



**WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL-NIGERIA (WFWI-N)
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT & PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE
(WRAPA)
FINAL REPORT OF THE PROJECT
STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP BY AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF
MARGINALIZED WOMEN AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IN NIGERIA**



TABLE OF CONTENT

Acronyms.....	3
Introduction/Background	4
Intervention Approach.....	5
Intervention Goal.....	6
Objectives of Planned Activities.....	6
Purpose of Change Agents Project.....	6
Diagram 1: Program Implementation: Targets vs. Achievement.....	6
Diagram 2: Activity Flow.....	7
Table 1: Objectives vs Achieved Outcomes.....	7
Common Challenges confronted by the women in Plateau State.....	9
Intervention Strategies Adopted and Outcomes by Change Agents.....	10
Bridge Building & Linkages Established.....	11
Commitments Extracted from Participating Institutions.....	11
Consensus Building on Identified Priority Areas for Action (Policy Demands/Ask).....	13
Recommendations.....	14
Resolutions/Way Forward	14
Conclusion.....	15
Appendix.....	16
Group Exercise.....	16

Acronyms

Acronyms

WRAPA	Women’s Rights Advancement & Protection Alternative
WfWI-N	Women for Women International-Nigeria
SMoWASD	State Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development
VAW	Violence Against Women
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
LACVAW	Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women
CEDAW	Conference on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women & Girls
SGBV	Sexual & Gender Based Violence
CA	Change Agent
CSO	Civil Society Organization
PSI	Public Sector Institution
VAPP	Violence Against Persons Prohibition
GEO	Gender Equal Opportunity
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
BPWN	Business and Professional Women Nigeria
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
NCWS	National Council for Women Societies, Nigeria
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
LACVAW	Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women
CBO	Community Base Organisations
HE4SHE	Male gender champions (fighting for women course)
NHRC	Nigerian Human Rights Commission
NAPTIP	The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NOA	National Orientation Agency
GWCD	Gender Women and Children Desk
WEE	Women Economic Empowerment
MDA	Ministries Department & Agencies

1. Introduction/Background

In Nigeria, like in other Sub-Saharan Africa and other continents of the world, VAWG/SGBV remains a challenge that significantly constrains women's autonomy and access to opportunities. Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) is a pervasive and prevalent human rights violation problem for women, men and children and continues to pervade every aspect of life, undermining opportunities for women and vulnerable persons, and denying them the ability to fully exercise their basic human rights. Diverse forms of SGBV are evident at the levels of the family, community and state. Domestic violence, which typically, appears to be the most prevalent form of SGBV, occurring predominantly in domestic spaces such as homes, within families and households.

The situation of unequal gender power relations is historically pervasive in this part of the world, which tends to reinforce male hegemony, and prevents women from enjoying their fundamental human rights. This has a cogent impact and implication for gender protection mechanism/interventions, access, control over resources and decision-making power. However, power relations deeply entrenched in a patriarchal culture, tradition, culture, religious beliefs, and social norms, continue to limit women and girls in the region, resulting in their inability to participate fully in all aspects of household, economic activities and community life. The generalized tolerance of gender-based violence in the society reinforces the impunity surrounding acts of violence against women. While patriarchal power is alive and well, women and girls will continue to be at the margins, being even more severely violated.

The scourge of SGBV is further worsened by the impact of COVID-19, which has exacerbated the financial, social, physical and psychological stress/tension within homes. Reports has shown that incidences of SGBV spiked during the nationwide lockdown, where victims are constricted in same space with perpetrators, with no/limited forms of recourse.¹ Efforts targeted at mitigating the spread of the virus, and attendant response measures taken to control its effects has deepened pre-existing inequalities and tipped the scale more against vulnerable groups, reinforcing and heightening social, political and economic imbalance against women. The gendered impact of these efforts are enormous and threatening to roll back gender equality gains recorded over the years, including access, opportunities and respect for fundamental human rights.

Against this background, WRAPA was awarded a six-month sub-grant (June – December 2020) to implement a project titled, “Strengthening Women’s Leadership By Amplifying The Voices of Marginalized Women At The National Level In Nigeria” supported by Women for Women International-Nigeria (WfWI-N), on the FLOW Project.

