

March 2025



Newsletter

UN Nigeria releases 2024 Annual Results Report

The United Nations in Nigeria has released its 2024 Annual Results Report, which highlights key results achieved in collaboration with government and other development partners during the year under focus.

“One of the most encouraging aspects of our work this year (2024) has been the deepening of our partnerships,” said the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mohamed Malick Fall in his foreword to the [UN Nigeria 2024 Annual Results Report](#) released on 31 March 2025.

UN Nigeria 2024 Annual Results Report highlights deepening partnerships with government, private sector, and civil society as key drivers of progress towards the SDGs. Notable achievements include the adoption of durable solutions for internal displacement in four states, support for Smart... *continue on page 3.*

P 04 Nigeria Marks 30 Years of Action for Gender Equality

P 06 UN, gov't unveil SDGs Shortfilm Challenge Season-3

P 08 30.6 million people face severe food insecurity

P 10 Nutrition and food support expanded in Northwest

and more stories..

TABLE OF CONTENTS



04

- Nigeria Marks 30 Years of Action for Gender Equality
- Campaign to promote women's political representation



06

- UN, gov't unveil SDGs Shortfilm Challenge Season-3
- Young people lead national SDGs review process



08

- 30.6 million people face severe food insecurity
- Livelihood support for 300 flood-affected women



10

- Nutrition and food support expanded in Northwest



11

- 10,000 children gain access to free health insurance



12

- Youth trained to combat child labour



13

- Training and networking for women entrepreneurs
- Roadmap developed for a just economic transition
- Social dialogue on green transition in energy sector



16

- Inclusion and support for persons with disabilities
- Livelihood training for persons with disabilities



17

- Climate-adaptive farming training held
- 75 years of global cooperation on weather and climate



19

- Commemoration of victims of slavery and slave trade



UN NIGERIA RELEASES 2024 ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT



Agriculture reaching over 75,000 households, and the development of a national framework for flood and drought risk management. Health security was strengthened through disease surveillance and testing. The UN also supported the domestication of Youth, Peace and Security and Women, Peace and Security action plans, helped reintegrate 2,500 former combatants, and facilitated the transition of over 787,000 people from humanitarian aid to sustainable development

He noted that Government at both the Federal and State levels continued to align their plans with the SDGs, while private sector engagement had also been a critical factor in driving progress.

“Our collaboration with civil society has also been central to the success of our initiatives. Grassroots organizations have played a vital role in advocating for inclusive policies, promoting environmental sustainability, and empowering marginalized communities.” The Resident Coordinator said.

He further acknowledged that progress was made in implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2027, “which serves as our vehicle for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria.” According to the report, progress was recorded on durable solutions for internal displacement, with four states—Adamawa, Borno, Benue, and Yobe—completing and launching their action plans.

[READ REPORT](#)

The report further stated that UN facilitated the production of the national Food Systems Transformation Implementation Pathway and the implementation of Smart Agriculture, providing crop inputs to 75,750 households and market linkages for 20,854 small holder farmers to enhance food production and resilience.

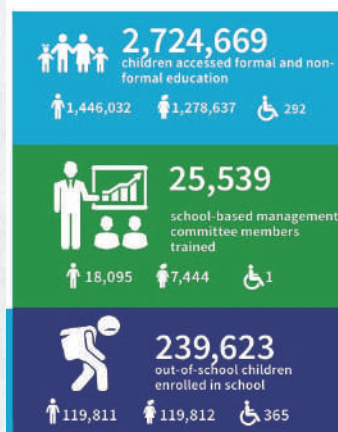
Similarly, the UN also supported the development of a national framework for flood and drought risk management, which has led to improved flood prediction and faster early responses.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was further strengthened through the development of four State Action Plans, while health security was enhanced through integrated disease surveillance and response activities, including support for the National Influenza Sentinel Surveillance in ten participating hospitals with 814 samples sent to the National Reference Laboratory for analysis and testing in line with the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS). Strategic Priority 3: PEOP

Significant progress was made in 2024 with UN support to the domestication of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) National Action plan in five states to enhance youth involvement in decision making, violence prevention, and peacebuilding efforts, and the development of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) National Action Plans.

Support was provided to the government’s counter terrorism efforts which led to 2,500 former armed members being re-integrated into communities. Peace building efforts also led to 787,536 individuals moving from humanitarian to sustainable development.

Outcome 3.2: Quality Education



Nigeria continued to grapple with significant education challenges. In response, the UN worked with federal, state, and local governments to drive transformative changes. Key initiatives focused on expanding access to education, with 12 states receiving support to develop and implement evidence-based sector plans. Training of school-based management committees helped monitor and support children’s education, while prioritizing out-of-school children (OOSC) in national initiatives improved their identification and enrolment.



NIGERIA MARKS 30 YEARS OF ACTION FOR GENDER EQUALITY

At the 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), Nigeria hosted a High-Level Strategic Event in partnership with UN Women Nigeria and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs. It was a moment of reflection and reckoning, highlighting the tangible gains of the past three decades.

At the event, Nigeria's Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, H.E. Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, issued a clear and urgent call:

"We need scale. We need urgency. And we need community-driven solutions that go beyond small pilots."

Echoing this was Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, who delivered the keynote presentation themed "Beijing at 30: An Overview of Nigeria and Partners' Contributions Towards the Beijing Declaration and Commitments for the Future."

