



2018 Annual Report



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AE-FUNAI	-	Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike
AMAC	-	Abuja Municipal Area Council
APC	-	All Progressive Congress
APGA	-	All Progressive Grand Alliance
AWDF	-	African Women Development Fund
BENCONET	-	Benue NGOs Network
BRS	-	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm
C21 st	-	Centre for 21st Century Issues
CAN	-	Christian Association of Nigeria
CBN	-	Central Bank of Nigeria
CCNN	-	Climate Change Network of Nigeria
CEDSI	-	Centre for Development Support Initiatives
CERI	-	Community Emergency Response Initiative
CIVICUS	-	World Alliance for Citizens Participation
CIWED	-	Centre for Capacity Improvement for the Wellbeing of the Vulnerable
CLHEI	-	Community Links and Human Empowerment Initiative
COP 24	-	Conference of Parties
CSDDevNet	-	Climate and Sustainable Development Network
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organizations
DDT	-	Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane

ECCAI	-	Environment and Climate Change Amelioration Initiative
ECOSOC	-	Economic and Social Council
ECOWA	-	Echoes of Women in Africa Initiative
EWAY Organization	-	Women and Youth Environmental Safety and Empowerment
FCFA	-	Future Climate for Africa, Central African Franc
FCT	-	Federal Capital Territory
FHF	-	Future Hope Foundation
FIDA	-	International Federation of Women Lawyers
FYBIN	-	Fresh and Young Brains Development Initiative
GAP	-	Gender Action Plan
GCERF	-	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
GEF	-	Global Environmental Facility
GEF-SGP	-	Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme
GGF	-	Global Greengrants Fund
GLAAS	-	Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water
GLOWDEP	-	Global Women Development Promoters
GPSDC	-	Gender Perspectives and Social Development Center
GrassRootsAfrica	-	Foundation for Grassroots Initiatives in Africa
HBCD	-	Hexabromocyclododecane
HCH	-	Hexachlorocyclohexane
HLPF	-	High Level Political Forum
ICT	-	Information Communication Technology
IDP	-	Internally Displaced Persons

ILC	-	International Land Coalition
KSF	-	Kwande Sisters Foundation
LGA	-	Local Government Area
LGEA	-	Local Government Education Area
LHI	-	Life Helper Initiative
M&E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDAs	-	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDC	-	Millennium Development Centre
MHM	-	Menstrual Hygiene Management
NAPKC	-	Nigerian Army Peace Keeping Centre
NAPS	-	Network of African Peace-builders
NAWIA	-	Nigerian Association of Women in Agriculture
NDC	-	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDWPD	-	Niger Delta Women's Movement for Peace and Development
NEWSAN	-	Society for Water and Sanitation
NPI	-	National Programme on Immunization
NTA	-	National Television Authority
OCEAN	-	Organized Center for Empowerment and Advocacy in Nigeria
OFPs	-	Opportunity Funds Program
OKF	-	Open Knowledge Foundation
OP	-	Organizing Partners
PCB	-	Polychlorinated Byphenyls
PDP	-	Peoples Democratic Party
PFOS	-	Perfluorooctanesulfonate
PhD	-	Doctor of Philosophy

PISCCA	-	Projects for Civil Societies and Coalitions of Actors
PND	-	National Development Plan of Togo
POPs	-	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PVE	-	Preventing Violent Extremism
RCM	-	Regional Consultative Meetings
REFACOF Forests	-	African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SDI	-	Shacks and Slum Dwellers International
TfC	-	Trees for Cities
TV	-	Television
UBE	-	Universal Basic Education
UK	-	United Kingdom
UN	-	United Nations
UNEA	-	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	-	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNFCCC	-	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children Emergency Fund
VAI	-	Voluntary Aid Initiative
VAPP	-	Violence Against Persons Prohibition
WANEP	-	West African Network for Peacebuilding
WASH	-	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WECF	-	Women Engage for a Common Future
WEDO	-	Women's Environment and Development Organization
WEP	-	Women Environmental Programme

WGC	-	Women and Gender Constituency
WHO	-	World Health Organization
WMG	-	Women's Major Group
WOMEN2030-		Women CSOs Networking to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals
WRAHI Protection	-	Initiative for Women's Health Development and Right
WSSCC	-	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
ZEIP	-	Ziongate Empowerment Initiative for the Less Privileged

From the Executive Director

WEP's 2018-2027 Strategic Plan implementation commenced in 2018 with the Board Members approval of the organization's first Resource Mobilization Strategy. WEP board, management, staff and partners acknowledged the tremendous financial and technical support from the Africa Women Development Fund (AWDF) for the development of the 10-year Strategic Plan as well as the Resources Mobilization Strategy. This indeed has placed WEP in a more strategic position to engage her partners and conduct her business including raising the resources needed for the implementation of the plans.

During the year under-review, WEP implemented a couple of projects that included screening of a documentary on a Scoping Study on Gender Dimensions of Chemicals and Waste Policies under the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Nigeria; WEP closed out the first phase of her project "Connecting Women and Youth in Violent Extremist Prone Areas through Empowerment and Skills Acquisition in Benue State." The project was aimed at preventing the spread of violent extremism within the North Central Region and was inspired by the unrest in the region occasioned by factors such as communal and political conflicts, cult activities in schools, farmers-herders confrontations and other forms of violent conflict exploited by violent extremist groups which were gradually harnessing the grievances of young people to recruit and radicalize them into violent extremism. The project impacted over 16000 in-school and out of school youths across four local government areas all in Benue State.

With funding support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands' Accountability Fund, we implemented a project titled "Ensuring Effective Implementation of Programmes, Policies and Legislations, which Contribute towards Achieving Gender Equality in Nigeria by 2030" in Benue and Zamfara states. WEP partnered with the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Benue State chapter, Network of Benue Civil Society Organizations and Eunice Spring of Life Foundation and sponsored a bill to domesticate the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act in Benue State. The bill was necessitated by the continuous violation of women, young persons and children, the popular of which was the case of Ochanya Ogbanje who was raped by her uncle and son resulting into Vesicovaginal Fistula (VVF) and death.

We continued the implementation of the project ‘Women CSOs Networking to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’ popularly known as “Women2030” in partnership with Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) and support from the European Commission. The project has continued to create awareness and impact positively on the people and communities. WEP has been able to on this project build the capacity of over 500 grassroots women organizations in 7 African countries and has equally sub-granted to these community-based organizations for various activities including skills acquisitions.

WEP constructed a solar dryer tent in Adogo Community of Ado Local Government Area of Benue State for drying of farm produce and over 500 women farmers have so far benefited from this project. The media attention generated by the success of the project has prompted an organization whose mandate is crowdfunding to initiate a campaign to raise funds for WEP to upscale the project. This initiative is aimed at helping rural women overcome the problem of post-harvest loss of perishable farm produce and cope with the impact of climate change on their practice of sustainable agriculture.

WEP during the period under review planted over 2000 trees across four states in Nigeria namely Benue, Katsina, Kebbi and FCT with support from Trees for Cities.

In the course of the electioneering year, WEP partnered with UNWomen to organize high level advocacy visits to four major political parties and signed agreements with them for women inclusivity in the internal party democracy as well as for appointive positions.

WEP partnered with the Federal Ministry of Environment’s, Department of Climate Change with financial support from CGIAR to review the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan for Nigeria which was draft form.

WEP participated at Global Environment Facility (GEF) 6th Assembly held in Vietnam, the 24th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP 24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Poland and the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development held in Dakar, Senegal.

WEP initiated a Volunteer and Mentorship Programme based on the organization’s vision in her new strategic plan (2018-2027) of creating a world where the lives of women and youth around the globe are positively transformed. The mentorship programme mentored and graduated our first batch of mentees with many stories of change.

