



**WOMEN  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROGRAMME (WEP)**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2020**



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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear friends, donors and partners,

It gladdens my heart to present to you the report of our work in the year 2020.

I am glad because, despite the challenges presented by the COVID 19 pandemic, we persevered in our work and ensured that the lives of women, children and youth across the globe were positively transformed.

We began our year with a four-day annual retreat for board members and staff from 20th – 23rd January 2020 at Brooksville Hotel, Lokogoma, Abuja. In addition to planning for the new year, staff received trainings on different issues ranging from organizational risk management, change management, project management and report writing. The last day of the annual re-

trepreneurial retreat coincided with the birthday of WEP's Global President and Founder, Priscilla Achakpa, and so the evening of the last day of the retreat was used to celebrate her by all staff and board members present.

Staff had barely settled down to begin implementation of the year's plans, when COVID 19 pandemic struck. COVID 19 pandemic greatly affected our activities in year 2020 and caused us to change the way we worked. Our office in Nigeria was forced to close from March 2020 to July 2020 by the COVID 19 protocols put in place by the Federal Government of Nigeria. We however continued working online from home during the time our office was closed. We also made several adjustments to our plans to enable us to continue working while observing COVID 19 prevention protocols.

In order to understand and sensitize the public on how the COVID 19 pandemic was affecting women, WEP conducted research on "Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 on Gender: A Focus on the Economic, Social and Psychological Impact on Women" in Lagos, Benue, and the Federal Capital Territory during the lockdown. The assessment revealed high negative impacts of COVID 19 on women, and WEP made recommendations to

policy makers on addressing these impacts.

In the year under review, WEP continued her advocacy for a gender-sensitive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Liberia, Burina Faso, Cameroon and Tunisia, through the project "Women CSOs Networking to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals code named Women2030," funded by the European Union and implemented by 5 women's organization, with Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) taking the lead.

WEP also continued her intervention to prevent violent extremism in Benue State through the project "Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism (STRIVE) in Benue state Phase II," supported by the Global Community Resilience Fund (GCERF). WEP provided trainings on community policing, prevention of violent extremism, organized mentorship programs for youth, supported livelihoods, established peace clubs, organized inter-faith dialogues among other activities that aim to prevent radicalization of youths.

Year 2020 also saw the training of women farmers from Benue state on producing organic fertilizer and pesticides as a way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector and the health

effects associated with the use of chemical farm inputs. This action was supported by Both ENDS, through its Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) program.

This is just a snapshot of our interventions during "the year of the pandemic." The pandemic could not stop us from working to impact the world positively. It rather made us more creative, innovative, and adaptable.

We ask that you take out time and go through our 2020 Annual Report and provide feedback through our communication channels found in this publication. We want to appreciate the Nigerian government for supporting the work of the civil society by providing an enabling environment, we also thank our funders without whom it is impossible to reach our beneficiaries. We appreciate our board members for providing the much-needed leadership and to the members of staff, we say thank you for ensuring implementation of our programs and projects.

Thank you.

**Anne-Marie Abaagu**  
Executive Director WEP

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR





# ABOUT

## WOMEN ENVIROMENTAL PROGRAMME (WEP)

### WHO WE ARE

**W**omen 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 (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 participates as a major group organization in contributing to the intergovernmental decision-making process in the UN-System. WEP was an Organizing Partner (OP) of Women's Major Groups and served as the National Coordinator for Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) in Nigeria between 2014 - 2019. 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.