"Let's go from pilots to policies. From promises to power. From survivors to changemakers."

Her presentation traced 30 years of the UN's partnership with Nigeria and emphasized that gender equality is no longer a distant aspiration. It is a growing reality, unfolding in communities, programs, and policies across the country.



Hon. Minister Federal Ministry of Women Affairs Imaan Suleiman-Ibrahim giving her Keynote remark. Photo: FMWA

Thanks to strategic frameworks like the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023–2027) and the Revised National Gender Policy (2021–2026), progress is both visible and measurable. Women's labor force participation has risen from 42.4% in 2015 to 58% in 2024; the share of women-owned businesses has increased from 35% to 41%; over 8 million households have benefitted from income-generating programs; girls' secondary school enrollment parity now stands at an impressive 98.9%; more than 38 million people have been reached through anti-FGM campaigns; maternal mortality rates have declined; and women are increasingly participating in peacebuilding and security structures.

Despite these significant strides, major challenges persist. Fifty-two million Nigerian women still live in extreme poverty. Women hold just 4% of seats in the National Assembly. In some regions, over 60% of girls remain out of school, often due to poverty, insecurity, or harmful social norms. Gender-based violence, digital exclusion, food insecurity, and election-related violence continue to threaten progress.

Ms. Eyong emphasized that tackling these structural barriers requires a multi-pronged approach. This includes reducing harmful masculinities, securing better funding for gender programs, bridging the digital divide, and transforming governance institutions into truly gender-responsive spaces. She concluded with a call for stronger coordination, accountability, and increased budget allocations.

Barr. Ebere Ifendu, President of the Women in Politics Forum (WIPF), emphasized the power of mentorship and political empowerment. The Forum has trained over 1,000 young women, instilling values of character and integrity. She highlighted the role of young people in intergenerational mentorship and peacebuilding—working hand-in-hand with the UN and other partners.

Gloria Kasang Bulus, youth activist and Executive Director of Bridge the Gap, spotlighted youth-led gender equality initiatives at the grassroots. She referenced the Beijing+20 Intergenerational Mentorship Program, a powerful collaboration led by UN Women, the Ministry of Women Affairs, the Embassy of Norway, WISCAR, and seasoned feminist mentors. "Young women, she noted, are not just participating—they are innovating."



UN Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS Ms. Beatrice Eyong delivering the Keynote presentation. Photo: FMWA

CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

Celebrities join the sidebyside naija campaign to advocate for the special seats bill



At a Media Townhall on Women's Political Participation, key stakeholders—including policymakers, gender advocates, media professionals, and celebrities—gathered to push for solutions. Central to the discussions was the Special Seats Bill, a legislative effort aimed at increasing women's representation in governance. Speakers at the event emphasized that without deliberate measures such as reserved seats and constitutional reforms, women will continue to be sidelined in decision-making.

Women make up nearly half of Nigeria's population, yet they hold less than 4% of elected positions at the national level. This stark disparity weakens democracy and limits diverse leadership.

The event formally launched the SideBySide Naija campaign, a movement dedicated to increasing the representation of women in both elective and appointive positions. This campaign calls for urgent structural reforms, including constitutional amendments, reserved seats, and stronger political party policies to create a level playing field for women in governance. In her address, UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms. Beatrice Eyong, represented by Mr. Zephania Aura, stressed the importance of leveraging Nigeria's ongoing constitutional review process to introduce progressive provisions that address the historic underrepresentation of women in leadership.

A key highlight of the town hall was a panel discussion featuring prominent celebrities and legislators, who shared insights on the barriers to women's political participation and endorsed the SideBySide Naija campaign. The panel featured: Amb. Obukome Ibru (politician and producer); Hon. Adebayo Balogun (Chairman, House Committee on Electoral Matters, Federal House of Representatives); Joke Silva (actor and women's activist); Adesuwa Onyenokwe (public figure); Rt. Hon. Adebo Ogundoyin (Speaker, Oyo State House of Assembly and Chairman, Conference of Speakers of Nigeria); Agatha Amata (producer and public figure). Other celebrities who publicly endorsed the campaign included Kate Henshaw, Real Warri Pikin, Damilola Oguns, and Morayo Afolabi Brown. Their participation reinforced the growing support for the Special Seats Bill and the need for policy-driven solutions to increase women's representation in leadership.

With the SideBySide Naija campaign now in motion, the message is clear: everyone has a role to play in building an inclusive democracy. Beyond policy and advocacy, there is a need for collective action—from political leaders to media professionals and everyday citizens—to push for gender balance in leadership. Through initiatives like #SideBySideNaija, the movement for a more inclusive Nigeria continues—because a democracy that excludes women is incomplete.

To endorse the SideBySide campaign please [CLICK HERE](#). Also follow the campaign on Facebook, Instagram, X and TikTok @SideBySideNaija

UN, GOV'T UNVEIL SDGS SHORTFILM CHALLENGE SEASON-3



Following the success of the previous editions of the SDGs Short-Film Challenge, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC); the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development (OSSAP-SDGs) and Fresh News have unveiled the third edition at a media briefing.

Titled 'SDGs Short Film Challenge Season 3', the unveiling event was held at the UN House, Abuja on 26 March 2025, and was well attended.

The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mohamed Malick Fall urged young filmmakers to use storytelling for translating complex global challenges into human experiences that resonate, educate, and ignite action for sustainable development.