Women’s Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) Nigeria, is a non-governmental organization (NGO), non-political and non-profit, rights-based organization for the promotion, protection and realization of women’s rights. WRAPA is a leading voice in the advocacy and campaign against Violence against Women (VAW). The acronym of WRAPA denotes the one or two-piece cloth

¹ Impacts of The Covid-19 Pandemic On Women In Nigeria PWAN 2020.

worn by Nigerian women irrespective of age, tribe or religion, thereby underscoring the national coverage of the organization. WRAPA was established in 1999 with structures of field offices operated by volunteers in at least 30 of the 36 States and the FCT; coordinated by a corporate headquarters situated in the Federal Capital Territory. Activities of the organization include legal aid and counselling services for women, mobilization and sensitization, skills training and advocacy for legal reforms. WRAPA as a leading voice in the advocacy for legal reforms to respond to gender-based violence served as the foundation Secretariat of a 65-member Coalition; Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women (LACVAW). LACVAW is a coalition of diverse groups Civil Society working on various aspects of women's human rights particularly, violence against women.

Women for Women International (WfWI-N) is a non-profit humanitarian organization that provides practical and moral support to women survivors of war. WfWI has over the years been instrumental in strengthening the voice and agency of women, to understand and assert their fundamental human rights as enshrined in the constitution and other treaties that Nigeria is a signatory. The organization has cultivated a crop of female change agents enacting significant and community relevant social change, with an established and clear framework for change agents to act, on community and national scale. WfWI-N is focused on moving the needle on the domestication and effective implementation of; (i)The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); (ii)The Beijing Platform of Action and various United Nations Security Council resolutions provide universally accepted benchmarks and; (iii)The Maputo Protocol. The benchmarks include recognition of women's right to sexual and reproductive health, the right to be free from gender-based violence, and equal rights for women and men to access and control land and properties.

2. Intervention Approach

This is implemented under the ambit of WfWI-N "Change Agents Program" targeted at building women's skills to increase their participation in enacting social change in their communities, and in line with WRAPA's Strategic Plan Frame Work (SP) 2 & 4, which is riveted on "Women's Empowerment", through increased awareness of their rights; and interventions aimed at creating the conditions for the passage and implementation of gender sensitive laws.

Strings of well-tailored activities, engaging Change Agents at the national level to strengthen their abilities, create opportunities for actions, and inspire sustainable shift in both policy and practice was implemented. An adaptive approach that prioritized the unique historical, political, socio-cultural and economic context of both the women change agents and their environment was utilized. This ensured a culturally specific and relevant tactics and understanding of the grassroots movements that has, and will contribute to an amplification of the voices of the women and expand the scale of work they do. A deep focus on inspiring shared visions through reflecting, learning, and unlearning; peer empowering and enabling through their lived stories was a primary pivot in the engagement sessions.

The Change Agents engaged with national Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Public Sector Institutions (PSIs), and other relevant stakeholders, contextualizing and sharing their narratives on deprivations and gaps reinforced by poor domestication/passage and implementation of gender responsive laws and policies in the state. Key themes of the intervention includes; (i)Prevention & Elimination of Violence Against Women & Girls(VAWG)&; (ii)Women Economic Empowerment.

2.1 Intervention Goal

To amplify the voices of marginalized women at the national level in Nigeria, connect WfWI-N trained Change Agents with national advocacy partners and stakeholders, and to call for marginalized women to be able to participate more in decisions that affect them and their communities.

2.2 Objectives of the Planned Intervention

- i. Policy Framework & Stakeholder Mapping
- ii. Knowledge update & creating conditions for improved opportunities
- iii. Defining a pathway for futuristic interventions with change agents.

2.3 Purpose of the Change Agent Program

- i. Achieving equality and empowerment for women;
- ii. Improve enabling environment for marginalized women;
- iii. Building women's skills to increase their participation;
- iv. Support a two-way process that builds linkages between rights-based advocates and NGOs to marginalized women (for consultation, awareness raising, technical support & programming).

