



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My warm greetings to our partners, donors and friends.

With a cheerful heart, I present to you, our annual report for year 2021.

Year 2021 was a year when many organizations were struggling to recover from the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic that hit the world the previous year. In the midst of all these challenges, Women Environmental Programme (WEP) was fortunate to receive support from friends, donors and partners to further her work and support communities and organizations to recover from the effects of the COVID19 pandemic.

Come with me as I provide important highlights of our work and achievements in year 2021.

The Founder and Global Lead of Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Dr Priscilla Achakpa was named as one of the 100 most influential civil society leaders in Nigeria in year 2021 by The Nigeria Network of NGOs. This recognition was very dear to us as it served as a motivation to continue our work of improving the lives of women, children and youth around the globe.

In the year under review, we implemented economic empowerment and capacity



development activities targeting women, youth and other groups. WEP conducted capacity-building workshop for women traders in Nigeria and Niger Republic on the West African trade policy instruments and business management and organized an inter-agency collaboration forum on cross border trade facilitation, all to create opportunities for women's economic empowerment through cross-border trade on the Niger-Nigeria border. As a way of building capacities and providing information on topical development issues, WEP created a webinar series known as WEP Development Series that takes place every quarter. WEP also continued with her mentorship programme which benefitted 120 youth in

the year 2021, and also provided several capacity development opportunities for staff and partners of the organization.

We continued implementing and advocating for actions that will prevent recruitment of youth into violent extremist groups. One of the ways we did this was to advocate for a Benue Youth Development Commission Law, as part of the efforts to promote peace building and strengthen state systems and structures towards engaging and empowering youth. We are grateful to Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) who supported our violent extremism prevention activities.

To contribute to our objective of promoting environmental sustainability, WEP implemented several activities ranging from training of communities on production and use of organic fertilizers and pesticides in FCT, Abuja; to trainings on forest conservation in South-South and South-West Nigeria; to awareness creation on the National action Plan on Gender and Climate Change for Nigeria. WEP supported the launch of the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change by the Nigeria's Minister of Environment, Dr. Muhammad Mahmood Abubakar on 18th March 2021 at Barcelona Hotel, Abuja. Ahead of the 26th session of the Conference of Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), WEP collaborated with the British High Commission Nigeria, and mobilized Nigerians to make inputs into the

discussion that were to be held at COP26. This was done through consultations with youth, women and persons with disabilities as well as media campaigns. WEP presented the expectations that came out of different consultations in Nigeria to the world leaders at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland. Upon returning from COP26, WEP and other partners organized a sensitization workshop for stakeholders on the Climate Change Act that had just been signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari.

The above are just highlights of the work we did in 2021. I encourage you to read through this report for more information about our work and achievements we recorded.

We are sincerely grateful to our funders for their constant supports which enable us to reach out to our beneficiaries. We want to say a big thank you to our board members for the needed leadership. We are equally grateful to our staff for ensuring implementation of our programs and projects. We are poised to do more next year with your kind support.

Accept our warmest appreciation from all of us at WEP.

Anne-Marie Abaagu
Executive Director WEP

ABOUT

WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME (WEP)

WHO WE ARE

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 (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

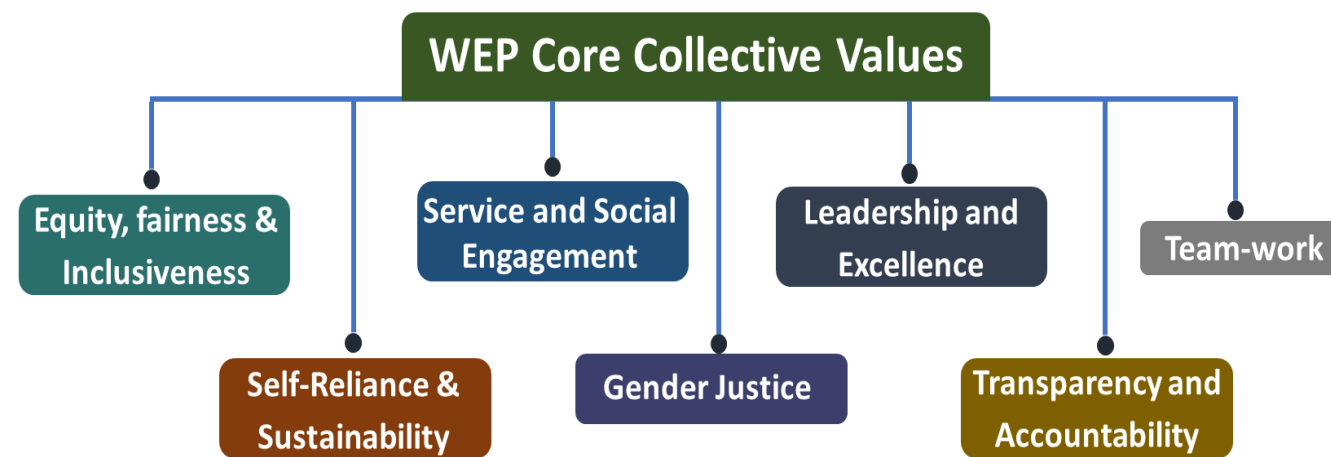
A world where the lives of women and youth around the globe are positively transformed.

MISSION

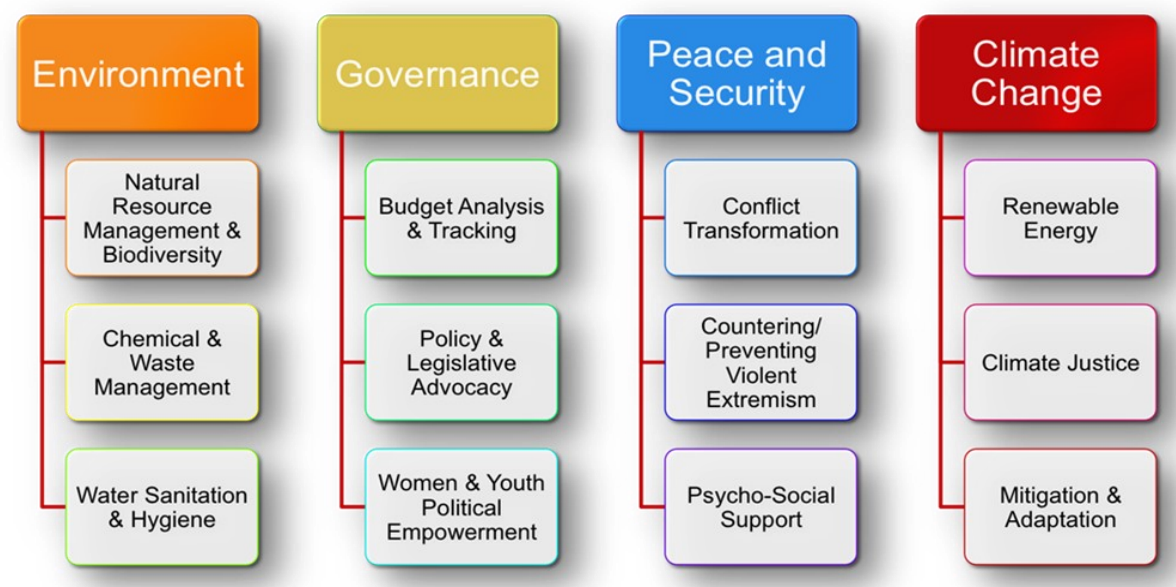
Ensuring the rights of women and youth through sustainable environmental, socio-political and economic development.

