

GUIDELINES FOR THE LOCALIZATION OF NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION (UNSCR) 1325 AND RELATED RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY



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Guidelines For The Localization Of Nigeria's National Action Plan On United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 And Related Resolutions On Women, Peace, And Security

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ACRONYMS

CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EWER	Early Warning Early Response
FBO	Faith-Based Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GEO	Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill
GEPaDC	Gender Equality, Peace and Development Centre
GNWP	Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
INGOs	International Non- Governmental Organizations
IOM	International Organization for Immigration
IPCR	Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution
KII	Key Informant Interview
LAP	Local Action Plan
LSC	Localization Steering Committee
LGA	Local Government Area
MDAs	Ministries, Department and Ministries
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAP	National Action Plan
NGOs	Non- Governmental Organizations
NPF	Nigerian Police Force
NSCDC	Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps
NYSC	National Youth Service Corp
ONSA	Office of the National Security Adviser
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PSOP	Peace and Stabilization Operations Program of Global Affairs Canada
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
SAP	States Action Plan
SEMA	States Emergency Management Authorities
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
VAPP	Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VE	Violent Extremism
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WWD	Women with Disabilities

FOREWORD

Across the globe, women continue to suffer from discrimination and other social vices such as Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), which are inimical to peace and security. The persistent cry of Nigerian women at the community level for non-discriminatory policy actions, including prevention of and protection from patriarchal cultural norms and practices, have been echoed by numerous civil society organizations, women's groups and community-based organizations (CBOs). In pursuance of the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in 2013 with a team of consultants after due consultations with States and non-States actors drafted, validated, launched, and disseminated the first Women, Peace and Security (WPS) National Action Plan (NAP). In 2017, the NAP was reviewed for a second time for a period of three years. The third review of the NAP is still ongoing. The NAP serves as an internal normative framework to promote women's participation in decision-making and peacebuilding.

The Government of Nigeria has also gone a step further to enact related laws that are responsive to women's concerns, as a sign of its commitment to international obligations and in response to the needs of women who constitute about fifty percent (50%) of the country's population. The Violence Against Person (Prohibition) (VAPP) Act 2015 is a notable example with States governors domesticating the law in their respective states.

These Guidelines are to provide local actors, civil society organizations and local government authorities with knowledge of, and a practical way to, implement UNSCR 1325 and the Nigerian WPS NAP at the local level. These Localization Guidelines serve as a road map to ensure that Nigeria's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and its specific pillars are effectively integrated into Local Development Planning processes and strategies. These Guidelines also aim to strengthen the knowledge and skills of local

actors such as Local Council Chairpersons, Councilors, Traditional Chiefs, Local Authorities, Development Planning Officers, Social Services Department/Gender Focal Points, Women Leaders and other stakeholders at the community level in how to integrate Nigeria's WPS NAP into local development plans, policies, programmes and legislation.

The Guidelines provide a step-by-step guide for women's groups and other civil society organizations to follow on Localization of UNSCR 1325. This process is bottom-up with strong local ownership, and its replication will foster the integration of gender perspectives into local development plans and heighten recognition of the role of women as peacebuilders. These Localization Guidelines are a welcome development and I express profound gratitude to the Government of Canada for providing the funds for Localization activities in Nigeria. I recognize the strategic role played by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) in pioneering the Localization process and working to share knowledge about this vital strategy.

Finally, I would like to thank the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding - WANEP Nigeria for running with this vision in Nigeria. This publication could not have come at a better time than now to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and the inauguration of the steering committee for the drafting of the country's third NAP on UNSCR 1325. It is our belief that this document will serve to ensure that the concerns, views, and perspectives of women are brought to the forefront in decision-making and peacebuilding.

Prof. Patricia Donli

Executive Director Gender Equality, Peace and Development Centre
(GEPaDC)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board and Management of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) Nigeria acknowledges our partners, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) with the support of Global Affairs Canada's Peace and Stabilization Operations Program (PSOP), for the technical expertise and financial support towards the development of these Localization Guidelines in Nigeria.

Our immense gratitude goes to the Honorable Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen for actively supporting WANEP-Nigeria's WPS activities, particularly in the context of implementing UNSCR 1325. Commendation is also due to the Bauchi and Gombe States Commissioners of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. Their unwavering commitment towards the Localization process is exemplary, and has resulted in the drafting of four Local Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 in Katagum and Toro Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in Bauchi State, and Balanga and Kwami L.G.As in Gombe State.

The immense contributions, constructive criticisms and feedback from various persons during the validation exercise cannot be ignored including Agatha Osieke, Amina Bala Jibrin, Bridget Affaiah, Charity Charles, Chinwe Onyeukwu, Dorathy Yawe, Dr. Racheal Misan Ruppee, Francis Odeh Edokanda, Idris Suleiman Aloomaa, Isaac Omo-Ehiabhi Eranga, Ijeoma Ladele, Martha Usiobaifo, Muhammed Farouk, Nkiru Okoro, Oluwokere Adesola, Princess Sijuade, and Rebecca Mua'zu, and other relevant stakeholders are sincerely appreciated.

