

PROJECT LEARNING REPORT

WANEP-NIGERIA × GLOBAL NETWORK OF WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS

UNSCR 1325:

What Comes After Awareness?

Learning What It Takes to Move WPS and YPS
Commitments into Implementation and Accountability



THE LEARNING JOURNEY



AWARENESS



CAPABILITY



APPLICATION



ACCOUNTABILITY

PROJECT

**Strengthening Local Leadership in Women, Peace
and Security and Youth, Peace and Security in
Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings**

UNSCR 1325: What Comes After Awareness?

Learning What It Takes to Move WPS and YPS Commitments into Implementation and Accountability

REPORT FOCUS: What participants learned, how they applied it, and what must now change in the implementation environment so that WPS and YPS commitments produce measurable and accountable results.

DISCLAIMER

This report synthesises evidence from the endline survey, updated Performance Measurement Framework, key informant interviews and available project documentation. It is intended to support institutional learning and future WPS and YPS programming and does not constitute an independent impact evaluation or claim sole attribution for the changes reported. Findings should be interpreted in light of the methodological limitations stated in the report. Views expressed by participants are their own and do not necessarily represent the official positions of WANEP-Nigeria, GNWP or Global Affairs Canada. Verbatim quotations may have been lightly edited for clarity without altering their intended meaning.

DEDICATION

Visionary leader. Tireless advocate. Champion of Women, Peace and Security.

This Learning Report is dedicated to the memory of **Dr. Maria Victoria "Marvic" Cabrera-Balleza**, whose extraordinary leadership and unwavering commitment to advancing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda transformed lives and inspired generations of peacebuilders across the world.

As the Founder and Executive Director of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Cabrera-Balleza championed the meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and governance, while advocating for the localization of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 as a pathway to lasting peace and inclusive development. She believed that sustainable peace is built not only through global commitments but through empowered local actors, accountable institutions, and communities that place women at the centre of peacebuilding efforts.



Her vision profoundly shaped the advancement of the WPS agenda in Nigeria. Through the longstanding partnership between GNWP and WANEP-Nigeria, she supported efforts to localize UNSCR 1325, strengthen State Action Plan processes, establish and strengthen Local Steering Committees, build the leadership of young women and women peacebuilders, equip journalist to advocate for the rights of women and report on women peace initiatives as well as promote community-driven approaches that translated global commitments into local action. Her steadfast encouragement and belief in locally led peacebuilding helped create stronger platforms for collaboration among government institutions, civil society, women leaders, youth, and the media, contributing to the continued growth of the WPS movement in Nigeria.

The lessons captured in this report reflect many of the principles she championed throughout her life: that awareness must lead to action, that partnerships must lead to accountability, and that lasting peace depends on investing in the leadership, resilience, and agency of women and young people.

As we continue working toward the full implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the realization of a more peaceful, just, and inclusive society, we honour her remarkable legacy with gratitude and recommit ourselves to the vision she so passionately advanced.

Her legacy lives on in every woman empowered, every institution strengthened, every community inspired to build peace, and every step taken toward a more inclusive and accountable implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in Nigeria and beyond.

In grateful remembrance.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

GNWP	Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
KII	Key Informant Interview
LSC	Local Steering Committee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAP	National Action Plan
PMF	Performance Measurement Framework
PSOP	Peace and Stabilization Operations Program
SAP	State Action Plan
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WANEP-Nigeria	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding–Nigeria
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security

Foreword

The adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325/2250 marked a defining moment in advancing the role of women/Young persons in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and recovery. Over the years, significant progress has been made in strengthening the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in Nigeria through stronger policy commitments, the development of National and State Action Plans, and increased recognition of the importance of women's leadership in building sustainable peace.

Yet, an important question remains: **What comes after awareness?**

This Learning Report reflects WANEP-Nigeria's efforts to answer that question. Developed under the project **Strengthening Local Leadership in Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings**, implemented in partnership with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) with support from Global Affairs Canada through the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program (PSOP), the report captures the experiences, lessons, and reflections of those who contributed to and benefited from the project.

The findings demonstrate that while awareness is a critical foundation, lasting impact depends on what follows, strengthening local leadership, translating commitments into action, fostering accountability, and supporting institutions and communities to sustain change. The voices captured in these pages remind us that meaningful progress is achieved when knowledge is matched with ownership, collaboration, and continuous learning.

At WANEP-Nigeria, we believe that documenting lessons is as important as delivering programmes. By reflecting on both our successes and challenges, we strengthen our ability to design more responsive, evidence-informed interventions that contribute to lasting peace and inclusive governance.