Strategic Objectives

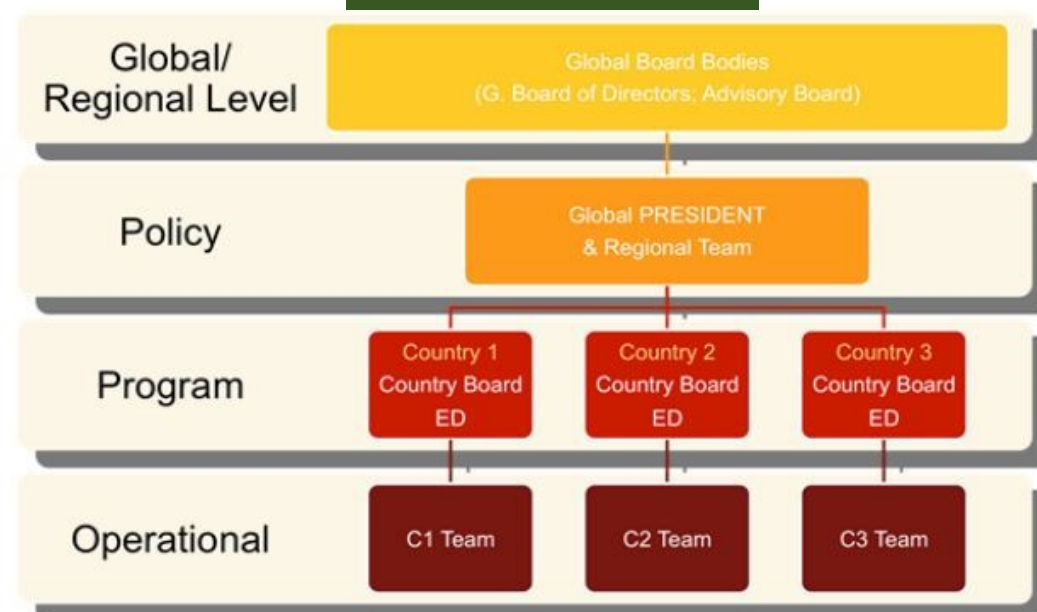
- i. Sensitize and raise awareness of the general public on the impacts of climate change particularly on gender, its mitigation and adaptation;
- ii. Stimulate the management of natural resources within the framework of national and international policies/convention for sustainable development of the 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;



STRATEGIC INTERVENTION PILLARS



ORGANOGRAM



PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENT

Controlling Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides Use through Organic Farming.

The use of chemical farm inputs in Nigeria has increased over the years. While these chemical farm inputs are often promoted as inputs that increase agricultural productivity, their use have negative effect on human health, and the environment.

Although the use of chemical farm inputs reduces the incidence of harmful pests and insects, increases yield and food availability, reduces the drudgery associated with hand-weeding, but with these gains comes the potential for real cost.

“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.” (AFDB, 2016).

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.

It is in a bid to prevent the harmful effects of agricultural chemical inputs on human health and the environment, that WEP implemented the project: **“Controlling Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides Use through Organic Farming in Dobi and Pagdana (Pagada) Communities in Gwagwalada Area Council, Abuja, FCT.”** Supported by Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) Nigeria, the project had a goal of improving human and environmental health by contributing to reduction in the use and release or emission of hazardous chemicals into the environment.

Through this project, 684 (379 females and 305 males) farmers were trained on production and use of organic fertilizers and pesticides using parts of neem tree and other plants in Dobi and Pagada communities of FCT, Abuja, Nigeria.

The project also created awareness in and out of the community on the dangers of chemical farm inputs. In the communities, WEP

organized townhall meetings where community members were sensitized on the benefits of organic agricultural practices and the dangers of chemical fertilizers. The townhall meetings reached 231 persons (134 males and 97 females), 140 in Dobi and 91 in Pagada communities.

In addition to the townhall meetings in the communities, 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. This radio programme which aired every Wednesday from 6:15pm aired for 16 weeks within the year under review. Through this programme, farmers in Abuja and environs were sensitized on organic and sustainable farming practices.

WEP also organized a knowledge management workshop at the end of the project to share knowledge and lessons from the project with other stakeholders.



Group photograph of participants at the knowledge management workshop organized by WEP at Barcelona Hotel, Wuse II, Abuja.



Sensitization on the dangers of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in Pagada community, Gwagwalada Area Council, FCT, Abuja.



Sensitization on the dangers of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in Pagada community, Gwagwalada Area Council, FCT, Abuja.



Practical training session on the production of organic pesticides in Dobi community, Gwagwalada Area Council, FCT, Abuja

The 'Forests for a Just Future' programme of the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA)

The 'Forests for a Just Future' programme of the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) is a project that aims to ensure that tropical forests and forest landscapes are sustainably and inclusively governed to mitigate and adapt to climate change, fulfill human rights and safeguard local livelihoods.

The Forest for a Just Future Programme is being implemented in 12 countries including: Bolivia, Cameroon, Colombia, DRC, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, Malaysia, Nigeria, The Philippines, Uganda and Vietnam.

The project led by Milieudefensie has other partners including Gaia Amazonas, IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands, Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme, Sustainable Development Institute, Tropenbos International, FERN and Women Engage for a Common Future.

WEP represents Women Engage for a Common Future as the gender technical partner of the project in Nigeria. The gender technical partner of the project advises the project on gender mainstreaming in the entire project.

