



January 21, 2020

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

COMMUNIQUÉ

1. INTRODUCTION

The Capacity Building Workshop on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) was convened by Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) with the support of the European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative at Hotel De Bently, Utako Abuja on January 20 and 21 2020. Participation was drawn from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Women's Groups, the Media and Key Populations from Spotlight's Focal States of Adamawa, Cross River, Ebonyi, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Lagos and Sokoto.

The workshop is part of a series of activities under the Spotlight Initiative which seeks to eliminate violence against women and girls with the overall vision of *a Nigeria where women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable, live a life free from violence and harmful practices.*

The workshop was convened to build the capacity of the aforementioned stakeholders on GRB in the context of the overwhelming need to eradicate Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), Harmful Practices (HP) and to promote the Sexual and Reproductive Health/Rights (SRHR) of women and girls. The workshop sought to improve the skills of participants for interventions in the preparation, passage, monitoring of implementation, reporting, evaluation and audit of Federal, State and Local government budgets from the gender perspective.

The following presentations were made:

- ❖ Mainstreaming Gender in the Budget/Public Finance Management.
- ❖ Understanding GRB in the Context of SGBV, VAWG, HP and the SRHR of women and girls.

- ❖ Legal Standards and Policies on SGBV, VAWG, HP and SRHR of women and girls.
- ❖ Gender and the Budget.
- ❖ Preliminary Findings of the Research on Budgets and SGBV, VAWP, HP and SRHR of women and girls in Adamawa, Cross River, Ebonyi, FCT, Lagos and Sokoto States.
- ❖ Gender Sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).
- ❖ Practical Interventions in Gender responsive Budgeting in the Context of SGBV, VAWG, HP and SRHR of women and girls.

2. OBSERVATIONS

The Workshop Made the Following Observations

a. Contextually, GRB is premised on Nigeria's national and international obligations under a multiplicity of standards to **respect, protect** and **fulfil** the fundamental rights and freedoms of women and girls to freedom from violence, inhuman and degrading treatment and to guarantee their dignity and personhood.

b. The standards include the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), National Gender Policy, Child Rights Act, Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, National Policy on the Elimination of FGM/C, Strategy to End Child Marriage, Sexual Harassment Policy, Gender and Equal Opportunities Policy, Universal Basic Education Act/National Policy on Basic Education, Maternal and Reproductive Health Policies, etc.

c. The obligation to respect forbids all tiers of government from taking steps that violate existing and guaranteed rights. The obligation to protect mandates the state to take steps to ensure that third parties do not violate the rights of women to human dignity and freedom from violence. The obligation to fulfil requires concrete and targeted administrative, legislative, judicial and budgetary measures to practically fulfil the rights of women and girls to freedom from violence and enhance their enjoyment of SRHR.

d. Federal, state and local government budgets come under the obligation to fulfil which mandates the state to take steps to the maximum of available resources for the immediate/progressive realisation of freedom from violence.

e. A number of key government agencies need to be engaged for the eradication of SGBV, VAWG, HP and promotion of SRHR. These include the Ministries of Women Affairs, Education, Health, Finance/Budget and Economic Development, Justice and Law Enforcement Agencies, Bureau of Statistics, Anti-human Trafficking Agencies, the Legislature, etc.

f. SGBV and VAWG manifests in several dimensions and these include domestic violence, forced sexual activities by a sexual partner and rape. Harmful practices

manifestations including: female genital mutilation; early marriage and teenage motherhood; as well as widow's maltreatment.

g. Extant budgeting practices at the Federal, State and Local government levels do not mainstream gender in the preparation, approval, implementation, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and audit of the budget.

h. Civil society has hardly engaged the budgeting process from the gender perspective.

3. RESOLUTIONS

Based OnThe Foregoing Observations, The Workshop Resolved As Follows:

a. Governments should mainstream gender sensitivity in all stages of the budgeting cycle from preparation, passage and approval, monitoring and reporting, evaluation and audit. This should be facilitated by the gathering and analysis of relevant gender disaggregated data by the National Bureau of Statistics and other data gathering agencies.

b. Nigeria should activate its law enforcement mechanisms and rule of law institutions for the protection of the rights of women to freedom from violence. This will involve training and capacity building, increased budgetary provisions accompanied by full releases and utilization of appropriated funds.

c. The Audit Reform Bill currently pending in the National Assembly should specifically include gender audit as one of the audits to be carried out by the Auditor-General of the Federation.

d. Governments should deploy the maximum of available resources for the protection of women from violence. This should not be limited to financial resources but should include human, information, technology and ecological resources.

e. Civil society should start actively engaging the budgeting process from the gender perspective at the Federal, State and Local government levels. This should include the engagement of the relevant MDAs and their budgeting frameworks starting from the medium-term sector strategies.

f. The preparation and dissemination of a Gender Budget Statement by Civil Society in collaboration with relevant agencies of government for the year 2021 budget cycle should be a good starting point for gender responsive budgeting.

g. All standards on the eradication of SGBV, VAWG, HP and the promotion of the SRHR of women and girls should be costed and an implementation framework drawn up.

h. Participants acknowledged the initiative of CSJ, the support of the European Union-United Nations, the collaboration of the Ministry of Women Affairs and urged CSJ to facilitate the continued engagement of the budgeting process by CSOs in Nigeria.

Eze Onyekpere

Centre for Social Justice

Aishatu Margima

Women and Youth Empowerment for Advancement
and Health Initiative

Sunbo Oladipo

Centre for Women's Health and Information

Mma Odi

ACE-Nigeria



Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence against women and girls



August 6, 2020

TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLANS ON SGBV/VAWG/HP AND SRHR FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUPS AND CSOs IN FOCAL STATES

COMMUNIQUE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Training of Trainers on implementation of National Action Plans on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), violence against women and girls (VAWG), harmful practices (HP) and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for Women's Rights Groups and CSOs in the focal states of Adamawa, Federal Capital Territory and Sokoto States was convened by Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) with the support of the European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative at 3J's Hotels Ltd, 31 P.O.W Mafemi Crescent, Utako, Abuja on August 5th and 6th 2020. Participation was drawn from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Women's Groups and Faith-based organisations.

The workshop is part of a series of activities under the Spotlight Initiative which seeks to eliminate violence against women and girls with the overall vision of *a Nigeria where women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable, live a life free from violence and harmful practices.*

The workshop was convened to contribute to an outcome vis; Legislative and policy frameworks based on evidence and in line with international human rights standards, on all forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices are in place and translated into plans. The expected output is that women's rights groups and CSOs in Adamawa, FCT and Sokoto States are better able to effectively demand for the

development of evidence based national and subnational action plans on ending VAWG/SGBV/HP in line with international human rights standards with M&E frameworks, increasing financing and allocation of appropriate budgets for their implementation, including for those groups facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.

The objectives are designed from the demand side considering that government provides the supply either in the performance of official duties or on the demand of civil society. It seeks to build the capacity of participants to:

- Understand VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR and the provisions in subnational, national and international standards including the SDGs on the project theme;
- Understand and use the indicators for measurement and assessment of progress towards eradicating VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in the preparation and implementation of national and subnational plans;
- Mainstream response to VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in the preparation and implementation of national and state level policy instruments;
- Mainstream responses to VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in the preparation and implementation of budgets within the policy, plan budget continuum;
- Establish the relationship for continued institutional knowledge support within the project period.