WANEP-Nigeria wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the contributions and immense support of the Young Peacebuilders and the Media4peace group for publicizing the Women, Peace and Security agenda by sharing the stories of women peacebuilders in different communities across States in Nigeria. We also acknowledge the unrelenting efforts of the staff of WANEP-Nigeria for their commitment towards the actualization of this document. Finally, appreciation goes to Esike Onajite Ebruke for his

technical support in developing the LocalizationGuidelines based on his years of experience working with varied States and non-States actors in developing States and Local Action Plans on UNSCR 1325.

To all our stakeholders who participated in the project activities, including Localization workshops, writeshops, media trainings and competitions, trainings with young people, among others, we appreciate and thank you for your commitment, generous inputs, comments and active engagement in the entire process.

We thank you all in advance for your partnership in the utilization of theseGuidelines in localizing Nigeria's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325.



1.0 INTRODUCTION



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325



The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, unanimously adopted by the Security Council on the 31st of October 2000 is the first of the many resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (IMPACT RECOGNITION)

UNSCR 1325 is a ground-breaking resolution that recognizes the varied ways armed conflict impacts women differently from men.

- ✦ It calls for the protection of women and girls during armed conflict and post-conflict situations.
- ✦ The resolution further recognizes women's role as peace-builders and agents of change
- ✦ Calls on UN bodies, Member States, civil society and the international community at-large to ensure women's increased participation in conflict prevention, peace negotiation, reconstruction decisions and programs, and all other facets of the peace process.



UNSCR 1325 stresses that peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men, and affirms the equal access and full participation of women in power structures and in all efforts geared towards peace and security as essential.

The resolution is rooted in the premise that women’s inclusion, participation, perspectives and contributions are crucial to the peace process and its dialogues and will improve the chances of attaining viable and sustainable peace.

**22
Years**

Twenty-two years after the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on WPS, the transformative elements of the resolution, paved the way for the adoption of ten supporting resolutions

	10 supporting resolutions (with Years)			
	Years	Resolution	Years	Resolution
	2008	1820	2013	2122
	2008	1888	2015	2242
	2009	1889	2017	2349
	2010	1960	2019	2467
	2013	2106	2019	2493

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on WPS



Together they form the international policy framework on WPS and were adopted in response to persistent advocacy from civil society. The obligations in the resolutions are binding, and extend from the international to the national level.



This has strengthened the normative framework for women's participation in decision-making, conflict prevention and peacebuilding; protection of women and girls' rights; and, prevention of sexual violence in conflict.



The Women, Peace and Security agenda has also broadened the discourse on peace and security, and provided a stronger platform for civil society advocacy on women's rights, human rights and gender equality and their intersection with peace and security.¹

¹National Action Plan for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions in Nigeria; Federal Ministry of women of Women Affairs (2017- 2020)

1.2 National Action Plans



To ensure the implementation of UNSCR 1325, the UN Security Council has called on Member States to initiate actions through the development of National Action Plans (NAPs), or the adoption of other national-level strategies.

Benefits of the National Action Plans

The NAP, therefore,



It serves as a tool for governments to articulate priorities and coordinate action for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the national and sub-national levels.



It serves as a guiding national policy document that captures the role of diverse actors among government bodies, international development partners, and civil society organizations who are tasked with advancing human security as well as the foreign policy, development, and gender equality agenda of the nation.

Number of Action Plans



National

104



Regional

12



However, local communities directly affected by conflicts and crises are still largely excluded in the development and implementation of NAPs and regional policies. While this is not the only reason, the exclusion of local communities in NAP development and implementation significantly contributes to the continuing exclusion of women in peace and political processes and the increase in cases of conflict-related sexual violence.

Launch of **NAP** *in Nigeria*



August 27th,
2013

Nigeria launched its NAP on the
implementation of the United
Nations Security Council
Resolution (UNSCR) 1325

Reasons for Launch of NAP in Nigeria



The development of the NAP became imperative because of Nigeria's commitment to the international treaty and due to the steep price Nigerian women have paid in the long and violent conflicts that have been ravaging the country, especially in the past two decades.²



These conflicts include violent extremism within States of the North East, militancy in the Niger Delta region, increasing violence between herders and farming communities spreading from the middle belt southward (with the farmer/herders conflicts metamorphosing into armed banditry, kidnapping for ransom, cattle rustling, killings, and sexual violence), strong separatist agitations for Biafra, and violent activities of unknown gunmen in communities all across the country.



In all of these, women and girls have continued to endure unprecedented levels of vulnerability suffering the greatest consequences as victims in these violent situations.

²National Action Plan for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions in Nigeria; Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (2013- 2017)

RESPONSIBLE STAKEHOLDERS



³Leveraging UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans for Local Change; Civil Society Opportunities in the MENA Region produced by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), August 2014.

5 key pillars of UNSCR 1325

Prevention

Participation

Protection

Prosecution

Promotion



However, women continue to be poorly represented in formal peace processes, particularly at the community level, although they contribute in many informal ways to conflict resolution and development across the country.

In 2017, the NAP was reviewed to span 2017 to 2020 to incorporate emerging security issues such as



violent
extremism,



religious
crisis,



insurgency



kidnappings

as well as programming gaps relating to gender dimensions of the national security architecture in the rehabilitation and recovery plan for northeast Nigeria.