Diagram 1: Program Implementation: Targets vs. Achievement

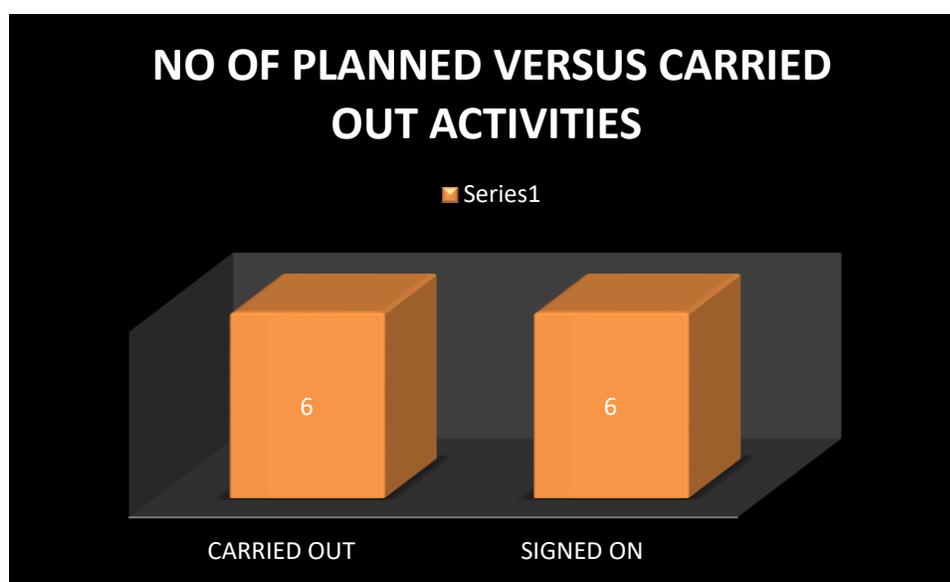


Diagram 2: Activity Flow

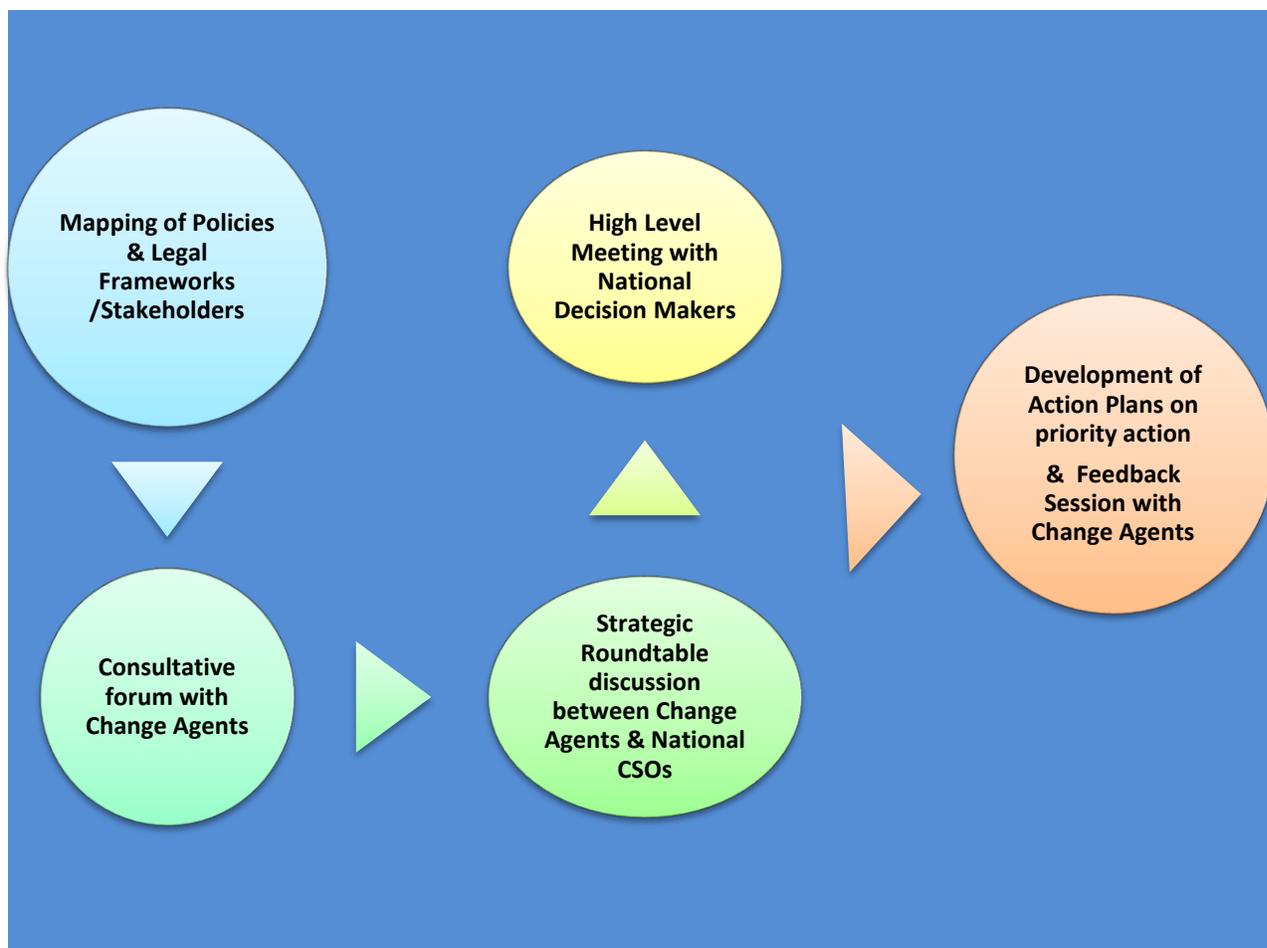


Table 1: Objectives vs Achieved Outcomes

Activities	Objectives	Achieved Outcomes
1. Mapping of existing policies and frameworks on violence against women & Women Economic Empowerment	Identify the existing relevant framework gaps, challenges & recommendations.	A comprehensive analysis documentation of the policy frameworks exist, with specific recommendations.
2. Consultation with Change Agents in Plateau state	To set a clear agenda with change agents for national consultation that supports increased understanding of processes for policy, social and legislative advocacy.	i. Priority areas for change agents' intervention defined. ii. Strengthened abilities, and increased opportunities base for actions aimed at sustainable shift in both policy and practice.

		<p>iii. Best practices and lessons learned from the field shared, with key recommendations for strategic engagement at the national level.</p> <p>-</p>
<p>3. One (1) day strategic roundtable discussion with CSOs in Abuja</p>	<p>i. Formation of strategic alliances with national CSOs and PSIs;</p> <p>ii. Integrate Change Agent feedback into national policy, social and legislative advocacy efforts;</p> <p>iii. Elevate the advocacy work carried out by change agents in their respective communities.</p>	<p>i. Areas of collaboration identified and alliances formed between change agents, CSOs and government institutions</p> <p>ii. A collaborative pathway defined with documented commitments for national advocacy (social and legislative advocacy) with Change Agents.</p>
<p>One (1) day High Level Meeting with National Decision Makers</p>	<p>i. Increased engagement from decision makers to take action on a cross section of issues identified by Change Agents.</p> <p>ii. Amplify the voices and work of the Change Agents at the national level to influence informed policy decisions impacting their lives.</p> <p>iii. Extract commitments from decision makers to accelerate change that meets the Change Agents from on-going interventions in the communities.</p>	<p>High level strategic alliance and support, that propels effective engagement and issue based advocacy on priority areas amplified at the national scale, for policy shift and legislative considerations.</p>