The following presentations were made:

- (a) Standards on SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR.
- (b) Indicators for Measurement of Success in Eradicating SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR
- (c) Mainstreaming SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR in Plans and Policies
- (d) Budgeting for the Eradication of SGBV/VAWG/HP and improvement of SRHR:
- (e) Civil Society Engagement Strategies: How do CSOs engage to achieve results
- (f) Relationships and Sustainability

2. OBSERVATIONS

The Workshop Made the Following Observations

a. There is a plethora of international standards ratified and applicable in Nigeria including Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), SDG5 and other relevant Goals and Comments/Observations of the CEDAW Committee; United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and its Limburg Principles and Maastricht Guidelines in relation to States parties obligations, etc.

b. National standards that seek to respect, protect and fulfil freedom from SGBV/VAWG/HP and the promotion of the SRHR of women and girls include the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), National Gender Policy, Child Rights Act, Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, National Policy on the Elimination of FGM/C, Strategy to End Child Marriage, Sexual Harassment Policy, Gender and Equal Opportunities Policy, Universal Basic Education Act/National Policy on Basic Education, Maternal and Reproductive Health Policies, laws against Domestic Violence and those establishing Sexual and Gender Based Violence Response Teams, etc.

c. Sources for data, measurement of progress and validation of the observance of norms for the eradication of SGBV/VAWG/HP and improvement of SRHR of women and girls include the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) and Nigerian Education Indicators.

d. The focal states of Adamawa and Sokoto have not adopted the Child Rights Act, the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act nor have they set up by law, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Response Teams. The existing SGBVR Teams in the two states were set up by Voluntary Agencies in collaboration with Government. Furthermore, the two States do not have specific laws prohibiting domestic violence.

e. We recall the promise of the Body of Attorney Generals of the 19 Northern states to adopt VAPP across all the states in the Region,

f. Adamawa, FCT and Sokoto states all recognise that 18 years is the age of majority and informed consent and anyone below the age of 18 is deemed to be a child by law. Sex with any person under the age of 18 is criminalised by the penal laws.

g. The following ministries, departments and agencies were deemed to be central to the campaign for the eradication of SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of the SRHR of women and girl's vis, Ministries of Women Affairs, Education, Health, Justice, Agriculture, Information, Budget and Planning, Youth and Sports, etc.

h. We observe that the concept of resources for the struggle against SGBV/VAWG/HP is beyond money and fiscal resources. Resources include information, ecological, technological, etc. resources.

i. Several low hanging fruits in activities, budgeting and policy are available for the realisation of freedom from violence across the states.

h. Knowledge acquisition, processing, informed and evidence-based engagement of government by civil society is imperative for progress to be made on eradicating the vices and promoting SRHR. There is the need to engage at both the federal, state and local government.

3. RESOLUTIONS

Based On The Foregoing Observations, The Workshop Resolved As Follows:

- a.** Participants commit to raising awareness and disseminating information on national and international standards as well as strengthen networks and coalitions at the state and local government levels.
- b.** Participants commit to bridge the gap between laws and policies and their implementation.
- c.** CSOs and women's groups should get involved with the official agencies on data gathering and processing on SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR.
- d.** Engage in advocacy for adoption in the focal states of Adamawa and Sokoto of the Child Rights Act, establishment by law of the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Response Teams and enact specific laws prohibiting domestic violence.
- e.** Take up the promise of the Body of Attorney Generals of the 19 Northern states to adopt VAPP across all the states in the Region through legislative advocacy and engagement of the executive in the states of Adamawa and Sokoto.
- f.** Tackle the challenges of child/early marriage, teenage pregnancy and VVF through the enforcement of the universal basic education requirement for all girls to be in school until 18. Sensitisation and engagement of religious leaders on the provisions of the Penal Codes of Adamawa and Sokoto States on the age of marriage and consent to marriage as anyone below the age of 18 is deemed to be a child by law. This can be done through media advocacy, litigation and other forms of advocacy.
- g.** To engage the budget of the Ministries of Women Affairs, Education, Health, Justice, Agriculture, Information, Budget and Planning, Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, etc. in 2021 and subsequent years. And to ensure that expenditure proposals are realistic and in tandem with revenue sources which will lead to budgets being fully funded.
- h.** Women's groups, CSOs and the media should encourage MDAs through recognition of very well performing MDAs.
- i.** Advocacy for the establishment of adult literacy centres, youth friendly centres, skills acquisition centres, women empowerment centres.
- j.** To deploy other resources including information, technology and ecological resources for the eradication of SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR, etc.
- k.** Low hanging fruits would include setting up knowledge centres and capacity units in the Ministry of Women Affairs to facilitate women's access to soft loans and funding of development agencies; mainstreaming inter agency collaboration in SGBV/VAWG; the Ministry of Information using the state media to disseminate information on gender

equality; energising the Universal Basic Education framework; set up shelters for women survivors, etc.

Eze Onyekpere

Centre for Social Justice



August 11, 2020

**CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR STRATEGIC MINISTRIES,
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF ADAMAWA STATE
GOVERNMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS/PLANS ON SGBV/VAWG/HP AND
SRHR**

COMMUNIQUE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Capacity Building Workshop for Strategic Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of Adamawa State Government on formulation of Action Plans and Policies and implementation of National and International Standards on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), violence against women and girls (VAWG), harmful practices (HP) and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) was convened by Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) with the support of the European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative at Madugu Rockview Hotel, 10 Rock Heaven Avenue, Behind Government House, Yola Adamawa State on August 10th and 11th 2020. Participation was drawn from MDAs of Adamawa State notably, the Ministries of Women Affairs, Agriculture, Education and Human Capital Development, Finance and Budgeting, Information and Strategy, Health, Justice, Youth and Sports Development, State Planning Commission and the State House of Assembly.

The workshop is part of a series of activities under the Spotlight Initiative which seeks to eliminate violence against women and girls with the overall vision of *a Nigeria where women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable, live a life free from violence and harmful practices.*

The workshop was convened to contribute to **an outcome** vis; Legislative and policy frameworks based on evidence and in line with international human rights standards, on

all forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices are in place and translated into plans. The **expected output** is that capacities of government officials are strengthened to advocate for, and participate in the domestication, review, the development and implementation of laws and policies on ending VAWG, including SGBV/HP and promotion of SRHR.

The objectives are designed from the supply side considering that government provides the supply in the performance of official duties in fulfilment of the fundamental objective that the security and welfare of the people is the primary purpose of government. It seeks to build the capacity of participants to:

- Understand VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR and the provisions in subnational, national and international standards including the SDGs on the project theme;
- Understand and use the indicators for measurement and assessment of progress towards eradicating VAWG/SGBV/HP and promoting SRHR in the preparation and implementation of national and subnational plans;
- Mainstream response to VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in the preparation and implementation of national and state level policy instruments;
- Mainstream responses to VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in the preparation and implementation of budgets within the policy, plan budget continuum;
- Establish the relationship for continued institutional knowledge support within the project period.

The following presentations were made:

- (a) Standards on SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR.
- (b) Indicators for Measurement of Success in Eradicating SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR
- (c) Mainstreaming SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR in Plans and Policies
- (d) Budgeting for the Eradication of SGBV/VAWG/HP and improvement of SRHR:
- (e) Review of the published SGBV and Adamawa State Budget: 2016-2019.

The participants undertook group discussions which focused on identifying policy gaps and challenges as well as low hanging fruits for action in the following MDAs; Women Affairs, Education, Health, Justice, Youth and Sports, Agriculture and Information.