WEP was elected as the co-Facilitator of the Women's Major Groups to the United Nations Environment Programme for a period of 2 years.

The above are just few pointers to the impressive success stories borne out of the support and cooperation of our government, partners, donors, beneficiaries and communities of intervention in the year 2018.

The support of our amiable and committed board members, staff and management team contributed towards strengthening the technical and operational capacity of the organization and has led to the successes recorded.

I commend the staff for imbibing the team spirit that has in no small measure facilitated our journey towards transforming WEP to the vision and picture encapsulated in our Strategic Plan.



Priscilla M Achakpa (PhD)

How our year started



As it is customary to WEP, the year started with a 3-day retreat for Staff and Board Members of the organization from 7 – 10 January 2018, at Royal Choice Inn, Central Area, Abuja, Nigeria.

The 2018 retreat was a unique one as WEP used it and planned for the commencement of implementation of her new 10-year Strategic Plan, which runs from 2018 – 2027. The development of this new Strategic Plan was supported by the African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF). Another unique thing about this retreat was that, WEP got her first Resource Mobilization Strategy, also supported by AWDF, approved by the Board Members.

After the retreat, WEP hosted some of her partners to a new-year dinner at Royal Choice Inn, Abuja to appreciate the support received from the partners over the years. The partners were drawn from the Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government, Civil Society Organizations, United Nations Agencies and the Media.

For their outstanding performance in year 2017, WEP appreciated the following staff with the following categories of awards during the new year dinner: Award for Outstanding Performance Through Innovative Ideas, presented to Mr John Baaki Terzungwe; Award for Being Excellent Team Leader presented to Mr. Cliff Gai; Award for Being Proactive, presented to Ms Damaris Uja; and Award for Dedication to Work presented to Mr. Barau Bature.

How our year started



Group photograph of staff and board members of WEP during the 2018 annual retreat for staff and board members



Cross section of staff at the 2018 annual retreat for staff and board members



Some board members of WEP at the annual retreat



Barrister Winnifred Lichuma, international board member of WEP making a remark during the new year dinner organized by WEP for her partners

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Mr John Baaki, WEP's Programme Manager (right) received award for outstanding performance through innovative ideas



Mr Cliff Gai (right), WEP's M&E Manager received award for been excellent team leader

How our year started



Award for been proactive presented to Ms Damaris Uja (right) WEP's Programme Officer



Barau Bature (left) WEP's Office Assistant received award of dedication to work



Partners gathered at the new year dinner organized by WEP to appreciate their support and for the screening of the documentary, 'what has gender got to do with chemicals?'

Environment

Projects/Activities



Scoping study on gender dimensions of chemicals and wastes policies under the BRS Conventions in Nigeria



Sascha Gabizon of WECF giving a background about the documentary ‘What has gender got to do with chemicals?’ at the new year dinner organized by WECF and WEP for screening of the documentary

Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) and Women Environmental Programme (WEP) were engaged by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions under the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in 2017 to conduct a scoping study in Nigeria and Indonesia to identify the initiatives and success stories related to gender mainstreaming in hazardous chemicals and waste management as addressed by the three conventions. The study included: surveys, consultations, discussions with key Civil Servants, Experts, Local Authorities, Intergovernmental Organizations, International Organizations, Women & Environmental Civil Society Organisations, mapping of actors and waste sector, and visits of sites.

The scoping study aimed to understand:

- How are women and men differently impacted in their health by Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), hazardous chemicals and waste?

- How do women and men's occupations and their roles at home and at work influence exposure to POPs, hazardous chemicals and waste?
- What best practices with women and men's leadership exist to substitute and eliminate POPs, hazardous chemicals and waste?

Findings from the scoping study showed that there was high level of exposure to POPs and other hazardous chemicals whose major sources were from imported electrical and electronics equipment, pesticides, burning of municipal and plastic wastes and informal recycling. The study found that the human breast milk samples obtained from volunteer-mothers at Maitama Hospital in Nigeria, showed high levels of chlordane, dieldrin, DDT, toxaphene, PCBs, hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD), hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH), and perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS). Another shocking finding from the study was that, PCB oil (Polychlorinated biphenyls), a liquid used in electrical transformers as a coolant was found to be used as cooking oil by some women. These are found to be the causes of genetic disorders, delayed pregnancy, birth defects, male infertility and other deleterious health conditions.

The scoping study resulted in the production of a 30-minute documentary entitled – "What has gender got to do with chemicals?" and a **narrative report**, that enlighten about the dangers of hazardous chemicals and wastes on women, children and men, and proffer solutions towards addressing exposure to hazardous chemicals.

To get more people aware of the dangers of these hazardous chemicals, WEP and WECF at the beginning of the year 2018 invited some of her partners to a new year dinner at Royal Choice Inn, Central Area, Abuja, Nigeria where the documentary "What has gender got to do with chemicals?" was screened. After this, WEP and WECF took the awareness raising to Nigeria National Television Authority (NTA) where the documentary was aired to sensitize people about hazardous chemicals. About 10 million people in Nigeria and beyond were reached with information about this issue.

Commemoration of 2018 World Environment Day



WEP's Programme Manager, John Baaki (Middle) talking about plastic pollution on People's TV Abuja in commemorating World Environment Day 2018.

In commemorating the 2018 World Environment Day which was themed: “Beating Plastic Pollution,” WEP made appearances on several media platforms to create awareness about the dangers of plastic pollution and the best strategies to be adopted to address pollution from plastics.

The first media appearance WEP made on 5th of June 2018 was on Radio Nigeria, at Radio House, Area 11, Abuja, during the Network Service by 7am.

By 10am, WEP was on People's TV in Apo Abuja where the Programme Manager of the organization, Mr John Baaki discussed **#BeatingPlasticPollution in Nigeria**. Follow this link to watch the video of the discussion on beating plastic pollution in Nigeria on People's TV -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQYYK06IYm8&feature=youtu.be>

WEP rounded off the day by making the last media appearance on Arise TV to continue the awareness raising about plastic pollution.

WEP at the 6th Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly



WEP's Executive Director, Dr Priscilla Achakpa made a presentation on behalf of CSOs at the 6th GEF Assembly

At the closing session of the GEF 6th Assembly held in Vietnam from 24-29 June, 2018, our Executive Director, Dr. Priscilla Achakpa presented the outcomes of the discussions held during the Civil Society Forum on behalf of the Civil Society Organizations.

"She highlighted recommendations to the GEF Secretariat and the wider Partnership from the 120 CSOs present at the Assembly, and 538 CSOs in the wider GEF-CSO Network on, in t e r alia:

- the need to recognize that partnerships between the GEF and CSOs are key for achieving transformational change;
- establishing a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to build trust and collaborative approaches;
- that the GEF agencies and OFPs should have greater inclusion of CSOs in project development and implementation; and

- enhanced support to the GEF-CSO network to help achieve the GEF-7 replenishment targets."

At the GEF Assembly, WEP also made a presentation of the film based on the scoping study on gender dimensions of chemicals and wastes policies under the BRS Conventions in Nigeria.

Mainstreaming Menstrual Hygiene Management into Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development through the National Council on Women Affairs and Social Development

In July 2018, the Country Office of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) Nigeria and Women Environmental Programme (WEP), sought for the Council of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development's consideration and approval for the Institutionalization of Menstrual Hygiene Management in the activities of the Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development nationwide.

This was because both organizations saw that Menstrual Hygiene Management has become a critical challenge for women and girls in Nigeria, especially with regards to keeping menstruating girls in school, and providing sanitation and water facilities in communities; urban settings like markets, IDP camps, and other public places in order to ensure that women and girls including the marginalized have access to sanitation and hygiene facilities.