In the year under review, WEP implemented the following activities relating to the gender component of the project in Nigeria:

- Conducted training on forest conservation and gender: This training targeted forest dependent communities of Ijaiye community and Ajibode community in Ibadan, Oyo State, South-West Nigeria where a practical training on organic farming was given to farmers groups, women's groups, and community

members. They were taken through agro-ecological practices like crop rotation, shifting cultivation, pest management practices as well as agribusiness strategies, soil fertility management using on-farm inputs and compost manure, organic weed and pest management and value addition to organic produce/products.

- Dialogue on mainstreaming gender into management and conservation of forest resources in southwestern Nigeria: Participating in this dialogue were: Forestry department (University of Ibadan), NGOs' working in the environment and agriculture, representative from the Oyo state Ministry of Agriculture (Forestry department), women's groups and community members. The participants discussed the importance of forests and forest resources, threats to forest resources, and how to sustainably manage forests. Participants were sensitized on best strategies of managing forests and benefitting from its natural resources. They were also encouraged to carry out advocacy and awareness-raising actions that will prevent forest degradation in the state.

- A training on practical bee keeping was held for women farmers in Ijaiye community where 13 women were trained on the art of bee keeping. This training was aimed at providing alternative livelihood for forest dependent communities to take them away from activities that put pressure on forest resources. At the end of

the training, constructed beehives were presented to participants.

- Knowledge sharing with women and feminist groups in Ebonyi State: This event provided avenue for knowledge sharing on how gender and environmental issues intersect, and to outline how women are impacted by and yet can be involved in addressing environmental issues. The experience sharing townhall meeting was an opportunity for WEP to share their expertise on integrating gender into organizational and GLA activities. Also, environmental organisations in Ebonyi state became aware of why incorporating

gender is vital to sustainability.

- Assessment on the impact of extractive activities on biodiversity, forest and women: WEP carried out an assessment in Obelle community in Emohua local government area of Rivers State, South-South Nigeria, on the impact of extractive activities on biodiversity loss, deforestation and its effect on women. The assessment identified the major causes of desertification and biodiversity loss in the area and how this is affecting women's livelihood. Major cause of biodiversity loss and deforestation as identified from the assessment was oil and gas extraction.



Group photograph of participants during knowledge sharing workshop with women and feminist groups in Ebonyi state, South-East Nigeria on forest conservation and gender mainstreaming in forest management.



Group photograph of participants during training on sustainable forest management in Ajibode community, Oyo State.



Training on beekeeping in Ijaye community, Oyo State.

The Forest for a Just Future Programme in Nigeria in year 2021 was implemented in partnership with the following partners: Kebetkache Women Development and Resource Center, Noble Delta Women for Peace and Development, Environmental Conflict Mediation and Women Development Initiative, and Neighborhood Environment Watch (NEW) Foundation.

CLIMATE CHANGE



WEP Supported the launch of the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change in Nigeria

Between 2017 to 2021, WEP was supported by Both Ends, Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), International Livestock Research Institute, and British High Commission Nigeria to develop the National Action Plan on Gender

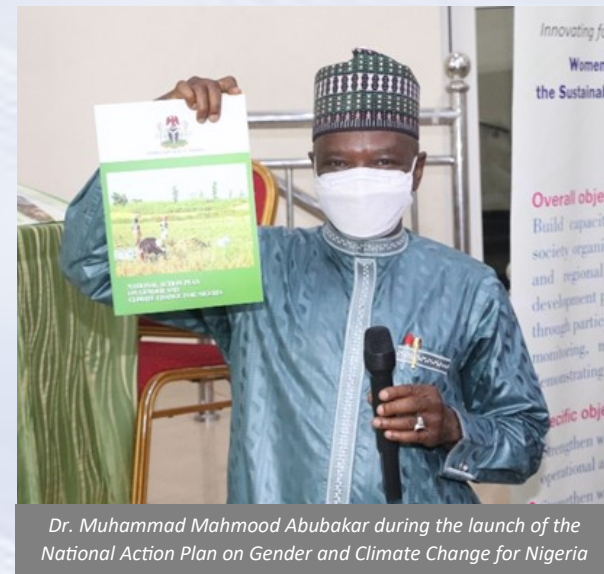
and Climate Change for Nigeria (NAPGCC). The Action Plan was developed in 2019 but it was until 2020 that it was approved by the Federal Executive Council of Nigeria.

Having approved the Action Plan WEP and The Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria organized a sensitization meeting and a press conference to launch the Action Plan.



Participants posed for a group photograph with the Nigeria's Minister of Environment

The Minister of Environment, Dr. Muhammad Mahmood Abubakar launched the NAPGCC that was approved by President Muhammadu Buhari during a Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting in August 2020. The launch of the NAPGCC was done during a Sensitization Workshop on the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change organized by the Climate Change Department of the Federal Ministry of Environment and Women Environmental Programme (WEP) on Thursday, 18th March 2021 at Barcelona Hotel, Abuja.



Dr. Muhammad Mahmood Abubakar during the launch of the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change for Nigeria

The goal of the Action Plan is to ensure that national climate change processes in Nigeria mainstream gender considerations to guarantee inclusivity of all demographics in the formulation and implementation of climate change initiatives, programs and policies.

WEP, WEDO, WECF and FEMNET launched Gender Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund



At the Generation Equality Forum that held in Paris, France, Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), The African Women's Development and Communication Network and the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) launched a bold commitment to financing feminist climate solutions, with the creation of a Gender Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund.

Sensitization on the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change for Nigeria

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) organized a sensitization workshop for states in the North-Central region of Nigeria to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of stakeholders on the implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change for Nigeria (NAPGCC). Being a federal state, national policies in Nigeria are expected to be implemented at the sub-national levels, hence the need for stakeholders at the sub-national levels to be sensitized to have adequate knowledge of national policies for effective implementation.

The event commenced with a welcome remark from the Executive Director of WEP Ms Anne-Marie Abaagu. According to Anne-Marie, "since the launch of the Action Plan whose implementation ought to commence in 2021, the State government agencies and other actors are yet to be sensitized and their capacity built on how the Action Plan would be implemented. If this is not done, challenges that are associated with policy implementation in Nigeria may set in hampering the realization of the goal of the Action Plan".

Goodwill messages were received from Commissioners among whom were; Mr Aliyu A. Agwai the Permanent Secretary and Acting Commissioner, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Nasarawa State; Hon. Victor Adewale Omofaiye, the Honourable Commissioner for Environment, Kogi State; and Mrs. Hauwa Aluju Oga, the Permanent Secretary and Acting Commissioner, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Nasarawa State, who also declared the workshop opened.