2. OBSERVATIONS

The Workshop Made the Following Observations

a. There is no Gender Policy or a Policy on SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR in Adamawa State. However, Adamawa State as a part of the Nigerian Federation is bound by all treaties ratified and applicable to Nigeria. These include the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), SDG5 and other relevant Goals and Comments/Observations of the CEDAW Committee; United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW); the Beijing

Declaration and Platform for Action; Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and its Limburg Principles and Maastricht Guidelines in relation to States parties obligations, etc.

b. Adamawa State has not adopted the Child Rights Act, the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act. Furthermore, there is no specific law prohibiting domestic violence.

c. The State has not set up by law, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Response Teams. The existing SGBVR Team in the State was set up by Voluntary Agencies in collaboration with Government.

d. We recall the promise of the Body of Attorney Generals of the 19 Northern states to adopt VAPP across all the states in the Region,

e. Adamawa State recognises in its Penal Code that 18 years is the age of majority and informed consent and anyone below the age of 18 is deemed to be a child by law. Sex with any person under the age of 18 is criminalised by the Penal Code.

f. Sources for data, measurement of progress and validation of the observance of norms for the eradication of SGBV/VAWG/HP and improvement of SRHR of women and girls include the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) and Nigerian Education Indicators.

g. Available data indicates that Adamawa State:

- Performed well in the virtual zero numbers of female genital mutilation/cutting.
- Performed poorly in early marriage and teenage motherhood, attendance and completion rates in basic education, delivery by skilled birth attendants and in a health facility as well as usage of modern contraceptives.
- Despite the free education programme, there is dearth of school infrastructure; levies are charged by schools and this inhibits girl child education; monitoring and evaluation is still poor; second chance opportunities for girls are limited.
- 35% Affirmative Action for Adamawa Women is not yet in place.
- Health establishments are lacking qualified personnel, equipment and facilities, etc.
- Judicial and law enforcement challenges include lack of dedicated courts to try SGBV; stigmatisation.

h. The following MDAs were deemed to be central to the campaign for the eradication of SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of the SRHR of women and girl's vis, the Ministries of Women Affairs, Agriculture, Education and Human Capital Development, Finance and Budgeting, Information and Strategy, Health, Justice, Youth and Sports Development, State Planning Commission and the State House of Assembly.

i. We observe that the concept of resources for the struggle against SGBV/VAWG/HP is beyond money and fiscal resources. Resources include human, information, ecological, technological, etc. resources.

j. The Appropriation Act seems to be poorly funded across the sectors in the State as the releases do not match the appropriations.

k. Several low hanging fruits in activities, budgeting and policy are available for the realisation of freedom from violence across the state.

3. RESOLUTIONS

Based On The Foregoing Observations, The Workshop Participants Resolved As Follows:

a. Commit to work for the drafting, adoption and implementation of State Gender Policy.

b. Participants commit to raise awareness and disseminate information on national and international standards as well as strengthen relationships, cooperation and collaboration among Adamawa MDAs.

c. Participants commit to bridge the gap between laws and policies and their implementation and to use empirical evidence for policy and plan implementation.

d. Work through their MDAs for adoption of the Child Rights Act, establishment by law of the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Response Team and enact specific laws prohibiting domestic violence.

e. Take up the promise of the Body of Attorney Generals of the 19 Northern states to adopt VAPP across all the states in the Region through the engagement of the executive and legislature in Adamawa State.

f. Tackle the challenges of child/early marriage, teenage pregnancy and VVF through the enforcement of the universal basic education requirement for all girls to be in school until 18. Sensitisation and engagement of religious leaders and traditional rulers on the provisions of the Penal Code of Adamawa State on the age of marriage and consent to marriage as anyone below the age of 18 is deemed to be a child by law.

g. To mainstream SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR in the budgets of the Ministries of Women Affairs, Agriculture, Education and Human Capital Development, Finance and Budgeting, Information and Strategy, Health, Justice, Youth and Sports Development, State Planning Commission and the State House of Assembly, etc.in 2021 and subsequent years as well as ensuring that expenditure proposals are realistic and in tandem with revenue sources which will lead to budgets being fully funded.

j. To deploy other resources including information, technology and ecological resources for the eradication of SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR, etc.

k. Low hanging fruits would include:

- General: Mainstreaming inter agency collaboration in SGBV/VAWG
- Health: Training of health personnel to handle SGBV Survivors, Free Maternal and Child Health Services.
- Information: Sensitisation and awareness raising on SGBV.
- Women Affairs: Sensitisation, awareness raising and capacity building. Setting up knowledge centres and capacity units in the Ministry of Women Affairs to facilitate women's access to soft loans and funding of development agencies;
- Education: Second chance opportunities
- Making budgets realistic based on available resources

Signed

Mrs Tulhungu Uziel
Ministry of Health

Mrs Heidi E. Sunday
Education and Human Capital Development

Regina Vincent
Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

Yahaya Mohammed Daji
State House of Assembly

Mrs. Celestina B. Yume
Ministry of Information and Strategy

Zakaria Z. Yuri
Ministry of Agriculture

Mrs Ruth Hiram
Ministry of Finance and Budget

Kowoabo Takoni, Esq
Ministry of Justice

Michael Ngwula
Ministry of Youths and Sports

Sunday Andrew
State Planning Commission

Eze Onyekpere, Esq
Lead Director, Centre for Social Justice



August 13, 2020

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN ADAMAWA STATE ON PREVENTION AND RESPONSES TO SGBV/VAWG/HP AND PROMOTION OF SRHR

COMMUNIQUE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Capacity Building Workshop for Law Enforcement Agencies in Adamawa State on prevention and responses to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), violence against women and girls (VAWG), harmful practices (HP) and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and girls was convened by Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) with the support of the European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative at Madugu Rockview Hotel, 10 Rock Heaven Avenue, Behind Government House, Yola Adamawa State on August 12th and 13th 2020. Participation was drawn from Nigeria Police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and Nigeria Correctional Services.

The workshop is part of a series of activities under the Spotlight Initiative which seeks to eliminate violence against women and girls with the overall vision of *a Nigeria where all women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable, live a life free from violence and harmful practices.*

The workshop was convened to contribute to an **outcome**: National and sub-national systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and harmful practices in all sectors. The planned **output** is that capacities of law enforcement agents and prosecutors is strengthened to deliver services that prevent and respond to

VAWG/SGBV/HP, especially for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.

The **objectives** were designed from the supply side considering that law enforcement is central to the fulfilment of government's fundamental obligation to society which is to maintain law and order and secure lives and property of citizens and residents. The workshop is to build capacity of strategic law enforcement officials to have a deep appreciation of:

- The purpose and principles of mainstreaming prevention and responses to VAWG/SGBV/HP and women and girls' access to SRHR in law enforcement;
- National and international standards relevant to law enforcement and VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR;
- Challenges of operationalising and mainstreaming preventive and response measures on VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in law enforcement;
- Fit and good practices/best practices in prevention and response to VAWG/SGBV/HP in law enforcement;
- Establish the relationship for continued institutional knowledge support within the project period.

The topics presented were as follows:

- (a) The Purpose and Principles of Mainstreaming Prevention and Response to VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in Law Enforcement.
- (b) Standards on Law Enforcement and SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR.
- (c) Best Practices in Preventing and Responding to SGBV/VAWG/HP.
- (d) Challenges of Operationalising and Mainstreaming Prevention and Responses to SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR in Law Enforcement.
- (e) Gender and Law Enforcement in Nigeria in the Light of SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR: Issues, Challenges and the Way Forward.

The participants undertook group discussions which focused on identifying gaps and challenges, emergent best practices as well as low hanging fruits for action in law enforcement for prevention and responses to SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR.