At the end of her 18th Regular Meeting of the National Council of Women Affairs and Social Development held in Ikeja, Lagos on 5th-10 August 2018, a communique was issued, approving the Institutionalization of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in the activities of the Ministry.

UN-Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) Country Survey 2018

WEP participated in the UN Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) Country Survey in 2018. This survey in Nigeria was facilitated by Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). The activities for this survey included consultative meetings in the six geo-political zones of the federation. WEP actively participated in the assessment alongside the Federal Ministry of Water Resources.

Six Teams made up of three officers visited all the states in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria simultaneously between 18th November-1st December 2018 to collect data for the UN-Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) survey 2018/2019.

GLAAS is a UN-Water initiative implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO) in over 80 countries including Nigeria. It provides information on investment

and enabling environment with a specific focus on monitoring Targets 6a and 6b of the SDGs. It is a bi-annual survey; and the last one was carried out in 2016.

The survey is meant to monitor in-puts required to extend and sustain WASH systems and services to all, especially the vulnerable/disadvantage groups, supporting country-led process that brings together institutions and actors that are involved in delivering WASH services and as well identifying drivers and bottlenecks to progress, highlights knowledge gaps and assess strengths and challenges across countries.

Promoting sanitation in the city of Badou, Togo

WEP Togo in 2018 organized sensitization sessions in the city of Badou on sanitation. Hosted by ACAKPO-ADDRA Essivi, Executive Director of the WEP-TOGO, a total of two sensitization sessions were organized for the population of Badou with the theme: "Keeping sanitation in the city of Badou, my civic duty." About 450 people mostly women and youth participated in these awareness-raising sessions which were used to clean up the city of Badou.



Part of the city of Badou before cleaning



Members of WEP Togo cleaning the city of Badou

Awareness of women about the use of solar ovens and dryers

WEP-TOGO participated in the training of 36 promoters of the use of solar ovens and dryers at Sokode. Following this workshop, WEP-TOGO conducted 8 awareness sessions on the use of solar ovens and dryers to reduce the use of wood fuel in households. 784 women and 85 men were reached during these sensitizations.



Group photograph during one of the awareness raising sessions organized by WEP Togo



ACAKPO-ADDRA Essivi, Executive Director of the WEP-TOGO sensitizing participants during one of the awareness raising sessions

Promoting Sustainable and Efficient Land Management in Vo Prefecture (PISCCA Project)

In year 2018, WEP-Togo promoted sustainable and efficient land management in five (5) villages in the Vo prefecture (Legbanou, Kousségbé, Hangbakoe, Kpotossou-Hédé, Sékopé). This was through the sensitization of women farmers on the use of mushroom substrates for ecological restoration of agricultural land, the reduction of plant debris fires after clearing, the practice of agroforestry and compost production by fungal substrates. A total of 200 women direct farmers were trained and supported in good practices of sustainable land management and organic gardening.

The following results were achieved under this project:

- Four (4) production units of mushrooms installed and functional in 4 villages

- 600 kilograms of mushrooms produced and marketed;
- 1500 tones of compost produced from mushroom substrates
- Four groups of market gardeners benefited from boreholes and wells;
- Sustainable land management is adopted and practiced by 700 farmers from four localities in the Vo prefecture;
- 13 hectares of land have been restored through this project;
- 200 women farmers earned an income of 25,000 FCFA per month



Group of women farmers who participated in the sustainable land management project on the farm



Information session with some women farmers

WEP's Executive Director elected as Co-Facilitator of WMG to UNEP

The Executive Director of Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Dr Priscilla Achakpa was elected as one of the Co-Facilitators of the Women's Major Group (WMG) to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The election results confirming her emergence as one of the Co-Facilitators were announced through the listserve of WMG to UNEP on 4th of August, 2018.

"Going by the votes, the new Co-Facilitators are: 1. Priscilla Achakpa-Women Environmental Programme, 2. Mrinalini Rai – Global Forest Coalition," announced Caroline Usikpedo-Omoniye and Isis Alvarez, on behalf of the Steering Committee members who oversaw the conduct of the elections.

The process of electing new Co-Facilitators of WMG to UNEP who will serve for a term of two years started since May 28th, 2018 when the WMG called for Steering Committee members to oversee the process. This was followed by nominations and elections throughout the month of June, 2018.

The responsibilities of the Co-Facilitators include:

- Consult with national/regional women's networks working on environmental issues to prepare written inputs for UNEP policy processes
- Ensure that the principles and values of the WMG are respected in all publications, statements and other communication given on behalf of the WMG
- Organize, manage and disseminate data and information on the WMG and UNEP
- Identify participants and consult with the Women's Major Group members and allied networks for United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)-related global and/or regional events;
- Facilitate the participation of Women's Major Group members and organise side events in UNEA and other related global and/or regional processes;
- Work in collaboration with other Major Group representatives to ensure continued space for civil society engagement in the UN Environment Assembly and other related processes, as necessary;
- Serve on UN Environment's Major Groups Facilitating Committee
- Fundraise on behalf of the Women's Major Group;

- Provide strategic direction and guidance to the Women’s Major Group through an inclusive, consultative and transparent process, of decisions surrounding WMG positions on all UN Environment Assembly decisions

The Women’s Major Group (WMG) to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the focal point for UN environmental policies. The WMG-UNEP’s responsibility covers the UN Environment Assembly and related meetings, Regional Consultative Meetings (RCM), and the environmental interlinkages to the 2030 Agenda and the High Level Political Forum. In addition, the WMG-UNEP aims to cooperate closely with other Women’s Major Groups and Women’s constituencies linked to other UN policy processes.

Climate Change

Projects/Activities



Solar Dryer Tent for Adogo Community

For the farmers of Adogo, a community in Nigeria's Mbaya district, sun drying was the only way to preserve agricultural produce. Local women would lay fruits and vegetables on the ground to dehydrate them for future use. But sun drying brings problems: it's weather-dependent, it exposes the food to contaminants like dust and insects, and it's surprisingly time-consuming, as the women needed to guard their produce from scavenging animals, both wild and domestic. In Adogo, one of the communities where the majority of Benue State's peppers and tomatoes originate but which has no nearby market or processing industry, the smallholder farmers faced a lose-lose situation: inefficiently dry their produce in the sun or sell it at giveaway prices before it rotted. All too often the food went bad, just because the farmers lacked a safe, sanitary, reliable method of preserving their produce.

The above necessitated the construction of solar dryer tent in the community.

The solar dryer tent was commissioned and handed over to Adogo community in 2018.



Consultation with Adogo community before the construction of the solar dryer

The atmosphere at the handing over ceremony was rousing as residents of the community showed up in large numbers to witness as the facility was presented to them. The solar dryer tent was handed over to the community through its District head, Zaki Asozwa who expressed appreciation for the good deed done to the community.

Present to witness the handing over ceremony were: the Chairman of Buruku Local Government and Rt. Hon Ngunan Addingi, a member representing Buruku constituency in the Benue State House of Assembly.

Solar dryer tent, from experiment/study, has proven to be more efficient and reliable form of drying agricultural produce for preservation and processing using the ambient



Solar dryer tent constructed in Adogo community

solar energy. The dryer tent is the best alternative or option to avoid disadvantages of conventional drying methods.

Since after the construction of this solar dryer tent, the story of farmers in Adogo community has changed as testified by the leader of the women cooperative: ***“...it affords us opportunity to attend to other house needs without having to worry about the stress of chasing animals that come to feed and sheltering from rain as was the case with sun-drying crops in open space.”*** The solar dryer is addressing post-harvest losses in the community, giving more value to farm produce and increasing the income of farmers. More testimonies about how the solar dryer tent has helped farmers can be found on the following link - <https://youtu.be/jT4usNwpSkg>

WEP at COP 24



WEP's John Baaki posed with a visitor to WEP's exhibition booth at COP 24 in Poland

Women Environmental Programme was at the 24th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP 24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that held from 3rd – 14th December 2018 in Katowice, Poland.

