



*Promoting Women's Engagement in Peace and Security in Northern  
Nigeria*

**PROGRAMME BROCHURE (2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION)**



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**DRAFT – BROCHURE ARTICLES**

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## **Abbreviations**

CSO	Civil society organisation
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally displaced person
IPCR	Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution
IRC	International Rescue Committee
LGA	Local government area
MDAs	Ministries, departments, and agencies
MBNP	Ministry of Budget and National Planning
MWASD	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
NAWOJ	Nigerian Association of Women Journalists
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NSCDC	Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps
NSRP	Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
YYNGL	Young Youth Network for Good Leadership

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This publication highlights various aspects of the implementation of the Programme ‘Promoting Women Engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria’ by UN Women. The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Programme is funded by the European Union (EU) and is being implemented in collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development of the federal and state governments in Nigeria.

The Programme is designed as a three-year initiative that provides support to the Federal Government, three northern states of Nigeria – Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau (and selected local government areas (LGAs)) – in the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and the National Action Plan (NAP) of Nigeria.

The main objectives of the Programme are to strengthen and increase women’s engagement in leadership and decision-making positions with respect to peace and security structures and institutions; advance gender equality; and to help ensure the protection of women and children from violence in conflict settings.

The Programme uses a participatory approach in which it engages and partners with strategic stakeholders such as government agencies at federal and state levels, UN agencies, community leaders, women mentors, CSOs and the media, among others. In order to create impact, we link research, practice and policy. As such, we build strategic partnerships and networks among organisations that work on peace and security while documenting and disseminating best practices.

In line with the objectives of the Programme, a number of strategic initiatives have been carried out in selected states in northern Nigeria. Such initiatives include establishing and strengthening 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; establishing and engaging media networks; and introducing case management and information systems as well as operational coordination mechanisms for child protection.

The Programme has recorded many success stories, including the designation and training of women mentors. One of them, for example, is a member of the Advisory Council on Conflict Resolution of the Emir of Kaltungo in Gombe State. The appointment into the Advisory Council which now includes over 40 women, is considered a major achievement in itself in a conservative society where Emirs’ councils are usually a preserve of men.

The Programme has continued to raise awareness of its activities in various communities within the selected states, with a large number of women testifying of the impact of conflict on their

lives. In this regard, the Programme has adopted multiple approaches including interactive sessions and the dissemination of information through print and electronic media channels as well as on the internet. The awareness campaign has been enhanced by the establishment of the Programme's media network (the *Nigeria Association of Peace and Gender Practitioners in Media*) which has grown from 48 members in 2014 to 133 members in 2017. The membership is drawn from the Programme target states, as well as from Abuja, Yobe, Borno and Bauchi.

We anticipate that with these efforts, the inadequate representation of women in governance and their marginalisation in peace, security and humanitarian processes will be significantly reduced in the foreseeable future. Under the WPS Programme, UN Women together with the EU, UNICEF and the Nigerian government will continue to champion the cause of women and young girls in vulnerable circumstances.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Conflicts have severe consequences with impact on societies. Women have been victims of armed conflicts in different parts of the world, often having fewer or no resources to protect themselves and, together with children, they constitute the majority of internally displaced populations. Women and girls are also many times victims of gender-based violence and abuse.

While women constitute the majority of victims in conflict situations, they largely remain unrecognised, under-resourced, and excluded from formal peace processes and negotiations. Other than lacking access to justice when faced with human rights abuses, women also face important hurdles when it comes to participating in reforming laws to address these challenges.

In many states across northern Nigeria, women and girls face even greater difficulties, contending with institutionalised cultural and religious barriers to education, employment and economic opportunities as well as limited access to political activities.

The Programme partners recognise that women can be 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.

## **Objectives**

The overall objective of the Programme is to ensure the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in three northern states of Nigeria—Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau—and to document its impact on the management, mitigation and resolution of conflicts in these states. More precisely, the three-year Programme focuses on the following inter-locked objectives:

1. To strengthen women’s role in conflict prevention, peace-making and peace-building;
2. To mitigate the impact of conflict upon women and girls; and
3. To establish a conducive environment for effective implementation and monitoring of gender equality commitments in Nigeria.

Programme activities aim to achieve a common objective while remaining flexible to fit the specificities of each selected state. Interventions are coordinated through a results-based strategy which seeks to raise the capacities of Nigerian institutions, women’s groups and gender equality advocates.

UN Women is the overall executing agency of the WPS Programme and is partnering with UNICEF, which implements Objective 2 (mitigating the impact of conflict upon women and girls) and associated results. Primary national implementing partners are the Federal Ministry of Women’s Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD), and the state ministries of Women’s Affairs and Social Development (MWASD) in Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau. The Programme also partners with several civil society organisations (CSOs), particularly human rights groups, as well as the Child Protection Network (CPN) and its partners. Programme activities are mainly being carried out at state, local government and the community level, with some activities at the federal level.

### Target Areas

The Programme focuses on four selected local government areas (LGAs) in the three target states, representing each of the three senatorial districts. In order to create significant and targeted impact, four communities per LGA were carefully selected during the inaugural meetings of the States’ Programme Steering Committee Meetings. The criteria for the selection included fair representation of the various ethnic groups and religions in the target areas and consideration of the history of violent conflict and affected areas. The selected communities and LGAs are listed in the table below:

**Table A. Programme Target Areas**

	States	Senatorial Districts	LGAs	Communities
1.	Adamawa	Northern	Mubi South	Gella, Nassarawo, Lamurde&Yawa
			Maiha	Mayo-Nguli, Pakka, JalingoMaiha&Geri Maiha
		Central	Yola North	Alkalawa, Nassarawo, Jambutu&Bekaji
		Southern	Numan	Numan1, Numan 2, Numan&Ngbalang
2.	Plateau	Northern	Jos North	Rukuba Road, JentaAdamu, AngwanRogo&FarinGada
			Riyom	Shonung, Attakar, Rim & Jol
		Central	Mangu	Mangu Town, Gindiri (Kasuwa Ali), Langai&Mangu Halle
		Southern	Wase	Kadarko, Wase Town, Mavo & Bashar.
3.	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

### Strategy

The Programme ‘Promoting Women Engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria’ uses a bottom-up approach to ensure participatory engagement.