2. OBSERVATIONS

The Workshop Made the Following Observations

- a.** Law Enforcement Agencies have a fundamental obligation to protect lives and property and to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms including the rights to human dignity and non-discrimination for women, girls and vulnerable groups. The fulfilment of this obligation should entail freedom from SGBV/VAWG/HP for women and girls and the promotion of their SRHR.

b. There are several legal and policy provisions that protect women and girls from SGBV/VAWG/HP. These include the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Adamawa State Penal Code, Nigeria Police Regulations, the Compulsory, Free, Universal Basic Education Act. Others include all treaties and standards ratified and applicable to Nigeria – United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Sustainable Development Goal 5; United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), etc.

c. The establishment of the Nigeria Police Gender Unit and the NSCDC gender Unit is a welcome development with the capacity to drastically reduce gender-based violence. However, the Gender Units have not been adequately resourced.

d. Certain practices within the police discriminate against women include the following:

- Married women are disqualified from enlistment into the Nigeria Police Force;
- Women are compelled to stay 2 years on the job after enlistment before marriage
- Required to apply for approval to marry and the fiancé subjected to investigation and approval;
- Restricted sphere of posting for Police Women;
- Police Women prohibited from wearing earring, face powder or lipstick;
- Police Women mandated to inscribe the alphabet ‘W’ before their ranks and made to indicate that they are women;
- Police Women given special kind of Force Number to easily identify them as women.

e. There are challenges of availability of forensic tools and experts for the investigation of SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR of women and girls.

f. SGBV/VAWG/HP contrary to legal provisions, manifests in various dimensions in the home, in the community, public places and at places of work. These include domestic violence, emotional violence, rape, sexual harassment in schools and workplaces, stalking, female genital mutilation (FGM), femicide, denial of education, disinheritance, widowhood practices, stigmatisation and shaming, etc.

g. Violations of the SRHR of women and girls manifest in forced marriages, child brides, teenage motherhood, forced pregnancies, denial of maternal care including ante natal and safe delivery care, vesico vaginal fistula (VVF), unsafe abortion and denial of use of contraceptives. It also manifests in the undue increase of the Nigerian population - a situation where population growth outstrips economic growth.

h. SGBV/VAWG/HP are recognised obstacles to the achievement of equality, development and peace; nullifies and impairs women’s enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms; is a global public health challenge and causes physical, psychological and economic harm and suffering to women.

i. The culture of silence, stigmatisation and shaming of women and girls who complain about sexual offences contributes to perpetrator impunity and the continuation of sexual and gender-based violence.

j. Further to paragraph I, overall, law enforcement practices and attitudes have not been overtly supportive of victims and survivors of SGBV and VAWG.

k. Adamawa State recognises in its Penal Code that 18 years is the age of majority and informed consent and anyone below the age of 18 is deemed to be a child by law. Sex with any person under the age of 18 is criminalised by the Penal Code.

l. Criminal investigations are pivotal for effective criminal justice adjudication and there is the need for professionalism, objectivity and integrity in the investigation and reporting process.

m. Several low hanging fruits are available in law enforcement for the realisation of freedom from violence for women and girls in Adamawa State.

3. RESOLUTIONS

Based On The Foregoing Observations, The Workshop Participants Resolved As Follows:

a. Law Enforcement Agencies commit to redouble their efforts towards eradicating SGBV/VAWG/HP for women and girls and the promotion of their SRHR. Inter-Agency collaboration will be encouraged and strengthened.

b. Commit to the development of a Common Law Enforcement Standard Operating Procedure on SGBV/VAWG/HP as well as specific Gender Policies for different Law Enforcement Agencies.

c. Law Enforcement Agencies commit to provide information for the publication of details of offenders in the Sexual Offenders Register.

d. The Nigeria Police and NSCDC Gender Units should be adequately resourced with financial resources, capacity building for its key personnel and logistics support for its operations. Furthermore, there should be improved funding of the Police and NSCDC especially the forensic units.

e. Commit to enhanced participation in the activities of the Adamawa Sexual Assault Referral Centre and the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Response Team to ensure that it becomes a One Stop Response Centre for SGBV.

f. Commit to engage other stakeholders in the struggle against SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR. These stakeholders include the legal and medical professions, counsellors, women's rights groups and associations, civil society organisations, religious and traditional institutions, etc.

g. Commit to take preventive action and adequate response to matters of domestic violence, emotional violence, rape, sexual harassment in schools and workplaces, stalking, female genital mutilation (FGM), femicide, denial of education, disinheritance, widowhood practices, stigmatisation and shaming, etc.

h. Commit to take preventive action and adequate responses to violations of SRHR especially forced and child marriages, forced pregnancies, denial of maternal care including ante natal and safe delivery care.

i. To reverse the culture of silence, stigmatisation and shaming of women and girls who complain about sexual offences through sensitisation and a new culture of survivor centred approach to policing and law enforcement.

j. Commit to the full and strict implementation of the Adamawa State Penal Code provisions that 18 years is the age of majority and informed consent and anyone below the age of 18 is deemed to be a child by law. Sex with any person under the age of 18 is to be vigorously prosecuted.

k. Commit to improved criminal investigations through deploying impartiality, strict truthfulness, intelligence, respect, courtesy, patience, perseverance and persistence, professionalism, objectivity and integrity in the investigation and reporting process of SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR.

Signed

ASP Yossi Oded
Nigeria Police Force

Superintendent Charity A. Fwah
Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps

CSC Amos Kenneth
Nigeria Correctional Service

Eze Onyekpere, Esq
Centre for Social Justice



August 18, 2020

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ON PREVENTION AND RESPONSES TO SGBV/VAWG/HP AND PROMOTION OF SRHR

COMMUNIQUE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Capacity Building Workshop for Law Enforcement Agencies in the FCT on prevention and responses to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), violence against women and girls (VAWG), harmful practices (HP) and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and girls was convened by Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) with the support of the European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative at 3 jays Hotel Utako Abuja on August 17th and 18th 2020. Participation was drawn from Nigeria Police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NAPTIP and the FCT Sexual and Gender Based Violence Response Team.

The workshop is part of a series of activities under the Spotlight Initiative which seeks to eliminate violence against women and girls with the overall vision of *a Nigeria where all women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable, live a life free from violence and harmful practices.*

The workshop was convened to contribute to an **outcome**: National and sub-national systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and harmful practices in all sectors. The planned **output** is that capacities of law enforcement agents and prosecutors is strengthened to deliver services that prevent and respond to

VAWG/SGBV/HP, especially for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.

The **objectives** were designed from the supply side considering that law enforcement is central to the fulfilment of government's fundamental obligation to society which is to maintain law and order and secure lives and property of citizens and residents. The workshop is to build capacity of strategic law enforcement officials to have a deep appreciation of:

- The purpose and principles of mainstreaming prevention and responses to VAWG/SGBV/HP and women and girls' access to SRHR in law enforcement;
- National and international standards relevant to law enforcement and VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR;
- Challenges of operationalising and mainstreaming preventive and response measures on VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in law enforcement;
- Fit and good practices/best practices in prevention and response to VAWG/SGBV/HP in law enforcement;
- Establish the relationship for continued institutional knowledge support within the project period.

The topics presented were as follows:

- (a) The Purpose and Principles of Mainstreaming Prevention and Response to VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in Law Enforcement.
- (b) Standards on Law Enforcement and SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR.
- (c) Best Practices in Preventing and Responding to SGBV/VAWG/HP.
- (d) Challenges of Operationalising and Mainstreaming Prevention and Responses to SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR in Law Enforcement.
- (e) Gender and Law Enforcement in Nigeria in the Light of SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR: Issues, Challenges and the Way Forward.

The participants undertook group discussions which focused on identifying gaps and challenges, emergent best practices as well as low hanging fruits for action in law enforcement for prevention and responses to SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR.

2. OBSERVATIONS

The Workshop Made the Following Observations

- a.** Law Enforcement Agencies have a fundamental obligation to protect lives and property and to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms including the rights to human dignity and non-discrimination for women, girls and vulnerable groups. The fulfilment of this obligation should entail freedom from SGBV/VAWG/HP for women and girls and the promotion of their SRHR.

