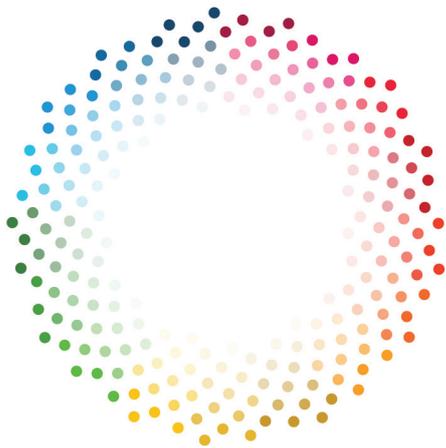


**ADAMAWA
STATE**



Spotlight Initiative

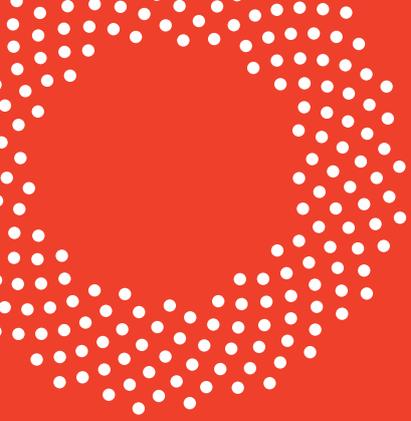
*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*



Interventions & Impacts

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations





Background

Adamawa State faces significant challenge of high prevalence of GBV, including domestic violence, sexual assault and harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation (FGM). Resistance to gender equality and women's rights due to traditional and cultural norms has greatly hindered the women's movement efforts in Adamawa State.

Prior to the launch of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls in the state, many women and girls in Adamawa State had limited access to legal aid and with low level of awareness of their rights. There was a challenge of gender-sensitive legislation which further complicated the situation where laws and policies did not fully protect the rights of women and girls.

Additionally, cases of early marriages, poor-retention of the girl-child in school and increase in divorce cases and domestic violence due to harsh economic conditions, worsened the vulnerability of women, girls and children in Adamawa State. The situation was worsened by their limited access to essential support services, such as shelter, counselling, legal aid, and healthcare. In fact, availability and accessibility of these services also posed a great challenge.

Furthermore, GBV cases were rarely reported, and were largely being settled by the religious and traditional/community leaders, with no further action (punitive, medical or Psycho Social Support (PSS) given to the survivors) taken. Majority of the communities and many family members in Adamawa state were not aware that some of their behaviours and attitudes (towards their wives/children/family members constituted) the communities regarded as normal, were actually GBV.

To address these myriads of gender-related challenges in Adamawa State, the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative was launched in 2019. The high number of out of school young women and girls facing Intersecting marginalisation in the state was addressed holistically by Spotlight Initiative through second chance education programme. The Non- Government Association for Literacy Support Services (NOGALSS) in Association with the Adamawa State Agency for Mass Education (SAME) implemented the second chance education programme targeting 4,500 Learners with 90 Facilitators and 50 Skills Learners in the state.

The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative also provided some interventions improve GBV data availability though building the capacity of the state in collecting, analyzing, and reporting on GBV data.