Its key thematic areas are:

- Women’s leadership in peace-making
- Improved rights-violation monitoring/reporting and protection services
- National implementation of women, peace and security and gender equality frameworks.

The result-based strategy therefore includes:

- Training/capacity-building for all key actors at all levels
- Advocacy dialogue for gender-sensitive policies and programmes
- Media engagement and public information campaigns
- Partnership with stakeholders at community, state, national, regional and global levels
- Utilisation of culturally sensitive approaches

## PROGRAMMES AND RESULTS

### Programme Steering Committee

A National Programme Steering Committee (PSC) for WPS was inaugurated in July 2014. The committee was set up to provide strategic direction and overall guidance to the Programme. The PSC comprises of thirteen organisations which include government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), members of the UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group, civil society organisations (CSOs), security agencies, development partners, the European Union and UN Women.



Cross Section of Stakeholders at the Programme Steering Committee Meeting in Abuja. Photo: UN Women.

The committee is chaired by the Ministry of Budget and National Planning, and co-chaired by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development of Nigeria. The committee plays a strategic role in supporting the Northern Nigeria Women, Peace and Security Programme and holds a biannual meeting to review progress reports, work plans and other aspects of the Programme.

There are also State Programme Steering Committees (SPSCs) for each of the three target states. These Committees, comprising of relevant government ministries, department and agencies (MDAs), security agencies, civil society organisations, community leaders and peace and gender advocates were carefully constituted by the respective state governments, in close consultations with UN Women and the state ministries of Women Affairs.

The roles of the SPSC are similar to that of the National Programme Steering Committee, which includes providing advice in the areas of strategic direction, overall guidance and support for the implementation of the Programme in target states, the selected LGAs and communities.

## **STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S ROLE IN CONFLICT PREVENTION, PEACEMAKING AND PEACEBUILDING**

### **Examining building blocks for peace in target states**

UN Women has carried out several initiatives to review the state peace architectures from a gender and human rights perspective. State peace architectures are structures for maintaining and enhancing peace in the target states. Concerted efforts have been made to further strengthen the support of government MDAs, security agencies, CSOs, media, traditional institutions and community structures, among other key actors, comprising integral components of the existing peace architectures.

Collaboration with the identified stakeholders is essential to the effective coordination, implementation and sustainability of the state peace architecture. UN Women therefore holds regular review meetings with partners from UNICEF and the federal and state ministries of Women Affairs. Other relevant stakeholders, such as the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), British Council, Nigerian Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP), United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Peace and Security Unit, Ufuk Dialogue Foundation, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and National Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) have also been engaged as strategic partners.

UN Women has equally secured the support of state governors, management of relevant MDAs, security agencies and community leaders in targeted local government areas to review the existing peace architecture. Buy-in was attained in the Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe

states following repeated advocacy visits and strategic meetings with the stakeholders. Through these interventions, an appreciable understanding of the importance of integrating gender in the peace architecture has been established. It is anticipated that the revised state peace architectures in Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe states will serve a model for possible replication in other parts of the northern region and Nigeria at large.

### **Stakeholders' Validation of Findings from the State Peace Architecture Survey**

Following the completion of field work to review the state peace architecture in the three target states, an analysis of data and information gathered by the research team was conducted on 5, 6 and 8 December 2016 during stakeholders' validation workshops in Adamawa, Gombe and Plateau states, respectively. The head of the research team, Dr. Abdul Hussain, presented a summary of key findings and recommendations, and policy and programmatic actions. An average of about 50 stakeholders participated in each of the validation meetings in the target states. The participants provided additional information and recommendations to the research team and to UN Women, thereby adding important insights to the survey findings and programmatic interventions.



**Cross-section of participants at the validation meeting. Photo: UN Women.**

Subsequently, a national validation meeting was conducted in Abuja on 13 December 2016. The meeting brought together about 30 participants and stakeholders. These included representatives from the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the European Union, UN Women, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, National Open University, Media Network, research institutes, CSOs and other development partners.

Dr. Hussain made a presentation on the key findings from the survey conducted in the three states. Some critical issues identified included: significant loss of state monopoly of legitimate means of violence; growing loss of legitimacy of state institutions; globalisation of conflict; and the complexity of Nigeria's political structure.

During the presentation on key findings, some of the major highlights were:

- Negotiation and mediation are the major means of peace building; women however think military action is often key to peace building.
- Traditional and religious institutions/leaders are the most important peace blocks.
- While men are generally inclined to address less formal institutions as first point of call during conflict, women are more inclined to approach formal institutions.
- Women are highly involved in peace building at the community level but less at strategic levels.
- Radio is still considered the most important means of accessing peace and security information, while social media—despite the notable challenges of access, hate messages and fake news—remains an important instrument for peace building.
- Social media and mobile technology can help to democratise access to information and promote inclusion in peace building process. More women however think it is ineffective, a possible result of the technological exclusion of women.

The validation meeting featured several comments and observations from the participants that stressed the need for academia and private institutions to be more engaged in peacebuilding initiatives.

