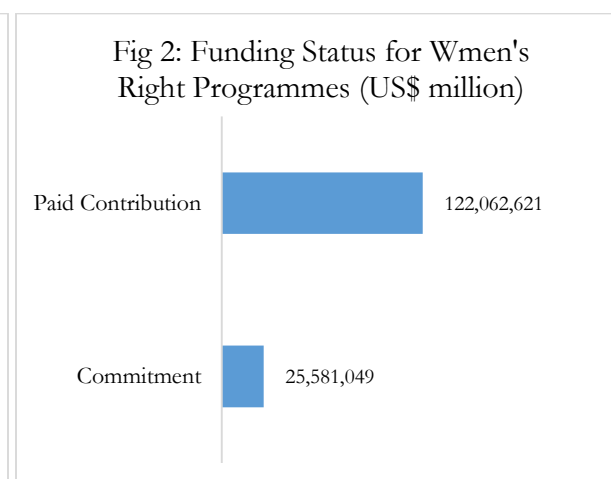
3	Save the Children	\$ 5,893,335.00	0.84	7
4	International Rescue Committee	\$ 5,974,735.00	0.85	7
5	Action Against Hunger	\$ 6,744,755.00	0.96	18
6	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	\$ 7,563,405.00	1.08	10
7	Norwegian Refugee Council	\$ 8,067,178.00	1.15	8
8	United Nations Children's Fund	\$ 23,325,038.00	3.33	50
9	Nigeria Humanitarian Fund	\$ 28,890,461.00	4.12	16
10	World Health Organization	\$ 37,020,445.00	5.28	14
11	International Organization for Migration	\$ 37,647,448.00	5.37	28
12	United Nations High Commissioner 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	

Source: UNOCHA, 2022

11. The funding offered by these organizations are either by paid contribution or by commitment. During the 2022 period under review, the top funding organizations had a total of 381 projects under these two broad funding arrangements. Paid contribution accounted 75% while commitment accounted 25%.
12. The funding for gender and women's right is represented by activities in the humanitarian sector. That funding for women's rights programme is lumped into the overall funding for humanitarian response programme in Nigeria. Funding for food security and nutrition receives 45% of the overall funding, health, education and others receives 41%, while programmes targeted at addressing issues that affect women such as SGBV and emergency shelter accounts for 14%. Thus, while funding for gender/ humanitarian affairs is accounts for 86% of the funding, funding for women's rights account for 14%.