- b.** There are several legal and policy provisions that protect women and girls from SGBV/VAWG/HP. These include the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), the revolutionary Violence against Persons Prohibition Act, Child Rights Act, Nigeria Police Act and its Regulations, the Compulsory, Free, Universal Basic Education Act and Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act. Others include all treaties and standards ratified and applicable to Nigeria – United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Sustainable Development Goal 5; United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), etc.
- c.** The establishment of the Nigeria Police Gender Unit, the NSCDC Gender Unit and the FCT GBV Response Team is a welcome development with the capacity to drastically reduce gender-based violence. However, the Gender Units have not been adequately resourced.
- d.** There is no dedicated court for the prosecution of SGBV/VAWG/HP and the denial of the SRHR of women and girls. This slows down the prosecution process and leads to denial of justice for survivors.
- e.** Awareness and sensitisation on the processes of reporting, facilitation and getting justice on SGBV issues is low. Hence the need for increased public sensitisation.
- f.** There are challenges of logistics, inadequate training, unavailability of forensic tools and experts for the investigation of SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR of women and girls in the Police, NSCDC, NAP TIP and the SGBV Response Team.
- g.** SGBV/VAWG/HP contrary to legal provisions, manifests in various dimensions in the home, in the community, public places and at places of work. These include domestic violence, emotional violence, rape, sexual harassment in schools and workplaces, stalking, female genital mutilation (FGM), femicide, denial of education, disinheritance, widowhood practices, stigmatisation and shaming, etc.
- h.** Violations of the SRHR of women and girls manifest in forced marriages, child brides, teenage motherhood, forced pregnancies, denial of maternal care including ante natal and safe delivery care, vesico vaginal fistula (VVF), unsafe abortion and denial of use of contraceptives. It also manifests in the undue increase of the Nigerian population - a situation where population growth outstrips economic growth.
- i.** SGBV/VAWG/HP are recognised obstacles to the achievement of equality, development and peace; nullifies and impairs women’s enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms; is a global public health challenge and causes physical, psychological and economic harm and suffering to women.

j. The culture of silence, stigmatisation and shaming of women and girls who complain about sexual offences contributes to perpetrator impunity and the continuation of sexual and gender-based violence.

k. Further to paragraph I, overall, law enforcement practices and attitudes have not been overtly supportive of victims and survivors of SGBV and VAWG.

l. The Child Rights Act applicable in the FCT recognises that 18 years is the age of majority and informed consent and anyone below the age of 18 is deemed to be a child by law. Sex with any person under the age of 18 is criminalised by the Child Rights Act.

m. Criminal investigations are pivotal for effective criminal justice adjudication and there is the need for professionalism, objectivity and integrity in the investigation and reporting process.

n. SGBV/VAWG survivors need rehabilitation and reintegration.

3. RESOLUTIONS

Based On The Foregoing Observations, The Workshop Participants Resolved As Follows:

a. Law Enforcement Agencies commit to redouble their efforts towards eradicating SGBV/VAWG/HP for women and girls and the promotion of their SRHR. Inter-Agency collaboration will be encouraged and strengthened especially a platform for information sharing and exchange.

b. Commit to the development of a Common Law Enforcement Standard Operating Procedure on SGBV/VAWG/HP as well as specific Gender Policies for different Law Enforcement Agencies.

c. Law Enforcement Agencies commit to provide information for the publication of details of offenders in the Sexual Offenders Register.

d. The Nigeria Police, NSCDC, Gender Units should be adequately resourced with financial resources, capacity building for its key personnel and logistics support for its operations. Furthermore, NAPTIP and the SGBV Response Team should also be adequately funded.

e. Commit to the establishment of a One Stop Centre responding to SGBV/VAWG and HP with multiple competencies (legal, medical, investigation, psychosocial support, shelter, etc.) in the FCT.

f. Commit to advocacy for the establishment of special court to expeditiously try cases of SGBV/VAWG/HP and the denial of the SRHR of women and girls.

g. Commit to engage other stakeholders in the struggle against SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR. These stakeholders include the legal and medical professions, counsellors, women's rights groups and associations, civil society organisations, religious and traditional institutions, etc.

h. Commit to take preventive action and adequate response to matters of domestic violence, emotional violence, rape, sexual harassment in schools and workplaces, stalking, female genital mutilation (FGM), femicide, denial of education, disinheritance, widowhood practices, stigmatisation and shaming, etc.

i. Commit to take preventive action and adequate responses to violations of SRHR especially forced and child marriages, forced pregnancies, denial of maternal care including ante natal and safe delivery care.

j. To reverse the culture of silence, stigmatisation and shaming of women and girls who complain about sexual offences through sensitisation and a new culture of survivor centred approach to policing and law enforcement.

k. Commit to the full and strict implementation of the Child Rights Act that 18 years is the age of majority and informed consent and anyone below the age of 18 is deemed to be a child by law. Sex with any person under the age of 18 is to be vigorously prosecuted.

l. Commit to improved criminal investigations through deploying impartiality, strict truthfulness, intelligence, respect, courtesy, patience, perseverance and persistence, professionalism, objectivity and integrity in the investigation and reporting process of SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR.

Signed

Nigeria Police Force

Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps

NAPTIP

SGBV Response Team

Centre for Social Justice



August 21, 2020

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON SHADOW REPORTING AND FOLLOW UP ON OBLIGATIONS IN RELATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING AND REPORTING MECHANISMS ON SGBV/VAWG/HP AND SRHR

COMMUNIQUE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Capacity Building Workshop on Shadow Reporting and Follow up on Obligations in Relation to Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), violence against women and girls (VAWG), harmful practices (HP) and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and girls was convened by Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) with the support of the European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative at 3 Jays Hotel, Utako, Abuja on August 20th and 21st 2020. Participation was drawn from Women's and Girls' Rights Groups, Civil Society Organisations, Media and Faith Based Groups.

The workshop is part of a series of activities under the Spotlight Initiative which seeks to eliminate violence against women and girls with the overall vision of *a Nigeria where all women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable, live a life free from violence and harmful practices.*

The workshop was convened to contribute to an **outcome**: National and sub-national systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and harmful practices in all sectors. The planned **output** is that women rights advocates, civil society groups and the media have greater knowledge, capacity and tools on gender accountability and responsive programming and engagement of government to eliminate VAWG/SGBV/HP/ and promote women's and girls' SRHR.

The **objectives** were designed from the demand side considering that the Federal Government voluntarily entered human rights obligations which it is expected to perform, *pact sunt servanda*. The workshop is to build capacity of the afore-mentioned groups to have a deep appreciation of:

- The purpose of shadow reporting in the context of official reporting by State parties to treaty and non-treaty mechanisms supervising international standards on VAWG/SGBV/HP and women's and girls' access to SRHR;
- The preparation and drafting of a shadow report on VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR;
- The submission of shadow reports on VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR to expert bodies and engagement strategies;
- Follow up mechanisms and processes after examination of States parties reports and use of concluding observations;
- Establish the relationship for continued institutional knowledge support within the project period.

The topics presented were as follows:

- (a) The Purpose of Shadow Reporting.
- (b) Standards on SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR under which Shadow Reports can be Submitted.
- (c) Indicators for Reporting of key articles under CEDAW and other Standards.
- (d) Review of Previous Nigerian Reports and their Shadow Reports.
- (e) At the Committee or Expert Body.
- (f) Follow up Mechanisms.

The participants undertook group discussions which focused on identifying laws, policies and practices which violate women's rights as encapsulated in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as well as recommendations for new laws, policies and change of practices to properly align Nigeria with her CEDAW obligations.