<p>Meeting to develop action plans on priority actions of WFWI Change Agents</p>	<p>i. To set a clear agenda with change agents through the development of a consolidated action plan that will support transition of harvested strategies towards meaningful outcomes at the community, state and national levels.</p>	<p>Consensus built on priority areas for action (Policy Demands/Ask).</p>

Feedback Session with Change Agents	i. To provide cumulative feedback and recommendations from consultations with Change Agents to ensure inclusiveness and participation on a clear and common agenda for progress on the work of WFWI Change Agents.	A consolidated update that fosters inclusiveness, participation, focus and cohesion amongst Change Agents that drives community wellbeing, and resilience was enacted.
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3. Common Challenges confronted by the women in Plateau state

Plateau state has witnessed perennial conflicts between farming communities and nomadic herdsmen in recent decades. These clashes have resulted in the destruction of property and livelihoods and the deaths of thousands of people since 2010, including women and children. Often times the outcome of such crisis situates women and girls as soft targets, with the corresponding sufferings and deprivations. On a day-to-day basis, women and girls also encounter frequent abuse and sexual violence in both private and public spaces, which impedes the enjoyment of their fundamental human rights. Such incidences are often under-reported for fear of either been stigmatized or not eventually getting justice as a result of cultural norms, traditions, religious leaders silence and passiveness which tends to seemingly demonstrate tacit acceptance of such dastardly injustice perpetrated on women & girls. Most prominent of these challenges are:

- i. **Female literacy:** Despite progress made in most states on girl child education, Plateau state still experience an appalling level of value index placed on girl child education. However, with rigorous community sensitization led by the change agents in their respective localities, there is a glaring appreciation of girl child education, with a positive externality of reduction in early marriage.
- ii. **Human trafficking** has been on the increase in Plateau state, with adverse effects on women and children, who are the most vulnerable groups in the society. This is exacerbated by the communal crisis in Plateau state between farmers and herdsmen. Children and young women are placed in a vulnerable position with exposure to trafficking and other forms of human degrading services/jobs.
- iii. **Rape is a silent epidemic that has ravaged the state:** This culture of rape and impunity has persisted due to feeling of helplessness in the face of barriers to seeking any kind of justice. However, the change agents are revered by the work they do in trying to curb the incidences of rape, and ensuring accountability for perpetrators.
- iv. **Spousal battery/domestic violence:** Marriages in rural communities are regarded as prized attainment and there is a powerful social stigma around reporting violence, or worse, leaving the husband. This often leaves victims helpless and hopeless with little or no form of recourse or redress for such violation.
- v. **Land and property inheritance:** While the law of inheritance and succession under English law is reasonably settled, the aspect dealing with customary law is not, which breeds conflict and dispute among family members. Albeit, a recent decree by a traditional ruler of Bokkos,

which was not documented and hence fails to gain legitimacy, certain cultural and traditional leaders have weighed on women inheritance, and this is gradually gaining traction in the state.

4. Intervention Strategies Adopted and Outcomes by Change Agents

4.1 Pankshin Local Government Area

The Change Agents contributed to educating the women on first-line action/protocol when a child is sexually violated; like getting the survivor to a health center/hospital, without cleaning up immediately to protect the evidence; and subsequent reportage to the police station for documentation and prosecution.

The change agents utilized the knowledge and skills learned during training sessions by WfWI-N. They engaged in persistent advocacy and sensitization which has created shift in practice shift, with women currently been recipients/inheritors of farm lands and properties. Pankshin women are predominantly farmers and formed a collective called “Kanke Women Group” for an ‘adashi’ scheme to help the women gain financial freedom towards women economic empowerment (WEE).

4.2 Women now own lands - Jos East Local Government Area

Change agents in this community focused on intimate partner violence and inheritance issues. There is a deeply entrenched culture of silence with low motivation for reportage of SGBV. A change agent named, expressed her advocacy engagement with traditional leaders in her community, where she clamored for a change in practice on land ownership. She appealed for provisions of legal materials/documentations to yield credibility and legitimacy on commitments made towards ensuring such changes in repugnant long standing community practices.

A Change Agent pointed out that *“In the past, women in the community generally condoned and are complacent with intimate partner violence, with strong perceptions and acceptance that it is cultural and religious norms”*. However, with persistent and rigorous advocacy and sensitization, many women/wife batterers are no longer comfortable committing such violations, as there is a mushrooming of case reportage and subsequently prosecution immediately.

4.3 Girl Child Education - Riyom Local Government Area

This community experiences poor/low girl child education enrollment, and human trafficking. Hudung, a vibrant Change Agent claimed that, *“there has been a huge turn around lately, with more families enrolling their girl-child in schools”*. She explained that *“over fifty-four (54) communities were displaced due to incessant attacks by herdsmen. The inhabitants have been rendered homeless, and this contributed to the menace of trafficking. Traffickers force internally displaced children into labor such as domestic service, shop-attendant, hawking and prostitution”*. She called for more stringent laws and policies to address trafficking of young girls in Riyom.

- ❖ The entire submissions suggested that public enlightenment is a critical tool in behavioral change, attitude, beliefs and value system of people. Therefore, change agents should not relent in public sensitization in places like schools, market, place of worship etc. It is important that advocacy should

be intensified in the community in an attempt to provide victim/survivor-safety and offender accountability.

5. Bridge Building & Linkages Established

In all the engagement sessions with the Change Agents, relationships were cultivated, and support harnessed from National CSOs and PSIs to scale the incredibly locally driven work of reframing the narratives in their communities, initiating thoughts and actions towards policy reforms and effectiveness, as well as practice shift. Gaps in relational and collective leadership was identified, which supported a re-framing of Change Agents' understanding on how institutional politics at different levels have changed to include more dialogic engagement. This is manifested in the Change Agents' approaches to engaging with leaders of culture and other community influencers.

