



GOVERNMENT OF ZAMFARA STATE
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
in collaboration with the Women Environmental Programme (WEP), with funding support from the European Union and Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF)

COMMUNIQUÉ

ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TWO-DAY STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION, EXPERT REVIEW AND VALIDATION WORKSHOP ON THE DOMESTICATION OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (WEE) POLICY IN ZAMFARA STATE

Held at Karma Guest Inn, Sokoto, Sokoto State
30th – 31st May, 2026

PREAMBLE

A Two-Day Stakeholders' Consultation, Expert Review and Validation Workshop on the Domestication of the National Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Policy in Zamfara State was held from 30th to 31st May, 2026 at Karma Guest Inn, Sokoto, Sokoto State.

The Workshop was convened by the Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, with technical and financial support from the Women Environmental Programme (WEP), as part of concerted efforts to domesticate the National Women's Economic Empowerment Policy and to develop a Zamfara State-specific framework for promoting women's economic inclusion, productivity, resilience, entrepreneurship, leadership and access to opportunities.

Participants noted that Zamfara State faces significant gender development challenges, including low female literacy, high poverty levels, limited access to productive resources, insecurity, displacement, and the economic vulnerability of women and girls. Participants further noted that, notwithstanding these challenges, women in Zamfara State remain active and indispensable contributors to agriculture, petty trade, artisanal production, community commerce and household welfare.

The Workshop brought together representatives of State Ministries, Departments and Agencies; development partners; civil society organisations; women-led organisations; traditional and religious leaders; academia; financial institutions; private sector actors; associations of persons with disabilities; youth representatives; media practitioners; and technical experts.

Participants acknowledged that the Workshop formed part of a broader domestication process undertaken by the Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, with support from WEP. This process has included stakeholder sensitisation, the engagement of a consultant, a situational analysis of women's economic conditions in the State, a review of existing legal and policy frameworks, and stakeholder consultation on the domestication of the National WEE Policy.

DAY ONE: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

On the first day, participants reviewed the Draft Zamfara State Women's Economic Empowerment Policy and deliberated extensively on the following:

1. The socio-economic situation of women and girls in Zamfara State;
2. Existing barriers to women's economic participation and advancement;
3. Women's access to education, skills acquisition, finance, technology, markets and productive resources;
4. Gender-responsive governance and institutional frameworks;
5. Social norms and practices affecting women's economic empowerment;
6. Opportunities for strengthening women's participation in agriculture, entrepreneurship, trade and other economic activities; and
7. Strategies for enhancing policy implementation and coordination.

DAY TWO: EXPERT REVIEW AND VALIDATION WORKSHOP

On the second day, technical experts and stakeholders conducted a detailed review and validation of the Draft Zamfara State Women's Economic Empowerment Policy.

Participants reviewed the policy vision, overall goal, timeframe, targets, strategic pillars, enablers, governance and implementation framework, proposed financing sources and validation pathway.

The review was undertaken to ensure that the Zamfara State WEE Policy aligns with the National Women's Economic Empowerment Policy, Zamfara State Development Plan (2025-2034), other relevant national/state laws and policies, the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the ECOWAS Gender Policy Framework, and

Nigeria's regional and international commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

After extensive deliberations, participants observed that:

8. Women constitute a significant proportion of Zamfara State's population and contribute substantially to agriculture, commerce, household welfare and community development;
9. Despite these contributions, women continue to face challenges, including limited access to education, finance, productive resources, economic opportunities and decision-making processes;
10. Poverty, insecurity and displacement have deepened the economic vulnerability of women and girls in the State;
11. Social norms and other barriers continue to constrain women's full participation in economic activities;
12. Women's participation in agriculture, petty trade, artisanal production and community commerce requires stronger formal support, recognition and protection;
13. There is a need for stronger collaboration among government institutions, communities, development partners, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to promote women's economic empowerment; and
14. The Draft Zamfara State Women's Economic Empowerment Policy provides an important framework for addressing the identified gaps and advancing women's economic empowerment in Zamfara State.

AGREED POLICY DIRECTION

Following the expert review, participants agreed on the following core components of the Zamfara State Women's Economic Empowerment Policy:

Policy Vision

A Zamfara State where women and girls have equal opportunities to participate in, and benefit from, economic growth and development.

Policy Mission

To provide a comprehensive, funded, and accountable strategic framework that systematically dismantles barriers to women's economic participation, strengthens women's productive capacity across all sectors, and institutionalises gender-responsive governance in Zamfara State.

Overall Goal

To strengthen women's economic empowerment, inclusion, resilience and productivity across all sectors of the Zamfara State economy, thereby contributing to poverty reduction, post-conflict recovery and sustainable, inclusive growth by 2031.

Policy Timeframe

The policy shall cover the period 2026– 2031.