We are grateful to the **Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)** for its enduring partnership and to **Global Affairs Canada**, through the **Peace and Stabilization Operations Program (PSOP)**, for its generous support. We also acknowledge the commitment of government institutions, civil society organisations, Local Steering Committees, women leaders, young people, media practitioners, and community stakeholders whose contributions made this project possible.

It is our hope that this report serves not only as a record of learning but also as a practical resource for policymakers, practitioners, and partners working to advance the WPS/YPS agenda. As we continue this journey, may the lessons captured here inspire greater commitment to implementation, accountability, and locally led peacebuilding.



Bridget Osakwe, PhD.
National Network Coordinator
WANEP-Nigeria

Executive Summary

This learning report examines what changed through the project, how participants used the knowledge and relationships gained, which approaches were most useful, and what the experience implies for future Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) programming. It complements, rather than repeats, the Endline Survey Report and Performance Measurement Framework (PMF). The analysis draws on an endline survey of 63 participants, seven key informant interviews (KIIs), the PMF, and project records referenced in those documents.

OVERALL JUDGEMENT: The project generated strong learning and role clarity, and it catalysed practical action in advocacy, facilitation, institutional coordination and media engagement. However, the progression from learning to sustained implementation was incomplete. Policy approval from relevant government agencies and supported community initiatives remained important gaps at the end of the reporting period.

The strongest change was a shift from familiarity to practical engagement

Headline and endline results were consistently positive. The formal PMF calculation shows that 96.8% (61/63) of respondents reported an increase in both implementation capacity and monitoring ability. All 23 surveyed young women leaders and gender equality allies reported increased ability to develop and implement community peacebuilding initiatives. All 13 surveyed media practitioners reported increased relevant knowledge, while all four surveyed women political actors reported increased understanding of WPS, YPS, and Sustaining Peace linkages. These findings are self-reported and should be read alongside the more differentiated evidence below.

Application occurred, but at different levels of maturity

The KIIs provide credible examples of participants using learning: a political actor stepped down WPS and YPS content through a mentorship platform; a journalist produced advocacy articles and engaged government actors on the Edo State Action Plan; a government ministry provided meeting and coordination support to the State Steering Committee; and young women reported adapting facilitation, communication, conflict analysis, and initiative design in their organisations. The PMF also verifies 28 gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive media and communication products published or broadcast between May and June 2026. Some other examples remained plans or early-stage initiatives. This distinction matters because no young women-led community initiative had yet received project implementation support against the target of four at the end of the reporting period.

Practical learning and relationship-building were the main delivery strengths

Participants consistently valued localisation, group work, case studies, conflict-analysis exercises, dialogue, peer learning, and the combination of training with networking. Across all KIIs, respondents described increased knowledge or role clarity, examples of application, stronger relationships, and the need for some form of continued engagement. The project's multiple entry points, including localisation, political dialogue, young women's leadership, media engagement, and institutional coordination, allowed stakeholders to connect WPS and YPS frameworks to their own roles.

The central constraint was the implementation environment

The Edo State Action Plan was drafted and supported by a multi-stakeholder process, but was not formally approved within the project period. Progress in Lagos was described as slower, and the Lagos costing and budgeting activity did not proceed because of bureaucratic and approval delays. The experience shows that technical quality and stakeholder participation do not by themselves secure policy adoption. Senior political sponsorship, realistic timeframes, institutional ownership, financing, and an explicit approval strategy are required. It also reinforces the need for a standing UNSCR 1325 tracking system that can follow commitments beyond individual project cycles.

"The challenge is no longer simply awareness of UNSCR 1325. In many cases, stakeholders understand the agenda and support its objectives. The bigger challenge is implementation."
KII, WANEP–Nigeria representative

Priority implications for future programming

- Design localisation as a political and institutional change process, with early stakeholder mapping, senior-level sponsorship, and a time-bound approval strategy.
- Pair capacity strengthening with a funded application window, mentorship, and documented follow-up so that action plans move into implementation.
- Establish a standing UNSCR 1325 tracking, reporting, and accountability system, including state-level implementation benchmarks, financing information, and periodic outcome follow-up.
- Consolidate the Local Steering Committees, young women's network, cross-partisan platform, and media fellows through clear ownership, regular engagement, and light coordination support.
- Use tiered curricula and realistic training schedules, preserving practical exercises while allowing additional support for participants who need deeper practice.

The findings demonstrate that while awareness and capacity strengthening remain important foundations, future Women, Peace and Security programming must increasingly focus on implementation support, accountability systems, institutional ownership, and sustained accompaniment if commitments are to translate into measurable change.