At COP 24, WEP joined the Women and Gender Constituency to follow the negotiations on the Paris rulebook, a set of guidelines that were being negotiated that will guide the implementation of the Paris Agreement. WEP and other members of the Women and Gender Constituency had key demands they wanted of the rule book for a gender-just climate solution.

On 6th December 2018, WEP collaborated with, Solidaridad Network Organization, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike (AE-FUNAI) and Climate and Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet) and hosted a side event at Nigerian

Pavillion on the side-lines of the climate change conference. The aim of this side event was to showcase the climate change mitigation and adaptation projects of the collaborating organizations to different stakeholders at the climate change conference and how they were contributing towards achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) commitments and the Paris Agreement in West Africa.

WEP showcased the following initiatives:



WEP's John Baaki (left) making a presentation during a side event organized by WEP and other partners at Nigeria Pavilion at COP 24

- Trees planting project where she had planted 2000 trees across four states in Nigeria: FCT, Benua, Kano and Katsina states with support from Trees for Cities with the aim to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, prevent land degradation and provide a source of income for communities where the project has been implemented.

- Solar dryer tent: WEP constructed a solar dryer tent for the farmers of Adogo, a community in Nigeria's Mbaya district of Buruku Local Government, Benue State where sun drying was the only way to preserve produce as local women would lay fruits and vegetables on the ground to dehydrate them for future use. Sun-drying is unfortunately time-consuming and weather dependent and exposes food to contaminants like dust and insects. With the construction of solar dryer tent in the community, drying became faster, more hygienic and post-harvest losses have been reduced.
- WEP also presented her initiatives that advocated for the implementation of the Gender Action Plan of the UNFCCC in Nigeria as well as the initiative that trained women to upcycle waste plastic bags into shoes and other products.

On the 10th of December 2018, WEP joined the Women and Gender Constituency to hold its annual Gender Just Climate Solutions Award and publication launch. The Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards celebrate gender-just solutions- aiming to support and scale up innovative initiatives that put equity and sustainability at heart. WEP's John Baaki and Zenabou Segda served as one of the juries for the selection of the best gender just climate projects that received awards, and as a contributing author to the Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards Publication respectively, in which WEP's project on circular economy and women's entrepreneurship in Burkina Faso was featured.



Members of Women and Gender Constituency posed for a group photograph after the Gender Just Climate Solutions Award at COP 24



Executive Director of WEP, Dr Priscilla Achakpa (2nd left) endorsing the Global Goals at COP 24



Executive Director of WEP, Dr Priscilla Achakpa (2nd left) making a presentation at a side event at COP 24

Trees for Nigeria Project

In year 2018, WEP entered into a partnership agreement with Trees for Cities, a UK charity working at a national and international scale to improve lives by planting trees in cities around the world. The partnership was inspired by the shared objective of the two organizations to make cities better places to live.

The partnership aimed at planting two thousand (2000) trees across four northern states of Nigeria – FCT, Benue, Katsina and Kano States.

Between September and December 2018, WEP had planted 2000 trees across the above states in Nigeria. The different trees varieties ranging from orange, mango, guava, eucalyptus, neem, royal palm, satellite tree, step tree, moringa, palm tree and cashew, were planted in schools, residential areas, recreational centers, and along major roads in these states.



Pupils of LGEA Primary School Wurukum, Makurdi participating in trees planting



Volunteers protecting planted trees at Central Pilot Primary School Makurdi

The trees were planted in the following locations in the four states:

Benue State

1. Local Government Education Area (LGEA) Science/Nursery Primary School, Demekpe
2. NKST Primary School Wadata/UBE Junior Secondary School, Wadata, Makurdi, Benue State
3. Holy Ghost Primary School, Makurdi
4. LGEA Central Pilot Primary School, Makurdi
5. St Theresa's Primary School, Wurukum
6. LGEA Primary School, Wurukum, Makurdi

Katsina State

1. Government Senior Secondary School Dandagoro/Government Junior Secondary School Dandagoro
2. Kofar Kaura Secondary School
3. National Identity Management Office
4. Ajiwa Irrigation Center

Kano State

1. CBN Quaters Road Sabon titi, Hotoro, Tarauni Local Government Area

Abuja, Federal Capital Territory (FCT)

1. National Programme on Immunization (NPI) Estate, Gaduwa, Abuja.

When they grow up, the trees will serve the communities in different ways: apart from cooling the air and making the environment conducive for living, they will control soil erosion, restore land previously degraded by desertification, provide nutritious food and source of income to the communities.

Peace & Security

Projects/Activities



Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) in Benue State

2018 was the year the first phase of the project aimed at preventing violent extremism in Benue State ended. The project titled: “Connecting Women and Youth in Violent Extremist Prone Areas Through Empowerment and Skills Acquisition in Benue State” started in 2016. The project was inspired by the unrest in the North Central Region of Nigeria occasioned by factors such as communal and political crisis, cult activities in schools, farmers-herders crisis, kidnappings and activities of Boko Haram. A lot of youth were active players in these unrests, and their involvement WEP discovered was due to one or a combination of the following reasons: unemployment, poverty, ignorance, lack of parental guidance and bad governance.

In order to find a lasting solution to these unrests, WEP collaborated with other Civil Society Organizations and designed a project with a set of different initiatives focusing on four Local Government Areas in the State which were affected more by these unrests: Kwande, Ado, Agatu and Logo.

Each of the project initiatives aimed to address one or two factors that leads to recruitment and radicalization of youth into violent extremism. One of the initiatives focused on providing livelihood skills for the unskilled out of school youth, the other focused on preventing recruitment and radicalization of in-school youth, the other on addressing grievances between warring parties, another focused on disarmament of armed youth, the other on providing support to victims of violent conflict, while the other focused on preventing incessant crisis between farmers and herders.

Different activities were implemented across different initiatives of the project towards achieving the project goal of preventing violent extremism. The activities ranged from advocacy meetings with different stakeholders, sensitization rallies in schools, radio drama; training of change agents comprising women, teachers, media, religious and traditional leaders on issues of violent extremism; training of community members on community policing; mediation between warring parties; establishment of digital clubs and training on information and communication technology in secondary schools; construction of mini ranches in communities; provision of support to victims of crisis, and vocational skills training for the unskilled out of school youth.

The year under review saw the implementation of concluding activities under this project. WEP had in 2018 established solar-powered computer laboratories for 8 secondary schools (2 in each of the 4



Commissioning of computer laboratory at Shangev-Ya Community Secondary School Koti

Local Government Areas she worked in). The schools that benefitted from these solar-powered computer laboratories were: Shangev-Ya Community Secondary School Koti, and Turan Community Secondary School Jato-Aka in Kwande Local Government; God's Time Secondary School Ugba and Gambe-Tiev Secondary School Anyiin in Logo Local Government; Igumle Community Secondary School Igumale and Apa Community Secondary School Apa Agila in Ado Local Government; Methodist High School Ubagaji and Eagle Generation Secondary School Ubagaji in Agatu Local Government. These digital computer laboratories were commissioned and handed over to the schools on 11th September 2018. These schools had no access to computers before WEP's intervention. The computer laboratories were aimed to equip the school children with ICT skills to enhance their quality of education and make them more useful to themselves after school.

WEP also constructed mini ranches for some cattle owners in Ado, Agatu and Kwande Local Governments with the aim to curtailing the movement of cattle thereby forestalling the incessant crisis that always occur between herders and farmers when cattle trample on crops.