During the workshop, participants were equipped with knowledge on the concept of climate change as well as mitigation and adaptation measures. They were also taken through the journey of the NAPGCC; its inception, the process involved in its development and when it was launched. Thereafter, participants went into State group work to develop actions that will guide the implementation of the Action Plan in their respective States.



Group photo of participants at the sensitization workshop on the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change

The event took place on 2nd September 2021 at Paradise Hotel Lafia and had in attendance participants from all the North-central States including FCT. Participants were drawn from relevant agencies of government, civil society organizations and

the media. This activity was part of the activities under the project; Strengthening Capacity for Implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change at Sub-National Levels in Nigeria, with funding support from Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF).



WEP ED Anne-Marie Abaagu Speaking at the sensitization workshop



Cross section of participants at the sensitization workshop



Kogi State Commissioner for Environment Speaking at the sensitization workshop



WEP Deputy ED John Baaki Speaking at the sensitization workshop



Niger State participants during the Development of State Action plan session



Nasarawa State participants during the Development of State Action plan session



Participants at the consultative workshop on Nigeria Climate Change Act

Consultative Workshop on Nigeria Climate Change Act

In November 2021, President Muhammadu Buhari signed the Nigeria Climate Change bill into law. The law seeks to provide a framework for achieving low greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), inclusive green growth and sustainable economic development.

The climate change law was one of the efforts of the Country in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, to which Nigeria is a Party.

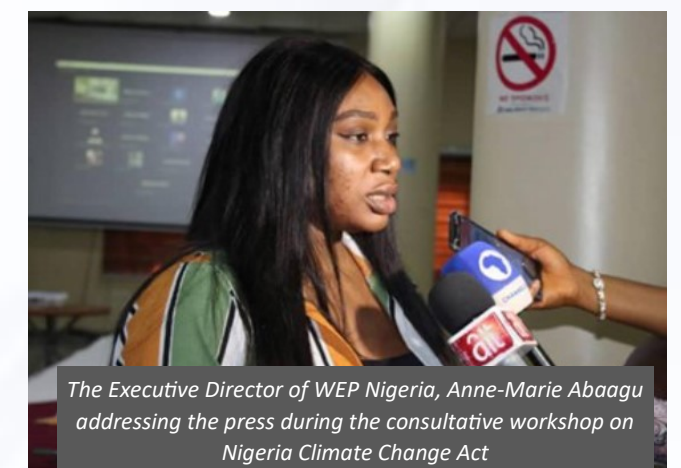
While the signing of the climate change bill into law was applauded by many, it may not achieve its purpose if it is not or poorly implemented. For a successful implementation of the climate change law, knowledge of the provisions of the law by relevant stakeholders was very key.

It is based on the above that The Nigerian Civil Society Framework on Paris Agreement and the SDGs (NCSFPAS) in collaboration with the Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Gender and Environmental Risk Reduction Initiative (GERI), Global Initiative

for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation (GIFSEP), and Climate and Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet), organized this consultative workshop on the Nigeria Climate Change Act on 17th December 2021 at Dennis Hotel, Abuja.

The consultative workshop raised awareness about the Climate Change Act and mobilized civil society organizations and other stakeholders for the implementation of the Act.

This workshop brought together different key stakeholders ranging from civil society organizations, government agencies, private sector, women's groups, and international development organizations.



The Executive Director of WEP Nigeria, Anne-Marie Abaagu addressing the press during the consultative workshop on Nigeria Climate Change Act

Mobilizing Nigeria for COP26

Youth Consultations

Ahead of the 26th session of the Conference of Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that held in Glasgow, WEP with the support of British High Commission Nigeria implemented different activities to raise awareness about the conference and provided opportunities for Nigeria to contribute to discussions that were to happen at COP26. Different issues make up the agenda items that will be discussed at the conference, and countries needed to be aware of these issues and make adequate preparations to make inputs and contribute to discussions, as these have implications on national climate response and development efforts.

One of the opportunities created by WEP to gather contributions for COP26 was the youth consultation on climate change and the

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) which provided opportunity to discuss the priorities of Nigeria youth for COP26 and how young Nigerians can get involved, the role of youth in the implementation of the Nigeria's revised NDCs and other national climate plans. Participants were young advocates, environmentalist and researchers and it featured keynote addresses, panel session, roundtable sessions and networking.

The youth consultation conference took place on the 21st September 2021 at the residence of the British High Commissioner in Maitama Abuja. It was attended by representatives from key youth groups such as the Resilient40, Cheveners, Nigeria's Youth4Climate, African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC), YOUNGO, including civil society organizations and the media.



Participants at the youth consultation conference

During the youth consultation, the youth representatives spoke about what they want a successful COP26 to look like. They also spoke about their contributions to ensuring that Nigerian youth voices were heard at PreCOP26, COY16 and COP26. Their contributions revolved around works they have done on issues of climate change in different communities in Nigeria and how some of them have engaged national, regional and global institutions on issues bothering on climate change impacts in the country. The youth also talked about the roles the youth should play as their contribution to the implementation of the revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of Nigeria. There were also round table discussions around the following themes: **Youth Driving Ambition; Sustainable Recovery; Non-State Actors' Engagement; and A Climate-Conscious**

Society. These discussions contributed to enriching the position of youth delegates to the different climate conferences.

The youth delegates that participated in this consultation were as follows:

- Priscilla Effanga Offiong: Climate Change Network, Nigeria
- Yetunde Deborah Fadeyi: *Chevening alumni / REES Africa*
- Ugochukwu Bobo Ajujie: *COY16/ YOUNGO Delegate*
- Abubakar Azeez Tobi: *PreCOP26/ Youth4Climate Delegate*
- Idowu Olumide Emmanuel: *African Youth Initiative on Climate Change*
- Egbe Joy Princes: *PreCOP26/ Youth4Climate Delegate*
- Nasrin Al-Amin Ahmad: *Resilient40/ Surge Africa*

Media Action for COP26

The aim of the media action was to create awareness about COP26, inform the public about issues that were to be discussed at COP26, receive inputs from the public on issues that were to be discussed and raise awareness about climate change, its mitigation and adaptation strategies.

To implement the media action for COP26, WEP carried out 2 live radio programmes on 99.9 Kiss FM Abuja on 25th and 26th October 2021. The two programmes took place during The

Honourable House of Parapo radio programme on the station from 6:15 pm – 7:30 pm on these two days.

Staff of WEP made live appearances during the programme and spoke about COP 26, the proposed agenda, what Nigeria position should be and how people can contribute to addressing climate change. This program reached an estimated five hundred thousand people who became more informed about issues of climate change and how to address climate change impacts.