At the end of the validation exercise, findings revealed specific gaps in women's participation in peace and security structures and the need to take strategic policy and programmatic action to achieve sustainable change. Following the conclusion of the validation meetings, the report of the survey will be published, launched and widely disseminated.

## **Women Peace Mentorship**

One of the initiatives developed under the Northern Nigeria Women Peace and Security Programme is the Women Peace Mentorship. It is a strategic initiative designed to enhance community peace-making capacities of women in the three target states. It involves the formation of a 121-member community-based network of Women for Peace and Security, also known as *Women Peace Mentors* in the three target states. There are 40 Women Peace Mentors from Adamawa State, 45 from Plateau State and 36 from Gombe State; women from Borno and Yobe states have also joined the network).

Having participated in several capacity building sessions facilitated by UN Women, the 121 Women Peace Mentors are now engaged in various peacebuilding strategic initiatives in their respective communities. They provide mentorship to girls and other women while also leading communal efforts geared towards peace advocacy, community dialogue and early warning/early response, among others. By virtue of the nature of their engagements, the Women Peace Mentors are now able to influence decision-making at various levels.

### **➤ Sharing Good Practices from Gombe State**

❖ **Member of the Women Peace Mentor - Adviser to the Emir of Kaltungo:**

Hajiya Halima Mahdi, is a retired civil servant from Kaltungo LGA in Gombe. She is also the *Zannuwan Kaltungo*, a female chief in Kaltungo Kingdom in Gombe. She is one of the advisers to the Emir of Kaltungo. Hajiya Halima is also one of the 121 Women Peace Mentors under the Northern Nigeria Women, Peace and Security Programme.



Hajiya Halima Mahdi, a female chief in Kaltungo Kingdom, and a Peace Mentor in Gombe State. Photo: UN Women

*“My role as a titled chief in Kaltungo kingdom is that of an adviser to the Emir (MAI). My title is Zannuwan Kaltungo given to me by the MAI Kaltungo (The Emir) which was awarded based on merit and my contribution to the development of Kaltungo.*

*The Emir includes women in his entourage anytime he travels and in most cases after introducing us to other Emirs, he encourages them to bring women closer to the discussion table during decision making because of the results and patronage he has enjoyed with us.*

*We form a kind of network together with the Mai, such that we give him advice on issues that bring development to the area and alert him on anything that affects the area negatively. The Mai sends us to counsel others on disputes or even domestic problems to other kingdoms. The Mai encourages the women, title holders and others, to form a group or an association that brings women of his domain together.*

*I have achieved a lot as an adviser to the Mai. The female title holders discuss freely with him and advise him on different issues that will bring positive change and development to Kaltungo.*



**A few female title holders with the Emir of Kaltungo during a UN Women Media visit. Photo: UN Women**

*While carrying out peace building activities, we sometimes hear of women getting abused in their homes, and we, as mentors, go to speak with them, to counsel them. We also speak to the men who beat their wives and through discussions, try to find the root cause of the problem and then help them in reaching a peaceful resolution.*

*But when it comes to rape, most women don't even want to talk about it because of the stigma associated with it. We advise them to speak out so that the perpetrator can be punished. We tell them, "if you keep quiet, that man would keep doing the same thing to other women". In the past, women were expected to keep silent. Now, we advise them to go to the police and speak to lawyers who would take up their case.*

*I have learnt so much on mentoring through the trainings that UN Women provided us. We share the information that we learn in the trainings with the rest of the community. We talk about the need for building peace and replicate the training in local communities so that they too, can become mentors for building peace." – Hajiya Halima Mahdi*

#### ❖ **Community-Based Early Warning & Early Response for Conflict Prevention**

The Women Peace Mentors are actively engaged in conflict prevention using the community-based early warning and early response system with other stakeholders. One of the Lead Women Peace Mentors in Gombe State, Mama Hannatu Ibrahim, shared her experience.



Mama Hannatu Ibrahim, a lead women mentor in Gombe State. Photo: UN Women

*"I work in the promotion of women's involvement in peacebuilding and conflict mediation as well as in increasing women's representation in decision-making positions. I do this by carrying out advocacy to leaders and women's groups and empowering them through workshops, seminars, radio and TV programmes so that they can have access to information, education on issues affecting their well-being. I am also mentor to over 500 young girls and 215 young boys in Gombe, Bauchi and Borno states.*

*I am involved in giving early warning signs in my community. I am always in frequent communication with the community and religious leaders. As soon as I get the early warning signs or information, I travel to such locations where conflict might be brewing, or I inform the security and government officials to address the issue.*

*As a lead women mentor, the mentees under me are requested to register all the activities carried out every week under the mentorship programme. Information they provide includes*

*venue of activity and names of people they have impacted. I encourage that at the end of each month, mentees register the questions and doubts raised during the activities. These questions and doubts are addressed during the following month with the assistance of other mentors during my supervisory visit. The information they provide include ideas gathered or generated by mentees or others during the weeks. These ideas are referred to for future activities.*

*The mentees also register what they have learned during the activities of each week. This information is used for presenting the mentee's final report on the mentoring activities as they work within the communities. The mentees also report in their register, cases of violence, rape, child abuse so that it can be discussed during the quarterly meetings.” – Hannatu Ibrahim*

One of the beneficiaries of Mama Hannatu’s mentoring is Caleb Panus, a community member from Billiri LGA, Gombe State. He has received training on detecting early warning signs and has been active in this regard.