One of the mini ranches constructed by WEP in Ado LGA

In addition to the above activities, WEP provided vocational trainings

ranging from tailoring, cosmetics, shoemaking, tiling, carpentry etc to 268 youth (135 males and 133 females) who have all been given starter packs to start up a trade.



Some of the youth that benefitted from vocational training under the project “Connecting Women and Youth in Violent Extremist Prone Areas Through Empowerment and Skills Acquisition in Benue State”

Capacity building of leaders of women and youth leaders on the promotion of peace in the prefecture of Amou

WEP-Togo in 2018 organized a capacity building workshops for leaders of women and youth leaders on promotion of peace in the prefecture of Amou with financial support from Directorate of Civic Training in Togo. This activity was part of efforts to achieve SDG16 in Togo.



Capacity building workshops organized by WEP-Togo for women and youth leaders on the promotion of peace in Togo

Governance

Projects/Activities



WEP Volunteer and Mentorship Programme



In year 2018, WEP, based on the vision in her new strategic plan (2018-2028) of “a world where the lives of women and youth around the globe are positively transformed” created a Volunteer and Mentorship Programme for youth as she believed that one of the ways to transform the lives of women and youth is by equipping them with relevant information and skills and providing them with the needed guidance that will take them through the path of realizing their potentials. When women and youth are empowered with information, skills and given the right guidance, they will in turn impact positively on the communities in which they live.

The goal of this programme was to assist communities address development challenges through volunteer service, while its objectives were:

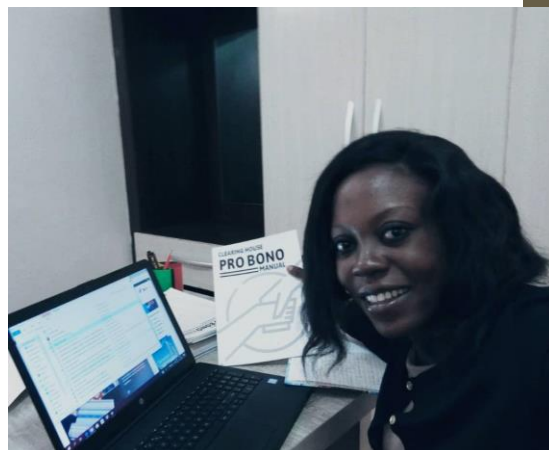
- i. Equip volunteers with community development skills
- ii. Provide guidance to volunteers on designing and implementing community development projects
- iii. Assist volunteers to build a career in the development sector
- iv. Provide a platform for volunteers to create the impact they desire in communities

This one-year programme started off in WEP's head office in Abuja with 20 participants comprising 13 females and 7 males. The participants met every month at WEP's head office and were taken through different development skills and issues ranging from advocacy and community engagement, civic responsibility, governance accountability, policy and legislative advocacy, environmental sustainability, climate change, conflict resolution, violent extremism, project design and management.

As expected by the programme that after one year of undergoing the programme at WEP, participants would design and implement community development projects, participants who benefitted from this project have already designed several community development interventions using the knowledge and skills they gained in the course of the programme.

The WEP Volunteer and Mentorship Programme made tremendous impacts on the youth that participated in this programme more than what we envisaged. Below is what one of the participants said about how the programme had impacted her:

“WEP Volunteer and Mentorship programme was very impactful, it helped me secure a contract job presently which I'm doing, it's a project which is themed Building a culture of Pro Bono project in Nigeria where three parties are in partnership which is the Nigerian Bar Association, Justice Research institute, and Open Society Initiative for West Africa. The project is in its second phase which I'm privileged to be amongst the team in Abuja and we are overseeing about five other states which are Sokoto, Kaduna, Kebbi, Lagos and Osun.”



Adzege Stephanie Doofan

More [testimonies on how the participants were impacted by the maiden edition of the programme can be found here.](#)

Ensuring Effective Implementation of Programmes, Policies and Legislations that Contribute to the Achievement of Gender Equality in Nigeria by 2030

The Kingdom of Netherlands in the year 2016 made a financial contribution to Women Environmental Programme (WEP) for the implementation of the project: “Ensuring Effective Implementation of Programmes, Policies and Legislations, that Contribute Towards Achieving Gender Equality in Nigeria by 2030.” This 5-year project runs from year 2016 to 2021.

The objectives of this project include:

1. Advocate for policies and legislations that promote women participation at all levels of decision making, and remove all obstacles (social, political, cultural and economic) hindering women’s empowerment and participation in decision making and infringing on women’s rights.
2. Ensure effective implementation of programmes and projects through capacity building of CSOs, budget monitoring and information sharing.
3. Raise awareness amongst stakeholders on the fundamental rights of women

In year 2018, WEP continued to implement activities towards realizing the goal and objectives of this project in Benue and Zamfara States in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders.

To ensure projects are implemented to address the needs of women in these two states, WEP in 2018 provided sub-grants to four (4) Civil Society Organizations each in Zamfara and Benue States, to carry out advocacy activities for gender-sensitive projects implementation. These organizations were expected to carry out the following activities: hold interactive meetings with women from selected marginalized rural communities and identify their development needs, present the needs identified to policy makers in their respective states for inclusion in the budget, monitor implementation of capital projects in states’ and federal budgets in their locations. These organizations, which applied and got this sub-grants through a competitive process have already held interactive meetings with women in marginalized communities and have presented the needs they have identified to the policy makers. The organizations are also monitoring selected capital projects and will present comprehensive report of the findings at the end of the exercise. The organizations were:

Zamfara state

1. Voluntary Aid Initiative (VAI),
2. Future Hope Foundation (FHF),
3. Life Helper Initiative (LHI)

4. Millennium Development Centre (MDC),

Benue State

1. Community Links and Human Empowerment Initiative (CLHEI),
2. Environment and Climate Change Amelioration Initiative (ECCAI),
3. Nigerian Association of Women in Agriculture (NAWIA),
4. Initiative for Women’s Health Development and Right Protection (WRAHI).



CSOs in Zamfara State held interactive meetings with women in different communities to identify their needs and push for their inclusion in the State budget

In addition to advocacy for implementation of gender sensitive projects, WEP also collaborated with Civil Society Organizations to advocate for a law on Affirmative Action for Women and Prohibition of Violence Against Women in Zamfara and Benue States respectively. WEP engaged with the Zamfara State Ministry of Justice to review a Bill on Affirmative Action for Women which was earlier drafted two years ago. The

Bill was reviewed by the Zamfara State Ministry of Justice in consultation with other stakeholders comprising representatives from State’s Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Deputy Speaker of Zamfara State House of Assembly, Clerk of Zamfara State House of Assembly, some legislative staff, women groups and Civil Society Organizations, and Council of Ullamas. The reviewed Bill was later merged with a similar Bill presented to the House of Assembly by United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF had presented a Bill for women inclusion in education sector,



WEP staff and some stakeholders in Zamfara state working on the Affirmative Action Bill

equally WEP's Bill was also focusing on the 35% affirmative action and in this regard, the Zamfara State Ministry for Justice/ Office of the Attorney General of the state, had [written a letter](#) requesting WEP to attend a meeting for discussion on the proposal to merge the Affirmative Action Bill and the UNICEF Bill in view of the fact that there were similarities in content of the two bills. Here are [other correspondences](#) of the Zamfara State Ministry of Justice in respect to the Bill.

The meeting for the merger of the two Bills took place between WEP representatives with the Hon Commissioner for Justice/State Attorney General, Permanent Secretary/Solicitor General, Director Legal Drafting, the Assistant Director Legal Drafting, and the Special Assistant to the Hon. Commissioner for Justice and UNICEF representative. The two Bills have been merged with the title: ***"A Law to Provide for Women Affirmative Action in All Positions in Zamfara State and for Other Matters Related Therewith"***.