"Let your stories stir our collective conscience. Whether your lens captures the struggle of a girl fighting for her education or the resilience of communities battling environmental degradation — your voice matters." He said.

Acknowledging the progress of the Short-film Challenge since 2023 when it was first launched, Fall said, "From 73 entries in 2023 to an astonishing 2,250 entries from 119 countries last year, the message is clear: young people are not waiting on the sidelines. They are ready to create, to lead, and to transform their world. The UN in Nigeria stands firmly behind this mission."

He emphasized the importance of Nollywood's influence on the global stage, encouraging emerging filmmakers to tackle significant societal challenges such as climate change, gender inequality, and poverty through their films to create awareness to the pressing global concerns for sustainable development.

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, stressed the importance of film in driving social transformation. She said, "Film is a powerful medium for change, influencing perceptions, driving social transformation, and inspiring action."

She commended the Nollywood icons for their critical roles in the SDGs short film challenge using storytelling which has been instrumental in raising awareness, inspiring young people, and mobilising collective action.

The UNFPA Deputy Representative in Nigeria, Mr. Francis Kuawu Koessan represented by Dr Edith Bori, noted that the SDGs Short-Film Challenge was one of the strongest deliberate efforts to establish a link between the movie industry and the sustainable development goals with young people at the driving seat.

"This SDGs Short-film challenge goes beyond entertainment. It transcends media escapism. It documents knowledge. It empowers young people and sharpens their creative minds. It galvanizes action, with great potential to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs by 2030." He added.



NIGERIA'S 2025 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

Children and Young People Take the Lead in SDGs Progress Review



The journey to 2030 continues - with renewed urgency and commitment to ensure that no child is left behind.

As part of preparations for Nigeria's third Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNICEF Nigeria supported the first-ever child- and youth-led consultation, placing the voices of children and young people at the heart of the national SDG progress review.

VNRs, presented annually at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), are a cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review framework. They offer countries the opportunity to reflect on progress, share successful strategies, and identify areas where accelerated action is needed.

The first consultation was held at the United Nations House in Abuja, bringing together over 100 adolescents and youth advocates from across Nigeria. Also present at the consultation were Mohamed Fall UN Resident Coordinator in Nigeria, Cristian Munduate UNICEF Nigeria Representative, Mrs. Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, Mr. Amanuel Teferi Mamo Director of Advocacy and Campaigns Save the Children International, and other youth-led organizations, government and development partners and media.

The consultation concluded with a set of youth-driven recommendations and a roadmap for inclusive action, ensuring that the priorities of young Nigerians are embedded in the VNR.

The outcomes will directly inform Nigeria's VNR report amplifying young voices in global development discussions. UNICEF Nigeria remains committed to fostering meaningful children and youth participation in national and global development processes for a more equitable, sustainable future for all.



30.6 MILLION PEOPLE FACE SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY

The latest food insecurity figures reveal persistent threats to the lives of 30.6 million people



At the result presentation in Abuja, CH stakeholders expressed concerns that Nigeria has continued to host the highest number of food insecure people globally, despite the improvement in the figures. ©FAO/David Tsokar

The Government of Nigeria, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Food Security Sector partners, has released the latest Cadre Harmonisé report, revealing a critical food and nutrition crisis across the country. The findings show that 30.6 million people in 26 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) are projected to face acute food and nutrition insecurity at Crisis (CH Phase 3) or worse during the June–August 2025 lean season.

While this figure marks a slight improvement from last year's 33.1 million, stakeholders note that limited access to data has impacted the analysis. Nigeria continues to face the highest number of food-insecure people globally, with very high levels of acute malnutrition, underscoring the urgency of sustained and coordinated action.

Current findings indicates that there is no populations classified in Catastrophe (Phase 5) population classified as Emergency (CH Phase 4) is expected to rise from 680,000 (March–May 2025) to 1.2 million (June–August), a 43% increase with the northwestern states of Zamfara (400 000), Sokoto (183 000) and Katsina (130 000) taking the lead as the most affected region, with the northeastern states of Borno (146 000) and Yobe (133 000) following closely. Kaduna in the northcentral records 100 000. Together, the Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States account for 15% (3.7 million people) of Nigeria's food-insecure population, while the northwest represents 17% (4.2 million people).

Without sustained intervention, these figures are expected to rise to 4.6 million (BAY) and 5 million (northwest) during the lean season. Drivers to this escalating food insecurity in Nigeria include sustained insecurity due to the insurgency and communal clashes, economic hardship and shocks and climate hazards.

Other notable hunger hotspots requiring urgent attention include large parts of Benue, Kwara, Kaduna, and parts of Taraba and Cross River states where affected populations are increasingly experiencing high food consumption gaps due to economic shocks, conflict and deteriorating livelihoods options.

Following the release of these finding, Dr. Onyema Okwudili Director of Food and Strategic Reserve, who represented the Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Dr Marcus Olaniyi Ogunbiyi, said, "these results are apt as it presents the outcome of the state of our country's food and nutrition security situation, particularly in this phase of our nation's economic stress when majority of the population are still experiencing the shock of the negative impact of fuel subsidy removal and insecurity in the food production, processing, storage and distribution system."

FAO Representative ad interim in Nigeria and ECOWAS, Dominique Koffy Kouacou, expressed FAO's continued commitment to supporting Nigeria to enhance food security and nutrition. "FAO is dedicated to addressing immediate food needs while tackling underlying drivers of food insecurity through durable solutions in food production, livestock restoration, water management, and more. Together, we aim to strengthen agri-food systems and secure sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities." Mr. Kouacou said.