The underlisted organizations (Women's Rights Advocates/CSOs/PSIs) interfaced with the Change Agents, and linkages were established to support the work in the communities. The Change Agents were also connected to the WRAPA ongoing project in Plateau, Jos supported by Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR), working towards the implementation of the GEO Law and the domestication of VAPP Act(2015).

Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD)
Business and Professional Women Nigeria (BPWN)
Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)
National Council for Women Societies, Nigeria (NCWS)
International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)
Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women (LACVAW)
Save the Boys Initiatives
Jonathan Goodluck Ebele Foundation
OSIWA
National Human Rights Commission
Association of Wives of Traditional Rulers
Federal Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development
Federal Ministry of Justice

6. Commitments Extracted from Participating Institutions

6.1. FIDA/LACVAW

- i. Mapping study of the Legislators carried out by LACVAW will be shared with the Change Agents, to support identification of Legislators that may support policy reform aspirations of Plateau State.
- ii. FIDA may broaden the scope of their work in supporting the Change Agents in legal representation if the Change Agents could have paralegals working closely with them.

iii.LACVAW is open to working with the Change Agents in legislative advocacy. Contact details of LACVAW members will be shared to create linkages of collaboration, and strengthen efforts of both the VAPP Act and the GEO laws in Plateau state.

6.2 Gender and Welfare Counsel Office

The representative pledged to link the change agents with the Systems Coordinator in Plateau State, and this will grant them access to any front-line response organization. The Change Agents will also be provided with copies of the GEO Law and support in educating them on the law, as lack of knowledge of the law may make put them in a position of ignorance, which may impede on the effectiveness of their efforts.

6.3 Wives of Traditional Rulers Association FCT

- i. The leader of the association advised that the Change Agents liase with local government chairmen wives for easy reportage, case handling, documentation and financial supports.
- ii. It would also be great to have a replication of the Change Agents in the FCT.

6.4 The Business and Professional Women Nigeria (BPWN)Abuja

- i. The chairperson explained that the organization develops the business, professional and leadership potentials of women at all levels through advocacy, education, mentoring, networking, skill building and economic empowerment programs.
- ii. Inquiry on partnership with the WFWI-N, to support the establishment of a chapter in Plateau State, that would strengthen the work of the Change Agents.

6.5 The Goodluck Ebele Jonathan Foundation

The representative emphasized the focus area of the organization on women empowerment and capacity building. The organization is in the process of developing its strategic plan, and solid response on partnership will be communicated in the nearest future.

6.6 Nigerian Women Trust Fund

The organization has a list of CBOs in Plateau state they are working with, and the Change Agents will be included. The organization is committed to providing capacity building interventions to women to strengthen demand for accountability and women's participation in politics and decision-making positions.

6.7 The National Council of Women Society (NCWS)

- i. With presence in 33 states including the FCT, the organization can support in sensitization, educating and providing technical support to the change agents.
- ii. Linkage of the Change Agents to the NCWS national president

6.8 Save the Boys Initiative

- i. The founder explained the mission of the initiative working to sensitize boys and engaging them as "HE4SHES", while girls are being educated on their rights.

- ii. An offer of collaboration is extended to the WFWI-N through working with the Change Agents to engage boys/men in addressing SGBV.

6.9 CBN Development Finance Department

- i. The Director spoke about women economic empowerment and encouraged people at the grass root to be financially empowered and inclusive. He affirmed solving financial inclusion issues for women will have a cascading impact on equality and poverty eradication. He stated that if financial institutions re-evaluate and reconstruct their approach in a gender responsive way when launching new products, opportunities for growth and development will abound. Empowering women is not just about social parity but it is a quest that has tangible benefits for all, on a personal, communal and national level.
- ii. The Director hopes for a successful collaboration with the Change Agents under the auspice of the WFWI-N

6.10 Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD)

- i. The ministry ensures the survival, protection, development of women, children and person in need of government intervention. This is done through creating an enabling environment for women to live in a world in which there is justice, equity and respect for women's rights.
- ii. A commitment was made to support the WFWI-N/Change Agents program.

6.11 Nigerian Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

- i. Linkages may be created with the NHRC state offices to support the work of the Change Agents are doing in their communities.