2. OBSERVATIONS

The Workshop Made the Following Observations

- a.** Nigeria has a fundamental obligation to align her laws, policies and practices with the requirements of international and regional treaties on the human rights of women including CEDAW, either shortly before the ratification of the treaties or immediately thereafter.
- b.** Nigeria cannot plead her domestic laws, policies and practices as defence to the violation of international and regional treaty obligations.
- c.** The rights of women and girls in Nigeria and indeed, worldwide to be free from all forms of violence, especially violence that amounts to torture, inhuman and degrading

treatment, has attained the status of *jus cogens*, being peremptory norms of customary international law from which no derogations are permissible.

d. There are several legal and policy provisions that protect women and girls from SGBV/VAWG/HP. These include the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), State level Criminal and Penal Codes, National and State level Gender Policies, the Compulsory, Free, Universal Basic Education Act. Others include all treaties and standards ratified and applicable to Nigeria – CEDAW, Sustainable Development Goal 5; United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), etc.

e. The establishment of Ministries of Women Affairs at the federal level and across the thirty-six states of the Federation. However, the Ministries need to be adequately resourced.

f. Gender mainstreaming has not been vigorously implemented in government programmes while the capacity for gender responsive budgeting is yet to be developed.

g. The Violence against Persons Prohibition Act is a revolutionary piece of legislation which needs to be vigorously implemented as well as adopted in all States of the Federation.

h. The Child Rights Act is also another great piece of legislation which needs to be adopted and vigorously implemented in all states of the Federation.

i. SGBV/VAWG/HP contrary to legal provisions, manifests in various dimensions in the home, in the community, public places and at places of work. These include domestic violence, emotional violence, rape, sexual harassment in schools and workplaces, stalking, female genital mutilation (FGM), femicide, denial of education, disinheritance, widowhood practices, stigmatisation and shaming, etc.

j. Violations of the SRHR of women and girls manifest in forced marriages, child brides, teenage motherhood, forced pregnancies, denial of maternal care including ante natal and safe delivery care, vesico vaginal fistula (VVF), unsafe abortion and denial of use of contraceptives. It also manifests in the undue increase of the Nigerian population - a situation where population growth outstrips economic growth.

k. Nigeria’s high levels of maternal and child mortality and morbidity are unacceptable and cannot be justified on the excuse of lack of resources.

l. Despite the universal, free and compulsory basic education law and programme, many Nigerian girls (over 60% of the 13.5 million out of school children) did not attain basic education.

3. RESOLUTIONS

Based On The Foregoing Observations, The Workshop Participants Resolved As Follows:

a. The National Assembly in collaboration with the Nigerian Law Reform Commission, the Federal Ministry of Justice and relevant civil society organisations should undertake a comprehensive review of laws and policies at the federal level against the background of state obligations in CEDAW and other relevant standards, while the same should be replicated by State Houses of Assembly and relevant agencies and CSOs at the state level.

b. Commit to independent identification of the offensive laws and policies to kickstart the process in recommendation “a” above.

c. Specifically call for:

- Inclusion of “gender character” or affirmative action in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).
- Amendment of S.29 of the Constitution to guarantee unequivocally that 18 years is the minimum age of marriage.
- Amendment of S.26 (2) of the Constitution, being the citizenship by registration provision of the Constitution to enable women confer Nigerian nationality on their spouse.
- Amendment of laws and policies to guarantee that women after marriage, do not suffer discrimination in public life, political appointments and attainments based on their “state of origin”.
- Amendment of laws and policies that discriminate against women in employment and equal pay for work of equal value.
- Enact the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill into law.

d. Call for the inclusion of maternal and child health as fundamental rights in Chapter Four of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and the funding should come as a first line charge in statutory transfers.

e. The Ministries of Women Affairs at the federal level and across the thirty-six states of the Federation should be adequately resourced in terms of personnel, finance, technology, etc.

f. Gender mainstreaming should be vigorously implemented in government's programmes while capacity building for gender responsive budgeting should be intensified.

g. CSOs should intensify advocacy for the vigorous implementation of the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act and the Child Rights Act as well as their adoption in all States of the Federation.

h. CSOs should intensify advocacy for the vigorous implementation of the Compulsory Free and Universal Basic Education Act especially through the adoption of a special intervention on the education of the Girl Child.

i. Commit to education and sensitisation of law enforcement agents, prosecutors and judicial officers on the implementation and enforcement of laws that criminalise SGBV/VAWG and HP as well as violations of the SRHR of women and girls.

j. Commit to vigorous action research, advocacy, networking on the drastic reduction of Nigeria's high levels of maternal and child mortality as well as capacity building of state and non-state actors on strategies and actions for reducing maternal and child mortality and morbidity.

k. Commit to effective participation in the shadow reporting process to CEDAW at Nigeria's next reporting period.

Signed

Aisha Margima
Adamawa State Representative

Cecilia Eseme
Sokoto State Representative

Ezinwa Obiajunwa
FCT Representative

Eze Onyekpere
Centre for Social Justice



August 25, 2020

**CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR STRATEGIC MINISTRIES,
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF SOKOTO STATE GOVERNMENT
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS/PLANS ON SGBV/VAWG/HP AND SRHR**

COMMUNIQUE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Capacity Building Workshop for Strategic Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of Sokoto State Government on formulation of Action Plans and Policies and implementation of National and International Standards on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), violence against women and girls (VAWG), harmful practices (HP) and the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and girls was convened by Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) with the support of the European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative at Grand New Shukura Hotel, 10 Kano Road Sokoto, Sokoto State on August 24th and 25th 2020. Participation was drawn from MDAs of Sokoto State notably, the Ministries of Women Affairs, Agriculture, Environment, Education, Health, Finance, Budgeting and Economic Planning, Bureau of Statistics, Information, Social Welfare, Works and Transport, Justice, Youth and Sports Development and the State House of Assembly.

The workshop is part of a series of activities under the Spotlight Initiative which seeks to eliminate violence against women and girls with the overall vision of *a Nigeria where all women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable, live a life free from violence and harmful practices.*

The workshop was convened to contribute to **an outcome** vis; Legislative and policy frameworks based on evidence and in line with international human rights standards, on all forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices are in place and translated into plans. The **expected output** is that capacities of government officials are

strengthened to advocate for, and participate in the domestication, review, the development and implementation of laws and policies on ending VAWG, including SGBV/HP and promotion of the SRHR of women and girls.

The objectives are designed from the supply side considering that government provides the supply in the performance of official duties in fulfilment of the fundamental objective of governance - that the security and welfare of the people is the primary purpose of government. It seeks to build the capacity of participants to:

- Understand SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR and the provisions in subnational, national and international standards including the SDGs on the project theme;
- Understand and use the indicators for measurement and assessment of progress towards eradicating VAWG/SGBV/HP and promoting SRHR in the preparation and implementation of national and subnational plans;
- Mainstream response to VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in the preparation and implementation of national and state level policy instruments;
- Mainstream responses to VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in the preparation and implementation of budgets within the policy, plan budget continuum;
- Establish the relationship for continued institutional knowledge support within the project period.

The following presentations were made:

- (a) Legal Standards on SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR.
- (b) Indicators for Measurement of Success in Eradicating SGBV/VAWG/HP and promoting SRHR.
- (c) Mainstreaming SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR in Plans and Policies.
- (d) Budgeting for the Eradication of SGBV/VAWG/HP and improvement of SRHR.
- (e) Review of the published SGBV and Sokoto State Budget: 2016-2019.

The participants undertook group discussions which focused on identifying policy gaps and challenges as well as low hanging fruits for action in the following MDAs; Women Affairs, Education, Health, Justice, Youth and Sports, Agriculture and Information.