With the development of the NAP at the national level, there was a need to consider the unique peculiarities in Women, Peace and Security at the States and local levels where pockets of conflict emanate.

In a bid to enable State governments to understand and implement UNSCR 1325, State Action Plans (SAPs) on UNSCR 1325 were developed. SAPs serve as useful guide in defining the important and distinct roles of implementers of UNSCR 1325 both at the policy and implementation levels.

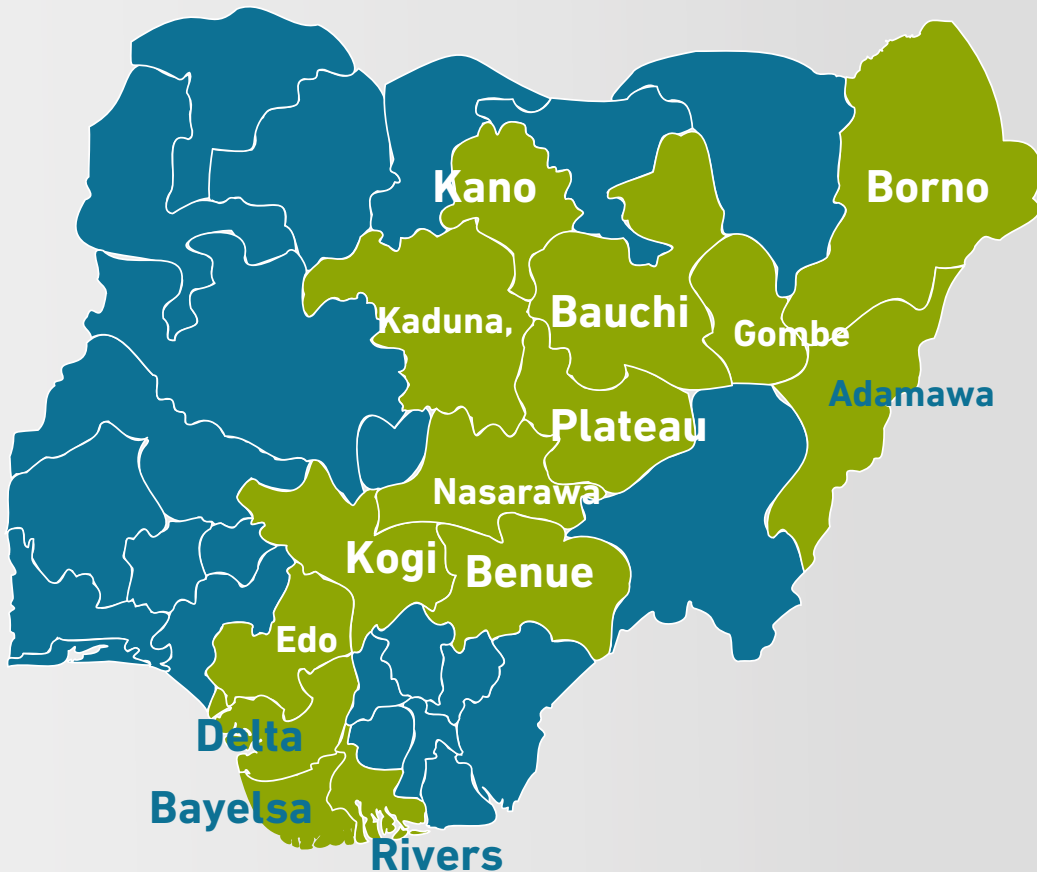
It also ensures that government programmes respond to the immediate, as well as long-term, needs of women girls before, during and after conflict.





Nigeria has localized the NAP in

14 States





Nigeria has localized the NAP in

15 States

Local Government Areas



Gombe

Kaltungo LGA, Yamaltu –
Deba LGA , Balanga & Kwami LGA s (Draft);



Kano

Faggae LGA;



Plateau

Wase, Riyom, Mangu and Jos North LGA;



Delta

Ughelli South, Ukwuani and Oshimili
South LGA;



Bauchi

Katagum and Toro LGAs (Draft);



Borno

Maiduguri Municipal Action Plan(draft).

The 2015 Global Study on UNSCR 1325 recommends that



“all relevant actors – member states, civil society, donors and multilateral agencies should support and invest in participatory processes, social accountability tools and localization initiatives to link global, national and local efforts and ensure the voices of the most affected and marginalized populations inform and shape relevant responses and monitoring of progress.”⁴



⁴ Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace ; The 2015 Global Study on UNSCR 1325: wps.unwomen.org



To ensure the inclusion and participation of women in peace and decision-making processes at the local level, The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) Nigeria in partnership with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) with support of Global Affairs Canada's Peace and Stabilization Operation Program (PSOP) have been implementing the Localization of WPS strategy⁵ to effectively implement the thematic resolutions in Nigeria.

The Localization strategy is a bottom – up strategy based on the premise that local ownership and participation lead to more effective policy-making and implementation. It convenes local authorities and leaders such as governors, councilors, paramount chiefs, indigenous and traditional leaders, religious leaders, local women and youth leaders, teachers, security agencies, States Emergency Management Board (SEMA) and other key local actors.