The UN in Nigeria earlier allayed fears for potentially high risk of a worsening humanitarian crisis, particularly considering the recent aid funding cuts. He urged the Nigerian Government, donors, and stakeholders to step up and commit resources and implement measures to avert further deterioration, emphasizing the need for immediate multi-sectoral support across the country, with particular attention to the northeast and northwest food and nutrition insecurity hotspots.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT FOR 300 FLOOD-AFFECTED WOMEN

UN Women Launches Food Processing Hub and Agricultural Support for 300 Flood-Affected Women in Bayelsa



UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms Beatrice Eyong, First Lady of Bayelsa State, Dr. Mrs. Gloria Diri and a woman farmer, receiving a 50kg bag of the fertilizer.

UN Women continues its work to promote women's economic empowerment, this time donating improved cassava stems and 300 bags of 50kg fertiliser to 300 women farmers affected by floods to enhance their agricultural productivity. This was done after successfully commissioning an advanced food processing hub in Bayelsa State, marking a significant milestone in its economic empowerment initiatives in Nigeria.

"This marks UN Women's first intervention in Bayelsa State, with support for establishing the food processing centre and training 100 women entrepreneurs in food processing and packaging, while also supporting the procurement of fertilisers and cassava stems for 300 women farmers," said Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, during the commissioning ceremony. The distribution of cassava stems and 50kg bags of fertiliser to 300 women from four local government areas—Kolokuma/Opokuma, Ogbia, Sagbama, and Yenagoa—is a targeted response to the devastating floods that displaced many residents and destroyed livelihoods across the state.

"During and after the 2022 floods, which devastated our state, we sought help from various sources. Only UN Women has come to our aid with a strategic, sustainable development relief," noted Dr. Gloria Diri, First Lady of Bayelsa State.

The Central Bayelsa Food Hub features modern food processing and storage equipment designed to support women entrepreneurs in leveraging local resources, particularly the state's abundant seafood, for both domestic consumption and potential exports.

Mrs Eyong highlighted UN Women's expanding footprint across Nigeria: "Most recently, we have extended similar interventions to Niger and Ebonyi states, benefiting over 500 rural farmers with fertilisers and farm inputs. Looking ahead, UN Women is poised to provide clean cooking biogas technology to 1,900 households across six states—Kwara, Sokoto, Bauchi, Niger, Ebonyi, and Yobe—by the end of the second quarter of 2025."



Group picture with women entrepreneurs benefiting from the Bayelsa Food Hub with UN Women Representative, Ms Beatrice Eyong and First Lady of Bayelsa State, Dr. Gloria Diri.

The newly established food hub will serve as a collective facility where trained women entrepreneurs can process food products in a hygienic environment using modern equipment. This approach shifts from individual ownership to a community-based model that maximises resource utilisation and sustainability.

The initiative, implemented under the Support for Rural Women in Bayelsa State programme, was executed through a strategic partnership between UN Women, the Office of the Wife of the Governor of Bayelsa State, and FACE (Fostering Achievement of Community Empowerment) Initiative. Skillsporte served as the programme facilitator, delivering comprehensive training in business management and food processing techniques.

This initiative highlights UN Women's ongoing commitment to advancing gender equality, economic empowerment, and poverty alleviation for women and girls in Nigeria, contributing to reduced vulnerability to gender-based violence and social inequality through economic independence.



Distribution of cassava stems to beneficiaries by the First Lady of Bayelsa State Her Excellency, Dr. Mrs. Gloria Diri, UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria, Ms Beatrice Eyong.

EXPANDS FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION INTERVENTIONS IN NORTHWEST NIGERIA

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has reaffirmed its commitment to addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in Northwest Nigeria. With support from the Government of France, FAO is implementing the project Provision of Food and Nutrition Assistance to Vulnerable Households Including Women and Children in Northern Nigeria, in collaboration with the Sokoto State Government. From 20–22 March 2025, FAO Representative ad interim in Nigeria and to ECOWAS, Koffy Dominique Kouacou, visited Sokoto State to assess the project's progress.

The initiative, also active in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states, targets children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls. Activities include distributing Tom Brown, a locally produced nutritious supplement, at Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) and Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) centers; providing homestead gardening kits; and establishing school gardens.

According to the March 2025 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis, 24.9 million people in Nigeria are facing acute food insecurity (CH Phase 3+) from March to May. This number is projected to rise to 30.6 million during the June–August lean season, with 1.2 million people expected to face Emergency-level (CH Phase 4) food insecurity. In Sokoto State alone, around 900,000 people are currently affected—a number likely to increase to 1.2 million during the lean season—driven by insecurity, displacement, and limited food access.

In partnership with the Sokoto State Primary Health Care Development Agency (SPHCDA), FAO is distributing 21 metric tons of Tom Brown to 1,750 children aged 6–59 months recently discharged from treatment for Moderate and Severe Acute Malnutrition. The supplement complements efforts by WFP to prevent relapse and ensure a smooth transition to family meals.

To raise awareness on nutrition and agriculture, FAO is collaborating with the Sokoto State Ministries of Agriculture and Education to establish school gardens in four secondary schools in Rabah, Gumbi, Kalambaina, and Tangaza LGAs. These gardens provide practical training and promote healthy eating habits. Inputs such as seed kits, tools, treadle pumps, and irrigation accessories have been distributed.