Similarly, WEP collaborated with International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Benue State Chapter, to advocate for the domestication of Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP Act) in Benue State. This was inspired by increase in cases of violence against women, ranging from rape, wife battery amongst other varying forms of violence and the case of Ochanya Ogbanje, who was raped by her uncle and his son which consequently resulted to her death. Following this, WEP and FIDA had organized [sensitization parley](#) on the VAPP Act to educate the general public on the provisions of the Act and the concerted effort being made to domesticate the



Interactive meetings with women in Benue State

Act in Benue State. Participants to the sensitization meeting had the Solicitor General of Benue State/Permanent Secretary of the Benue State Ministry of Justice, Legislators, FIDA members, and representatives of Civil Society Organizations in the state.



Women CSOs Networking to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Women2030)



Participants at the policy consultation on SDGs organized by WEP in Abuja, Nigeria

Women CSOs Networking to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also known as the Women2030 project is a 5-year (2016-2020) global project supported by the European Commission and implemented by a coalition of 5 global and regional gender and women-focused organizations which WEP is a part of. The project aims to monitor the implementation of the SDGs in different regions of the world to ensure they are implemented in a gender-sensitive manner. The project is being implemented around three (3) categories of activities: capacity building, advocacy and awareness raising.

In 2018, WEP implemented different activities under the Women2030 project individually and collaboratively with other members of the Women2030 coalition.

On 8th of March 2018 on International Women's Day, the Women2030 coalition launched the project website - www.women2030.org using #herstoryofchange social media campaign. The website is a one stop-shop for resources on gender and Sustainable Development Goals. The website also highlights works done by women from different regions of the world towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

WEP also provided sub-grants of 1000 Euros each to women and gender civil society organizations in Nigeria and Ghana to implement activities that promote gender equality and contribute to the overall attainment of SDGs.

The organizations and highlight of the activities they were supported to carry out are:

Centre for 21st Century Issues (C21st): Capacity building of policy makers and women's CSOs and awareness raising on climate change and the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan (GAP) in Lagos, Ogun and Oyo States of Nigeria. The aim is for policy makers to integrate gender issues in climate actions and for the women's CSOs to have the skills to push for this to happen.

Centre for Development Support Initiatives (CEDSI): ICT skills training for boys and girls at Government Secondary School Oginigba, Rivers State through setting up a mini computer laboratory in the school and conducting ICT skills training.

Echoes of Women in Africa Initiative (ECOWA): Advocacy for a gender and equal opportunities law in Lagos State to increase participation of women in politics.

Women and Youth Environmental Safety and Empowerment Organization (EWAY): EWAY is teaching 10 women from Kuje and Kadokuchi communities of Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) and Kuje Area Council respectively, upcycling skills to convert waste plastics into handbags and other products which they can sell and make money and at the same time clean the environment.

Fresh and Young Brains Development Initiative (FYBIN): FYBIN is empowering 3 youths (2 females and 1 male) from Mpape community of Abuja in poultry production. The youths have been trained and given starter packs to set up their poultry farms. FYBIN is also running social media campaigns to raise awareness on issues of gender, vulnerability and SDGs.

Gender Perspectives and Social Development Center (GPSDC): GPSDC is advocating for inclusion of people with disabilities in governance in Anambra State of

Nigeria in Urum (Awka North), Osumenyi (Nnewi South) and Ukwulu (Dunukofia) Local Government Areas covering the 3 senatorial zones.

Kwande Sisters Foundation (KSF): KSF is training 4 women and girls on tailoring skills in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State.

Murna Foundation: Murna Foundation is working to strengthen advocacy on gender and women's engagement in achieving SDGs goal 5 in Katsina State of Nigeria specifically in the following Local Government Areas - Daura, Malumfashi, Batagarawa, Rimi, Kankia and Kaita

Niger Delta Women's Movement for Peace and Development (NDWPD): NDWPD carried out Capacity building and skills development in Catering, Soap making and Coconut oil production for 30 women in Isoko North, Oshimili North and Warri South Local Government Areas of Delta State

Organized Center for Empowerment and Advocacy in Nigeria (OCEAN): OCEAN built capacities of policy makers and CSOs in Plateau State of Nigeria on mainstreaming SDGs in policies and programmes of the state.

Ziongate Empowerment Initiative for the Less Privileged (ZEIP): ZEIP advocated for policy and law on inclusive education in Kano State of Nigeria.

Centre for Capacity Improvement for the Wellbeing of the Vulnerable-CIWED: The project aimed to achieve the following: a) Visibly empowered women/women groups working with 5 community structures to increase women access to fertile and productive land facility in 4 communities in Mion district in Ghana. b) Strengthened community structures to address/improve the nutritional status of women and children as well as empower them economically for accelerated development

Global Women Development Promoters (GLOWDEP): Increase Girl-Child Retention in Schools in the Central Tongu District (Volta Region of Ghana)

Foundation for Grassroots Initiatives in Africa (GrassRootsAfrica): To Contribute to the achievement of SDG 7 in Ghana through: i. Building the capacity of women and men on Gender and SDG 7
ii. Enhancing their capacity to monitor energy projects at the local level
iii. Sensitizing women and men in 3 communities on the hazards of continued use of polluting forms of energy for cooking and production; and the implications of deforestation for climate change.



Mini computer laboratory established in Community Secondary School, Oginigba, Port Harcourt Rivers State, Nigeria as part of Women2030 sub-grants projects



4 widows benefitted from vocational training in tailoring in Adikpo, Kwande LGA of Benue State as part of Women2030 sub-grants projects

In addition to the above sub-granting activity, WEP on 27 June, 2018 at The Consort Luxury Suites, Plot 799 Kaura District, Abuja, organized [a policy consultation](#) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) where different stakeholders were brought together to assess how Nigeria was implementing policies and programmes related to SDGs and proffered recommendations.

In Togo, one of the countries where the Women2030 project was being implemented, WEP mobilized women civil society organizations to contribute to the National Development Plan of Togo. WEP also in collaboration with other civil society organizations monitored the implementation of SDGs in Togo. As Togo was one of the countries that presented its voluntary report on the implementation of the SDGs to the High Level Political Forum in 2018, WEP prepared a [shadow report](#) for Togo bothering on SDGs 5, 6 and 7 and presented to the High Level political Forum, highlighting the situation around the above SDGs in Togo based on the research she conducted.



Civil society organizations in Togo, led by WEP-Togo in one of the meetings that led to the preparation of a shadow report for Togo

Other activities implemented include capacity building of women civil society organizations on gender and SDGs, social media and mainstream media campaigns that reached millions of people in WEP's countries of intervention – Nigeria, Togo, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Cameroon, Ghana and Liberia.

The Women2030 project has recorded significant impact in two years of its implementation as follows:

i. It has increased knowledge of women and other civil society organizations on gender and SDGs as well as strengthened organizational capacities in initiating and implementing programmes and projects related to SDGs as confirmed by the testimony below:

“The activities of this project are very useful; from a personal point of view, of REFACOF as well as of beneficiary communities. As far as I am concerned, I want to thank this project because I have strengthened my capacities. Before the project, I had a very vague idea of the SDGs, I confess that I heard about Women2030 for the first time when I was invited to the train of trainers in Morocco by WEP and it is from this moment that I am really familiar with the Sustainable Development Goals that I can explain to others today with a certain ease. After my training, several members of REFACOF also benefited from this training and the implementation of the Women2030 project further improved the visibility of REFACOF...”

ii. It has facilitated mainstreaming of gender concerns in national plans: The advocacy activities of the Women2030 project has led to the mainstreaming of gender issues in national development plans as confirmed by one of the women below:

“The activities were of great interest to women's civil society organizations in Togo; especially for the process of elaboration of the National Development Plan of Togo (PND). This Women 2030 project has enabled women's organizations to have the capacities strengthened and to better contribute and participate in the development of the National Development Plan that Togo launched from 2016 to 2018. They have been able to integrate the concerns of women in the basis for this PND document.”

iii. The Women2030 project has improved economic and educational conditions of women, girls and men. The project has improved the economic status of 36 women so far in Nigeria through skills acquisition in tailoring, baking and confectionery, poultry farming and weaving.