Consultations on gender-just climate solutions

On 21st October 2021, WEP organized a consultation on gender-just climate solutions.

The aim of the consultation was to gather experiences from participants about climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation initiatives that better support vulnerable populations to build resilience against climate change.

The consultative meeting which featured presentations on the current climate situation globally and nationally, brought together civil society organizations, women, and youth groups as well as persons with disability who shared stories of climate change impacts and proposed

appropriate actions that should be taken by different stakeholders to address climate change.

This event took place at Top Rank Galaxy Hotel, Utako, Abuja.

At the end of the event, a communique was issued and shared with policy makers and key stakeholders on what the participants expected from the COP26 delegates as well as the government of Nigeria.

Find the communique on this link –

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z12KFbIYUGgYyX6fpQJYsopzbQOv8NO/view?usp=sharing>



Participants at the consultation on gender-just climate solutions at Top Rank Hotel, Utako, Abuja, Nigeria



WEP AT COP26

Our team was in Glasgow from 30th October 2021 to 12th November 2021 for the 26th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Led by our Global President, our team had specific expectations from the climate change conference, which were in line with those of the Women and Gender Constituency and our target groups in Nigeria. The Women and Gender Constituency of UNFCCC which we are part of, expected from the conference: a full commitment to human rights, delivering on financial commitments, ensuring ecosystem integrity, advancing the Gender Action Plan, rejection of false solutions and investment in gender-just climate solutions, ensuring right

to water and sanitation in all climate actions, and ensuring women's land rights among others.

WEP also expected to see ambitious actions by countries to cut down greenhouse gases emissions, especially from coal, as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCCC) in its 2021 report.

The above were what WEP expected to be considered in the Paris Rule Book that was to be finalized at the climate change conference in Glasgow. The Paris Rule Book provides details on how the Paris Agreement will be implemented. Several issues in the Paris Rule Book were agreed in previous

climate change conferences, but other issues proved difficult to agree on. Pending issues that were discussed at COP 26 were: carbon markets, length of timeframe for NDCs, global stocktake, adaptation, climate finance plans among other issues.

It was interesting that at the beginning of the climate change conference at the World Leaders Summit, many countries announced increased ambition to cutting down emissions or committed more resources to the climate fund. The World Leaders Summit gave way to 2 weeks of negotiations on the core COP26 agenda items and other parallel meetings and events.

WEP and partners participated in meetings related to the issues we wanted to influence at COP26 and in addition held several meetings with government delegations and other civil society organizations to further our cause.

Our staff had opportunity to speak at different events organized on the sideline of COP26, highlighting issues that were important to deliver climate justice at COP 26. Our Head of Grants and Partnerships Damaris

Nguumbur Uja was on a panel and discussed pathways for inclusive implementation of the Paris Agreement in Africa. Our Executive Director, Anne-Marie Abaagu was also featured on a panel on Gender Day where she spoke on the Nigeria's Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change.

WEP also organized a side event in collaboration with Women Engage for a Common Future to showcase and award winners of Gender-Just Climate Solutions Contest for 2021. At this side event, the first six awardees of the Gender Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund were announced. These first six awardees were resourced by WEDO.

Before the end of COP26, WEP's Deputy Executive Director wrote an opinion piece contemplating if COP26 can provide a platform for serious actions that will reverse the trend of rapidly increasing global temperature. **Read the opinion piece here -**

https://www.environewsnigeria.com/can-glasgow-serve-as-springboard-to-jump-from-code-red-to-code-green/?fbclid=IwAR1rXNw0e2ww9tTcJpBLPtCm1wzjYOF0pAOKPqNBF31OKwRk_rXIf3SVIU



Members of Women and Gender Constituency wearing orange masks as part of their color campaign at COP 26.



WEP joined Women and Gender Constituency in a protest to demand climate justice at COP26.



PEACE AND SECURITY

Preventing violent extremism in Benue State, North-Central Nigeria

Connecting Women and Youth in Conflict Prone Areas through Empowerment and Skills Acquisition (Phase II) was the project that WEP continued to implement in the year under review, to contribute to preventing violent extremism in Benue State, North Central Nigeria. Funded by the Global Community Engagement and Resilient Fund (GCERF), this project aimed 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 engaged 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:

- Training of security personnel on preventing violent extremism (PVE) where participants were equipped with knowledge requisite for aiding investigation, reporting crime and having maximum respect for human rights.
- Training of media organizations on preventing violent extremism
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue on peace and PVE
- Advocacy for Benue Youth Development Commission Law
- Youth mentorship sessions
- Quarterly Advocacy meetings of project partners



WEP Programme manager facilitating a session at a Media Training on Peace/PVE in Benue State



Advocacy meeting for the passage of proposed Benue Youth development commission bill



Peace/PVE sensitization for state level security personnel in Makurdi, Benue State



Community members trained on production of hand sanitizers and face masks



During a mentorship session in a community in Benue state



Multistakeholder training on Alternative Dispute Resolution in Guma LG, Benue state



National Conference on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Nigeria

WEP participated in the National Conference on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Nigeria that held from 18-19 November 2021, at Rockview Hotel Royale, Abuja, Nigeria.

The conference tagged “Partnering for Safer and Resilient Communities” brought together over 100 critical stakeholders working on preventing and countering violent extremism in Nigeria, comprising Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), Security Agencies, Religious and Traditional Leaders, Community Members, Civil Society Organizations, Media, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

The event was organized by ActionAid Nigeria in collaboration with ONSA and funded by Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund.

WEP was represented at this conference by the Programme Manager, Mr Cliff Gai who served as a panelist and shared experiences about our work with communities on preventing violent extremism. Click on this link to watch Mr Cliff’s intervention at the conference - <https://fb.watch/cPrQ3GfDwH/>

The objective of this conference was to strengthen the relationship between Government, communities and other actors on preventing and countering violent extremism in Nigeria.

Community of practice on preventing and countering violent extremism



WEP hosted the Community of Practice on preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) in Nigeria. Participants in this community of practice were grantees of Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) in Nigeria. The Community of Practice (CoP) is an activity that brings together organizations working on GCERF funded projects on Preventing Violent Extremism in Nigeria with the aim of sharing knowledge, experiences and learning.

The CoP which was the third and last CoP for the year 2021 held from 5th - 8th September at Benue Hotels & Resort, Makurdi, Benue State with the theme “Youth as Catalysts for the Prevention of Recruitment and Radicalization to Violent Extremism” in line with the United

Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 which encourages governments, international organizations and civil society to actively engage youth populations as partners in shaping peace and security processes.