Localization enables them to analyze conflicts and their impact on women, girls and other vulnerable groups in their local communities, as well as women's roles in conflict resolution, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Based on this analysis through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)⁶ lens, local actors learn about the WPS resolutions and formulate Local Action Plans, local legislation and integrate UNSCR 1325 and the supporting WPS Resolutions into Local Development Plans.

The Localization of WPS is pivotal to the full realization of the WPS agenda. To ensure the Localization of UNSCR 1325 in communities across Nigeria, WANEP engaged a team of consultants to develop Localization Guidelines to assist local authorities and actors to implement the provisions of Nigeria's National Action Plan (NNAP) on UNSCR 1325 at the local level through the development of Local Action Plans or adoption of local laws and policies.

⁵ For more information on the Localization strategy: gnwp.org/localization-toolkit/

⁶ Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) is a tool developed by the Government of Canada. For more information on GBA+: women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-analysis-plus.html



2.0 CONTEXT



2.1 Nigeria's National Action Plan on UNSCRs 1325 (NNAP) Second Edition (2017- 2020)



The Nigeria National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 serves as a guide for effective implementation by identifying specific activities, roles and responsibilities of actors as well as creating a monitoring and evaluation framework. It is a three-year implementation plan which has been reviewed twice between 2013-2017 and 2017-2020 respectively. The 2ndNAP outlined in detail priority actions, core strategies, and interventions by relevant actors/ stakeholders and their responsibilities. It also provided clear indicators, monitoring and evaluation benchmarks and projected targets. It was anticipated that successful implementation of the NAP would enhance coordination among relevant actors responsible for its implementation.⁷

The 1st NAP was a commitment by the Government of Nigeria in taking forward the global charge of addressing and responding to the immediate and long-term needs of women before, during and post-conflict. The NAP echoed the government's commitment and its responsibility in ensuring the security of women and girls and enhancing their active and direct participation in identifying early warning signs, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

The 2nd NAP is an improvement from the 1st, developed around five pillars with strategic objectives and outcomes as follows:

⁷ National Action Plan for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions in Nigeria; Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (2013-2017)

The 2nd NAP is an improvement from the 1st, developed around five-pillars with strategic objectives and outcomes as follows:

PILLARS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

Pillar 1: Prevention and Disaster Preparedness

To ensure prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls, institute coping mechanisms and systems for averting and mitigating disasters.

- Women's vulnerability to conflict and human security threats are averted and women's contributions are integrated into preventive and mitigation measures.

Pillar 2: Participation and Representation

To increase participation and engagement of women and inclusion of women's interests in decision making processes related to conflict prevention and peace-building.

To ensure the full and equal participation and representation of women at all levels of decision making.

Meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes, governance and decision-making structures at all levels is attained.

Pillar 3: Protection and Prosecution

To ensure women's and girls' rights and security are protected and promoted in conflict and peace and to prosecute such rights violators.

Women's rights to peace and security, including access to justice and redress are effectively protected and provided.

Pillar 4: Crises Management, Early Recovery and Post Conflict Reconstruction

To ensure women's and girls' specific relief and recovery needs are met and women's capacities to act as agents in crisis, recovery and post-conflict situations are reinforced.

Women's human security needs are met, especially through crisis management, recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Pillar 5: Partnerships – Coordination and Management

This is a cross cutting pillar to ensure an increase in the capacity and resources to coordinate, implement, monitor and report on women, peace and security plans and programs.

Women, peace and security interventions are well coordinated with impact achieved and tracked through collaboration and synergy.

NAP Implementation Core Strategies

Five (5) Core Strategies have been specified to guide collective action and interventions by relevant actors and stakeholders in dispatching their responsibility toward NAP implementation. The strategies are:

NAP Promotion and Advocacy: Promote knowledge and awareness of NAP UNSCR 1325, related policies and implementation structure within Nigeria's peace and security architecture.

Legislation and Policy: Advocate for new legislation, legal and policy reforms, and provide increased access to justice to enhance existing laws and policies that protect women's rights and the WPS Agenda.

Research Documentation and Dissemination: Undertake effective data collection, documentation and dissemination on issues of WPS using various instruments of dissemination such as media, community dialogue, town hall meetings and advocacy, amongst others.

Capacity Building and Service Delivery: Provide training and build the capacity of stakeholders to better implement the NAP and strengthen delivery of service related to WPS activities.

Coordination and Synergy of activities between and among stakeholders: Encourage and promote collaboration with national and State stakeholders and other partners in their efforts to implement activities for WPS agenda.



2.2 Local Development Planning Process



The concept of local government has been defined by a number of authors. Despite the multiplicity of the definitions, one of the most articulated definitions of local government in Nigeria is the one given by the 1976 Local Government Reform Guidelines. The Guidelines view local government as the



"government at the local level exercised through representative councils established by law to exercise specific functions within the defined areas" (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1976).



While local government is viewed as a political and administrative institution having appropriate governance structures for running the affairs of people at the grassroots, it is important to note that not all political structures for the provision of governmental services at the grassroots level can be regarded as local government. Local governments must have the political status and power to govern within a given area. A local government must be a legal entity distinct from the States and federal governments and administered by



law and enjoy relative autonomy to perform an array of functions, as well as plan, formulate⁸ and execute its policies and programmes.