7. Consensus Building on Identified Priority Areas for Action (Policy Demands/Ask)

- i. **GEO Law:** The Gender Equal Opportunity law seeks to promote equal opportunities and counter socio-cultural barriers that prevent women and girls from reaching their full potentials. It is therefore imperative that the Law is implemented, and with rigorous advocacy by the Change Agents, putting pressure both at the local and state level, this may be actualized.
- ii. **Inheritance:** While the underlying social and cultural dynamics are complex, legislative reforms to improve women's inheritance rights could potentially provide a low-cost mechanism to reduce gender discrimination and improve a range of socio-economic outcomes for women. The Change Agents may continue to engage with the duty bearers to enact this policy shift
- iii. **VAPP Act:** The VAPP Act is yet to be passed in Plateau State, however, there seems to be a groundswell of interest in the Act. The Change Agents should recognize this as a policy moment and exact pressure on the duty bearers to have this Act passed. It has a huge potential to contribute to a wellbeing free of violence or the threat of it, and live to their full potential in life.
- iv. **Gender Commission:** The Gender and Equal Opportunity Law provides for the establishment of a Gender Commission, with a mandate to monitor and supervise the

implementation of the law. It has been proposed therefore that a gender commission should be set up in Plateau State.

- v. **Implementation Guidelines:** Identify resources that can help the effective implementation of the Law, which includes necessary funding, staffing, coordination and infrastructure. However, it is important that an implementation guideline exist to provide direction on the effective implementation of the Law.
- vi. **Increased engagement and awareness of the law:** Creating awareness of the law is imperative for civic action towards assertion, and follow through on its provisions. The laws should be simplified and interpreted in different languages for broad based comprehension.
- vii. **Appropriation of funds:** The legislators must approve an appropriated funds for the implementation of the Laws. All the architecture required to enforce the law will require funding for logistical and clerical purposes. This will breathe oxygen into the laws, as the state architecture required to implement the laws will be activated and aligned.
- viii. **Fast track the institutionalization of mobile courts for SGBV issues:** These courts will create a swift and timely trial of pending and incoming sexual and gender-based violence cases in real time, and also facilitate their conclusion within record time. If it could be done in COVID-19 response efforts, it can be done also be done for SGBV.
- ix. **Behavioral Change Communication (BCC):** It is important to harness different contextual relevant and responsive means of communicating for change. This may include locally made jingles, dramas, radio programs and cartoons to raise awareness and knowledge of the laws to improve justice seeking behavior, seek rehabilitation and psycho-social support.
- x. **Support Gender Welfare Centers for speedy response.** Partnership with between the Change Agents and these centers is imperative. A strong engagement with the Gender Women and Children Desk (GWCD) situated in every police station is also highly encouraged.

8.Recommendations

- i. The Change Agent as a group should be integrated or evolve into a legally recognized body, known for enacting targeted social change in their communities. This is informed by the effectiveness and coordination of the group, and such development would bring to scale this locally driven intervention for improved community agency and wellbeing.
- ii. Girl child education was identified as a primary concern across all the communities represented by the Change Agents. Education as an instrument for empowerment cannot be trivialized if we all aspire to address the driving factors of gender inequality. In this light, with a high scale of out-of-school girls and corresponding low interest in female literacy, it is a matter of imperative to sustain targeted advocacy and engagement activities with relevant stakeholders, by women leaders, right based organizations and advocates to bridge existing gender gaps in the education. The traction built by the Change Agents should be maintained and deepened.
- iii. The institutionalization of rehabilitation service provision for survivors of SGBV is crucial. This is an area that has faced broad apathy, and is not recognized as a priority need for a community of survivors.

iv. More focus should be targeted at preventive measures to mitigate against SGBV in all its forms, in both public and private spaces. The law enforcement and social welfare services should be obligated to contribute to creating the conditions for effective prevention, protection and response. This percolates and reflects a value system that abhors violence in any form or permutation in the society.

9. Resolutions & Way Forward

The Change Agents proposed the following action points to guide futuristic intervention, and also as a framework for seeking both technical and financial support to build on and sustain the work they do in their communities.

- i. Go on a funding drive with influential members of their communities to sustain and bring to scale the support from WfWI-N, and other partnering organizations in the course of the intervention.
- ii. Continuous community surveillance and teamwork to reduce child trafficking in the communities.
- iii. Proliferate the environs with messages on SGBV, and female inheritance through increased level of advocacy and sensitization.
- iv. Secure partnerships and support for re-orienting security agencies as first responders in matters of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.
- v. Financial literacy of women at the lower income segments of society is a critical precursor to financial inclusion of women. It is critical to seek partnership or support with financial institutions to train the Change Agents on start-up, finance management, eligibility factors for accessing micro/small loans.