Discussions centered around strategies for youth leadership in preventing violent extremism (PVE), building and sustaining youth participation and engagement in PVE programs, and creating youth centered fundraising activities to prevent VE in Nigeria.

The CoP developed strategies for youth engagement in PVE leadership, sustainability plans for youth PVE programs and identified strategies for harnessing funding opportunities for youth to prevent violent extremism in Nigeria.



The CoP ended with a field visit to Kwande Local Government to inspect activities implemented by WEP and interact with the beneficiaries of livelihood support and mentoring activities implemented as part of the GCERF-supported project.

Advocacy for Benue Youth Development Commission Law



In the year 2021, Women Environmental Programme (WEP) advocated for a Benue Youth Development Commission Law, as part of the efforts to promote peace building and strengthen state systems and structures towards engaging and

empowering youth.

The advocacy started off with engagements of relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to solicit support for the passage of a bill to establish a Youth Development Commission in Benue State. Stakeholders engaged gave similar assurances while commending the initiative to establish a Benue Youth Development Commission and pledged their support towards ensuring smooth passage of the bill. The following were some of the MDAs engaged: Benue State Planning Commission, Ministry of Information & Culture, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Energy, Science & Technology,

Benue State House of Assembly, civil society organizations' networks, student leaders, traditional and religious institutions, and the leadership of the Benue State Youth Parliament.

As part of the engagements for the passage of the Youth Development Commission Bill, WEP hosted stakeholders from Civil Society Organizations, youth groups, Ministries, Departments and Agencies to an Advocacy Roundtable at Benue Hotels and Resort, Makurdi, Benue State, in September 2021.

Earlier in August 2021, WEP had hosted members of the Benue State House of Assembly (BSHA) to a roundtable at Grand Pella Hotel, Abuja, to discuss the

Benue Youth Development Commission Bill, to which all the members of BSHA committed to its speedy passage into law. All 30 legislators from the BSHA, principal staff of the BSHA and selected stakeholders present unanimously agreed that the proposed bill when passed will pave way for the establishment of a Benue State Youth Development Commission which will adequately promote and support youth engagement towards entrenching a structured and sustainable youth empowerment system.

This advocacy for a Benue Youth Development Commission Law was supported by Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF).



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

In the year under review, this project came to an end in March 2021 after receiving a no-cost extension of 3 months due to COVID 19 pandemic that affected its activities in the year 2020.

The Women CSOs Networking to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Women2030 project was funded by the European Union and implemented by a consortium of 4 women's organizations, led by Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) from the Netherlands. The 5-year project had a goal of ensuring that the SDGs, climate agreements and plans were implemented in a gender responsive way.

In the last months of the project, the partners (Women Engage for a Common

Future (WECF), Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development (APWLD), Women Environmental Programme (WEP), and Global Forest Coalition (GFC), jointly implemented two activities: project endline evaluation and a virtual side event at the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65).

The endline evaluation was a participatory storytelling exercise to evaluate the impact of the Women2030 project and celebrate all the partners, organizations and communities that took part in the 5-year project. The endline evaluation revealed how the project inspired many women to find their voices and shaped communities; improved women's self-confidence and dignity; changed men's mentality about women; improved

agricultural production and increased income of women farmers; preserved community forests; built women's movements; and facilitated the development of gender-sensitive national policies and plans.

Read more impact stories of the Women2030 project here - <https://www.women2030.org/the-seeds-we-plan-grow-roots-a-booklet-of-impact-stories-from-the-women-2030-program/>



In March 2021, the Women2030 partners also organized a virtual side event during CSW65. The event themed: **“Why we need a feminist vision for Agenda 2030, feminist voices at the policy table sharing lessons”** which held on Monday 22 March, 2021 was moderated by WEP’s chairperson of the board, Ms Winnie Lichuma from Kenya, while the Minister of State for Environment of Nigeria, Sharon Ikeazor, declared the event open. Other speakers at the event were: Marlene Holzner, Director of the Civil Society Division of the European Commission/Directorate General International Partnerships; Wanun Permpibul of ClimateWatch, Thailand; Lucy Mulenkei, the leader of the Indigenous Information Network in Kenya; Laretta George of Rescue Women Liberia; Ida Bakhturidze of WECF Georgia; and Dr Priscilla Achakpa, Global President of WEP.

The aim of the event was to share experiences of the Women2030 project in advancing the SDGs and gender equality and to recommend to the member states and other stakeholders, actions that should be taken to accelerate the realization of the SDGs and gender equality.

The event culminated into the launch of the Women2030 Global Shadow Report which



highlighted the status of gender equality globally and recommended the way forward. **Download the report here** - <https://www.women2030.org/global-report/>

Promoting women's socioeconomic rights in Nigeria and Niger Republic



capacity-building workshop for women traders in Nigeria

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 support 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.

In the year under review, WEP conducted capacity-building workshop for women traders in Nigeria and Niger Republic on the West African trade policy instruments and business management. The training of women traders took place over the span of three days. The training brought together forty (40) participants including civil society representatives and traders from Nigeria

and Republic of Niger. Overall, the training aimed at increasing understanding of human rights, business management, regional and national trade policies.

WEP also organized an inter-agency collaboration forum on cross border trade facilitation. The meeting was organized to facilitate active working relationship among multi agencies involved in cross border trade and traders. The meeting also aimed at strengthening interagency coordination towards addressing the issues of human rights and gender inequality in trade at the Niger/Nigeria border corridor.

The meeting was attended by 40 participants across Civil Society Organizations, Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigeria Custom Service, Department of State Security Service Cross Border Small Scale Traders and Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA). Participants were briefed by the Niger and Nigerian Customs on existing trade agreements like the African Continental Free Trade Area and ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme. They were informed that these policies have opportunities for women, if maximized can upscale their businesses to large scale trade and export of goods and services.

WEP Volunteer and Mentorship Programme

The mentorship programme established by WEP some years ago continued to equip youth with community development skills and provide guidance for youth who choose their career in the development sector.

In the year 2021, this programme benefitted 120 youth. The restrictions on physical meetings and movement put in place by the federal government of Nigeria, due to the

COVID19 pandemic caused us to suspend physical mentorship sessions and instead had them virtually. This provided opportunity for more youth to participate in the programme than if it held only physically. WEP Volunteer and Mentorship Programme is an initiative of WEP aiming to achieve her vision of “a world where the lives of women and youth across the globe are positively transformed.”