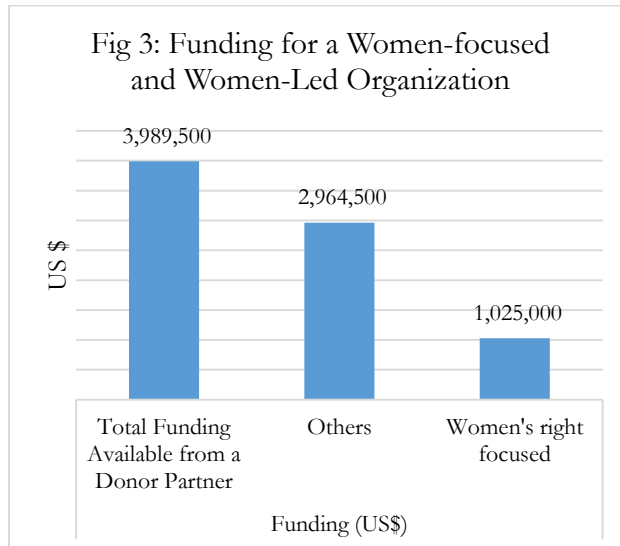


Source: UNOCHA

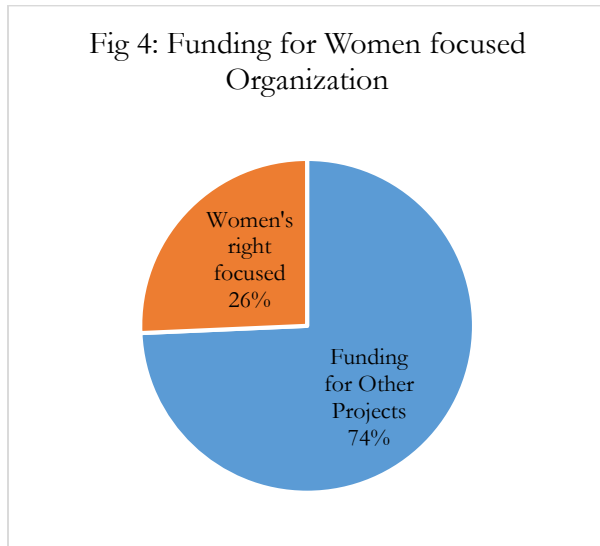


Source: UNOCHA

13. 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.