In Nigeria, the Local Government Development Plan serves as a basis for any development initiative that is planned or implemented by Local Councils and development partners at the local level.



Any development activity implemented by the Local Government or its development partner must, first of all, be contained in the current development plan.



Otherwise, funds expended on that particular activity would be deemed ineligible.

Also, the Local Government structure has undergone series of reforms focused on the proper and broader definition of local government responsibilities and uniformity in staffing and financial resources.



the 1976 Local Government Reforms,



1984 Local Government Reform



Babangida's Administration Local Government Reform etc.

⁸Journal of Administrative Science Vol.18, Issue 1, 2021, pp. 113 - 133 Available online at <http://jas.uitm.edu.my>

2.3 Instruments of Local Government Plan and Implementation Process



As a tier of government, the Local Government is expected to prepare plans as a process to carry out its constitutional responsibility.

According to the provisions of the Financial Memoranda,



local governments shall prepare plans for capital development at such intervals and in such a manner as may be directed by the States government.



Local Government plans are coordinated and integrated with the States Plan prepared for the same period.



The department of planning, budgeting, research and statistics of local government is responsible for preparing the draft plan for consideration by the council in accordance with the instructions and timetable for finalizing and approving the draft plan before forwarding it to the States government for approval.



In framing its plans, each local government takes regard for all the following factors as stated in the Financial Memoranda for Local Governments (2009):



The total of the funds available, from all sources, to meet the cost of the plan;



The estimated net additional recurrent expenditure generated by each project in the plan in the year of its completion and during the next two years (in the case of a rolling plan) and the ability to meet the total additional recurrent expenditure in respect of all projects from local government funds;



The availability of manpower, particularly trained professionals and technical staff, needed to operate and maintain the various projects, and



The extent to which the various local communities have undertaken to contribute towards the capital and running costs of the project.



This indicates that any project to be undertaken must be subject to the available funds. The available funds should be able to cover the capital cost of the projects including the manpower needed to ensure effective implementation.⁹

The Financial Memoranda (2009) also indicates that the capital cost of projects included in a local government plan shall be financed from either



the capital grants from the federal and States governments,



other sources approved by the States governor,



or contributions from philanthropists cash or in kind.

The council may issue directives regarding the extent to which contributions shall be made.

However, where funds are available, the local government can embark on medium and large size development projects which are capable of generating enough income to the Local Government.

⁹A Publication of the Faculty of Management & Social Sciences, IBB University, Lapai, Niger State-Nigeria Vol. 11 No.2, December, 2019



Local Governments are allowed to carry out other priority projects that can improve wealth which the local governments cannot immediately finance. Also, Local Governments can undertake expensive priority projects which will consume huge amount of money over a long period of time. All these projects are expected to improve the socio-economic well-being of people and promote peaceful co-existence at the local level.



To undertake these projects, the department of planning, budgeting, research and statistics must meet to assess the development needs of the local government area as a whole and the available financial resources. The department can, however, be assisted by a subordinate planning committee. This committee consults with representatives from every town and village in order to identify and evaluate those projects within the area and integrate the needs of the people into development plans. To undertake these projects, the department of planning, budgeting, research and statistics must meet to assess the development needs of the local government area as a whole and the available financial resources. The department can, however, be assisted by a subordinate planning committee. This committee consults with representatives from every town and village in order to identify and evaluate those projects within the area and integrate the needs of the people into development plans.



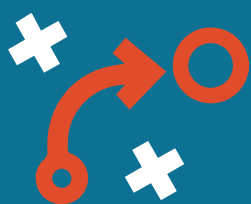
Also, within the Local Government Council, Women Development Officers ensure that the concerns and needs of women in the community are addressed by the council. These officers are often trained to understand and implement policy frameworks that pertain to women. They are allowed to participate in the planning process of the local government. Over the years, these officers have shown commitment to the WPS agenda by helping local authorities understand the need to implement the Local Action Plans on UNSCR 1325.



Although the Local Government is allowed some level of autonomy and can draft their budgets subject to approval by the States government, the best approach to implementation of the WPS Resolution has been through the development of Local Action Plans. The drafting of the plan by local actors, including the local government authorities, and its subsequent validation and adoption remains a best practice for the Localization of WPS resolutions.



It should be noted that Nigeria is a heterogeneous country made up of seven hundred and seventy-four (774) local government areas. Due to the complexity of the local government areas, the local plans developed highlight the specific context and peculiarities in addressing the unique needs of each community.



3.0 THE LOCALIZATION STRATEGY



3.0 THE LOCALIZATION STRATEGY

Localization is a bottom-up strategy to ensure gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive policy-making and policy implementation. It ensures that local populations are able to have a voice in their community affairs.

- ✓ It convenes local authorities and
- ✓ leaders in a participatory process that guarantees



local
leadership,



ownership,



and
commitment

to use the resulting local laws and policies to effect positive change in the lives of women and all marginalized and vulnerable groups affected by violent conflicts.