FAO is also supporting 1,300 vulnerable female-headed households with homestead gardening kits to boost food production, dietary diversity, and resilience. The kits include fast-growing vegetable seeds—like okra, cabbage, and orange-fleshed sweet potato vines—as well as farming tools. Participants have received training and five fruit tree varieties to promote sustainability.

Welcoming the FAO delegation, Sokoto State Deputy Governor Dr. Idris Muhammad Gobir praised the interventions and reaffirmed the state's commitment to food security. “This partnership strengthens agricultural value chains, boosts local economies, and improves livelihoods,” he said.

FAO Representative ad interim in Nigeria and ECOWAS, Koffy Dominique Kouacou, reiterated FAO's dedication to working closely with state authorities and communities to advance food and nutrition security through sustainable solutions. “Through our partnership with the Embassy of France in Nigeria, FAO is committed to empowering households in Sokoto by supporting women in sustainable agriculture, enabling them to both feed their families and generate income. A key priority is utilizing locally available food to nourish Nigerian children. To achieve this, we are educating students in schools on adopting good agricultural and nutrition practices from an early age,” he remarked.



FAO Representative ai, Koffy Dominique Kouacou, with students at Rabah Government Day Secondary School, Rabah LGA, during the distribution of school gardening inputs in Sokoto State on Friday, 21 March 2025. ©FAO/Kelvin Nwachukwu

10,000 CHILDREN GAIN ACCESS TO FREE HEALTH INSURANCE

UNICEF supports over 10,000 children in Oyo State access free Health Insurance Scheme



Over 10,000 children in Oyo State now have access to free quality healthcare through the Public Primary School Pupils Health Insurance Scheme a significant step forward in improving child wellbeing in Nigeria. This was made possible with support from Global Affairs Canada, in partnership with the Oyo State Health Insurance Agency and Oyo State Government.

Through the scheme, public primary school pupils are receiving free health insurance coverage, enabling access to essential healthcare services regardless of their parents' economic status. For children like Adekunle, a beneficiary of the scheme, the impact is life changing. "I love playing football, but the last time I played, I got hurt. Before, we had to pay for treatment, but now with my health insurance, I was treated for free. I feel better now, I can play football, go to school, and dream about my future" .

For many families, especially those living in vulnerable communities, this means children can stay in school, receive timely medical attention and grow up healthy. By removing financial constraints to healthcare access, the scheme is not only improving health outcomes for children but also supporting children to stay in school, thrive in the classroom, and pursue their dreams. UNICEF remains committed to supporting the government in ensuring that every child has access to essential healthcare, improved wellbeing, and uninterrupted education ensuring a brighter, more equitable future for every child.



YOUTH TRAINED TO COMBAT CHILD LABOUR

ILO Equips Nigerian Youth to Lead the Fight Against Child Labour



The International Labour Organization (ILO), through its ACCEL Africa project, is empowering young Nigerians to take decisive action against child labour and promote workers' rights. A recent training programme brought together youth leaders, trade union representatives, and civil society advocates to strengthen their capacity to advance Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW).

Held from March 24 to 26, 2025, the workshop gathered young representatives from the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC), civil society, and youth movements from across the country. The training focused on equipping participants with advocacy skills, digital tools, and grassroots mobilization techniques to combat child labour and promote decent work conditions.

Nigeria faces a serious child labour crisis, with twenty-five million children—39.2% of those aged 5 to 17—engaged in child labour, according to the Nigeria Child Labour Survey Report (2022). The situation is particularly severe in rural areas, where 44.8% of children are affected. With young people making up 70% of Nigeria's population, their active involvement in policy advocacy and social mobilization is crucial to reversing these trends.

Participants explored strategies to amplify their advocacy through digital platforms, leveraging social media to drive public discourse and policy change. "Social media is a powerful tool, and we need to use it strategically to push the conversation on child labour and workers' rights into the digital space," said Chukwumah Nzeh, from the International Department of the Nigeria Labour Congress.

For many young workers, entry into the labour market is fraught with low wages, job insecurity, and gender-based discrimination. Nafisat Shuaibu, a trainee from Niger State, highlighted the need for stronger advocacy against workplace gender bias, noting, "Gender inequality is real in the workplace. The training deepened my understanding of how to challenge discrimination and push for women's rights."

Representing the ILO Director, Country Office Abuja, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra-Leone, and the Liaison Office of ECOWAS, Vanessa Phala (Ph. D), Senior Specialist ACTRAV, Inviolata Chinyangarara, emphasized the power of youth-led activism. "Young people worldwide are speaking out against child labour and forced labour. They are raising awareness, acting as a voice for vulnerable children, and calling on decision-makers to act urgently," she said.

The training inspired participants to take action in their communities. They committed to organizing stakeholder meetings, conducting advocacy campaigns, visiting affected communities, and collaborating with policymakers to drive systemic change.

As the workshop concluded, one message stood clear: young people are not just the future—they are the present. Their commitment to fair labour practices and children's rights marks a significant step in Nigeria's fight against exploitation and injustice.