Policy Targets

Participants agreed that the policy should promote:

15. Increased access to finance for women;
16. A greater number of women-owned businesses;
17. Greater access to land;
18. Improved agricultural productivity;
19. Higher female literacy;
20. Increased digital participation;
21. Stronger social protection; and
22. Improved household income and wellbeing.

Policy Pillars

Participants agreed that the policy should be anchored on five strategic pillars:

1. Agriculture;
2. Entrepreneurship and MSMEs;
3. Labour Market Participation;
4. Digital Economy and Artisanal Mining; and
5. Education and Skills Development.

Enablers of Policy Implementation

Participants agreed that implementation should be supported by the following enablers:

23. Financial inclusion;
24. Digital inclusion;
25. Social norms transformation;
26. Climate resilience;
27. Conflict mitigation;
28. Social protection; and

29. Gender-responsive budgeting.

Governance and Implementation Framework

Participants endorsed the following governance and implementation structures:

30. State WEE Steering Committee;
31. Technical Working Group;
32. Local Government Area WEE Committees;
33. Development Partners Platform; and
34. Private Sector Advisory Platform.

Proposed Financing Sources

Participants agreed that implementation of the policy should be supported through:

35. The Zamfara State Government;(budget)
36. The Federal Government; (grants and interventions)
37. Development partners;(grants and donations)
38. The private sector; and (PPP)
39. Islamic financial mechanisms.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants therefore resolved and recommended as follows:

1. Education, Skills & Capacity Development

- Adult literacy initiatives (including literacy and numeracy for rural women) should be strengthened to enhance women’s participation in economic activities.
- Career guidance opportunities for girls and young women should be promoted, with explicit inclusion of adolescents based on state context.
- Scholarship opportunities for girls and young women should be encouraged.

2. Women’s Entrepreneurship & Economic Participation

- Women’s entrepreneurship, including digital entrepreneurship, should be strengthened and reflected in policy interventions.
- Women-owned enterprises should be supported and promoted as a pathway for economic empowerment.
- Secondary processing and value-addition opportunities for women should be promoted.

3. Financial Inclusion & Economic Support Mechanisms

- Financial inclusion should be recognised and promoted as a key accelerator of women's economic empowerment.
- Government should collaborate with financial institutions and partners to provide **interest-free loans** and other inclusive financial services.
- A **Zamfara WEE Fund** should be established to support women economically.
- Innovative financing mechanisms such as **Sukuk certificates** should be introduced to attract private sector investment.
- Savings groups, cooperatives, and community-based financial structures should be strengthened as implementation platforms.

4. Agriculture, Livelihoods & Value Chains

- Women should be supported across agricultural value chains, including the inclusion of **livestock farming** under the agriculture pillar.
- Women's cooperatives and producer groups should be strengthened to enhance productivity and market access.

5. Inclusion, Equity & Human Rights

- Gender equality and equity should be mainstreamed as cross-cutting principles across all policy interventions.
- Social inclusion and human rights considerations should be integrated throughout policy implementation.
- Women with disabilities should be explicitly included, with provision of appropriate assistive aids and targeted interventions.
- Rural women and other marginalized groups should be adequately represented and prioritized.

6. Social Norms, Community Engagement & Partnerships

- Harmful social and cultural norms affecting women's economic participation should be addressed.
- Traditional, religious, and community institutions should be recognised and engaged as key partners in promoting women's economic empowerment.
- Men should be engaged as supportive partners to address cultural and social barriers.

- Women’s groups, cooperatives, and community structures should be strengthened as implementation platforms.
- Community ownership should be promoted in policy implementation.

7. Governance, Data & Institutional Strengthening

- A **data management system** should be established within the Ministry of Women Affairs.
- A **Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Department** should be established/strengthened, with technical support from the State Bureau of Statistics.
- The Ministry should actively request and coordinate data from relevant agencies (e.g., Humanitarian Affairs, Bureau of Statistics, ZITDA, ZAGIS, Environmental Agency).
- An **Annual Zamfara Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Index** should be developed to track progress.

8. Policy Implementation Structure

- Governance structures should be clearly defined:
 - The Steering Committee chaired by the Honourable Commissioner of Women Affairs
 - Technical Committee should be chaired by the Permanent Secretary
- A **WEE grievance redress mechanism** should be included in the policy.

9. Legal, Security & Sector-Specific Reforms

- Relevant laws such as the **Artisanal Mining Regulation Law** should be enacted and enforced.
- Government should collaborate with telecom companies to improve security (e.g., network expansion to mining sites and drone surveillance).

10. Justice & Rights Protection

- Access to justice for women should be strengthened as part of economic empowerment efforts.