### WHAT WE DO

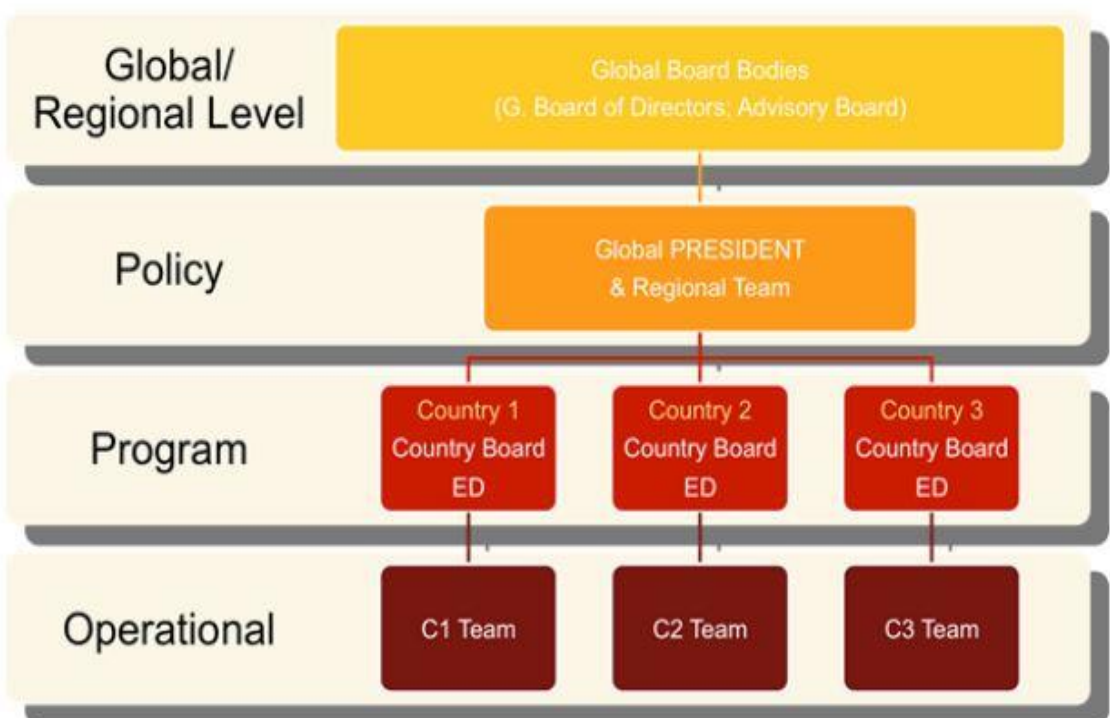
- i. Sensitize and raise awareness of the general public on the impacts of climate change particularly on gender, its mitigation and adaptation;
- ii. Stimulate the management of natural resources within the framework of national and international policies/convention for sustainable development of the environment;
- iii. 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. Educate women and youths on their civic rights and responsibilities, and on democratic governance;