TRAINING AND NETWORKING FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Empowering Women Entrepreneurs: The WIPO Nigeria IP and Women Business Summit 2025



On March 20, 2025, the third edition of the WIPO Nigeria Intellectual Property (IP) and Women Business Summit took place at the United Nations House in Abuja, bringing together close to 400 women entrepreneurs, creators, and innovators. The event, centered on the theme “Women and IP: Building a Personal Brand and Identity in the Marketplace”, explored how intellectual property can empower women to secure, grow, and protect their ideas in an increasingly competitive global market.

During his welcome remarks, Mr. Oluwatobiloba Moody, Director of the WIPO Nigeria Office, emphasized the UN's continued commitment to supporting Nigerian women in utilizing intellectual property for both personal and national development. Ms. Beatrice Eyong, Country Director of UN Women Nigeria, represented by Ms. Patience Ekeoba, National Programme Officer, also underscored the importance of women owning their ideas, stressing that IP rights are key to empowering women and fostering economic growth. In the same vein, Ms. Elsie Attafua, Resident Representative of UNDP Nigeria, represented by Ms. Varsha Redkar-Palepu, Deputy Resident Representative Programmes, also reinforced the value of IP in driving economic and social progress.

A major highlight of event was a keynote address by Ms. Dupe Olusola, Founder of the Next Generation Foundation, who stressed the importance of personal branding and IP protection for women. A panel discussion with prominent women leaders, including Ms. Olujoke Aliu, Managing Partner at Aluko and Oyebode, Mrs. Aisha Adamu Augie, Director-General of the Centre for Black and African Arts and Entertainment, and Mrs. Chioma Nwokedi Momah, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at Guinness Nigeria, emphasized how building a consistent brand identity can elevate women's innovation across sectors.

The WIPO Nigeria IP and Women Business Summit 2025 represents a significant milestone in empowering Nigerian women, particularly in the field of intellectual property. This is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality, which calls for the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life. Through such initiatives, Nigeria continues to advance towards closing the gender gap in innovation and entrepreneurship, and ultimately the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



ROADMAP DEVELOPED FOR A JUST ECONOMIC TRANSITION

ILO Leads Development of Nigeria's Just Transition Roadmap for a Sustainable and Inclusive Economy



The International Labour Organization (ILO), in partnership with the National Council on Climate Change Secretariat (NCCCS), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has initiated the development of Nigeria's Just Transition Roadmap (JTRN). This strategic framework will facilitate the country's transition to a sustainable and inclusive low-carbon economy, while prioritizing job creation, workers' rights, and economic resilience.

At the inception workshop in Abuja, Director General of the NCCCS, Dr. Nkiruka Maduekwe, emphasized the importance of aligning Nigeria's climate policies with economic inclusion and sustainability goals. The roadmap will build upon existing frameworks such as the National Development Plan, Energy Transition Plan, and Climate Change Act, ensuring a fair and comprehensive shift to renewable energy.

Speaking on behalf of ILO, UNDP, and UNIDO, Stephen Agugua, ILO's National Project Coordinator for the Social Dimension of Ecological Transition, underscored the roadmap's significance in addressing the opportunities and challenges associated with Nigeria's green transition. The JTRN will focus on supporting workers affected by shifts from fossil fuel-based industries, fostering capacity-building, promoting gender-responsive policies, and enhancing skills development for emerging green sectors. ILO remains committed to advocating for policies that foster a just transition, ensuring that economies grow sustainably while creating decent work and reducing poverty. As part of the roadmap's development, stakeholders will be engaged through regional workshops in Lagos, Kano, and Port Harcourt to ensure comprehensive and inclusive participation.

With this initiative, Nigeria is poised to strengthen its climate resilience and accelerate sustainable economic development, reinforcing its commitment to leaving no one behind in the global transition toward a greener future.



SOCIAL DIALOGUE ON GREEN TRANSITION IN ENERGY SECTOR

ILO Leads Development of Nigeria's Just Transition Roadmap for a Sustainable and Inclusive Economy



The International Labour Organization (ILO), with the financial support of the French Government and in partnership with the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), facilitated a pivotal Social Dialogue on Just Transition in Nigeria's energy sector. Held on 4th March 2025 at Labour House, Abuja, the event brought together key government bodies, employers, unions, and international development partners to strengthen policies that ensure Nigeria's transition to renewable energy is fair, inclusive, and economically sustainable.

The dialogue coincided with the visit of Sister Giulia Lagana, Director of the Just Transition Centre at the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). She commended the NLC for prioritizing workers' concerns in climate policy discussions and emphasized that social dialogue is crucial in addressing the disproportionate impact of climate change on workers globally.

Speaking at the event on behalf of the Director, ILO Abuja Country Office for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and Liaison Office for ECOWAS, Vanessa Phala (Ph. D), the ILO National Project Coordinator for the Social Dimension of Ecological Transition, Stephen Agugua, reaffirmed the ILO's commitment to supporting Nigeria's just transition efforts. He highlighted various ILO initiatives that have strengthened workers' participation in climate policies, including advocacy campaigns, engagement in COP 28 and 29, and the development of workers position paper on Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

Representatives from the Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA), Renewable Energy Agency (REA), Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), and Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) also contributed insights on the challenges and opportunities surrounding Nigeria's transition to cleaner energy. Key discussions focused on job security, workforce re-skilling, and the financing of renewable energy projects.

Stakeholders unanimously agreed on the urgent need for stronger policies that protect workers affected by the shift to green energy while ensuring sufficient training and social protection mechanisms. The dialogue concluded with a renewed commitment to collaboration in shaping Nigeria's Just Transition Work Programme.