2. OBSERVATIONS

The Workshop Made the Following Observations

a. Sokoto State, as a part of the Nigerian Federation is bound by all treaties ratified and applicable to Nigeria. These include the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), SDG5 and other relevant Goals and Comments/Observations of the CEDAW Committee; United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

(ICESCR) and its Limburg Principles and Maastricht Guidelines in relation to States parties obligations, etc.

b. Sokoto State has enacted a Gender Policy and the Right to Education Law which prioritises the education of the Girl Child. It is in the process of adopting the Child Rights Act. However, there is no specific law prohibiting domestic violence in the State.

c. The State has not set up by law, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Response Teams. The existing SGBVR Team in the State was set up by Voluntary Agencies in collaboration with Government.

d. We recall the promise of the Body of Attorney Generals of the 19 Northern states to adopt the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act across all the states in the Region.

e. Sokoto State recognises in its Penal Code that 18 years is the age of majority and informed consent and anyone below the age of 18 is deemed to be a child by law. Sex with any person under the age of 18 is criminalised by the Sokoto State Penal Code.

f. Sources for data, measurement of progress and validation of the observance of norms for the eradication of SGBV/VAWG/HP and improvement of SRHR of women and girls include the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) and Nigerian Education Indicators.

g. Available data indicates that Sokoto State:

- Performed well in the low numbers of female genital mutilation/cutting.
- Performed poorly in early marriage and teenage motherhood, delivery by skilled birth attendants and in a health facility as well as usage of modern contraceptives.
- Despite the free education programme, girl child attendance and completion rates in basic education is low; monitoring and evaluation is still poor.
- 35% Affirmative Action for Sokoto Women is not yet in place.
- Health establishments are lacking qualified personnel, equipment and facilities, etc.
- Judicial and law enforcement challenges include lack of dedicated courts to try SGBV; stigmatisation, etc.

h. The following MDAs were deemed to be central to the campaign for the eradication of SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of the SRHR of women and girls vis, the Ministries of Women Affairs, Agriculture, Environment, Education, Health, Finance, Budgeting and Economic Planning, Bureau of Statistics, Information, Social Welfare, Works and Transport, Health, Justice, Youth and Sports Development and the State House of Assembly.

i. We observe that the concept of resources for the struggle against SGBV/VAWG/HP is beyond money and fiscal resources. Resources include human, information, ecological, technological, etc. resources.

j. The Appropriation Act provisions for SGBV seems to be poorly funded across the sectors in the State as the releases do not match the appropriations.

k. Several low hanging fruits in activities, budgeting and policy are available for the realisation of freedom from violence across the state.

3. RESOLUTIONS

Based On The Foregoing Observations, The Workshop Participants Resolved As Follows:

a. Commit to work for the dissemination, sensitisation and implementation of the State Gender Policy.

b. Participants commit to raise awareness and disseminate information on national and international standards as well as strengthen relationships, cooperation and collaboration among Sokoto MDAs. We also commit to tap the energies and capacities of CSOs in the State.

c. Participants commit to bridge the gap between laws and policies and their implementation and to use empirical evidence for policy and plan implementation.

d. Work through their MDAs for adoption of the Child Rights Act, establishment by law of the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Response Team which would be a one stop centre with requisite competencies to respond to SGBV

e. Commit to work for the enactment of a specific law prohibiting domestic violence.

f. Take up the promise of the Body of Attorney Generals of the 19 Northern states to adopt VAPP across all the states in the Region through the engagement of the executive and legislature in Sokoto State.

g. Tackle the challenges of child/early marriage, teenage pregnancy and VVF through the enforcement of the universal basic education requirement for all girls to be in school until 18. Sensitisation and engagement of religious leaders and traditional rulers on the provisions of the Penal Code of Sokoto State on the age of marriage and consent to marriage as anyone below the age of 18 is deemed to be a child by law.

h. To mainstream SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR in the budgets of the Ministries of Women Affairs, Agriculture, Environment, Education, Health, Finance, Budgeting and Economic Planning, Bureau of Statistics, Information, Social Welfare, Works and Transport, Health, Justice, Youth and Sports Development, etc. in 2021 and subsequent years as well as ensure that expenditure proposals are realistic and in tandem with revenue sources which will lead to budgets being fully funded.

i. To deploy other resources including information, technology and ecological resources for the eradication of SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR, etc.

j. Low hanging fruits would include:

- General: Mainstreaming inter agency collaboration on SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR.
- Health: Training of health personnel to handle SGBV Survivors, Free Maternal and Child Health Services. Expand coverage of the Contributory Health Insurance Scheme.
- Information: Sensitisation and awareness raising on SGBV using radio and in the local language.
- Women Affairs: Sensitisation, awareness raising and capacity building. Setting up knowledge centres and capacity units in the Ministry of Women Affairs to facilitate women's access to micro credit/soft loans and funding from development agencies;
- Education: improved second chance opportunities.
- State Government: To take advantage of all Counterpart Funding Programmes in Education (Universal Basic Education), Health (Basic Health Care Provision Fund), etc. To increase the appropriation of the Ministry of Women Affairs to not less than 1.5% of the budget.
- Legislature: Making budgets realistic based on available resources.

Signed

Hajiya Kulu Nuhu
Ministry of Women Affairs

Muktar Garba Gande
Ministry of Agriculture

Bashir Bawa Yabo
Ministry of Health

Shuaibu Umar Gatawa
Ministry of Finance

Hajiya Zainab L Tumaki
Ministry of Budgeting and Economic Planning

Muazu Aliyu
Bureau of Statistics

Ibrahim Mohammed Iya
Ministry of Information

Abdullahi Marafa
Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education

Aishatu Shuaibu Sani
Ministry of Works and Transport

Zainab Bello Aliyu, Esq
Ministry of Justice

Shehu Dantuni Shagari
Ministry of Youth and Sports Development

Bello Ahmed Tambuwal
State House of Assembly.

Muhuyidini Muhammad
Ministry of Social Welfare

Eze Onyekpere, Esq
Lead Director, Centre for Social Justice



August 27, 2020

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN SOKOTO STATE ON PREVENTION AND RESPONSES TO SGBV/VAWG/HP AND PROMOTION OF SRHR

COMMUNIQUE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Capacity Building Workshop for Law Enforcement Agencies in Sokoto State on prevention and responses to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), violence against women and girls (VAWG), harmful practices (HP) and the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and girls was convened by Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) with the support of the European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative at Grand New Shukura Hotel, 10 Kano Road, Sokoto, Sokoto State on August 26th and 27th 2020. Participation was drawn from the Nigeria Police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Hisbah Commission and the National Agency for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

The workshop is part of a series of activities under the Spotlight Initiative which seeks to eliminate violence against women and girls with the overall vision of *a Nigeria where all women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable, live a life free from violence and harmful practices.*

The workshop was convened to contribute to an **outcome**: National and sub-national systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and harmful practices in all sectors. The planned **output** is that capacities of law enforcement agents and prosecutors is strengthened to deliver services that prevent and respond to VAWG/SGBV/HP, especially for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.

The **objectives** were designed from the supply side considering that law enforcement is central to the fulfilment of government's fundamental obligation to society which is to maintain law and order and secure lives and property of citizens and residents. The workshop is to build capacity of strategic law enforcement officials to have a deep appreciation of:

- The purpose and principles of mainstreaming prevention and responses to VAWG/SGBV/HP and women and girls' access to SRHR in law enforcement;
- National and international standards relevant to law enforcement and VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR;
- Challenges of operationalising and mainstreaming preventive and response measures on VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in law enforcement;
- Fit and good practices/best practices in prevention and response to VAWG/SGBV/HP in law enforcement;
- Establish the relationship for continued institutional knowledge support within the project period.