**A beneficiary of the women mentor programme, Caleb Panus, and his wife. Photo: Caleb Panus**

*“Mama Hannatu Ibrahim, popularly known as Mama Peace, has been mentoring people in the communities on peace and early warnings signs of conflict in communities.*

*I am one of the beneficiaries of Mama’s mentoring on detecting early warning signs. When there was an ethnic clash between Billiri and Kaltungo LGAs, the training I received from Mama Hannatu enabled me to detect the early warning signs and I quickly informed Mama Hannatu*

*on the arising crisis. This enabled a prompt response from Mama which resulted in calming the situation.*

*My wife was also mentored by Mama Hannatu on peace and conflict mediation, both in the community and in our home. I also encourage my male friends in the community to take part in the mentoring activities.”*

### ➤ **Sharing Good Practices from Plateau State**

#### ❖ **Mediating Local Conflicts and Promoting Peace Building:**

In Plateau State, one of the Women Mentors, Justina Mike Ngwobia, coordinates community-based peacebuilding initiatives, with a focus on girls and women. She engages in capacity building while also mentoring girls and women to enhance their capacity and confidence as they get actively engaged in peacebuilding initiatives in both formal and informal settings. Mrs. Ngwobia has trained, and is currently mentoring, over 35 women drawn from *Angwan Rogo, Jenta Adamu, Dogon Dutse and Congo Rosha* communities of Jos North LGA on peace and security.



*“In my capacity as a Lead Women Mentor of the Women, Peace and Security Programme, I have trained over 35 women on monitoring and reporting conflict in the last two months. I also work towards building the capacities of women to be part of decision making processes in their communities. As part of the same training, I paired Christian and Muslim women to ensure they speak to each other and understand their separate positions so as to restore peace in communities that have become polarised.”- Justina Ngwobia*

One of Mrs. Ngwobia’s mentees, Helen Bako, is now more actively engaged in community-based peace building initiatives.



Helen Bako (right) listening intently during a mentoring session. Photo: Justina Ngwobia

*“I have always thought of myself as a child bearer and nothing more; this lack of self-realisation in addition to the patriarchal, cultural and religious hindrances that do not allow women to speak about issues that concern them and be involved in processes in the community affects me daily.*

*As a result of a lack of self-awareness and understanding that I can contribute to decision making, I am always being put down since my voice is not heard. This makes me feel like a slave. I also cannot relate well with my husband. This challenge has existed as long as I know.*

*Through trainings and capacity building, Mrs. Ngwobia has helped me to come to the realisation that I have something to contribute to decision making and peace processes, and that I am not just a child bearer. I have realised that as a natural peace builder, I can bring these skills to even outside my home. The women in my community and I are planning a visit to the community head to advocate for involvement in community meetings. We have also invited Christian women from another community to go on a picnic to enhance peaceful coexistence.” – Helen Bako.*

### ➤ **Sharing Good Practices from Adamawa State**

#### ❖ **Promoting Peace and Reducing Tension in the Community**

Jadiel Lakorou is a retired Police Inspector and also a member of the Women Peace Mentors in Numan LGA of Adamawa State. Following her participation in the mobilisation and capacity building sessions facilitated by UN Women, Ms. Lakorou began to create public awareness on the values of engaging women in peace and security processes in Adamawa State.



Jadiel Lakorou, a retired Police Inspector and a member of the Women Peace Mentor in Adamawa State. Photo: UN Women

*“As a member of the Women Peace Mentors, I have been using different platforms to promote peace in my community. Some time ago, the Mandimekedem Women Association invited me to their meeting, where I delivered a talk on the inclusion of women in decision making and in peace building at the community level. Some of the women had lost their husbands or sons in the ongoing insurgency, and have been the worst hit. I was able to pass the message across that it was not out of place for communities to also involve women in decision making process at all times.*

*Subsequently, a former councillor, Honorable Ingino Gwadi, informed me that he liked the awareness on peace that the Women Peace Mentors network were creating, especially as the Programme would help them in addressing youth restiveness, drug and alcohol abuse in the community.*

*I also work towards reducing tension in my community. There was an incident that took place sometime ago, in which I was called by a young man who knew about a planned reprisal attack on some herdsmen. The herdsmen had led their cattle to someone’s farm to eat up the crops. When I got wind of the planned attack, I spoke to the youth and discouraged them from seeking revenge. I am glad that they listened, and what would have been a huge conflict was avoided. This has also reduced tension and conflict in my community.” - Jadiel Lakorou*

Silvanus Wono is a village head in Numan LGA, where Jadiel works as a Women Peace Mentor. He is one of the beneficiaries of the mentorship programme in Adamawa State. According to Mr. Wono, the farmers-herdsmen conflict poses the most significant challenge to peace in his community.



Silvanus Wono, a village head and a community leader in Numan LGA, Adamawa State. Photo: UN Women

*“The herdsmen continually damage the crops of farmers. As a result, there is a negative impact on harvest, thereby resulting in hunger and starvation. This creates tension in the community. Recently, my wife’s crops were eaten up by cattle at night and by daybreak, we could not find who to hold responsible. During rainy seasons, the conflict between the herdsmen and farmers escalates almost everywhere in the State.*

*I am indeed happy with activities of the Women Peace Mentors. It has encouraged tolerance and peaceful co-existence in the community. Following the activities of the women mentors, and the planning meeting held with community leaders that included village heads, herdsmen, farmers, and security personnel, there have been fewer issues with the herdsmen.” - Silvanus Wono.*

### **MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT UPON YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS**

On the Northern Nigeria Women, Peace and Security Programme, UN Women works in collaboration with UNICEF to mitigate the impact of conflict upon women and girls. UNICEF has

also worked with development partners and key child protection partners from federal and state ministries responsible for social welfare in Borno, Yobe, Gombe and Adamawa states to address the impact of conflict on children.