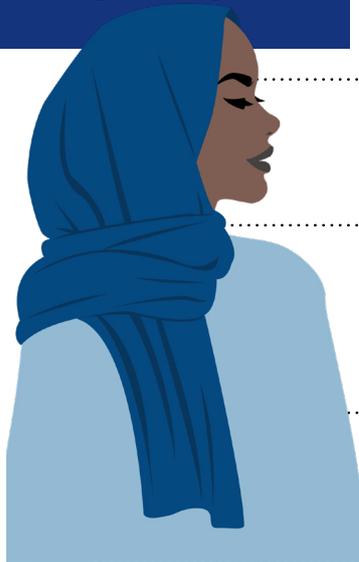
Laws & Policies

Key Interventions



- Sensitization and Capacity building of stakeholders (mostly Traditional and Religious bodies) on the Child Protection bill.
- Developed a Policy Brief on the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Bill, reviewed the original draft produced by the State Government and produced a clause-by-clause analysis and a final draft. EU-UN Spotlight Initiative vigorously engaged the State House of Assembly through visits and discussions as well as providing drafts of model VAPPs to them. The Adamawa State VAPP Bill was passed by the State House of Assembly.
- Established the SGBV Forum a whatsapp listserv dedicated to disseminating information and exchanges on SGBV.
- Capacity Building of **162** Law Enforcement Agents in Adamawa, on Prevention and Responses to SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR: The trained officers all came from their respective gender desks and as such, the knowledge impacted to them was practical and have been put to use in their day-to-day activities.
- Nigerian Police Force adopted the Spotlight Initiative recommendation on the development of a Standard Operating Procedure for SGBV cases.
- The Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) bill was signed into Law and gazetted
- The Child Protection bill was signed and gazetted equally.
- Increased awareness and the application of both the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) and the Child Protection laws among the people at all levels

Major Impacts



- The application of the law and massive sensitization of the public has reduced rate of violence against children compared to the period before the Spotlight Initiative.



- Conviction rates of GBV law violators have increased significantly with more than **80%** since the passage of the laws

- The law has made provision to regulate the Almajiri system in the state and will be transformed into a modern system of education. Parents of Almajiris must ensure provision of feeding and accommodation to their children before sending them out.
- The law provided that Skills Acquisition should be provided to such Almajiri instead of being exposed to hard labour that is beyond their ability.

- Provision of free basic primary and secondary school education for children.
- Improved Gender budgeting and release of funds



- More than **150 Police officers** and prosecutors improved their knowledge and the application of the Laws
- Public confidence in both the laws and the Criminal Justice System has improved by **20%**

Lessons Learned

- ✔ There is always a need for collaboration with relevant stakeholders to be on board in every activity, this is key to success as lack of collaboration can lead to failure.
- ✔ Government commitment to duty is required. The State lacked people who are committed to the work and that was the reason why the bill could not scale through for a long time.
- ✔ When people are acting in a manner contrary, it is because they have no understanding and there is no sensitization for them to understand the implication of what they are doing. The sensitizations in the intervention have made parents to appreciate the value of their children.
- ✔ A simplified version of the Laws translated into local languages enhances awareness and the use of the Laws



Training of **68 Police** and prosecutors on Forensics and improved access to Justice

Institutional Strengthening



Key Interventions

- Second chance education programme was implemented across 5 LGAs; Yola North, Girei, Numan, Guyuk and Gombi



- The establishment of two more Learning Centres in Gombi LGA which came about due to popular demand and brought about additional number of facilitators.



- The project has a PWD Centre in Yola North LGA with a Facilitator and **50 Learners**, all of whom are having hearing impairments.



- **Advocacy and sensitization:** Traditional leaders, opinion leaders, market women, youth, FBOs, CBOs were sensitized on issues of out of school, ending GBV, early marriage, unintended pregnancy, FGM, FLHE etc., in Yola and Mubi Local government areas of the state.
- Establishment of **150** Second Chance Education learning centers in collaboration with Adamawa State Mass Education Board.
- **84** communities across the focal LGAs, sensitised, and mobilised on ending violence against women and girls and on the need to acquire second chance education.
- **9,034** women and girls, including boys and men benefitted from the second chance education programme. However, 6269 of them completed the programme.
- **179** people with disabilities benefitted from the programme.
- The capacity of **150** Facilitators and Supervisors was strengthened to deliver and monitor the Radio literacy programmes and face-to-face contact sessions at the learning Centres. The Literacy by Radio Programme was carried out in collaboration with ABC Radio Yola, which also aired jingles to sensitize the public on GBV and Covid 19 prevention mechanisms.
- **15,000** branded writing materials (Notebooks & pens) were produced and distributed to the beneficiaries (enrolled learners)

- Six ‘SGBV and the Budget’ studies were conducted in Ebonyi, Cross River, Lagos, Adamawa, and Sokoto States and FCT which reviewed and analysed the budgets of relevant MDAs that have responsibilities related to SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR of women and girls. The preliminary findings were validated at stakeholders meetings and the studies have been published and disseminated to stakeholders. The studies established the baseline, identified gaps and challenges and made recommendations for reform of the budgeting system.
- Capacity Building on Gender Responsive Budgeting: 66 Women Rights Groups, CSOs, Media groups and key population trained on from the focal states on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB).