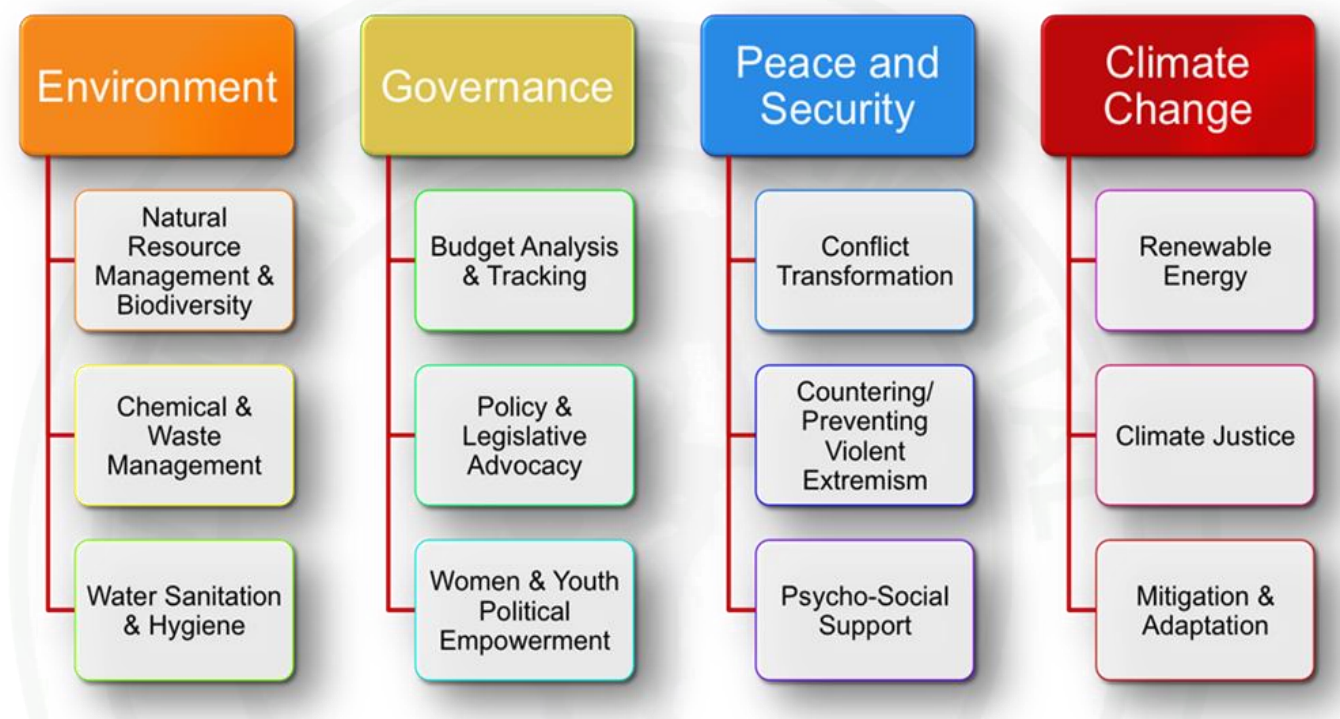
CORE COLLECTIVE VALUES



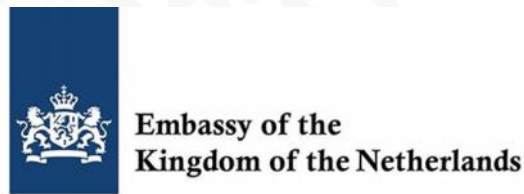
ORGANOGRAM



STRATEGIC INTERVENTION PILLARS



# THANKS TO OUR 2020 DONORS AND PARTNERS



WHAT WE DELIVERED

## HOW WE STARTED THE YEAR - 2020

At the beginning of every year, it is a custom at Women Environmental Programme (WEP) to convene members of the Board and the workforce of the organization for an annual retreat to reflect on the activities of the organisation in the previous year and plan for the commencement of activities for the new working year.

To begin the year 2020, WEP organised a four-day Annual Retreat for Board members and staff from 20th – 23rd January 2020 at Brooksville Hotel, Lokogoma, Abuja.

Participants at the retreat included: all WEP staff working in Nigeria and Country Directors of WEP Tunisia and WEP Togo. Some

members of the Board were also present, they included: Barr. Winnie Lichuma, Late Prof. David Ker (OON), Dr. Reuben Ibiashwa, Dr. Jane Asagh and Prof. Kabiru Isyaku.

In addition to planning for the new year, staff received trainings on different issues ranging from organizational risk management, change management, project management and report writing.

The last day of the annual retreat coincided with the birthday of WEP's Global President and Founder, Priscilla Achakpa, and so the evening of the last day of the retreat was used to celebrate her by all staff and board members present.



# STORIES OF IMPACT OF OUR WORK

## Dignity with reusable pads

This is Belinda’s story from the moment she fled her village to her participation in a project on menstrual hygiene management for internally displaced adolescent girls and young women by Hope for Vulnerable Children Association (HOVUCA) with the support of Women Environmental Programme (WEP), a partner in the Women2030 program.

Belinda Meshi fled her village in Cameroon with nothing but the dress she wore. She was a teenage girl when her family house and all her belongings were burnt to ashes, including her family’s pineapple farm, which was their livelihood.

Belinda’s village, Pinyin, is located in one of the two English speaking regions of Cameroon – Northwest and Southwest (NW/SW) – which have been hit by an armed conflict since October 1, 2017. She is one of the 700,000 people in Cameroon who have been forced to leave their homes. The majority of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are women, adolescent girls and children.

When her town was destroyed, Belinda wandered for days with her siblings. She finally settled in Mankon, Bamenda, in the Northwest Region. In her newfound settlement, Belinda and her siblings lived in a crowded room with 12 other people. They could barely eat. They met their daily hunger with the small survival meal provided by their host community.

Belinda shares the description of a day she will

never forget. Her period surprised her in the middle of the night and, since she did not have anything to absorb the blood, it soiled her dress and stained the sheet she was sleeping on. When she got up in the morning, the people living with her in the crowded room, including the other women, accused her of being smelly. She was mortified: it was so difficult for Belinda to manage her menstruation because she had no access to any menstrual product.

Belinda was selected to participate in a project on menstrual hygiene management for internally displaced adolescent girls and young women. As part of the project, she acquired knowledge on menstrual hygiene and received a dignity kit: a bucket, soap, pants and sanitary pads. She also received training on the production of reusable sanitary pads. Belinda showed such passion for the production of the sanitary pads that, after the training, she was retained by Hope for Vulnerable Children Association (HOVUCA) to continue sewing the pads to sustain herself economically and help other IDP girls coming into the community. Belinda started sewing the pads and selling them to host community members. The little profit she makes from this transformed her life and that of her siblings. As she puts it: “I can say that since I received the training and I was retained to work and raise small money for myself, there has been a whole lot of transformation as far as our living condition is concerned. Thanks to HOVUCA and the Women2030 program, my siblings and I have moved away from a crowded accommodation and we are now able to rent one room. We feel freer and we are more comfortable.”

## Reflections from women farmers in Togo

In this story, Julienne and Essi, women farmers from Togo, reflect on their participation in a training organized by Women Environmental Programme (WEP), as part of the Women2030 program, enhanced their livelihoods.