The project has addressed the factors encouraging teenage pregnancy among school girls in 5 schools in the Central Tonga district of Ghana increasing school enrollment rate of girl child. One of the girls gave testimony of the impact of the Women2030 project on her life thus - *“Through my attachment with the Girls’ Club, I have received education in soap making and beads making. In the community, there has been a reduction in the teenage pregnancy and domestic violence cases. Most of them were engaged in them due to ignorance but now they have been educated through this project.”*

The Women2030 project has also impacted information communication and technology (ICT) skills to about 100 (50 girls and 50 boys) school girls and boys in [community secondary school Oginigba, Port Harcourt, Rivers state, Nigeria through establishment of a computer laboratory and provision of training on ICT.](#)

Increasing Women's Political Participation in Nigeria



Group photograph of participants after advocacy meeting between WEP, UN Women and leadership of Accord Party in Abuja

In Nigeria, women's participation in the democratic processes has been low, this is despite concerted efforts that have been made by various stakeholders to reverse the trend in line with the Beijing Platform of Action, and despite the recommendation from the National Gender Policy on affirmative action for women of at least 35% public leadership positions. In 2015 Nigeria's general elections, only 7.5% of women were elected into the National Assembly as against 92.5% of men. This low emergence of women in the 2015 general elections was also seen in Gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly elections.

It was based on the above that WEP in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), with the support of the Government of Canada implemented a project on "Women Political Empowerment and Leadership" in Nigeria, which goal was to among other things encourage *Political Parties to develop and/or reform policies and procedures to promote women's participation in the political process.*

Between May and August 2018, WEP and UN women undertook high level advocacies to leadership of major political parties in Nigeria and encouraged them to develop and/or reform policies and procedures to promote women's participation in the 2019 general elections. WEP and UN Women engaged with the women who were members of these political parties to lead the advocacy to the party leaders and presented their

demands. These political parties were: Accord Political Party, All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA), All Progressive Congress (APC), and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The first of these advocacy meetings was held on the 28th of June 2018 with the National Leadership of Accord Party at Rockview Hotels (Classic) Abuja, where the party's National Chairman Hon. Mohammed Lawal Nalado and his executives received the women and their demands for increased participation in the political process.

The next advocacy meeting was held at the All Progressive Congress' National Secretariat with the National Chairman of the party Comrade Adams Oshiomole, the National Woman Leader Haj. Salamatu Barwa Umar, Mrs. Pauline Tallen (APC Board of Trustees Member) and a host of aspirants vying for various elective offices on the platform of the APC. The leadership of the party was receptive to the women's demands and promised to explore all recommendations presented to them.

On the 13th of August 2018, the meeting with leadership of All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) was held at the instance of the National Chairman of APGA Chief Dr Victor Ike Oye in Awka, Anambra State. The Party Chairman was accommodating and was quick to align the party's aspirations with the interests of the women.



High level advocacy with leadership of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

The last of these high-level advocacy meetings was held on the 29th of August 2018 at the Legacy House with the leadership of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Maitama, Abuja. The National Chairman of PDP, Prince Uche Secondus, the National Secretary Sen. Umaru Tsauri and other executives received the women led by the National Women Leader Hajia Mariya Waziri. The National Chairman who spoke on behalf of his executives highlighted the party's achievements with women across the country and reassured the UN Women delegation of the party's positive stance on gender equality.

In all these meetings with leadership of political parties, women were demanding the following:

- **Nomination of Candidates for Election to Public Offices:**

The Party's National Executive Committee should by powers vested on it to formulate guidelines/regulations for the nomination of candidates for election into public offices should consider the following for the forthcoming 2019 general elections and going forward in the guidelines/regulations:

- i. For Presidential, Gubernatorial and Chairmanship Elections: If the candidate nominated to contest for any of the positions is a man, he MUST pick a woman as his running mate and vice versa
- ii. Senatorial Election: At least one of the three candidates nominated by the Party for elections to the Senate from a State MUST be a woman.
- iii. House of Representatives Election: At least 1/3 of the candidates nominated by the Party for elections to the House of Representatives from a State MUST be women.
- iv. House of Assembly Elections: At least 1/3 of the candidates nominated by the Party from all the state constituencies for elections to the House of Assembly are women
- v. Councillorship Elections: At least 1/3 of the candidates nominated by the Party from all the wards in a Local Government for Councillorship elections are women

- **Appointment of Advisers and Aids**

Where a candidate from any party wins Presidential or Gubernatorial election, he/she must ensure that 35% of his/her aids are women, in line with the National Gender Policy.

WEP in the news

COP24: WEP, Solidaridad, others unveil ‘smart’ initiatives

The Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Solidaridad Network Organisation, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike (AE-FUNAI) and Climate and Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet) at the ongoing 24th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) holding in Katowice, Poland, presented smart projects and practices that can contribute towards achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) commitments and the Paris Agreement in West Africa.

<https://www.vironewsigeria.com/cop24-wep-solidaridad-others-unveil-smart-initiatives/>

WEP, TfC to plant 2,000 trees across Nigeria

Abuja-based not-for-profit organisation, the Women Environmental Programme (WEP), is partnering with Trees for Cities (TfC), a UK charity, to plant 2,000 trees across three northern states of Nigeria, as well as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The states include Benue, Katsina and Kano.

<https://www.vironewsigeria.com/wep-tfc-to-plant-2000-trees-across-nigeria/>

WEP director emerges co-facilitator of UNEP’s women group

The Executive Director of Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Dr Priscilla Achakpa, has been elected as one of the Co-Facilitators of the Women’s Major Group

(WMG) to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

<https://www.vironewsigeria.com/wep-director-emerges-co-facilitator-of-uneps-women-group/>

Assessing SDGs implementation in Nigeria

The Sustainable Development Goals are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations in 2015; otherwise known as Global Goals for Sustainable Development or Agenda 2030 – because the goals are expected to be achieved in the fifteen years period between 2015 and 2030. The goals are broad and somewhat interdependent yet each has a separate list of targets to achieve. In total, they have 169 targets. <https://punchng.com/assessing-sdgs-implementation-in-nigeria/amp/>

Women 2030 Project / SDGs and Gender: WEP-Togo validates its alternative report on the implementation of SDGs 5, 6 and 7

As Togo prepares for the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) held this July in New York, the Togolese branch of the NGO Women Environmental Program (WEP-Togo) intends to bring its contribution to the national report that will be presented by the government at this major meeting. <http://societecivilemedia.com/4756-2/?fbclid=IwAR1QOBB6jDpOeXoTPzv3EOtAYDEBaIpRHldgSkkK0g6a5TgQv12Qxg5yHwM>

About WEP

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political, non-religious and voluntary organization formed in April 1997 by a group of women in Kaduna State. WEP envisions a world where the lives of women and youth are positively transformed.

Although WEP emerged in response to the environmental pollution by industries in Kaduna State, over the years she has expanded her interventions to conflict transformation, climate change and governance issues.

WEP has United Nations Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (UN) (ECOSOC) special status, Observer Status to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). With the Observer Status, WEP participate as a major group organization in contributing to the intergovernmental decision-making process in the UN-System. WEP is one of the Organizing Partners (OPs) of Women's Major Groups and serves as the National Coordinator for Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) in Nigeria. WEP is also the Focal Point for Global Environment Facility (GEF) CSOs in West and Central Africa.