10. Conclusion

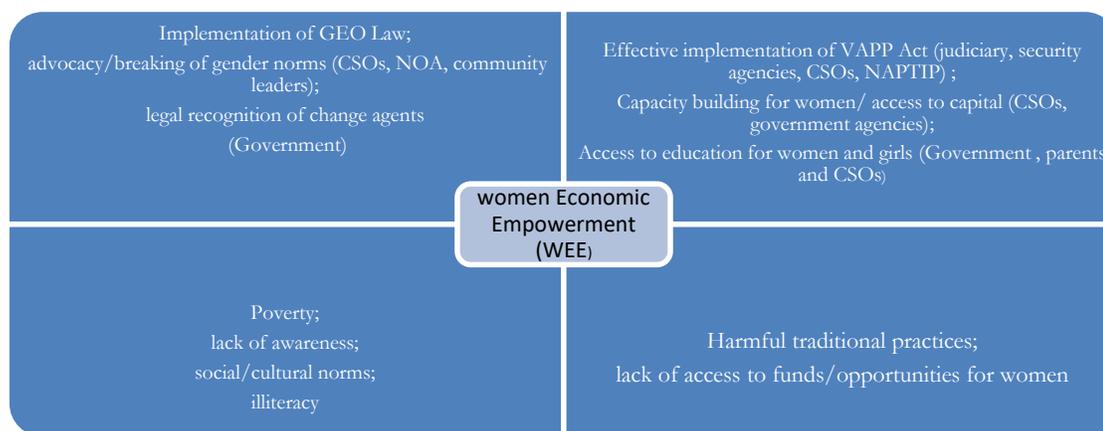
The Change Agents initiative demonstrates what communities can do for themselves, if given the necessary skills and knowledge, opportunities co-created, and a strengthened motivation to show agency. However, this can only really thrive if conditions that contributes to a permissive legal, social and political environment is created. The approach deployed by WfWI-N is strategically locally driven and showcases a working model of “meeting the people where they are, defining a societal challenge, jointly designing a dream and aspiration, and stepping back to allow for a community owned and led initiative”.

Appendix

Appendix 1- Group Exercises

Group 1

- Problem
- Root cause
- Solutions and persons/institutions' responsible



Group 2 – Violence against Persons (prohibition) Act

The VAPP Act is the single law in place that transcends the criminal and penal code in guaranteeing justice and protecting the rights and properties of victims of sexual and gender-based violence across the country. The VAPP Act expands the definition of rape, domestic offences, incest and several forms of violence. It also ensures justice and protection of victims in a way that guarantees freedom, compensation and respect to human rights. Since it was signed into law in May 2015, only 14 states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has domesticated it.

- Problem/Root cause
 - i. Ignorance/poverty
 - ii. Lack of education
 - iii. Lack of empowerment
 - iv. Lack of sensitization of both gender
 - v. Lack of recognition
- Solutions
 - i. Empowering women physically and mentally;
 - ii. Education both gender and parents;
 - iii. Sensitization of both the boy and girl child;
 - iv. Increased advocacy
 - v. Easy access of information to the grass root;
- Persons/ institutions responsibility
 - i. National Human Rights Commission

- ii. NAPTIP
- iii. National Orientation Agency
- iv. Traditional institution

Group 3 – legal recognition of Change Agents

Problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Lack of data/statistics ii. Lack of funds iii. Lack of awareness on the work the Change Agents are doing iv. Negative masculinity
Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Need for proper registration ii. Adequate visibility iii. Courtesy visits to relevant agencies/MDAs such as the Ministry of Women Affairs, FIDA, NHRC, Women groups etc iv. Involving key actors/influencers v. Creating a group account vi. Synergy with Civil Society Organizations
Persons/Institutions responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Directory of NGOs/CSOs
Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Financial management ii. Governance and structure

Group 4 – Social norms

Problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cultural beliefs; ii. Ignorance; iii. Traditions/religions
Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sensitization, awareness and advocacy; ii. Partnering with religious leaders; iii. Advocacy for more stringent laws and policies
Persons/institutions responsible	Leaders of culture and faith

Group 5 - Protection and response

Problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Weak structures ii. Corruption iii. Lack of prosecution
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	iv. Lack of awareness
Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Strengthening of structuresii. Establishment of safe sheltersiii. Checkmating corruptioniv. Punishment of perpetrators