Julienne’s story: “For years, the Midezon women group has been picking up and selling seasonal wild edible mushrooms. This represented a source of revenue for our members, but our income is not stable throughout the year: after the mushroom harvest season, our revenues fall by 50%. This means that we were unable to provide sufficient income to sustain our families. In 2019, our group met WEP-Togo.

With the financial support of Women2030, they trained us on the production of sustainable mushrooms. Since then, we produce and sell mushrooms in every season of the year. After harvesting mushrooms, the residues are transformed into compost to restore our farmland. Today, thanks to the Women2030 program, our income has gone up by 80%. Each member of the group manages to contribute financially to the living costs of her family. We hope that this program can continue so that we

can learn about other income-generating activities associated with agriculture”. Essi’s story: “Here in Hévi, the majority of women are farmers. We produce local vegetables, such as adémè (Molokhia jute leaves), tomato, gboma (African eggplant/nightshade), and gombo (okra). It is thanks to the income from these activities that we manage to support our families. In my household, I contribute to more than 70% of the total expenses. One of our obstacles is water. We draw the water at the source with the basins and irrigate manually. This makes the work painful and places a limit on our capacity to grow food. The Women2030/WEP-Togo program trained us on organic gardening techniques. At the end of the training, our group benefited from seed donations and received a motor to irrigate our crops. The irrigation system helped us a lot. I can cultivate more plots than before; the work is less painful, and my market yield has increased by 85%. In this period of COVID-19, we were also trained on the manufacture of liquid soap and received masks to protect ourselves and continue our activities. I am saying a big thank you to WEP-Togo and the Women2030 program. Our wish is that this program continues to support us to strengthen our climate change resilience.”

**RESULTS OF OUR INTERVENTION IN 2020  
IN NUMBERS AND TEXT**



**31**

Women’s groups and other civil society organizations strengthened and supported to achieve their objectives by providing them with seed grants.



**3500**

Economic trees planted in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria and Benue State.



**335**

(159 males and 176 females) people in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria acquired practical skills on producing 5 different kinds of organic pesticides.



**66**

(10 males and 56 females) people acquired practical skills on production and use of organic fertilizer and pesticides in Kwande, Guma, Buruku, Gwer-West and Oju Local Governments of Benue state.



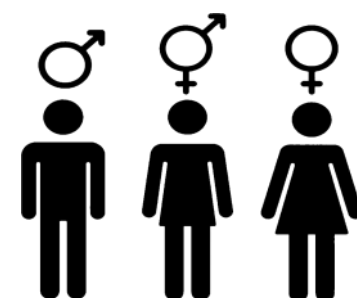
**40**

Women traders in Katsina state and Niger Republic acquired useful skills and information on the West African trade policy instruments, business management and the process of cross-border trade.



**126**

70 females and 56 males) youth mentees acquired basic knowledge in the development sector and practical community development skills.



**20+**

participants to our “breaking gender inequalities” program unlearned wrong beliefs held about women and men and healed from emotional hurts that resulted from physical and emotional abuses.



Our advocacy actions directly led to the approval of the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change for Nigeria.



By year 2020, our project, “Connecting Women and Youth in Conflict Extremist Prone Areas Through Empowerment and Skills Acquisition” had benefitted a total of 3,015,496 people comprising 1,506,957 females and 1,508,539 males.





# WHAT WE DELIVERED

## ENVIRONMENT



### WEP SELECTED AS A NOMINATOR OF THE EARTHSHOT PRIZE

In the year 2020, Women Environmental Programme (WEP) was invited to be an Official Nominator for The Earthshot Prize after it was launched few weeks ago.

The Earthshot Prize is one of the most prestigious global environment prize in history, aiming to find new solutions to the world's biggest environmental problems.

As an Official Nominator, we were invited to submit nominations across five Earthshot categories: Protect and restore nature; Clean our air; Revive our oceans; Build a waste-free world; and Fix our climate.

WEP nominated individuals, communities, businesses and organizations whose solutions made the most progress towards achieving simple but ambitious goals which if achieved by 2030 will improve life for us all, and for generations to come. Read more about the Earthshot Prize at [earthshotprize.org](https://earthshotprize.org)



### GEF INTRODUCTION SEMINAR

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) participated in a three (3) day Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Introduction Seminar in Washington DC, organized for the new Focal Points as well as new GEF staff. WEP's Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Nguavese Tracy Ogbonna, who was recently elected as the Regional Focal Point for the GEF CSO Network West Africa participated in this seminar.