Major Impacts

- The gaps, challenges, good and fit practices related to budgeting for SGBV have been identified and brought to the attention of relevant MDAs coupled with measures to turn around the performance of the MDAs for improved budgeting and value for money outcomes.
- Improved understanding of how to participate in budget formulation, analysis, monitoring and evaluation using the gender lens.
- 2 CSOs in Adamawa (Women and Youth Empowerment for Advancement and Health Initiative) and Sokoto (Centre for Peoples Health, Peace and Progress) have used the knowledge derived from the training to engage MDAs in their states through the production of 2021 Pre Budget Policy Briefs focussing on GBV.

80% 

Majority of the Learners are Female constituting 80% of the population. Out of the 5,678 persons enrolled under the Second chance education programme 4,542 are Female and 1,136 are Male.

Lessons Learned

- ✓ Young women and girls are very interested in second chance education owing to the fact that it accords them another opportunity to learn.
- ✓ It is possible to reduce illiteracy among young women and girls with proper and well-structured programmes/institutions.
- ✓ Certification of completed second chance education and proper placement of graduating students for further studies is paramount.





Learners at the Sabongari Primary School Learning Centre of Girei LGA, Adamawa State



Group photo by Director Projects and Programs, Second Chance Education Project after a visit to the PWD Learning Centre in Nassarawo Jimeta, Yola North LGA, Adamawa State

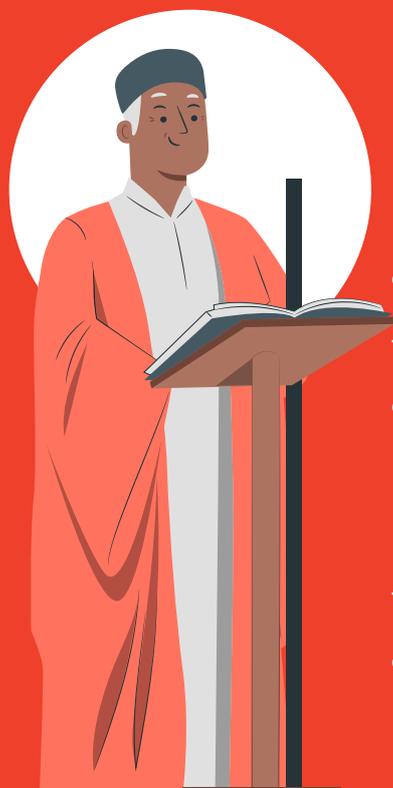




Advocacy and sensitization of Traditional and Religious leaders



Prevention



Key Interventions

- Male engagement for prevention of Gender Based Violence.
- Community gatekeepers who are Traditional and Religious leaders were made champions on sensitizing the general public and their subjects on prevention and referral pathway for accessing services when GBV occurs.
- Community Based Organisations were mobilised and registered for the sustainability of the project

Major Impacts



- Improved synergy developed between the implementing partners to ensure coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of the project.



- Psychosocial Support for survivors strengthened and their mental health and wellbeing improved.

Lessons Learned



The Survivor-centred approach was a good lesson, and it is effective in tackling GBV.



Continuous Sensitisation of more girls and women will make more women and girls to speak up against GBV, and protect themselves where and when the need arises.



Informed consent of the survivor either directly or through a surrogate must be sought before any action is taken e.g legal actions.



Male Engagement on GBV Prevention



Advocacy and Sensitization/Community engagement Against GBV/HP



Religious and Traditional Leaders (Ambassadors Against GBV)



CSRG Members with the Program Officer of the Sultan Foundation

Services

Key Interventions



Establishment of the One-Stop Centre and referral of survivors to cater for their needs

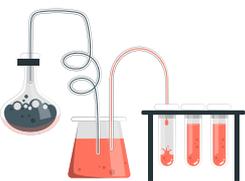
Provision of Free clinical care, PSS, feeding (three square meals) and shelter (maximum of three weeks accommodation) to all GBV survivors. These services are for survivors only.