### **Protection and Care for Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Adamawa State**

It is estimated that over 20,000 children are unaccompanied or separated from their families due to the conflict. The vast majority are in internally displaced person (IDP) camps or host communities. When separated from their caregivers, these children are at heightened vulnerability to violence, abuse and exploitation and need to be rapidly identified and provided with safe, appropriate care.

Between May 2015 and January 2016, UNICEF partnered with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to address the impact of conflict on children in Adamawa State and mitigate the risks of violence, abuse and exploitation for children who are separated from their families. One of the measures agreed upon was placing children with trained caregivers, an approach that continues to prove impactful.



**Cross section of participants during the training for the Community Based Child Protection Committee members. Photo: UNICEF**

To strengthen the system of identification and assessment, 29 social welfare officers from the Adamawa State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD) and 19 IRC case workers were trained. Facilitators also identified and trained 80 fit parents (34 female and 46 male) on parenting, with a focus on meeting the needs of highly vulnerable children.

Following the training, 803 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), comprising of 345 girls and 458 boys, were supported through the programme, out of which 277 children (128 girls and 149 boys) were placed in temporary alternative care. The project also reunited 48 unaccompanied children (22 girls and 26 boys) with their primary care-givers.

The programme focused on strengthening case management and information management for child protection while piloting a jointly developed inter-agency harmonised case management tool that was subsequently replicated in Borno and Yobe states.

Through 50 trained volunteers, the programme provided psychosocial support to 1,465 children (636 girls and 829 boys) in five Child-Friendly Spaces in Sangare A, Sangare B, Daware, Uba and Lamorde, all equipped with recreational material.

### **Ensuring care and protection – the story of Ibrahim (name changed)**

Following Boko Haram’s attack on Gwoza village in 2014, 11-year-old Ibrahim, male, having lost his father as an infant, fled the village with his mother. Ibrahim’s mother in the course of the long journey died while they were trekking in the bush, searching for a safe haven. Ibrahim managed to reach the NYSC IDP camp in Adamawa, with a member of his extended family who however left and returned to Borno, leaving Ibrahim behind.



A foster mother with two foster children. Photo: UNICEF

Ibrahim was identified by the case work team and placed with one of the fit persons, Halima. Halima is thankful for being part of the programme. She said, *“I was traumatised after having to flee from home with my children, and taking care of the children was difficult. The parenting skills programme was an eye opener as I realised that the children need all the love, care, attention and protection from me, their mother. I have learned how to observe and communicate with the children, and I will do my best to keep myself and the children happy”*.

Ibrahim attends school with his foster brothers and sisters and has received a hygiene kit and clothing from the programme. Case workers visit him to check that he is coping well. While Ibrahim is happy in his new home, he has expressed the desire to reunite with his own family. The case has therefore been referred to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with the hope that he can one day return home.

### Breaking the Culture of Silence

The culture of silence that attends reports of sexual abuse in many parts of the country has allowed many perpetrators to elude identification and prosecution. This culture of silence arose out of the equally prevalent stigmatisation of victims. Many young girls who are sexually abused therefore rarely speak up or try to access justice, choosing rather to remain silent even when perpetrators can be identified, for fear of shame.

To address the challenges identified above, women mentors trained under the Northern Nigeria Women Peace and Security (WPS) Programme have been reaching out to affected girls and encouraging them to speak up so that the perpetrators of these crimes can be identified and punished in accordance with the law.

As a result of the efforts of the women mentors, sexual offenders have been identified and apprehended in some local communities in Gombe and Plateau states. The successful prosecution and sentencing of a number of sexual offenders has also encouraged more victims to make reports to the appropriate authorities.

At the Stakeholders’ Consultative and Review Meeting of the Plateau State Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 which was held on 18 August 2016 in Plateau State, a participant, Professor of Applied and Social Theatre, Tor Iorapuu, expressed his views on breaking the culture of silence. Prof Tor, who works with young women and adolescent girls, noted that girls usually have many issues to talk about but often do not have the necessary platforms to do so. Most affected are girls contending with teenage pregnancy and rape.



Professor Tor Iorapuu at the Stakeholders' Consultative and Review Meeting of the Plateau State Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. Photo: UN Women.

*"If women have the platform to unveil their voices, to ventilate their thoughts and actions, there will be so much to do. We need to include women in policy decisions, integrate and mainstream them into the programmes that we do. And that is why the Northern Nigeria Women, Peace and Security Programme being implemented by UN Women is very critical at this time. In dealing with the issues of conflict, women's voices cannot be taken away." – Prof Tor.*

Felicity Sempetwalu, a lawyer, added that platforms like the Northern Nigeria WPS Programme play an essential role in connecting women and men, thereby promoting cooperation in addressing issues related to gender-based violence.

UN Women will continue to work with stakeholders in the target states and in other communities across northern Nigeria to encourage girls and young women to express themselves and seek needed help to address challenges.

**Establishing a conducive environment for the implementation of gender equality commitments**

The governors of the three target states (Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe) of the WPS Programme have committed to peace and security as priorities on their political agendas. The governors have repeatedly assured UN Women of their unwavering support and cooperation in the implementation and attainment of the goals and objectives of the Programme in their respective states. Traditional rulers within the target states have equally shown support for the programme. Through advocacy visits, they have reassured UN Women of their commitment to promoting the engagement of women in peace and security issues.

### **Kano Traditional Council Embraces the Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Cause**

*“The important and strategic positioning of the role of women in any family or society—be it political, social or economic—is tied to development. Yet, women are the most victimised in times of conflict... our traditional institutions, cultures and religions in any part of the country respect the integrity of women” - Alhaji Abbas Lamido Sanusi, Galadiman of Kano*



The UN Women Nigeria Country Representative (a.i), Adjaratou Fatou-Ndiaye; Programme Manager, WPS, Njeri Karuru; Programme Associate, Nneka Egbuna and other Programme stakeholders during a courtesy visit to the Emir of Kano. Photo: UN Women.