With the ILO's continued support, Nigeria is advancing a just and sustainable energy transition that promotes decent work, economic resilience, and environmental sustainability, ensuring no one is left behind.



IMPROVING LIVELIHOOD OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY



Grace Nwaozuzu has exhibited unwavering determination to defy the prejudices of her community, particularly regarding women's equality and physical disabilities thanks to the support from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)- funded Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises – Niger Delta (LIFE-ND) project.

Grace heard about LIFE-ND on the radio and started as an incubatee in 2020 in her Ugbineh Community in Edo state. Upon graduating from the programme and with her husband's support, she used money she received from the project to invest in 100-day-old chicks. She nurtured them to broiler size, and sold 93 of them, reaping a solid profit of Naira 120,000 that she promptly reinvested.

Grace has since reared multiple cycles to broiler maturity, stocking a minimum of 200 chicks per cycle. Because of her passion and entrepreneurial success, LIFE-ND enlisted Grace as an incubator. She teaches her incubatees everything she herself learned from her incubator about poultry production, as well as sharing her own professional experience.

"I am very happy. As a physically challenged person, for me to lead abled people makes me feel great."

Grace also teaches her own five children how to care for chickens. They help her tend to birds, which range from day-old chicks to broilers ready to sell. With the money she makes, she and her husband have bought a car, added solar panels for lighting their home, and are currently installing a running water toilet in the house.

"I could not take care of myself before. I felt only sorrow. Because of the IFAD-LIFE-ND programme, I can live a better life. They put a smile on my face."

Next year, Grace plans to add laying hens and a fishery to her farm. Since she also grows an abundance of vegetables and cassava, her household is food secure. "We eat chicken every Sunday. I am very happy."

Grace is one of the 26,000 youths empowered by the project in the Niger Delta States of Abia, Edo, Cross-River, Ondo, Bayelsa, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Imo participating in the project. The IFAD funded project helps unemployed or underemployed rural youth and women including persons living with disabilities develop entrepreneurial skills, enabling them to sustainably enhance their incomes and food security.

LIFE-ND is changing mindsets by creating opportunities for young people and women to embrace agriculture as a business. Using an incubator model, incubatees undergo business development and financial literacy training with their assigned incubator to empower them to stand on their own as entrepreneurs.





CLIMATE-ADAPTIVE FARMING TRAINING HELD

FG, IFAD, NiMET Hold Training on Weather Prediction for Field Staff, Farmers Ahead of 2025 Wet Season Farming

The Federal Government of Nigeria and the International Fund for Agricultural Development -supported Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) has organized a training on downscaling of the 2025 Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) seasonal climate prediction and preseason training for VCDP field staff, farmers and processors in the nine participating states of Anambra, Benue, Ebonyi, Enugu, Kogi, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun and Taraba.

The two-day Training of Trainers (ToT) held in Keffi from 24-25 March, 2025 hosted in collaboration with (NiMET) will help rural farmers build resilience to the adverse consequences of climate change using innovative climate smart technologies.

Speaking, Mr Nura Lawal, Environment and Climate Change Specialist, IFAD-VCDP, explained that the project partnered with NiMET to ensure farmers have access to climate information and at the same time promote a sustainable climate smart approach.

"We are here conducting the preseason training to prepare our agents and officers on how to train farmers on adoption of hands-on skills to guide their farming operations throughout the year."

Lawal, who highlighted challenges posed by climate change, said "With the dwindling climate patterns we have in the country, a lot of farmers face significant threats in terms of climate disasters.

"This training aims to equip farmers with expertise on enhancing productivity, leading to improved food security. It focuses on downscaling the 2025 NiMet Seasonal Climate Prediction, providing participants with critical information to guide their farming operations.

Furthermore, the environment expert said, at the end of the workshop, each participating state is expected to develop a public calendar outlining key activities for farmers.

"This training session is crucial in helping farmers adapt to climate change. Information that will be gathered here will help mitigate any of these climate issues.

"As of March 2025, over 101,099 farmers have been trained and accessing climate information services from NiMET over the past four years," he added.

On his part, Ahmed Aboki, Principal Meteorologist, NiMET, informed that rain is expected to start in the southern part (April) and later in the Northern part (May) of Nigeria.

He, therefore, urged lead farmers who benefitted from the training, not to keep weather information to themselves but ensure they help other smallholder farmers around them.

One of the beneficiaries, Suzanne Acanga from Benue state, a Rice farmer and processor, narrated how she almost lost all her investment due to change in weather pattern in 2024.

According to her, she planted in anticipation of rain, which didn't come, describing it as a waste of time, effort and resources.

"But now, I know better, I am now an informed farmer. I know when to start planting, when rain will come, when it will cease, the weather pattern in my state and my farm location."

Suzanne, however, commended IFAD-VCDP for organizing such training adding that it will help many farmers beat climate change challenges.

"Thanks to IFAD-VCDP, farmers now discuss weather reports and forecasts via group messages on WhatsApp, which supplements the NiMET's App and traditional weather radio reports". She added.



Cross-section of participants at the training on downscaling of 2025 NiMET's seasonal climate prediction organised by IFAD-VCDP and NiMET 24-25 March, 2025 in Keffi, Nasarawa State.