The seminar had participants from the GEF system for new Focal Points (CSOs and government) as well as new GEF staff to bring them abreast on all GEFs engagements including the GEF 7 funding cycle, monitoring frameworks, governance issues, and partners management.

The Global Environment Facility is a system that funds environmental projects with the aim to safeguard the environment in five (5) focal areas viz; Climate Change, land degradation, international waters, chemical and waste and biodiversity. GEF is also a funding mechanism for five (5) conventions; United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Minamata Convention on Mercury.



CLIMATE CHANGE

CONTROLLING CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS USE IN PAGADA AND DOBI COMMUNITIES IN FCT

Farming in Dobi and Pagada, a predominantly farming communities located in Gwagwalada Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, is characterized by intensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Unfortunately, Agro-chemicals are often toxic to humans, as is well documented in the toxicology literature. Occupational pesticide exposure can have minor, acute and chronic negative neurological, respiratory, immunologic, and reproductive effects, and the use of certain types of agro-chemicals is positively related to diagnoses of cancer. Research also shows that pesticides, especially, can damage human immune systems, increasing the incidence of short-term sickness over time. Chemical farm inputs may also contain Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). POPs are chemicals that are non-biodegradable and thus persist in the environment, bio accumulate through the food chain and can cause deleterious effect in human health and the environment.

In a bid to prevent the harmful effects of agri-

cultural chemical inputs on human health and the environment in Dobi and Pagada communities, Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) Nigeria, in the year under review supported WEP to implement a project titled: “Controlling Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides Use through Organic Farming in Dobi and Pagdana (Pagada) Communities in Gwagwalada Area Council, Abuja, FCT.”

This project started with sensitization in Dobi and Pagada communities on the dangers of chemical farm inputs. WEP also launched a radio programme on 99.9 Kiss FM Abuja, called ‘Gona Kore,’ a Hausa phrase translated to mean ‘Farm Green’ in English, through which she sensitized the public on dangers of chemical farm inputs. Also in the year under review, WEP conducted training for farmers in Dobi and Pagada communities on practical skills of producing different organic pesticides as an alternative to inorganic pesticide. In Padgana community, 162 (94 males and 68 females) were trained, while 173 persons (65 males and 108 females) were trained in Pagada community.



Training on production of organic fertilizer and pesticide in Dobi community



Training on production of organic fertilizer and pesticide in Pagada community



Executive Director of WEP, Anne-Marie Abaagu assists the Minister of Environment to formally launch the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change

APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE FOR NIGERIA

The Federal Executive Council of Nigeria (FEC) on 12th August 2020 approved the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change for Nigeria. The Action Plan was presented at the virtual meeting of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) that was presided by His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari. The approval of the Action Plan was a result of advocacy actions of WEP for 4 years.

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) collaborated with the Department of Climate Change (DCC), the Federal Ministry of Environment to develop the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change for the Country.

The Action Plan is expected to provide guidance to the implementation of different environment and climate change actions to Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government at all levels including the pri-

vate sector. The Action Plan is a tool for mainstreaming gender concerns and addressing climate change challenges in Nigeria. Priority sectors covered in the action plan include: Agriculture, Forestry & Land Use, Food Security & Health, Energy, Transportation, Waste Management, Water & Sanitation.

The development of this action plan was supported by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Both ENDS, Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

After the approval of the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change, Both Ends supported WEP to train 30 women in 5 local governments of Benue state on production of organic fertilizer and pesticides. This is one of the activities proposed in the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change for Nigeria. This training has started yielding results as more than half of the beneficiaries have started producing and applying neem fertilizer and pesticides on their farms and they have attested to how useful it has been.



## PRESIDENT BUHARI'S 25 MILLION TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN

In 2019, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, during the Climate Action Summit at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, made a pledge that Nigeria will plant 25 million trees to enhance the country's carbon sink and address climate change.

To fulfil this promise, the Federal Ministry of Environment set up a 25 million trees committee that comprised ministries and agencies of government, civil society organizations, private sector, media and other stakeholders.

WEP was one of the civil society organizations nominated to join the 25 million trees committee. In the year 2020, the planting of the trees commenced and WEP planted 3500 trees in Abuja and Benue State. The trees planted were cashew and *Parkia biglobosa*.