Building resilience to withstand shock in the face of dwindling civic space and resources



In the year under review, WEP was selected to benefit from the USAID's Enabling and Protecting Civic Spaces (EPCS) – Illuminating New Solutions and Programmatic Innovations for Resilient Spaces (INSPIRES) programme.

The programme had 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 involved identification of needs or gaps in the organization and development of plans to address the identified gaps to build resiliency against shocks. Some of the needs that came as top priority for WEP were: improving on communications externally, alternative income sources in addition to the conventional donor funds, and development of risk management plan, as part of the plans to strengthen the organization.

To achieve the goal of the programme, WEP

in the year under review organized events to build the capacity of staff on project management, strategic communication, building partnerships that works, and digital skills, in addition to developing contingency plans to help the organization withstand shocks that it may face.

From 6-7 April 2021, WEP organized a project management training for her staff at Brooksville Hotel and Suites, Lokogoma, Abuja. This training focused on communication skills, strategic partnership building, networking, and digital skills. From 15-17 October 2021, it was a project management training that WEP organized for her staff to strengthen their capacity in project design, planning and implementation.

This project made WEP better as it strengthened the capacity of staff of the organization and helped in strengthening organizational strategies, policies and plans, all to build WEP's resilience to withstand shocks in the face of dwindling civic space and resources.

WEP Development Series *Episode 1*

Theme: Gona Kore - Farm Green

Host: Anne-Marie Abaagu
Executive Director, WEP

Speaker: Ibironke Favour Olubamise (Mrs)
National Coordinator,
Global Environment Facility Small Grants
Program (GEF SGP) Nigeria.

Moderator: John Baaki
Deputy Executive Director, WEP

Topic: Organic agriculture - solution to climate change and environmental degradation

Date: 16th September 2021 **Time:** 11:00 am - 12:00 noon
Venue: Zoom. Register via this link - <https://bit.ly/gonakore>

Logos: WEP, GEF SGP, UNDP

WEP Development Series

In year 2021, WEP created a webinar series to enlighten the public on topical development issues. This development series was launched on 16th September 2021 with the first discussion centered on organic agriculture. The first speaker on the development series, Mrs Favour Ibironke Olubamise, the National Coordinator of Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) Nigeria, highlighted the importance of sustainable agriculture as it preserves the environment and improves health. She disabused the minds of the people on chemical-intensive agriculture which she said was injurious to the environment with high economic and health cost.

During this webinar, a knowledge material

produced by WEP to provide guidance on production and use of organic fertilizers and pesticides was shared with participants. This material was produced as part of the activities of a project GEF SGP Nigeria supported WEP to implement in Dobi and Pagada communities in Gwagwalada Area Council of FCT, on controlling the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides through organic farming.

WEP development series webinars x-ray topical development issues in governance, environment, gender, climate change, peace and security. While the webinars enlighten the public on important development issues, they also proffer recommendations on addressing identified development challenges.



WEP's Global President named among 100 most influential civil society leaders in Nigeria

The Founder and Global Lead of Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Dr Priscilla Achakpa was named as one of the 100 most influential civil society leaders in Nigeria in year 2021 by The Nigeria Network of NGOs.

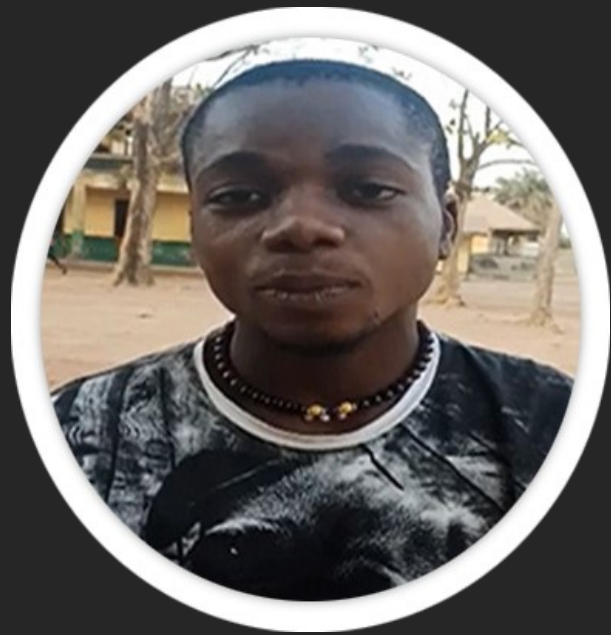
According to The Nigeria Network of NGOs, "Civil society organisations play an important role in the country's socio-economic life contributing largely to both democracy and development. These organisations are founded and led by individuals with passion for change in a world full of challenges. Amidst global and national onslaught of constant contestations, growing infringement on rights, shrinking civic space, conflicting deadlines and schedules, limited access to financial resources, break-neck speed of policies, laws and regulations, identifying and celebrating these leaders that are using their influence, ideas, example, talent and discoveries to shape our country and world is long overdue.

Civil society leaders and their organisations serve millions across communities whose

needs are changing rapidly. In these periods of uncertainty and extraordinary times exacerbated by a global pandemic- COVID 19, we need to find models for effective leadership at all levels, across every organisation and the third sector. Asserting leadership and maintaining it in the civil society sector requires balance, a terrain many of the leaders that will be selected have passed through. That is why we are creating the Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO) 100 Most Influential Civil Society Leaders of our time as both a recognition of their efforts that goes into the growth of the sector, a means of identifying component elements that determine organisational leadership in the third sector as well as inspiring the next generation of civil society leaders who are passionate about leading change and challenging the Status Quo."

The full list of the 100 most influential civil society leaders can be found on this link - <https://100.nnnngo.org/>.

Stories of Impact



Tersoo is a beneficiary of the mentorship programme and the vocational skills intervention, run by Women Environmental Programme and funded by GCERF.

Tersoo, an only child who lost his father at age of 3, is from Adikpo in Kwande Local Government in Nigeria. Kwande, on the border with Cameroon, is a place where Boko Haram is trying to make gains and many young people in the area are drawn to the violent extremist group by the perceived gains of becoming a perpetrator of violence. As a teenager, Tersoo found himself in an environment driven by violent confrontations between farmers and herders. Violent extremist groups found a way into the territory and many of his peers began

working with these groups as a means of survival.