Unlike most of the NAP planning processes where the premium is on technical expertise or position in government and other institutions, local action planning on WPS puts emphasis on recognizing the agency of local populations, amplifying their voices and enhancing their capacities to find peaceful solutions to ongoing conflicts, prevent future ones and sustain peace. Therefore, it transforms the bureaucratic practice of planning for planning's sake into planning about, for, and by local populations to effect positive change in their own lives. An important characteristic of Localization is that it seeks to avoid adding unnecessary layers of bureaucracy and stretching already limited local resources. Another key element of the Localization strategy is finding synergies between the WPS resolutions and the existing laws, policies and local development plans.¹⁰

¹⁰The Localization of WPS Guidelines are available at: gnwp.org/Localization-Guidelines/



Figure 1: Pathway to effective implementation: Full cycle of implementation of Women, Peace and Security; Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)

Goal and Objectives of Localization

The overall goal of the Localization of WPS resolutions strategy is to improve local, national, regional and global implementation of the agenda.

The specific objectives of Localization are:



To raise awareness and understanding of UNSCR 1325 and the supporting WPS resolutions among local government authorities, traditional leaders, local women leaders, youth leaders, community elders, cultural leaders and their respective constituencies;



It serves as a guiding national policy document that captures the role of diverse actors among government bodies, international development partners, and civil society organizations who are tasked with advancing human security as well as the foreign policy, development, and gender equality agenda of the nation.



To help identify and respond to local WPS priorities and concerns;



To foster local leadership, ownership and commitment to implementation among these key local actors;



To enhance civil society capacities to hold government, UN agencies, regional organizations, donors, development partners, and local leaders accountable to their obligations under the WPS resolutions;



To develop concrete legal and policy instruments that strengthen the implementation of the WPS agenda at the local level; and



To promote systematic coordination and greater cross-sectoral cooperation among national and local government authorities, civil society, local leaders, UN officials, regional organizations, donors, and development partners in the implementation of the WPS resolutions.¹¹

¹¹From Best Practice to Standard Practice:A toolkit on the Localization of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security

3.1 Steps in the Localization of UNSCR 1325: Development of Local Action Plan



WANEP Nigeria and GNWP have been implementing the Localization strategy in Nigeria since 2019. The Localization of UNSCR 1325, which is also being implemented in 18 other countries including



Burundi,



Colombia,



Congo (DRC),



Lebanon,



Kenya,



Nepal



Philippines,



Sierra Leone,



Uganda,



Ukraine

is a decentralized approach to UNSCR 1325 implementation.



It broadens the discussions on UNSCRs 1325 to include critical local actors within individual communities. The initiative elevates awareness-raising into concrete actions for implementation and develops policy framework and local legislation documents that support the effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the most local level of governance.

In implementing the Localization Strategy in Nigeria, the core strategies are:

I



Stakeholders Mapping in Local Communities:

The Localization strategy begins with the stakeholder mapping to identify people and organizations that will be part of the Localization process in the local community so that no one is left behind. These local actors and their level of influence are identified to determine how best to involve and engage with them.

II



Policy Advocacy to key actors in the local communities:

Awareness creation should form part of the entire Localization process. Local actors and gatekeepers including local government chairman, traditional leaders, religious leaders, women, men and youth group leaders and security agencies need to be visited and sensitized on the relevant role women can play in building peace. They must be able to understand the provisions of the UNSCR 1325 and Nigeria's National Action Plan for implementation. Also, presentations on Nigeria's NAP must be integrated into workshops on local development planning processes for local government chairpersons, secretaries and councillors to enable the local government to understand the relevance of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.¹²

¹²From Best Practice to Standard Practice: A toolkit on the Localization of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security. Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (2019): gnwp.org/localization-toolkit/



Localization workshop on UNSCR 1325:

The Localization workshop is the first step towards ensuring local buy-in, ownership and implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the NAP. The Localization workshop is held at the local government level. It is a two or three-day workshop that convenes all relevant key local actors and stakeholders.

At the workshops, local stakeholders work together to identify and reflect on the women and peace and security issues that their constituents confront. Collectively, they examine previous and current responses and formulate concrete actions to address those issues.



The workshop uses interactive lectures and hands-on sessions to:



Introduce key concepts (including the concept of gender/gender equality, WPS, the “good cycle” concept—the interdependence between good governance, sustainable development, and peace and security, particularly human security); At the workshops, local stakeholders work together to identify and reflect on the women and peace and security issues that their constituents confront. Collectively, they examine previous and current responses and formulate concrete actions to address those issues.



Introduce UNSCR 1325, the supporting resolutions and the NAP, and conduct conflict analysis to identify the areas of the NAP that are most relevant to the local context;



Make concrete commitments towards Localizing UNSCR 1325 that will form the basis of the Local Action Plan and other local laws and policies to implement UNSCR 1325 at the local level; and



Establish a Localization Steering Committee on UNSCR 1325.



In addition to the Localization workshop, larger-scale community consultations or town hall meetings, and media workshops to enhance journalists' capacity to report on UNSCR 1325 can be held to guarantee broad-based engagement and political buy-in, and further generate support and commitment to the implementation. Bilateral or small group meetings with key actors/authorities can also be held prior to the workshop to provide background information about UNSCR 1325 and Localization, mobilize support, and ensure good attendance.

IV



Localization Writeshop on UNSCR 1325:

The Localization writeshop (writing workshop) entails the actual drafting of Local Action Plans, local laws and policies or provisions in local development plans that will guide the implementation of the NAP or the WPS resolutions at the local level. Drafting occurs during “writeshops” that usually take place several months—up to a year—after the Localization workshop.