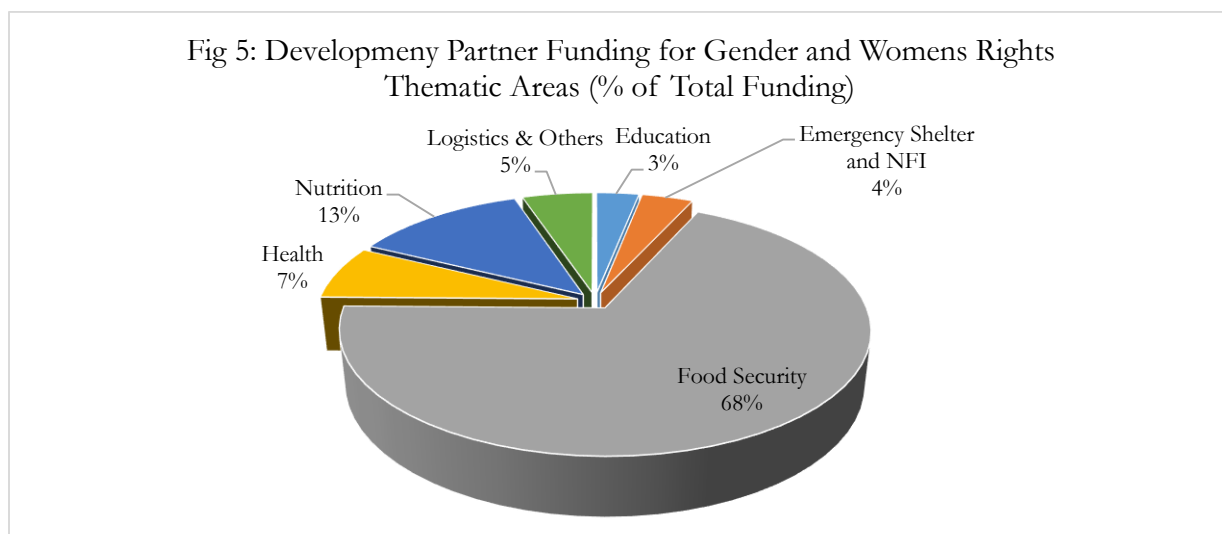


Source: MacArthur Foundation/ WRAPA, 2023



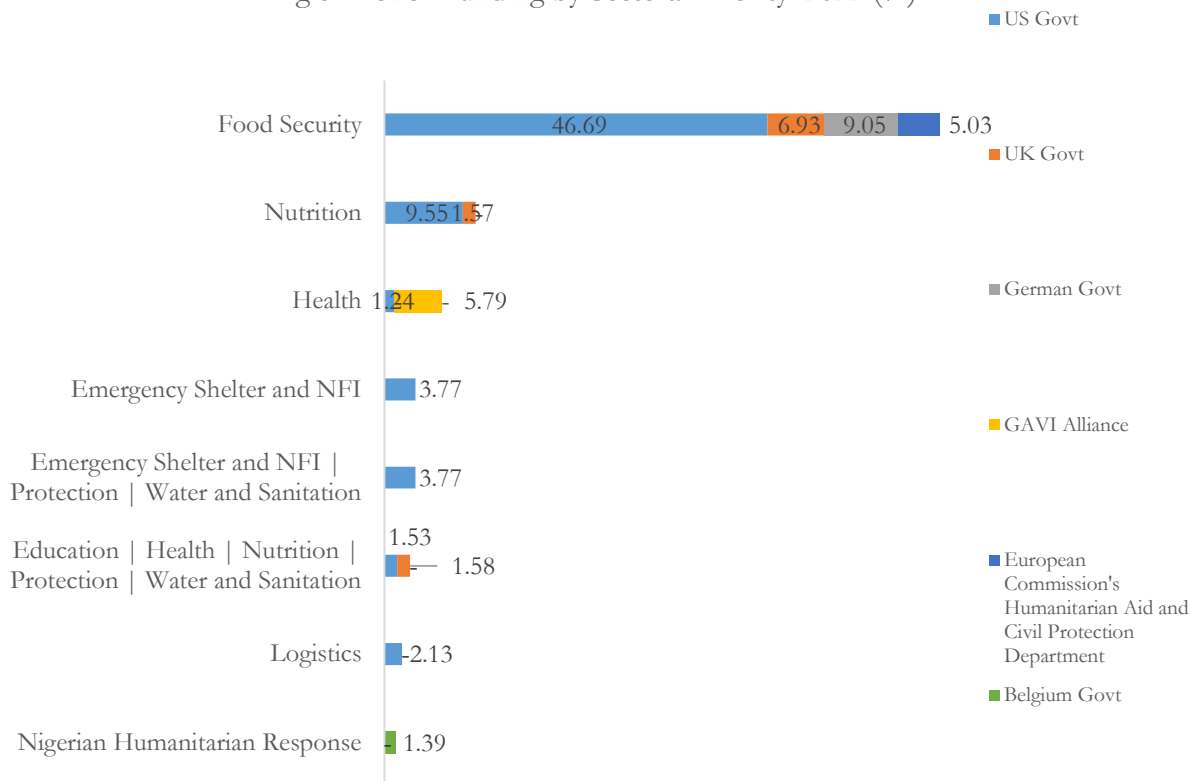
Source: MacArthur Foundation/ WRAPA, 2023

14. The funding from these organizations are concentrated on food security, and nutrition. Other aspects are health, emergency shelter and education programmes/ interventions. Proportion of all development partner funding showed that food security gets 68% of all allocation, while funding for emergency shelter gets about 4% of total funding. By source of donor contribution, the contribution from the United States government account for about 47% of funding for food security, while funding from the Belgium government account is channeled to the Nigeria Humanitarian Response.