Referral of survivors to Modibbo Adama University (MAU) Teaching hospital for further treatment and payment of the medical bills. to the ONE STOP CENTRE.



- Respect for Safety and confidentiality is highly observed in the centre where a Lawyer and Police officer are attached for legal services.
- Community Sensitisation about the services rendered at the Centre.
- Establishment of a Forensic Laboratory at the Modibbo Adama University of Technology to handle and analyse both survivor's and perpetrator's specimen samples received from the One-Stop Centre.
- **Development of an APP (SMART RR) and training on how to use the APP on real time reporting of GBV cases including sensitisation on referral pathway of GBV.**
- Establishment of a SAFE SPACE (Shelter) for survivors which opens from 8am - 4pm.

Major Impacts



- An average of **50 - 60** samples were analysed at the Forensic lab sent from the **ONE STOP CENTRE**.



- Over **200** cases reported to the **One-Stop Centre** due to the safe, central location and good/free services of the centre.



- Students' confidence improved. They are no longer timid after obtaining services at the Safe Space. They now prefer to report at the Centre rather than at the Guidance And Counselling unit of the school in which the Safe Space is located.

Lessons Learned

- ✓ **Cultural and Religious Exposure:** The programme broadens interactions with people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, expands knowledge and appreciates diversity. This exposure deepens understanding of how cultural and religious beliefs shape individuals' perspectives, fostering tolerance, empathy, and a broader comprehension of the world's complexities.
- ✓ **Deeper understanding Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** This journey has led to explore the intricate issue of GBV through research, discussions, and hands-on experiences. This deeper understanding equips staff with the tools needed to contribute effectively to prevention, support, and advocacy efforts against GBV. It highlights the significance of empathy and empowerment in addressing this widespread problem.
- ✓ **Managing and Integrating Survivors:** The programme exposes one to acquire valuable and hands on skills in managing and integrating survivors of various challenges, including those affected by GBV. This encompasses understanding survivors' psychosocial and emotional needs, navigating support systems intricately, and working towards their successful reintegration into society. These skills are essential for fostering healing, resilience, and the restoration of survivors' confidence as active members of their communities.



Stakeholders Sensitization at Yola North LGA, Adamawa State



CSRG meeting with staff of ONE STOP CENTRE and UNFPA



CSRG meeting with staff of ONE STOP CENTRE and UNFPA



Data

Key Interventions



- Established Adamawa State GBV Situation Room and Dashboard where data is collected and harmonised and evidence-based decisions are made, and service gap or data gap are tracked easily. The dashboard serves as a medium where policy makers, students and researchers can access credible data on GBV in the state

Major Impacts

- Increased data collection skills among Civil Society Organization as a result of capacity building training and technical support.
- Improved Communication tools through the use of the dashboard, situation room, and Quarterly fact-sheets. Advocacy, sensitization and informed decisions on GBV are made easily.
- Enhanced data services where Data Quality Assessment (DQA) verified and accurate data is correctly reported and captured.

Lessons Learned

- ✓ 1. Technical know-how on utilising data for advocacy to make change can promote sustainable outcomes and solutions.
- ✓ 2. Disaggregated data by sex, age, disability, disability type and Local government area (LGA) gives a clear view of who is involved, who benefits most and who is negatively affected, and this enhances evidence-based decision making.
- ✓ 3. Increased awareness creation has raised the level of knowledge and understanding on the part of on GBV data/statistics.



Data Quality Assessment (DQA) Session



Data Quality Assessment (DQA) Session



Women's Movement

Key Interventions

30 social workers/PWDs from 21 LGAs trained on sign-language by Ministry of Women Affairs and Social development

80 women trained in skills acquisition through National Council for Women Society

40 Social workers trained on GBV.

- High level advocacy visit led by the Commissioner of Women Affairs and Social Development, to the Commissioner of Police and House of Assembly on the passage of the VAPP law and discussion held about GBV and other matters related to women in the state
- Capacity building on advocacy and policy literacy, and engagement of Ten pillar partners (TPP) to step down GBV trainings. They were also trained on GBV case management and created desk officers within their organisations.