As part of its drive to involve the traditional leaders in the fight for women empowerment and gender equality, UN Women made a courtesy call to the Kano State Emirate Council to seek its support. The UN Women delegation led by the Country Representative (a.i.), Adjaratou Fatou-

Ndiaye, commended the emirate council for fighting violence against women, and its commitment to promoting peace in Nigeria.

In the same vein, the UN Women Programme Manager Njeri Karuru, emphasised the fact that women's participation in peace building and decision making processes are affected by cultural constraints. She stated that the programme was using education through community leaders' sensitisation and local women mentors, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development to build confidence of women.

In response to the remarks made by the UN Women Team, the Galadiman of Kano, on behalf of the Emirate Council, commended the UN Women delegation for the visit and gave assurances that the council would render its support and advice whenever needed. He added that the Emirate was in the process of establishing a programme for women's development.

## **BREAKING TRADITIONAL BARRIERS**

### **Kaltungo Kingdom: Where women form the Emir's advisory council**

The Kaltungo Kingdom in the Sahel grassland area of Gombe State, northern Nigeria, stands out in engaging women as leaders and peace builders. Women form the advisory council of the Emir, His Royal Highness, the Mai of Kaltungo, Alhaji Sale Mohammed. The creation of a women council within the Kaltungo Traditional Council aims at the inclusion of women in the development of Kaltungo Kingdom and recognises that women play crucial roles as educators, social agents, peace makers, and dispute settlers in the family.



Female title holders and women in the Kaltungo community at the Emir of Kaltungo's Palace. Photo: UN Women

Kaltungo Kingdom presently has more than 40 women as traditional title holders. One of the female chiefs is also one of the women mentors selected under the Programme.

As the Northern Nigeria Women, Peace and Security Programme progresses, UN Women is working to ensure that more traditional rulers in northern Nigeria embrace this change, and include more women in decision making roles especially in peace and security issues.

### **Installing Female Ward Heads in Adamawa State**



The Wakili Bachama with the newly inaugurated female chiefs in Numan LGA, Adamawa State. Photo: UN Women

The Numan LGA of Adamawa State is a typical patriarchal society, where culture and tradition have over the years placed women in subordination to men. UN Women officials and the Women Peace Mentors paid repeated advocacy/sensitisation visits to the King, His Royal Highness, Honestus I. Stephen, on the need to involve more women in peace and security. On one of such visits, the King admitted that *“if we had involved more women in peace and security, we would not have had this rate of attacks. Because we did not make good use of our women, the insurgents saw a better way of using them to attack us. I thank UN Women because the Women, Peace and Security Programme is coming at the right time”*.

Having been impressed with the peace-building efforts of the Women Mentors in his community, the Numan King was moved to facilitate the involvement of more women in decision making by appointing 49 women as assistant advisers in the traditional council. Additionally, on 19 November 2016, the King authorised the selection and appointment of four women as assistants to four village heads—against the norm in his realm, where only men occupied the position of ward heads. The women appointed were Tinim Minfas - Kwalinga Ward; Josephine Philips - Gweda Ward; Tina Bedam - Mgbawwono Ward; and Hajia Dijatu Yahasa Usman - Sabon Pegi Ward.

The Wakili of the Traditional Council, Chief Philemon Godi’s words were instructive:

*“If you want to have peace at home, work and community, you have to involve women. We realised that many women were not carried along, and the current conflict has caused a population explosion. There are currently about 7,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in Numan and we know what women have suffered. We have done this so that women can talk to children and the youth to have a peaceful community.”*

### **Inclusion of Women as Members of Traditional Council in Plateau State**

The Rit of Gindiri, Alhaji Adamu Tanko, a traditional ruler in Mangu LGA, Plateau State, in November 2016, inaugurated two women as members of his traditional council. This is one of the efforts made at involving women, strategically in peace and security structures in Plateau State.

Alhaji Tanko is one of the community leaders being engaged by the Northern Nigeria Women, Peace and Security Programme. After attending several UN Women Programme and review meetings where good practices were shared, the Rit of Gindiri decided to replicate same in his community.



**Hajiya Saadatu Yakubu Adamu and Ruth Abuku Bukar, women peace mentors and appointees into the traditional council of Gindiri, Plateau State. Photo: UN Women.**

The Rit of Gindiri appointed Ruth Abuku Bukar and Hajiya Saadatu Yakubu Adamu as members of the traditional council of Gindiri where issues of peace, security and other matters affecting the community are discussed.

Ms. Bukar, one of the women included in the traditional council said, *“With the two of us on the Gindiri Traditional Council, the community’s perception that women are weak and should not be in decision making positions is changing.”*

Through advocacy and continuous engagement, more traditional rulers and community leaders are embracing the inclusion of women in peace and security and in decision-making in Plateau State.

UN Women and partners are intensifying efforts to replicate this positive development in other parts of the LGA and the state at large.

### **Plateau State Action Plan on UNSCR 1325**

Plateau State is one of the few states that have successfully domesticated the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. Wase, one of the target LGAs in Plateau State for the Northern Nigeria WPS Programme, has equally developed its local government action plan on UNSCR 1325, the first to achieve that in the country. The State Ministry of Women Affairs is making efforts to replicate this in other LGAs, hence the constitution of a state Committee for the development of LGA framework on UNSCR 1325. UN Women is providing support to the government on the action plan with special emphasis on popularisation and implementation of the plans.