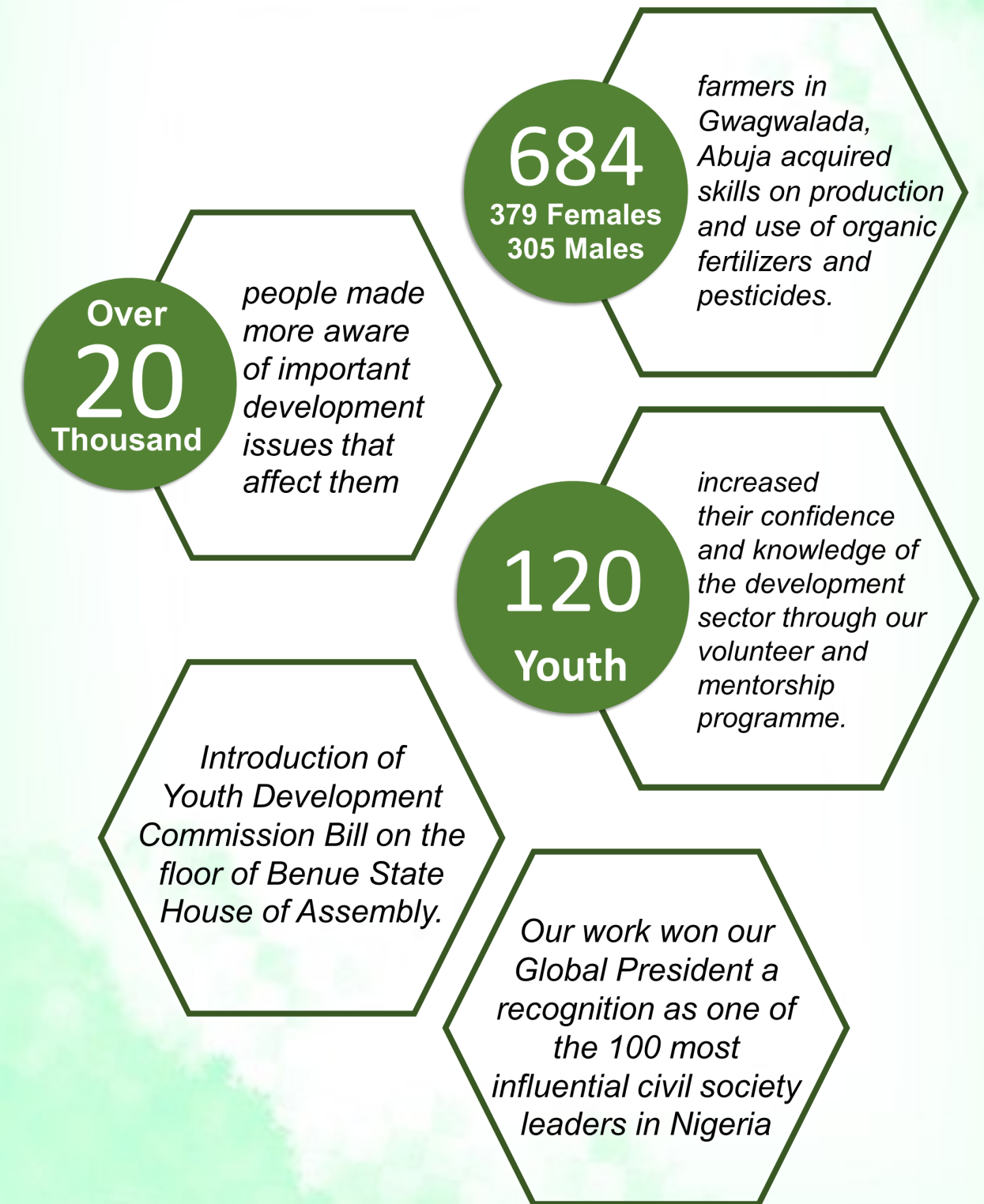
Tersoo admits feeling lost and very reckless about life generally at that time. With no direction, he said working for a violent extremist group “once in a while to make some cash” was his way of life.

That was until he came in contact with the GCERF-funded programme. He said the knowledge he acquired from the interventions changed his life. “I got so much inspiration, especially from the mentorship program which has helped me build self-confidence. I am confident that my future is in my hands and I can create a new path for myself outside of violence,” he said. He is also more prudent with his finances and said: “I have learnt to take control of myself and I have been able to save up to N50,000 (USD 100).” He has used his savings to start a small business. “Now I have something that can give me income and I am happy about it,” he said.

“I have been able to develop my self-esteem and self-control. I no longer feel I must be a violent person to make a living,” he said. Tersoo is now eager to share his story to help others who are at risk of joining a violent extremist group. “I have seen what the life of VE [violent extremism] does to young people, how it has turned some of my peers into rejects who will never again be accepted as members of our community and I won’t want to see any other young person go down that road,” he said. “If speaking to others is going to help, I will gladly do so over and over.” GCERF has been funding WEP since 2019 to empower young men and women vulnerable to recruitment to violent extremism by providing tangible skills for social and economic advancement.

https://www.gcerf.org/mentoring-to-prevent-radicalisation-in-nigeria/?fbclid=IwAR1QaIZA5DKInW7CIPQr_u1vLNde7iAR4SIYGC2HmcfjnmV9oYp5KFdhlrQ

Results Of Our Work Achieved In 2021



Results Of Our Work Achieved In 2021



WEP IN THE NEWS

Nigeria's civil society and the Climate Change Act

<https://punchng.com/nigerias-civil-society-and-the-climate-change-act/>

NNNGO Top 100 Civil Society Leaders in Nigeria List includes Philanthropy Circuit Founder, Others

<https://philanthropycircuit.org/insights/nnngo-celebrates-100-civil-society-leaders-in-nigeria/>

Group seeks passage of Benue youth development commission bill

<https://www.thecable.ng/group-seeks-passage-of-benue-youth-development-commission-bill>

British govt, WEP empowers Youth delegates to COP26

<https://authoritynqr.com/2021/09/24/british-govt-wep-empowers-youth-delegates-to-cop26/?fbclid=IwAR3CBh1L3PvQ86f8zwHUBcYm3SU4z-yY1sLhqHyIEyZltpkxeDaOf09Sxel>

Unveiling national action plan on gender and climate change

<https://punchng.com/unveiling-national-action-plan-on-gender-and-climate-change/>

Avoiding chemical fertilizer in Nigeria

<https://www.dw.com/en/avoiding-chemical-fertilizer-in-nigeria/av-57443219?fbclid=IwAR3aJfSlwBEHABkE5-HVy4Ai3436RqqSTJEK8X9xxATLK4wnxbxP9nfc68>

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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 partnership: info@wepnigeria.net

Donate: <https://wepnigeria.net/donate/>

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/subscribe-to-our-newsletter/>



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