Since 1997 WEP has impacted over 20,000,000 lives positively across the globe through her interventions in Environment, Governance, Climate Change, Women and Youth Empowerment, Peace and Conflict Transformation.

Vision

A world where the lives of women and youth around the globe are positively transformed

Mission

Ensuring the rights of women and youth through sustainable environmental, socio-political and economic development

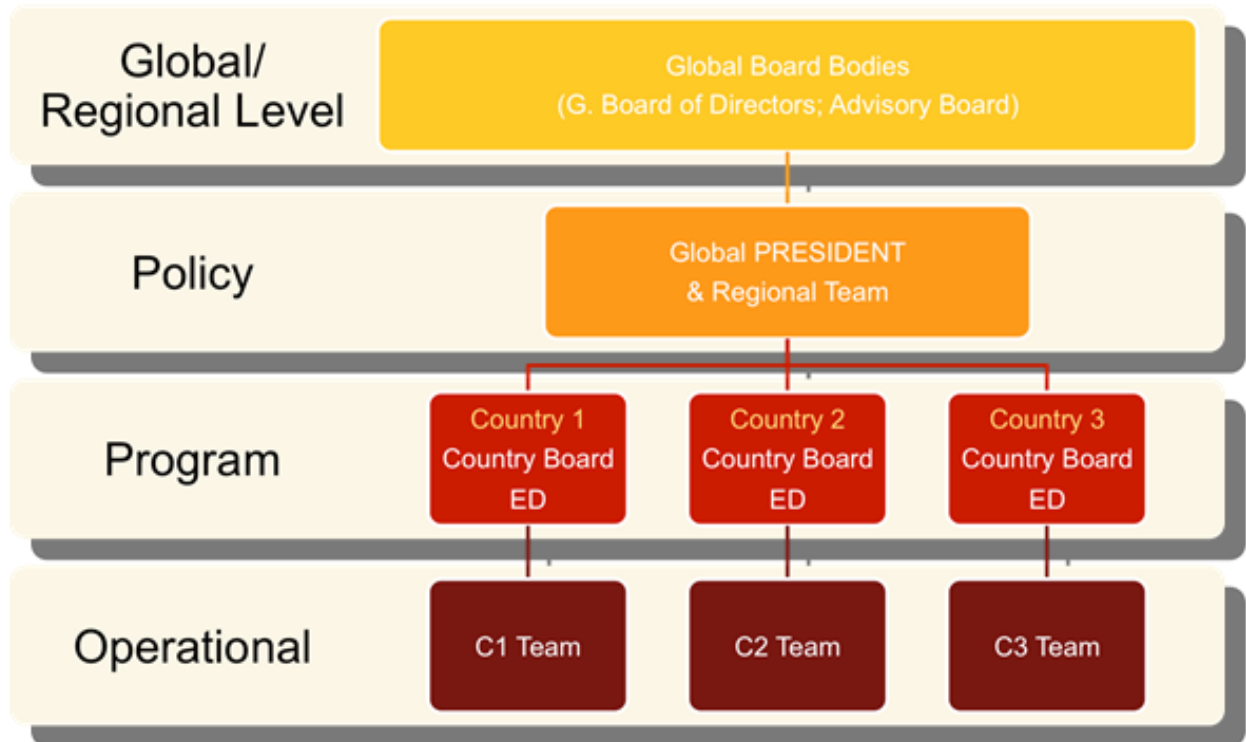
Strategic Objectives

- i. To sensitize and raise awareness of the general public on the impacts of climate change particularly on gender, its mitigation and adaptation;
- ii. To stimulate the management of natural resources within the framework of national and international policies/convention for sustainable development of the environment;
- iii. To build capacity of the relevant stakeholders on the management of the environment, conflict transformation, renewable energy, water and sanitation, violent extremism and organic pollutants;
- iv. To educate women and youths on their civic rights and responsibilities, and on democratic governance.

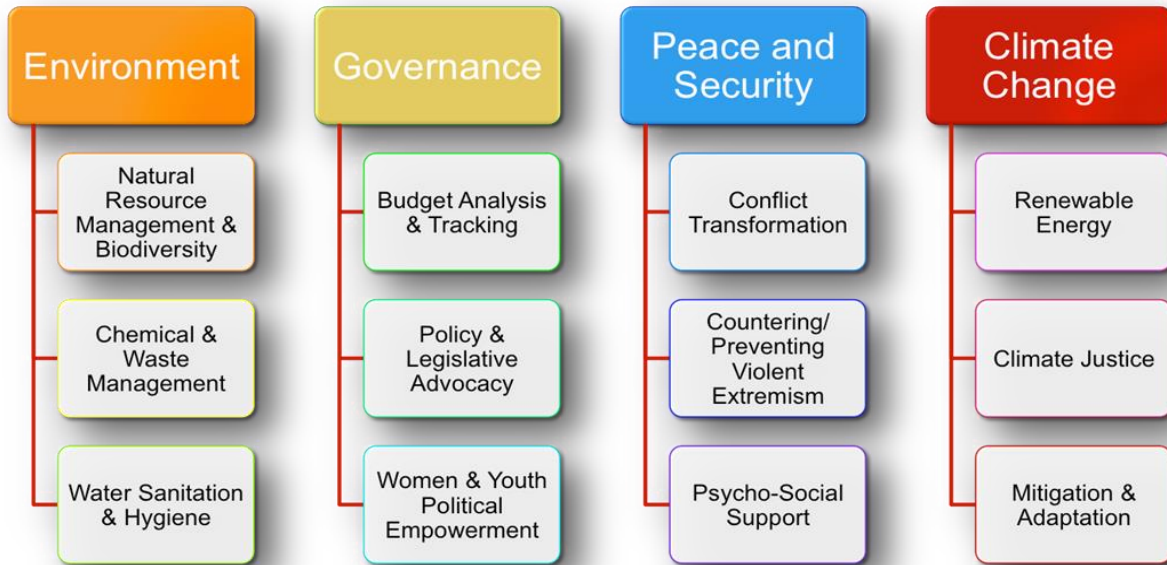
Core Collective Values

- Transparency and Accountability
- Leadership and Excellence
- Equity, Fairness and Inclusiveness
- Self-reliance and Sustainability
- Service and Social Engagement
- Gender Justice
- Team work

Organogram



Strategic Intervention Pillars



Where We Are in Africa



● Countries where WEP is located

PARTNERS AND NETWORKS

Donors

The Kingdom of Netherlands
 Delegation of the European Commission to Nigeria
 African Women Development Fund (AWDF)
 Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)
 Global Greengrants Fund (GGF)
 Open Knowledge Foundation (OKF)
 Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP)
 Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)

Federal Government of Nigeria

Federal Ministry of Environment
 Federal Ministry of Water Resources
 Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
 Nigerian Army Peace Keeping Centre (NAPKC)

National Networking Partners

Charles & Doosurgh Abaagu Foundation
 Community Emergency Response Initiative (CERI)
 Shacks and Slum Dwellers Association of Nigeria
 Innovative Initiative for Community Peace Building
 Society for Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN)
 Climate Change Network of Nigeria (CCNN)
 Nigerian CAN
 Benue NGOs Network (BENGONET)
 UNWOMEN Civil Society Advisory Group
 Green Alliance, Nigeria

Regional Working Partners

African Working Group on Gender and Climate Change
 West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) Nigeria
 Network of African Peace-builders (NAPS)
 GEF CSOs Network

Global Networking Partners

Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) of the UNFCCC

Women's Major Group-UN

Gender and Disaster Network

Gender and Climate Change Network

Global Land Tool Network

International Land Coalition (ILC)

Habitat International Coalition

Women for Water Partnership

World Alliance for Citizens Participation (CIVICUS)

Shacks and Slum Dwellers International (SDI)

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)

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