The topics presented were as follows:

- (a) The Purpose and Principles of Mainstreaming Prevention and Response to VAWG/SGBV/HP/SRHR in Law Enforcement.
- (b) Standards on Law Enforcement and SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR.
- (c) Best Practices in Preventing and Responding to SGBV/VAWG/HP.
- (d) Challenges of Operationalising and Mainstreaming Prevention and Responses to SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR in Law Enforcement.
- (e) Gender and Law Enforcement in Nigeria in the Light of SGBV/VAWG/HP/SRHR: Issues, Challenges and the Way Forward.

The participants undertook group discussions which focused on identifying gaps and challenges, emergent best practices as well as low hanging fruits for action in law enforcement for prevention and responses to SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR of women and girls.

2. OBSERVATIONS

The Workshop Made the Following Observations

- a.** Law Enforcement Agencies have a fundamental obligation to protect lives and property and to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms including the rights to human dignity and non-discrimination for women, girls and vulnerable groups. The fulfilment of this obligation should entail freedom from SGBV/VAWG/HP for women and girls and the promotion of their SRHR.
- b.** There are several legal and policy provisions that protect women and girls from SGBV/VAWG/HP. These include the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Sokoto State Penal Code, Right to Education Law, Nigeria Police Act and its Regulations, the Compulsory, Free, Universal Basic Education Act and

Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act. Others include all treaties and standards ratified and applicable to Nigeria – United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Sustainable Development Goal 5; United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), etc.

c. The establishment of the Nigeria Police Gender Unit, the NSCDC Gender Unit, Hisbah Commission Gender Unit, and the Sokoto SGBV Response Team is a welcome development with the capacity to drastically reduce gender-based violence. However, the Gender Units have not been adequately resourced.

d. There is no Standard Operating Procedure for handling sexual and gender-based violence across all Law Enforcement Agencies in Nigeria. Furthermore, there is inter agency rivalry and overlapping functions on SGBV/VAWG/HP.

e. There are several rules in the Police Force that discriminate against women and the Force Gender Policy is overdue for review.

f. Forensic analytical resources/support is imperative for proper investigation and reporting as well as obtaining convictions on SGBV and VAWG.

g. There are challenges of logistics, inadequate training, experts for the investigation of SGBV/VAWG/HP and SRHR of women and girls in the Police, NSCDC, Hisbah Commission, NAPTIP and the SGBV Response Team. Furthermore, there are interferences from political and cultural leaders, superior officers, etc. in the investigation and reporting process.

h. There is no dedicated court for the prosecution of SGBV/VAWG/HP and the denial of the SRHR of women and girls. This slows down the prosecution process and leads to denial of justice for survivors.

i. Awareness and sensitisation on the processes of reporting, facilitation and getting justice on SGBV issues is low. Hence the need for increased public sensitisation.

j. SGBV/VAWG/HP contrary to legal provisions, manifests in various dimensions in the home, in the community, public places and at places of work. These include domestic violence, emotional violence, rape, sexual harassment in schools and workplaces, stalking, female genital mutilation (FGM), femicide, denial of education, disinheritance, widowhood practices, stigmatisation and shaming, etc.

k. Violations of the SRHR of women and girls manifest in forced marriages, child brides, teenage motherhood, forced pregnancies, denial of maternal care including ante natal and safe delivery care, vesico vaginal fistula (VVF), unsafe abortion and denial of use of contraceptives. It also manifests in the undue increase of the Nigerian population - a situation where population growth outstrips economic growth.

l. SGBV/VAWG/HP are recognised obstacles to the achievement of equality, development and peace; nullifies and impairs women's enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms; is a global public health challenge and causes physical, psychological and economic harm and suffering to women.

m. The culture of silence, stigmatisation and shaming of women and girls who complain about sexual offences contributes to perpetrator impunity and the continuation of sexual and gender-based violence.

n. Further to paragraph m, overall, law enforcement practices and attitudes have not been overtly supportive of victims and survivors of SGBV and VAWG.

o. The Penal Code Law applicable in Sokoto State recognises that 18 years is the age of majority and informed consent and anyone below the age of 18 is deemed to be a child by law. Sex with any person under the age of 18 is criminalised by the Penal Code.

p. Criminal investigations are pivotal for effective criminal justice adjudication and there is the need for professionalism, objectivity and integrity in the investigation and reporting process.

q. SGBV/VAWG survivors need rehabilitation and reintegration in society.

3. RESOLUTIONS

Based On The Foregoing Observations, The Workshop Participants Resolved As Follows:

a. Law Enforcement Agencies commit to redouble their efforts towards eradicating SGBV/VAWG/HP for women and girls and the promotion of their SRHR. Inter-Agency collaboration will be encouraged and strengthened especially a platform for information sharing and exchange.

b. Commit to the development of a Common Law Enforcement Standard Operating Procedure on SGBV/VAWG/HP as well as specific Gender Policies for different Law Enforcement Agencies.

c. Commit to the review of the Police Force Gender Policy to eliminate discrimination against women in the Police especially in the areas of marriage, housing, etc.

d. Commit to the establishment of forensic analytical resources/support funded by the State which is needed for proper investigation and reporting as well as obtaining convictions on SGBV and VAWG.

e. Law Enforcement Agencies commit to provide information for the publication of details of offenders in the Sexual Offenders Register.

- f.** The Nigeria Police, NSCDC, Hisbah Commission Gender Units should be adequately resourced with financial resources, capacity building for its key personnel and logistics support for its operations. Furthermore, NAPTIP and the SGBV Response Team should also be adequately funded.
- g.** Commit to advocacy for the establishment of a One Stop Centre responding to SGBV/VAWG and HP with multiple competencies (free toll emergency lines, legal, medical, investigation, psychosocial support, shelter, rehabilitation, etc.) in Sokoto State.
- h.** Commit to advocacy for the establishment of special court to expeditiously try cases of SGBV/VAWG/HP and the denial of the SRHR of women and girls. This could be done not necessarily by legislation but by the Chief Judge of Sokoto State assigning SGBV cases to designated courts and reducing the case load of these courts, so that they have more time to focus attention on SGBV cases.
- g.** Commit to engage other stakeholders in the struggle against SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR. These stakeholders include the legal and medical professions, counsellors, women's rights groups and associations, civil society organisations, religious and traditional institutions, etc.
- h.** Commit to take preventive action and adequate response to matters of domestic violence, emotional violence, rape, sexual harassment in schools and workplaces, stalking, female genital mutilation (FGM), femicide, denial of education, disinheritance, widowhood practices, stigmatisation and shaming, etc.
- i.** Commit to take preventive action and adequate responses to violations of SRHR especially forced and child marriages, forced pregnancies, denial of maternal care including ante natal and safe delivery care.
- j.** To reverse the culture of silence, stigmatisation and shaming of women and girls who complain about sexual offences through sensitisation and a new culture of survivor centred approach to policing and law enforcement.
- k.** Commit to the dissemination of information on the evidence, requirements and issues that need to be put together to prove rape and other SGBV.
- l.** Commit to the full and strict implementation of the Penal Code Law that 18 years is the age of majority and informed consent and anyone below the age of 18 is deemed to be a child by law. Sex with any person under the age of 18 is to be vigorously prosecuted.
- m.** Commit to improved criminal investigations through deploying impartiality, strict truthfulness, intelligence, respect, courtesy, patience, perseverance and persistence, professionalism, objectivity and integrity in the investigation and reporting process of SGBV/VAWG/HP and promotion of SRHR.

Signed

ASP Monica Enoch, SGBV Desk Officer
Nigeria Police Force

Asst. Commandant Omejaku Christy
Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps

Chukwu Udo Chukwu, Asst. Chief Intelligent Officer
NAPTIP

Asst. Commandant Alhassan J. Adeiza
Hisbah Commission

Barr. Eze Onyekpere Lead Director
Centre for Social Justice