WEP presenting trees to the community



Photo of the trees received by the community



Preparations to plant the trees

## GOVERNANCE

### PROMOTING WOMEN'S SOCIOECONOMIC RIGHTS IN NIGERIA AND NIGER REPUBLIC

Import and export trade are some of the contributors to economic growth which leads to poverty reduction and improved living conditions. Import and export trade can lift many out of poverty in Nigeria where 87 million people are poor, and in Niger where more than 40 percent of the population earn less than \$1 a day. A reasonable number of those who live in poverty are women as observed by UN Women that more women than men live on less than \$1.90 a day.

Research shows that small scale cross-border trade supports livelihoods of vulnerable households and that, most of Africa's small-scale traders are female.

As important as the cross-border trade is in lifting women out of poverty, several challenges are encountered by women who engage or would have engaged in this trade which affect the gains they would have made. Some of these challenges are insufficient capital, deficient infrastructure, cumbersome regulatory and documentary requirements amongst others.

To assist women to overcome these challenges in cross-border trade and reap the benefits therein for overcoming poverty and achieving gender equality, Women Environmental Programme (WEP) with sup-

port from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) initiated and implemented the project: **"Promoting Women's Socioeconomic Rights (POSER),"** aimed at promoting cross-border trade opportunities for women around Niger-Nigeria trade corridor.

To achieve the project goal, WEP carried out an assessment to ascertain the specific constraints of small-scale cross-border traders in Nigeria and Niger Republic. Through this assessment, specific constraints affecting women cross-border traders were identified and this laid the foundation for engagements with relevant stakeholders to make cross-border trade easier and safer for women traders. The report found that women small-scale cross-border traders face a lot of challenges in carrying out their businesses which include among others: sexual harassment, extortion, cumbersome border procedures, inadequate credit facilities.

Following the assessment, WEP conducted trainings for border officials on gender mainstreaming in cross-border trade; and for civil society organizations on advocacy, to equip them with skills to engage the relevant authorities to implement gender-sensitive policies in cross-border trade. The project also created a platform for inter-agency dialogue where relevant government agencies explained procedures involved in cross-border trade and committed to provide assistance to women-cross border traders.



## COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2020

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 organized a programme themed: **"Breaking Gender Inequalities,"** to mark the 2020 International Women's Day (IWD). The programme held at WEP's head office in Abuja.

The 2020 International Women's Day had a theme: **"Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights for an Equal Future,"** which called for equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to sexual harassment and violence against women and girls, health care services that respond to their needs, and their equal participation in political life and in decision-making in all areas of life.

The programme, "Breaking Gender Inequalities" was a forum deliberately designed by WEP to change mindsets of participants, share experiences, facilitate learning and unlearning, and to inspire participants to gender-sensitive actions.

WEP Team was set to break 'gender inequalities' held as beliefs, values, norms and ideas by some participants. Breaking gender inequalities was done by interrogating the beliefs, values, norms and ideas of participants by posing some questions or statements that required yes or no as the answer and further justification of the answer. This triggered debate and analysis among participants as they justified their answers. For every question or statement, after the debate from the participants, WEP team lent their voice to point participants to answers that were more gender sensitive.

Some of the statements made were:

- It is important to train a girl child to be a good wife
  - Women are not many in public leadership positions because they don't come out to take their place
- Men have the ultimate authority to decide whether women access political leadership positions or not.
- From the discussions that ensued trying to justify their positions on a statement or question, it was clear to WEP team if participants were gender bias, and thus the biases were addressed.

Participants were encouraged to respect the rights of everyone irrespective of whether they are men or women and to also train their female children the same way they would train their male children, as every child has right to be educated, and only then will they contribute meaningfully to the development of the society. The minds of participants were also disabused about the position held by many that women are not many in political offices because they don't come out to support themselves. Participants were made to understand that for a very long time culture and religion have been used to manipulate the political system in such a way that women work against themselves. As a signatory to the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Nigeria ought to be deliberate on ensuring more women have access to political positions by implementing affirmative action in her laws and policies as recommended by CEDAW. The myriad of social and cultural issues affecting full realization of women's rights can only be achieved with deliberate actions. Participants were also advised to walk away and not stay comfortable

in abusive relationship as it is better to break such relationship before it breaks you.

At the end of the programme, many participants expressed appreciation to WEP for the new things they learnt and for the things they unlearned. **"This event is therapeutic. It has made me heal as I spoke about the things I have been holding for long,"** confessed one of the participants



WEP Staff and Participants commemorating International Women's Day Event at WEP's Head Office

## WEP VOLUNTEER AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME 2020

Every year, WEP absorbs youth that she mentors through her WEP Volunteer and Mentorship Programme. The WEP Volunteer and Mentorship Programme was designed to contribute to achieving the vision of WEP, of "a world where the lives of women and youth around the globe are positively transformed."