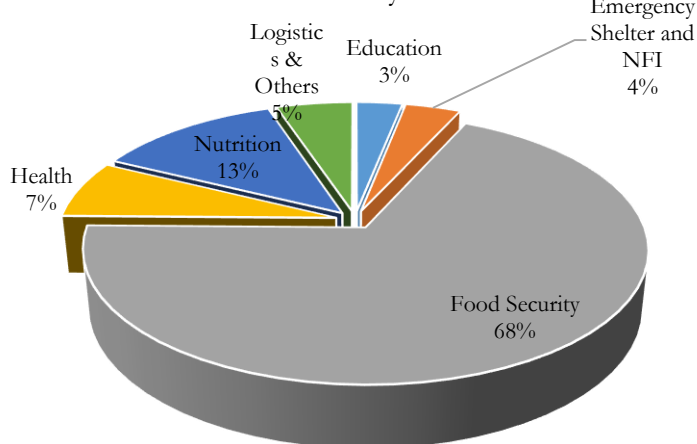
Source: UNOCHA, 2022

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



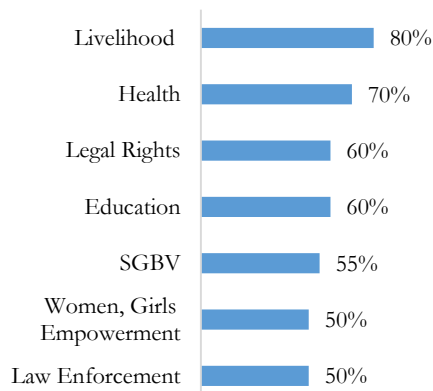
Source: UNOCHA, 2022

Fig 6: Donor Organization Funding by Sector Priority



Source: UNOCHA, 2022

Fig 7: Effectiveness of grants received for gender and women's rights work



Source: GLOHWOC Field Data, 2022

15. 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 is channeled through World Food Programmes, International NGOs (Confidential), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, International Organization for Migration, and World Health Organization. These organizations in turn implement the programmes and interventions in their specific thematic areas through international NGOs (iNGOs) who in turn partner with local NGOs with the community of project area to execute programmes and interventions.

Table 2: Donor Granting Organizations and Grant receiving Organizations	
Source organization	Receiving Organization
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

Source: UNOCHA

16. 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%

Source: UNOCHA

17. The allocation of funds to projects and interventions show that gender and women's rights programmes are broadly classified as humanitarian response. 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 programme lead) matters. It was found that women-led organizations prioritize women's rights and women-specific projects. However, engagement in these areas would require long periods as they have to identify and address cultural and traditional barriers as well as pre-existing

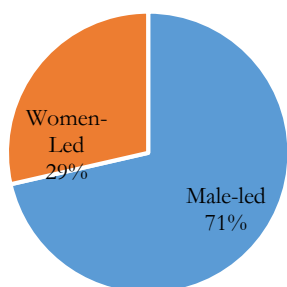
patriarchal values that have been long enshrined in the country. Funding requirement from donor agencies is often within a shorter time frame. The yield results in women's rights interventions, programmes have to be within a longer time frame.

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 7 months	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
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

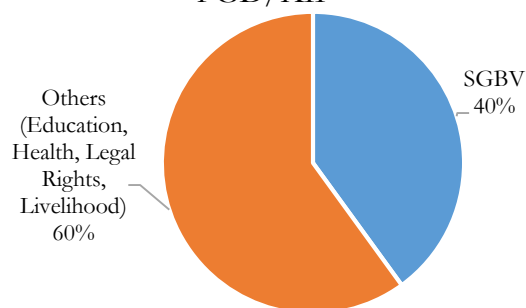
Source: WRAPA

Fig 8: Gender leadership of CSOs/NGOs



Source: GLOHWOC Field Data, 2022

Fig 9: Programme focus of CSOs/NGOs engaged during the FGD/KII



Source: GLOHWOC Field Data, 2022

18. Field data from Adamawa, Bauchi, Kwara, Imo, Kebbi, Oyo, Borno, Edo, Enugu, and Lagos showed that women-led organizations are account for 29% of the Organizations. Yet, these women-led organization 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 what would yield results that shows improvement from the baseline.

IV. Advocacy Points

- i. 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 account for 26% of programme budget, for CSOs.
- ii. Although male-led organizations that are abreast with 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.
- iii. The funding model for women's rights should also be on the basis of paid contributions rather than expressing commitments.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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 the change current situation of gender inequality.
- vi. A toolkit for what women's rights programmes entail should also be developed and mainstreamed within the 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 conceptualized as women's rights include protecting the legal rights of women in private and public, through mobilization, sensitization, and the provision of legal services and other support; actualizing the legal rights of women in private and public spaces; and increase access to justice for women. While these issues are women's rights issues, developing a toolkit in this regard will therefore help to promote proper planning, and fund targeting for women's rights programmes and interventions. The toolkit may be further domesticated in particular communities to ensure that issues that deprive women of their rights are addressed within the context of the law.
- vii. 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, leads to desired outputs, leads to outcomes, and outcome from women's rights intervention lead to the desired impact on gender equality and women empowerment.

- viii. 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 point in case. CSOs and NGOs should also advocate on global issues with local impacts as issues can roll back the gains to women in certain aspects of the economy.

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