A “writeshop” is a two or three-day workshop where the participants review existing local policies, discuss the integration of WPS provisions into these policies and draft “SMART” (Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Relevant and Time-bound) plans using both gender and peace/conflict lens. Participants discuss the most applicable output for their local communities, producing one or a mix of:



Drafting a
Local Action
Plan



Integrating gender
perspectives into
local laws/policies



Adding gender provisions into existing local
development plans



A resource person with expertise on local governance, local development planning and budgeting, and local legislative processes co-facilitates the writeshop. Most writeshop participants should have attended the Localization workshop, to ensure continuity, and should include local authorities responsible for drafting policies and plans.

¹³From Best Practice to Standard Practice: A toolkit on the Localization of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security. Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (2019): gnwp.org/localization-toolkit/

V



Validation of Draft Local Action Plan on UNSCR 1325

After the costing of the activities on the draft Local Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and upon the allocation of a budget line to the prioritized activities, a validation meeting is held where the authorities of the Local Government Council, civil society and other stakeholders will go through the draft Local Action Plan and scrutinize the activities that have been selected as well as resources allocated.

Vi



Adoption of Plan by the Local Government Authorities:

After validation by stakeholders, the Local Action Plan is presented to the Local Government Authorities for final discussion and endorsement. When the authorities of the Local Government endorse the Plan, it becomes binding on all to use it for all stakeholders to work together to ensure implementation.

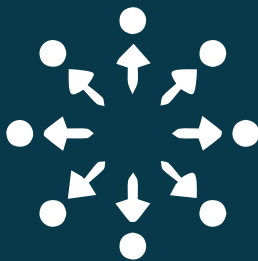
VII



Launch of the Local Action Plan (LAP) on UNSCR 1325:

Awareness-campaigns are created to increase public knowledge on the content of the plan, and it is formally presented to the public during the launch of the LAP. The Launch brings together key stakeholders and the media to give publicity to the need for women's participation in peacebuilding and the relevance of the implementation of the LAP on UNSCR 1325.

VIII



Dissemination of the Local Action Plan on UNSCR 1325:

The Local Action Plan, upon adoption by the Local Government authorities, is made available to individuals, groups and CSOs, and can be used to hold local authorities accountable to their commitments.

IX



Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of progress at local level:

M&E is another important process that can help in ensuring effective Localization of the WPS resolutions. Most donors are keen to support the strengthening and replication of concrete, evidence-backed results and impact of Localization. National and local government ministries and agencies can be mobilized to fund and publicize Localization initiatives that demonstrate government success. Also, the impacts of Localization should be documented to spur stakeholders' commitments in ensuring implementation.



4.0 CONCLUSION



6. Requests the Secretary-General to provide to Member States training Guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women, as well as on the importance of involving women in all peacekeeping and peacebuilding measures, invites Member States to incorporate these elements as well as HIV/AIDS awareness training into their national training programmes for military and civilian police personnel in preparation for deployment, and further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that civilian personnel of peacekeeping operations receive similar training;

7. Urges Member States to increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts, including those undertaken by relevant funds and programmes, inter alia, the United Nations Fund for Women and United Nations Children's Fund, and by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant bodies;

8. Calls on all actors involved, when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to adopt a gender perspective, including, inter alia: (a) The special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction; (b) Measures that support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve women in all of the implementation mechanisms of the peace agreements; (c) Measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary;



4.0 CONCLUSION

The Localization of WPS resolutions strategy has been recognized as a best practice to address shortcomings in implementation and strengthen the impact of the agenda. In countries that have adopted NAPs, Localization has proven to be an effective implementation strategy as it guarantees leadership, ownership and participation of local communities, leading to concrete actions that address the devastating impacts of violent conflict.

These Guidelines for the Localization of Nigeria's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions in local government development planning processes provide useful and practical steps to ensure that issues relating to Women, Peace and Security duly receive attention by States and non-States actors at the local level by drafting Local Action Plans on UNSCR 1325. Local government officials, traditional authorities, grassroots women leaders, CSOs, journalists and media practitioners, and community-based organizations contributed immensely to the formulation, review and validation of these Localization Guidelines.

Stakeholders expressed strong commitments in ensuring that using the Localization Guidelines, Local Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 will be adopted and implemented in various local communities. Therefore, it is expected that these Guidelines will be used to fully and effectively achieve the overall goal to implement Nigeria's third National Action Plan UNSCR 1325.