1.0 Introduction and Learning Approach

1.1 Project and assessment context

WANEP–Nigeria, in partnership with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, implemented the project Strengthening Local Leadership in Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings. The intervention engaged local and national stakeholders through WPS localisation, State Action Plan processes, Local Steering Committees, gender-responsive costing and budgeting, M&E capacity strengthening, political dialogue, young women’s leadership development, media training, and fellowship activities.

The partnership with GNWP began in 1998 with the project Localization of the Women. Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in Nigeria. In the over seven years of collaboration, the project supported localization workshops and writeshops in Bauchi and Gombe State and the setting up of Localization Steering Committees. As part of the project, Local Action Plans were developed in Balanga Local Government Area, Gombe State and Katagum Local Government Area, Bauchi State. Also, an adapted methodology for monitoring WPS localisation in Bauchi and Gombe States was developed, trainings held for young women and gender male allies as well as media practitioners on Understanding the WPS and YPS Agendas.

The present intervention extended these approaches to new locations and stakeholder groups through deeper implementation, budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), political dialogue and media components. This continuity matters because the current learning builds on an established localization model rather than testing an entirely new one.

ADAPTED LEARNING: The earlier partnership (2024 grant) already linked localisation with local ownership, monitoring, evidence, and lessons for replication. The present project confirms the value of that model, while showing that project-based monitoring should now evolve into a continuing system for tracking UNSCR 1325 commitments and implementation.

Source: GNWP–WANEP–Nigeria Formal Partnership Agreement on the Localization of WPS Resolutions, January 2024, pp. 1–2.

The learning report was commissioned at project completion to interpret the endline evidence, identify how project learning was applied, document the approaches associated with stronger or weaker results and provide practical direction for subsequent WPS and YPS programming. Detailed indicator reporting is contained in the Performance Measurement Framework(PMF) and Endline Survey Report and is referenced here only where it clarifies a learning point.

1.2 Learning questions

The learning questions were designed to move the analysis beyond activities and outputs. They examine what changed, how learning was applied, which approaches contributed to change and what should inform future programming.

- What changed in participants’ knowledge, confidence, behaviour or practice?

- Which approaches were most effective for different stakeholder groups, and why?
- What challenges, lessons, and recommendations should inform future WPS and YPS programming?

ANALYTICAL LENS: The questions follow a simple progression: **What changed? What contributed to the change? What should happen next?** The analysis distinguishes reported learning from its application in practice and from documented outcomes.

1.3 Evidence-based and analytical approach

The analysis triangulated four sources: the endline survey completed by 63 respondents; seven KIIs covering government, civil society, and Local Steering Committee representation, young women leaders, a woman political actor, a media practitioner, and WANEP–Nigeria; the PMF; and the project records summarised in these sources. KII evidence was coded for recurring changes, application, effective approaches, barriers, sustainability, and recommendations. A theme was treated as consistent when it appeared across stakeholder groups or was supported by more than one evidence source.

Figure 1. Learning pathway used to interpret the evidence



Source: Learning framework developed for this report.

HOW TO READ THE FINDINGS The report distinguishes reported knowledge and confidence from observed or described application, and both from documented outcomes. The project is described as contributing to change; the available design does not support claims of sole attribution.

1.4 Limitations

The evidence is useful for learning but has clear boundaries. The survey measured perceived change at endline and had no matched baseline or comparison group. Some stakeholder subgroups were small, particularly women political actors (n=4). KII coverage was weighted towards Edo State and national-level experiences, with limited independent evidence from Lagos. These constraints reflect the nature of the available evidence, which was generated primarily to assess project progress and support learning rather than to establish causal attribution or population-level generalisation. They therefore temper the scope and strength of the conclusions but do not diminish the value of patterns that recur across the endline survey, PMF, KIIs and project documentation. The findings are consequently presented as credible, practice-based learning to guide adaptation and future programming, not as definitive proof that the project alone caused the observed changes.

2.0 What Changed and How Learning Was Applied

2.1 Results in context

The project met or exceeded several participant-level targets, but the evidence becomes more informative when the depth of change and the stage of application are examined. Table 1, therefore, pairs headline results with the interpretation that emerged from the wider evidence.