Major Impacts

- Increased awareness on Gender Based Violence as organisations with over 1000 beneficiaries got step-down trainings which trickled down to various communities.
- Continuous advocacy on GBV and its consequences through different media platforms among women and youth have reached wider audience up to the grassroots level.
- Sustainability plans developed by various organizations for continuity after the life span of the project.
- Mainstreaming Gender and Social Inclusion has led to Sensitivity, inclusivity, responsiveness and integration of vulnerable groups such as Persons with Disabilities reflected inclusion.

Lessons Learned

- Increased awareness on Gender Based Violence has had a positive impact as more people are becoming increasingly aware of GBV



- Using structured organisation like the Ten Pillar Partners/Organisations gives a broader coverage of beneficiaries and allows for easier implementation.
- Sustained synergy among partners promotes efficiency and effectiveness in implementation and that has yielded positive results



PLWDs during step down of policy literacy training



Joint activity on Gender responsive budget training



PLWDs during step down of policy literacy training



PLWDs during step down of policy literacy training



Permanent Secretary Ministry of Women Affairs with CSRG members, Adamawa State

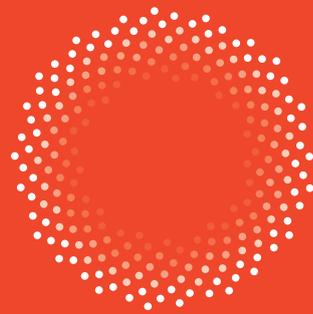
Recommendations



- Sensitization and capacity building conducted was for the key stakeholders. There is need for such sensitization to be at the local level. There is also need for continuous awareness so that people can begin to demand for their rights.
- The Child Protection law should be translated into Hausa language
- Quality Assurance: More monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to be in place to maintain second chance educational standards and effectiveness.
- Adequate and timely funding to aid implementation of deliverables and milestones.
- More equipment for skills acquisition programmes
- Engaging more civil society organisations, especially the women-led, in gender programme implementation.
- A need assessment and an intervention strategy should be designed by implementing partners since they are the ones that directly engage with survivors.
- Adequate and timely release of funds to implementing partners should be incorporated into future programming design
- Creation of more Psycho-Social Support activities to promote the mental health and wellbeing of survivors.
- Proper synergy needs to be developed between the implementing partners to promote coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of the project.
- Startup kits for survivors should be provided before re-integration into the society and initiate more skills acquisition services by providing more equipments for better livelihood.
- Medical and legal unit including Police and NSCDC personnel should be trained from across all LGAs and also set up a mechanism to hold Police and NSCDC accountable for reported cases.
- More awareness creation on timelines for completion of cases in courts. Cases should be prosecuted swiftly. Logistics for transportation of survivors should be provided and more training for the police on handling suspects.
- Continuous system strengthening of processes is required through trainings and capacity building
- Provision of continuous Technical support and oversight to the GBV situation room for sustained service provision.
- Constant power supply to the situation room needs to be prioritised to always ensure unimpeded access to data.
- Continuous advocacy engagements on data services
- Timely and adequate release of funds is required for effective implementation as late release of funds slows progress and delays implementation.
- Considering that this is the budget preparation season, it is imperative to engage the five states and FCT or pilot Adamawa and Sokoto in their budget preparation to ensure that available resources are optimally programmed for reduction of GBV. Specifically, we can target the Ministries of Women and Children Affairs, Education, Health and Justice with low-cost budget activities/projects that will facilitate meeting the minimum core obligations of the state.

List of Acronyms

CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEFM	Child Early and Forced Marriage
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System
CRA	Child Rights Act
CRM	Case Response Management
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSRG	Civil Society Reference Group
EU	European Union
EVAW	Ending Violence Against Women
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
FRED	Foundation for Resilient Empowerment and Development
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HP	Harmful Practices
IP	Implementing Partner
LGAs	Local Government Areas
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NDHS	Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSC	One-Stop Centre
PME	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
PME	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
PVAWG	Preventing Violence against Women and Girls
SARC	Sexual Assault Reference Centre
SCE	Second Chance Education
SPs	Service Providers
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
VAC	Violence Against Children
VAPP	Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls



**Spotlight
Initiative**