Plateau State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development developed and launched the state’s Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 on 27 August 2015 in Jos, Plateau State. The Women Peace and Security Plan has been integrated into the state government’s Strategic Action Plan, thus, demonstrating the government’s commitment to implementation.

On the 18 August 2016, there was a Stakeholders’ Consultative and Review Meeting of the Plateau State Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan (NAP) aimed at reviewing the UNSCR 1325 in-line with emerging issues. The meeting had in attendance 57 participants consisting of CSOs, traditional leaders, media, the academia, development partners, NHRC, security agencies and the judiciary.



Cross section of participants at the Stakeholders' Consultative and Review Meeting of the Plateau State Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan. Photo: UN Women.

At the meeting, Dr. Chris Kwaja, a lecturer at the Centre for Conflict Management and Peace Studies, highlighted that the UNSCR 1325 encourages member states to develop strategies for countering violent extremism, by also paying attention to how it affects women. Also of importance is the need to allow women and girls play visible roles in countering violent extremism.

Other notable points in the above regard are:

- The need to develop and adopt stronger protection and support mechanisms for women and girls who are targets of violent extremist groups.
- The importance of building research and policy related capacities.
- Special attention to the design of early warning systems in monitoring the design and propagation of messages that are linked to radicalisation and violent extremism.
- Leveraging on social media to amplify the voices of women and girls in the current discourse on violent extremism and the conflict between farmers and pastoralists.

## The Gender and Equality Bill in Nigeria

The Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEOB) is a bill seeking to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and promote gender equality. The Programme *Promoting Women's Engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria,* increased the momentum in favour of the bill by supporting the Plateau State Ministry of Women Affairs, CSOs and other stakeholders to remain resilient in pursuit of the bill.

The indefatigable efforts made by a wide range of stakeholders in favour of the GEOB yielded the desired result, as the the Plateau State House of Assembly passed the bill into law on by 12 May 2015, and the state governor immediately assented it .

UN Women is presently working with the Adamawa and Gombe state ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development along with other stakeholders, to present the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill to the lawmakers in the two states. Committees have been established in both states to coordinate advocacy efforts and sensitisation campaigns.

## Public enlightenment programmes on TV/Radio on WPS issues

The state ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development in Adamawa, Plateau and Gombe have worked closely with UN Women on creating public awareness for the Northern Nigeria WPS Programme. Major activities conducted at state and LGA levels were aired on local TV and radio stations, with wide coverage that cut across millions of viewers and listeners, in northern states.



L-R: Dr Grace Awodu, Deputy Director, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution; Njeri Karuru, UN Women WPS Programme Manager; Kimberly Nwachukwu and her co-anchor, Nigeria Info FM; after a talk show to commemorate the International Day of Peace in Abuja. Photo: UN Women.

In addition, the ministries and UN Women facilitated several radio and TV discussion programmes, hosting a wide range of partners to discuss various aspects related to gender, women, peace and security issues, thus, increasing public discussions and understanding of the subject matter.

These enlightenment media programmes were aired on Nigeria Television Authority (NTA), Plateau Radio Television Corporation (PRTVC), Gombe Media Corporation (GMC), Nigeria Info FM, Armed Forces Radio and WE FM in Abuja. Guest discussants were drawn from the UN Women Media Network members, State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, amongst others.

### **Establishing a Media Network for Peace and Gender Practitioners in Media**

The UN Women WPS Media Network tagged '*Nigeria Association of Peace and Gender Practitioners in Media*', was established in 2014 and has been actively engaged in raising public awareness on UNSCR 1325 and related issues, at all levels. This was excellently demonstrated by members of the Association through continuous initiation of various public enlightenment programmes, both at the state and national levels. These include TV and radio programmes, social media and online publications, newspaper publications, the reporting of incidences of gender-based violence, and advocacy to stakeholders at state and local government levels. Members of the association have also featured UN Women staff and partners on live discussion programmes on a regular basis.

The membership of the Association has increased from 48 in 2014 to over 133 in 2017, with new members from Borno, Yobe and Bauchi states. In July 2016, a planning and review meeting was held in Gombe State. UN Women updated the media practitioners on the Northern Nigeria WPS Programme. The meeting also created a platform to facilitate the exchange of good practices, success stories, challenges and lessons learnt among the media practitioners drawn from Abuja, Bauchi, Adamawa, Plateau, Gombe, Yobe and Borno states. Members continue to show great enthusiasm in sharing their success stories through periodic publication of news on WPS Programme in newspapers, online publications, and radio discussions. They also run enlightenment programmes and features on various aspects of UNSCR 1325.



Members of the UN Women Media Network and other stakeholders at the launch of the Baseline Survey Report in Abuja. Photo: UN Women.

Six State Coordinators for the *Nigeria Association of Peace and Gender Practitioners in Media* were nominated at the planning and review meeting and workplans were also developed for each state and presented to all participants. Suggestions on potential training topics for media practitioners by members of the Association were duly noted.

Going forward, State Coordinators will guide and coordinate all activities of the Association in their respective states, and also ensure that activities on the workplans developed are carried out with ongoing support from UN Women.

### Training Female Journalists on Gender Sensitive Reporting in Northern Nigeria

UN Women, in collaboration with the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), organised a four-day capacity building workshop on gender sensitive reporting for female journalists in northern Nigeria. The workshop held on 8-9 November, and on the 15-16 November 2016 at Plateau and Adamawa states respectively, and had 120 participants and stakeholders in attendance. Attendees included members of the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), and representatives of the federal and state ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development, Ministry of Budget and National Planning (MBNP), UN Women Media Network, staff of UN Women and the media.