VALIDATION OF THE ZAMFARA STATE WEE POLICY

Having deliberated on the content, structure, vision, goal, targets, pillars, enablers,

governance framework and financing sources of the policy, participants unanimously validated the Zamfara State Women's Economic Empowerment Policy.

The validation was conducted following a presentation and a motion called by the Permanent Secretary of the Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Alhaji Garba Aliyu Gayari.

The motion was moved by Musa Garba, Permanent Secretary and Solicitor General from the Zamfara State Ministry for Justice, and supported by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs, Alh Garba Aliyu Gayari and seconded by Hajara Abubakar Sani, Director Women Affairs, Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, with participants unanimously validating the policy.

Participants agreed that a Zamfara State specific Women's Economic Empowerment Policy is both timely and necessary, as empowering women and promoting women's education, protection and financial inclusion will improve household wellbeing, strengthen family livelihoods and contribute to sustainable community and state development.

APPRECIATION

The participants expressed their sincere appreciation to:

40. The Government of Zamfara State;
 41. The Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development;
 42. The Women Environmental Programme (WEP);
 43. Development partners;
 44. Traditional and religious leaders;
 45. Associations of persons with disabilities;
 46. Women's groups;
 47. Private sector representatives;
 48. Facilitators, resource persons and technical experts; and
 49. All stakeholders and participants,
- for their commitment, contributions and support towards the successful conduct of the Workshop and the advancement of women's economic empowerment in Zamfara State.

CONCLUSION

The participants reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the effective domestication, approval, implementation and periodic review of the Zamfara State Women's Economic Empowerment Policy as a strategic instrument for promoting women's economic

empowerment, inclusive growth, poverty reduction, household wellbeing and sustainable development in Zamfara State.

The attendance list of participants is attached as an annex to this Communiqué.

ADOPTED THIS 31ST DAY OF MAY, 2026

At Karma Guest Inn, Sokoto, Sokoto State

SIGNATORIES


Dr. Hajiya Aisha Mz Anka, Honourable Commissioner,
Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Zamfara State

Alh Garba Aliyu Gayari, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Women Affairs and Social
Development, Zamfara State

Mr John Terzungwe Baaki, Co-Executive Director, Women Environmental Programme
(WEP), Nigeria

**Group Leaders, Stakeholders’ Consultation, Expert Review and Validation
Workshop**

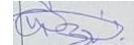
1. Lawal Shehu Tsafe, Ministry of Budget and Planning, Zamfara State



2. Yusuf Sabo Tsafe, Zamfara State House of Assembly



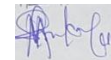
3. Hadiza Bello Amka, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade, Zamfara State



4. Hajara Abubakar Sani, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development



5. Muntaca Yusuf, Ministry of Local Government Affairs, Zamfara State



Participants at the Stakeholders’ Consultation, Review and Validation Workshop

Faiza Ahmad – Zamfara State Ministry of Budget and Planning

Hajara Abubakar Sami – Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social
Development

Saladata Muazu – Internally Displaced Persons Camp

Hadiza Bello Anky – Zamfara State Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism

Kulu Garba Gusari – Zamfara Agricultural Development Project

Rahama Sani Aliyu - ZCWPAF

Hussaini Hassan - VAT-ZAM

Sanusi Maharazu – Zamfara State Ministry of Environment

Yahaya Abubakar – Zamfara State Ministry of Religious Affairs

Mahe Bala – Zamfara State Ministry of Agriculture

Makiyya Mohammed – Zamfara State Ministry of Finance

Muhammed Abubakar - Skill Acquisition

Bello Ahmad - IFAD

Binta Namadi - JONAPWD

Fatima Baba Sanchi - FIDA

Suntiba Aliyu Zurmi – Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Zamfara State

Usman Aliyu - CSOM

Nura Mustapha – Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Halima Ibrahim – Zamfara State House of Assembly

Asmau Madawaki - Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Laureli Shehu Tsafe – Zamfara State Ministry of Budget and Planning

Aliyu Ismail – Zamfara State Hospital Services Management Board

Suleman Aliyu - Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Aliyu Munsurayel – Zamfara State Council of Chiefs

Muretaca Yusuf – Zamfara State Ministry of Justice

Usman Yahaya Abdulkarim - Zamfara State Ministry of Justice

Ahmed Shehu - Zamfara State Ministry of Justice

Yusuf Sabo Isafe - Zamfara State House of Assembly

Akarja Surajo - Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Khady Muhammed - Medical Women Association

Muhammad Umar A – Zamfara State Primary Health Care Board

Fatima Umar – Orphanage Home

Musa Causa Gusar – Zamfara State Ministry of Justice

Garba Aliyu Mayari - Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Shehu Sani Ibrahim - Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Abubakar Abde – Traditional Leader

Prof Aminu Umary - Academia

Farida Abdullahiya - Zamfara State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development