75 YEARS OF GLOBAL COOPERATION ON WEATHER AND CLIMATE

UN community celebrates 75 years of advancing international cooperation on weather, climate, and water science



L-R: Mr. Bernard Gomez, WMO Representative for North Central and West Africa & Prof. Charles Anosike, DG/CEO of NiMet.

Some participating schools at the event

The UN Community joined the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to celebrate its 75th anniversary as a specialized agency of the United Nations on March 23, 2025. Since 1950, the WMO has played a pivotal role in advancing international cooperation and providing scientific evidence, information and services which has shaped decision making to safeguard and promote public well-being, and to make the world safer, more secure, and prosperous.

Without WMO coordination and its unified network, each country would face the impossible task of collecting global data on weather, climate and water on its own. Every minute of every day, data flows from monitoring stations across the world to weather prediction centres. Free and unrestricted exchange of weather-related data, products, and services are critical to national security and to climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, aviation, marine, energy, health, water, and disaster management.

To commemorate this milestone, the World Meteorological Day 2025 was themed "Closing the Early Warning Gap Together," emphasizing the importance of enhancing early warning systems worldwide.

An event to commemorate the day was organized at the headquarters of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) on Monday, 24 March 2025. The Director General/CEO of NiMet and Permanent Representative of Nigeria with WMO, Prof Charles Anosike speaking at the event said, "Closing the early warning gap is our shared responsibility, by strengthening forecasts, enhancing collaboration, and ensuring access for all, we build a safer, more resilient future."

The WMO Representative for North, West and Central Africa, Mr Bernard Gomez who was in attendance shared a message from the WMO Secretary-General Prof Celeste Saulo which highlighted the organization's achievements and stated that "Investing in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services is not just about forecasting—it is about saving lives, strengthening economies, and securing our collective future. Therefore, the time to act is now." During the event, experts paid tribute to late Prof Godwin Olu Patrick Obasi, a distinguished Nigerian meteorologist and the first African to serve as the Head of a United Nations (UN) Agency when he served as Secretary-General (S-G) of WMO from 1984-2003.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nigeria Mr. Mohammed Malick Fall in a video to commemorate the day emphasized that "Early warnings are not just a service, they are a fundamental human right. They save lives, protect livelihoods, and help to build resilient communities."

Despite significant progress, nearly half of the world's countries still lack access to life-saving early warning systems. In response, the United Nations launched the "Early Warnings for All" initiative in March 2022, aiming to ensure universal coverage by the end of 2027.

National ownership remains at the heart of the Early Warnings for All initiative, with governments leading efforts to strengthen resilience and establish sustainable early warning systems. The WMO's 75th anniversary serves as a reminder of the United Nation's enduring commitment to advancing climate science and fostering international cooperation for action to build a safer and more resilient future.

COMMEMORATION OF VICTIMS OF SLAVERY AND SLAVE TRADE

UNIC, Nasarawa gov't observe Int'l Day of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade



The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is not only a time for reflection, but also a time for education. In view of this, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Abuja in collaboration with the Nasarawa State Ministry of Education organized an educational briefing at the Government Secondary School, Kofar Hausa, with over 400 students in observance of the Day in honor of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade on 28 March 2025.

The briefing session covered the history of slavery, the transatlantic trade, and their links to racism and discrimination while also addressing the dangers of modern-day human trafficking.

The Digital Media Assistant, UNIC Abuja, Bolanle Olumekor, urged the students to take action to end all forms of modern slavery within their communities, and homes, and to promote tolerance, peace and also to stand up for the rights of others.

"We need to learn the lessons of the past, so that it can help us to forge ahead," she said. During the briefing, there was an exhibition on slavery and the students were curated on the exhibit: "Slavery" Ten True Stories of Dutch Colonial Slavery."



OTHER UPDATES

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mohamed Malick Fall, exchanges pleasantries with the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. C. G. Musa, at the Defence Headquarters in Abuja.



National Humanitarian Roundtable in Abuja

At a 2-day National Humanitarian Roundtable in Abuja. Third from the left: Hon. Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction, Prof Nentawe Goshwe Yilwatda and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mohamed Malick Fall, displaying the communique at the end of the event.

[Learn more](#)



KEEP UP WITH OUR LATEST NEWS ON



EDITOR Oluseyi Soremekun (UNIC) **DESIGN AND LAYOUT** Juhye Kim (UNIC)

EDITORIAL TEAM UNCG members— Ronald Kayanja (Chairman) - UNIC; Kulchumi Isa Hammanyero (WHO); Rajat Madhok & Anike Alli-Hakeem (UNICEF); Stella Onah (UNAIDS); Christabel Chanda-Ginsberg & Rejoice Emmanuel (UNDP); Anthony Abu (UN Women); Adewole Ajao (UNFPA); Pius Udo (ILO); Gabriel Adeyemo (UNHCR); Francois-Xavier Ada & Elijah Elaigwu (IOM); David Tsokar & Kelvin Nwachukwu (FAO); Yachat Nuhu (UNESCO); Ann Weru & Chima Onwe (UNOCHA); Chi Lael (WFP); Katrien Nollen (UNMAS); Vera Onyeaka-Onyilo (IFAD); Roland Abah (WMO); Taiwo Farai (WIPO)

ADVISORY United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Nigeria

All correspondence should be directed to **The Editor, UN Nigeria Newsletter: United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) c/o United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Abuja** (unic-abuja@un.org)