5.0 REFERENCES



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6.0 Annexes



6.0 Annexes

Annex 1: UNSCR 1325

United Nations S/RES/1325 (2000) Security Council Distr.: General 31
October 2000
Resolution 1325 (2000)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 4213th meeting, on 31 October
2000

The Security Council,
Recalling its resolutions 1261 (1999) of 25 August 1999, 1265 (1999) of 17
September 1999, 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000 and 1314 (2000) of 11
August 2000, as well as relevant statements of its President, and
recalling also the statement of its President to the press on the occasion
of the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace
(International Women's Day) of 8 March 2000 (SC/6816), Recalling also
the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
(A/52/231) as well as those contained in the outcome document of the
twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly
entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the
Twenty-First Century" (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), in particular those concerning
women and armed conflict, Bearing in mind the purposes and principles
of the Charter of the United Nations and the primary responsibility of the
Security Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international
peace and security,

Expressing concern that civilians, particularly women and children,
account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed
conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and
increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements, and
recognizing the consequent impact this has on durable peace and
reconciliation,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, Reaffirming also the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts,

Emphasizing the need for all parties to ensure that mine clearance and mine awareness programmes take into account the special needs of women and girls,

Recognizing the urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, and in this regard noting the Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations (S/2000/693),

President to the press of 8 March 2000 for specialized training for all peacekeeping personnel on the protection, special needs and human rights of women and children in conflict situations,

Recognizing that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security, Noting the need to consolidate data on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls,

1. Urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict;

2. Encourages the Secretary-General to implement his strategic plan of action (A/49/587) calling for an increase in the participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes;

3. Urges the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices on his behalf, and in this regard calls on Member States to provide candidates to the Secretary-General, for inclusion in a regularly updated centralized roster;

4. Further urges the Secretary-General to seek to expand the role and contribution of women in United Nations field-based operations, and especially among military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel;

5. Expresses its willingness to incorporate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure that, where appropriate, field operations include a gender component;

9. Calls upon all parties to armed conflict to respectfully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, in particular the obligations applicable to them under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, the Refugee Convention of 1951 and the Protocol thereto of 1967, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979 and the Optional Protocol thereto of 1999 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and the two Optional Protocols thereto of 25 May 2000, and to bear in mind the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

10. Calls on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict;

11. Emphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes including those relating to sexual and other violence against women and girls, and in this regard stresses the need to exclude these crimes, where feasible from amnesty provisions;

12. Calls upon all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, and to take into account the particular needs of women and girls, including in their design, and recalls its resolutions 1208 (1998) of 19 November 1998 and 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000;

13. Encourages all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to consider the different needs of female and male ex-combatants and to take into account the needs of their dependants;

14. Reaffirms its readiness, whenever measures are adopted under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, to give consideration to their potential impact on the civilian population, bearing in mind the special needs of women and girls, in order to consider appropriate humanitarian exemptions;

15. Expresses its willingness to ensure that Security Council missions take into account gender considerations and the rights of women, including through consultation with local and international women's groups;

16. Invites the Secretary-General to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution, and further invites him to submit a report to the Security Council on the results of this study and to make this available to all Member States of the United Nations;

17. Requests the Secretary-General, where appropriate, to include in his reporting to the Security Council progress on gender mainstreaming throughout peacekeeping missions and all other aspects relating to women and girls;

18. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

ABOUT WANEP-NIGERIA

WANEP-Nigeria provides an organized platform for collaborative peacebuilding by indigenous Non-Governmental organizations for conflict transformation and development in Nigeria. WANEP-Nigeria, like other country-based WANEP's network in the West Africa region operates through its network membership structure; that provides technical peacebuilding support to its member organizations across the 36 States of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT-Abuja) and encourages the local generation of intervention strategies to peculiar conflicts in the country. The Network's key area of focus cuts across five thematic areas - Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET); Early Warning and Response; Active Non-violence and Peace Education; Democracy and Good Governance; Research and Documentation.

The balanced participation of women in peacebuilding is strategic to WANEP's overall vision of preventive peacebuilding and sustainable development within the country and the subregion at large as a result of the recognized critical role women play in peace and human security. The recognition of this strength and commitment to expand their inherent opportunity has motivated WANEP towards a gendered peacebuilding work through the creation of a 'space' for women to effectively participate in conflict transformation and development within communities. With over 20 years of experience, WANEP-Nigeria's commitment to promoting the country's social cultural values are resources for peacebuilding.

ABOUT WIPNET

The Women in Peacebuilding Program, WIPNET, of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP, was initiated in 2001 with the broad goal of building engendered sustainable platforms that ensure the inclusive participation of women to make decisions and play key roles in peacebuilding and human security within their communities. This goal is informed by the realisation of the Network that women are excluded by design or default from peace processes by male establishment, which reinforces poor awareness and lack of capacity for peace-making and peacebuilding.

WIPNET was launched in Nigeria in 2002, as a part of the larger regional WIPNET program and based on one of WANEP's core principles that women are key to building peace. WIPNET provides a platform for women 's groups and associations working and living in conflict situations to form strong alliances aimed at ensuring women's involvement in peacebuilding at all levels. Her objectives include mainstreaming gender and, in particular, women's issues in international, regional, and national mechanisms on peace and security. It also creates a platform for rural women to be engaged in peace and human security. Strategies used include creating a space for women in decision-making processes in their communities; providing opportunities for social bonding or sisterhood towards addressing issues of common concern and peace; developing links between what women face at war and conflict time and daily domestic experiences.

These strategies are validated by the fact that systematic and engendered forms of violence against women are expressions of a deeper disregard and discrimination against women in the society. Therefore WIPNET does not only address the physical forms of violence in war and conflict times, but also the structural forms of violence within the society. Thus WIPNET strengthens coalition of women in peacebuilding organizations, mobilize them to act collectively and mutually support each other on peace and human security issues.