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 infor-

mation, skills and given the right guidance, they will in turn impact positively on the communities in which they live.

The one-year programme takes participants through development issues, combining theories and practical experiences. At the end of the one-year programme, participants are expected to design and implement community development projects to bring a positive change in communities. In the year 2020, 30 youth went through the Programme and were successfully graduated at the end of the year.



WEP Global President addressing participants during a mentorship session



## WOMEN CSOS NETWORKING TO REALIZE THE SDGS – LAUNCH OF GLOBAL REPORT ON STATUS OF GENDER EQUALITY

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.

In the year under review, the following activities were implemented across different project target countries: Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Cameroon, Togo, Burkina Faso and Tunisia:

15 women's groups and organizations were trained to have increased capacity in leadership, policy monitoring and gender mainstreaming in programs. These organizations and groups were also supported through seed grants provided for them to implement different initiatives that promote gender equality. Implementation of the seed grants by these organization benefitted directly and indirectly an estimated 200 women



WEP team advocating for the protection of women rights and violence against women

and girls in Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Cameroon.

In Liberia, 60 women from three women groups were trained and formed into an advocacy network - District Women's Movement to end violence against women and girls- to engage policy makers and campaign for promoting women's rights and ending violence against women and girls in the country.

While in Burkina Faso, a policy consultation was organized that engaged the local authorities on mainstreaming gender in development plans, in Togo, a consultation meeting was organized with traditional authorities of Nyogbogan Township to advocate for access to land for women.

The year also saw the Women2030 project partners teaming up to produce a Global Shadow Report titled: "Gender Equality on the Ground: Feminist Findings and Recommendations for Achieving Agenda 2030." WEP wrote the section of the report that analyzed the efforts of achieving gender equality in Africa. The Global Shadow Report was presented to the global audience comprising United Nations agencies, international organizations, government of countries, women's organizations, media and civil society organizations.



## USAID-SUPPORTED RESILIENCY PROGRAMME

In year 2020, **WEP** was selected to benefit from the USAID resiliency Programme among few organizations in Nigeria. The resiliency Programme has the objective to strengthen civil society organizations to withstand shock in the face of dwindling civic space and resources to do their work. The Programme involves identification of need or gaps in the organization and development of a plan to address the identified gaps. The resiliency team throughout the year engaged with WEP and identified some of the things the organization needs to build resiliency against shocks. Some of the needs that came top priority are: improving on communication externally, alternative income sources in addition to the conventional donor funds, and development of risk management plan.





## PEACE AND SECURITY

### CONNECTING WOMEN AND YOUTH IN CONFLICT PRONE AREAS THROUGH EMPOWERMENT AND SKILLS ACQUISITION (PHASE II):

Activities under phase II of this project continued in year 2020. Funded by the Global Community Engagement and Resilient Fund (GCERF), this project aims to address uncreativity among the youth in Benue state through providing them with skills and opportunities that will prevent them from joining extremist groups. The project engages with the state government, security personnel, teachers, media, traditional and religious leaders towards achieving its goal. In the year under review, the following activities were implemented:

- ♦ Youth mentorship sessions
- ♦ Training of security personnel on preventing violent extremism (PVE)
- ♦ Quarterly Advocacy meeting
- ♦ Training on alternative dispute resolution for local security, traditional leaders and administrative staff of target local governments in the state.
- ♦ Interfaith dialogue on Peace and PVE
- ♦ Training of community members on community policing and neighborhood watching
- ♦ Training of community members on production of face masks and hand sanitizers as a way of preventing COVID 19
- ♦ Engagement with the Benue State House of Assembly for the presentation of Youth Development Commission bill on the floor of the Assembly.



Trainees undergoing skill acquisition training on WEP livelihood training program in rural community



## PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN BENUE STATE

In the year under review, WEP continued to implement the project, “Connecting Women and Youth in Conflict Prone Areas Through Empowerment and Skills Acquisition (Phase II)” in Benue State, North-Central Nigeria. This project started in the year 2019.

Funded by the Global Community Engagement and Resilient Fund (GCERF), the project aims to address restiveness among the youth in Benue state, through providing them with skills and opportunities that will prevent them from joining extremist groups. The project engages with the state government, security personnel, teachers, media, traditional and religious leaders towards achieving its goal.

In the year 2020, the following activities were implemented:

### Establishment of Solar-powered Digital/Creative Computer Laboratories in 2 secondary schools each in Ado, Agatu, Buruku, Guma, Logo, and Kwande Local Government Areas of Benue State.