Cross-section of participants at the Capacity Building Workshop on Gender-Sensitive Reporting for female journalists in Adamawa State. Photo: UN Women

The Capacity Building Workshop was conducted in Plateau and Adamawa states to train female journalists on the UNSCR 1325, the Nigeria National Action Plan, gender sensitive reporting, and safety while reporting among other gender related issues. The participants comprised of both print and electronic media journalists from Abuja, Plateau, Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa, Yobe and Borno states.

At the capacity building workshop, the National President of NAWOJ, Ifeyinwa Omowole, encouraged the female journalists to take lessons learnt and replicate in their work. WPS Deputy Programme Manager, Mr Peter Mancha, highlighted Programme objectives. The UN Women Communications Consultant, Oluwatosin Akingbulu, also gave an overview of the UN Women Media Network. She encouraged workshop participants to join the network and work towards achieving its objectives, which include promoting the engagement of women in peace and security in the media, understanding the UNSCR 1325, and highlighting gender equality commitments amongst others.



Group Work at the Capacity Building Workshop on Gender-Sensitive Reporting for female journalists in Plateau State. Photo: UN Women.

Other sessions during the workshop included video presentations on gender concepts by one of the workshop facilitators, Jide Atta. A session on 'Peace Journalism and Gender Sensitive Reporting' was anchored by a co-facilitator, Dr Edward Akpomera. He emphasised the importance for every journalist to do research and go beyond the press release to find out what is really happening, point out alternatives to solve the issues, and help contribute to the management of conflict. He also mentioned that peace journalists should deliberately emphasise that violence is never a lasting solution to conflict. Egbe Okpewuru, Director, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, also made a presentation on "Understanding the UNSCR 1325 and the National Action Plan", explaining various ways in which women in media can advance the UNSCR 1325.

The workshop featured technical sessions where participants were placed in groups to identify gender issues, sex issues and gender stereotypes in their community, and also to share various perspectives and experiences. Afterwards, participants were presented with their certificates of participation, and inaugurated into the UN Women Media Network.

## International Day of Peace 2016: UN Women Highlights the Need to Promote Women’s Engagement in Peace and Security

UN Women commemorated the International Day of Peace—themed ‘Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace’—on 21 September with an accordingly themed peace lecture at the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) in Abuja. The lecture was held in collaboration with partners including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and Young Youth Network for Good Leadership (YYNGL). Secondary school and university students were in attendance, as were representatives of security agencies, development agencies, and the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prominent traditional leaders, namely, the Ooni of Ife, His Royal Majesty Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, and Eze Kalu KaluOgbo of Abiriba also attended.

At the event, the Women, Peace and Security Programme Manager, Njeri Karuru, highlighted the strong links between peace and development, stressing that peace is crucial to attaining sustainable development.



Cross-section of participants at the Peace Lecture on the International Day of Peace 2016. Photo: UN Women.

*“Armed conflict is a great impediment to economic and social development and conflict tends to reverse development. The impact of this reversal is felt for a long time after peace has returned and recovery work has started. The impact, both during and after the conflict affects women and men differently. It is this difference that we seek to capture at UN Women. We recognise that women are more often characterised as the victims of conflict and violence. Yet they are important agents of peace. However, they have been largely left out when it comes to*

*decision making at all levels on issues of peace and security. UN Women through its European Union funded Programme on Women, Peace and Security is working on strengthening the engagement of women in peace and security in northern Nigeria. We see this as a key building block in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals”. – Njeri Karuru*



Traditional rulers and guests during the release of the doves. Photo: UN Women.

Subsequently, a lecture titled ‘*Sustainable Development Goals as Building Blocks for Peace*’ was presented by Prof. Oka Obono from the University of Ibadan. Prof. Oshita Oshita, Director-General of IPCR, also stressed that the constant failure to prioritise peace initiatives in national planning and budgeting exposes the country to great risk.

At the end of the peace lecture, the chairman of the event, the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi, joined other traditional leaders and guests to perform the release of white doves, symbolic of peace.

Other UN Women activities that marked the week of the International Day of Peace included a press briefing, a novelty match, radio and TV talk shows, radio jingles and a peace walk.

## **Our Work at a Glance**



Community leaders and other stakeholders at a town hall meeting during the commemoration of 16 Days of Activism in Kaltungo LGA, Gombe State. Photo: UN Women



Cross section of stakeholders at the launch of the Baseline Survey Report. Photo: UN Women.



Interactive session at the Capacity Building Workshop on Gender-Sensitive Reporting for female journalists in Adamawa State. Photo: UN Women.



Group photograph of participants at the Stakeholders' Consultative and Review Meeting of the Plateau State Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan. Photo: UN Women.



Cross-section of participants at the Capacity Building Workshop on Gender and Related Issues in Gombe State. Photo: UN Women.



UN Women Gender Technical Advisor, Ms Rhoda Zira Dia, and the staff of the Gombe State Ministry of Women Affairs on an advocacy visit to members of the Gombe State House of assembly. Photo: UN Women.



*The Wife of the Adamawa State Governor, Hajiya Marian Umaru Jibrilla Bindow, flanked by other dignitaries, leading the Peace march to the Government House in commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2016. Photo: UN Women*



*Gov. Umaru Jibrilla Bindow promising to maintain peace and empower more women in Adamawa state at the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2016 and Widows Day 2016. Photo: UN Women.*



L-R: The Wife of the Adamawa State Governor, Hajiya Marian Umaru Jibrilla Bindow; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs, Hajia Maisaratu Bello; UN Women WPS Deputy Programme Manager, Peter Mancha; NAWOJ Secretary, Ladi Patrick, and the Commissioner for Women Affairs, Hon Bello Aliyu Tola during the release of doves at the commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2016. Photo: UN Women

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