The aim of these laboratories was to reduce the vulnerability of young boys and girls succumbing to violent extremist groups. It is expected that these facilities will harness the skill set of students in secondary schools and also offer computer skills, knowledge and training to them in a way that renders them useful to themselves and their communities while they are in and out of school. We believe enhanced skills will better the prospects of these young children and makes them less liable to recruitment and radicalization to violent extremism. The schools that benefited

from these computer laboratories were schools that did not have computer laboratories for their students to acquire digital skills.

**Mentorship programme for youths:** is building the capacities of young people to become more resilient to radicalization to violent extremism by enhancing their sense of belonging and self-worth. WEP is effectively instilling a sense of purpose and providing guidance to these youths through monthly mentorship sessions in their communities. These meetings provide a platform for mentees to engage, learn, share knowledge and experiences from their everyday lives. They are imparted with skills and knowledge to build a purposeful life and cope with daily challenges. Participants are mentored to highly value diversity, unity and social justice in community development and nation building.

### Other activities implemented include:

- Training of security personnel on preventing violent extremism (PVE)
- Quarterly Advocacy meetings to engage relevant stakeholders to take actions that prevent violent extremism
- Sensitization on COVID 19 prevention measures
- Training on alternative dispute resolution for local security, traditional leaders and administrative staff of target local governments in the state.
- Interfaith dialogue on Peace and PVE





Mentorship group session in a community in Benue State



Participants during PVE training



Group picture Facilitators and community stakeholders at PVE Training



WEP team sensitizing participants on covid19

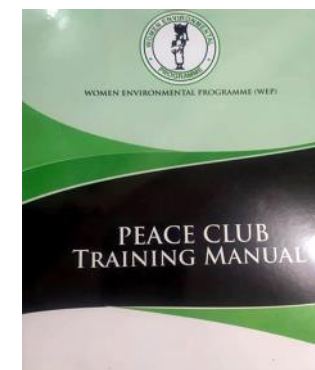


An established Solar powered Digital/Creative computer laboratories



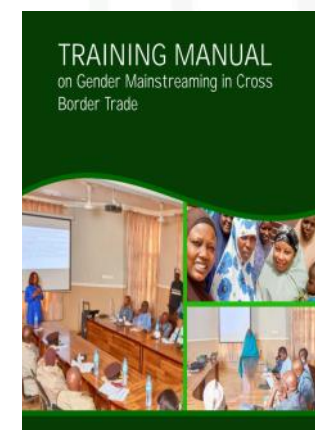
Distribution of sanitizers and face masks during covid-19 intervention

## OUR PUBLICATIONS



### Peace Club Training Manual

The Peace club training manual is produced by Women Environmental Programme (WEP) to facilitate peace club activities among youth, build their capacity to become peace ambassadors, build resilient and bring succour to communities that have experienced conflicts.



### Training Manual on Gender Mainstreaming in Cross-Border Trade

The aim of this manual is to support capacity building of border agencies to develop plans and strategies to integrate gender in their procedures and practices.



### Impact of Small-Scale Cross-Border Trade on Women's Economic Empowerment in Nigeria and Niger -Survey Report

In recognition of the importance of Small-Scale Cross-Border Trade (SSCBT) in the lives of women especially those living in the Nigeria-Niger border communities, Women Environmental Programme commissioned a survey to examine the impact of SSCBT on the economic empowerment of women in the Nigeria-Niger trade corridor.

## WEP IN THE NEWS

Nigeria approves gender and climate change action plan - <https://www.environewsigeria.com/nigeria-approves-gender-and-climate-change-action-plan/?fbclid=IwAR20jWiCEqwSrf4GWFTSkqBNyE2E9zKpCOGgduv24cOm2P9pAOBMspbUS9E>

WEP Programme Manager discusses insecurity, conflict management, and peace-building - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8\\_huqMp\\_zAo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_huqMp_zAo)



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## How to get involved

### 1 Donate/Partnership

We seek and welcome donations from valued individuals and corporate organisations to enable us continue our charitable commitments.

Contact for donations and partnership.

[info@wepnigeria.net](mailto:info@wepnigeria.net)

### 2 Follow us on social media

Instagram: [wep\\_nigeria](https://www.instagram.com/wep_nigeria)

Facebook: [Women Environmental Programme](https://www.facebook.com/WomenEnvironmentalProgramme)

Twitter: [@WEP\\_nigeria](https://twitter.com/WEP_nigeria)

### 3 Join our mailing list

Join our mailing list, so you can stay up to date on our activities, events and impact.

<https://wepnigeria.net/index.php/subscribe-to-our-newsletter/>





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