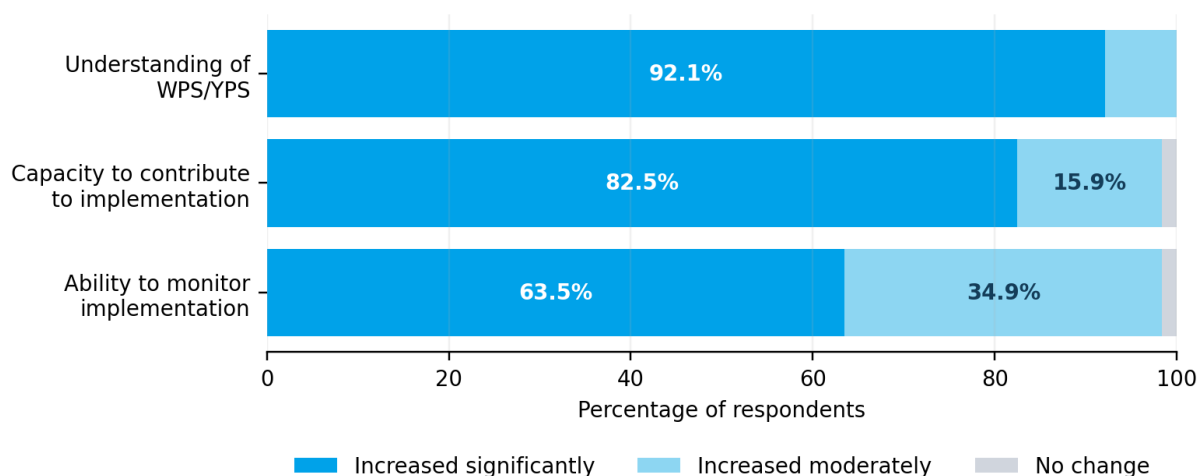
Table 1. Headline results and their learning interpretation

Result area	Headline evidence	Learning interpretation
WPS/YPS implementation and monitoring	96.8% (61/63) reported an increase in both applied measures.	Strong perceived capacity gain. Monitoring was less often rated as a significant increase than general understanding.
Young women's leadership	100% (23/23) reported increased ability; overall ToT confidence across assessed competencies was 82%, below the 90% target.	Participants gained confidence and ideas, but independent readiness varied across the broad curriculum.
Supported community initiatives	0 of 4 initiatives had received implementation support by period end.	The project reached design and action-planning stages, not supported implementation.
Media capacity and production	100% (13/13) reported increased knowledge; 68% maintained or improved demonstrated knowledge/capacity; 28 products were verified.	Knowledge, demonstrated competence and production capture different dimensions. Media provided a strong application pathway, while quality and influence still require assessment.
Women political actors	100% (4/4) reported increased understanding.	Positive but based on a very small subgroup; KII evidence provides an example of advocacy and step-down learning.

Source: Endline Survey Report and PMF, July 2026. The measures presented are not always directly comparable and are interpreted according to their stated method.

2.2 Understanding increased more strongly than monitoring mastery

All 63 survey respondents reported increased understanding of WPS and YPS, and 92.1% described the increase as significant. For implementation capacity, 82.5% reported a significant increase. For monitoring ability, the corresponding proportion was 63.5%, with a further 34.9% reporting a moderate increase. The overall PMF result remains strong, but the distribution suggests that participants were more confident about the agendas and their implementation roles than about the technically demanding task of monitoring implementation.

Figure 2. Depth of reported change across common outcome measures

Source: Endline survey, n=63. Percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.

This distinction is also visible in the interviews. Government and Local Steering Committee respondents described a stronger understanding of action plans, costing, and accountability, while the WANEP–Nigeria interview identified the absence of structured scorecards, reporting systems, and periodic review mechanisms as a continuing gap. The M&E training reached 39 participants against a target of 20, yet increased attendance does not substitute for operational monitoring arrangements.

“The project helped move conversations beyond awareness to practical discussions around implementation, localization, monitoring, and accountability.”

KII, civil society, and Local Steering Committee representative

2.3 Young women moved from general advocacy towards more informed practice

Young Women Leaders (YWL) for peace described a deeper understanding of WPS and YPS frameworks, stronger confidence to facilitate, improved conflict analysis, more deliberate communication, and increased readiness to mentor or train others. The interviews captured different stages of the application. One political actor had already stepped down, learning through a mentorship platform and used it in local advocacy. One young woman leader had begun developing a training guide for her organisation and was designing a mentorship initiative. Another reported applying accessibility and facilitation



ToT for Young women Leaders: 29-30 June 2026.
Photo credit: WANEP-Nigeria.

lessons in a subsequent conference and organisational leadership role.

“The training did not create these interests from scratch, but it improved them, strengthened them, and provided practical tools that I can now apply more effectively in my work.”

KII, young woman leader

These examples show that the application was not limited to formal community projects. Learning influenced organisational communication, advocacy, mentorship, and programme thinking. Nevertheless, intention should not be treated as implementation. The PMF records that participants developed preliminary initiative ideas and action plans, but none of the four targeted initiatives had yet received project support by the end of the reporting period. The most accurate conclusion is that the project created a strong foundation and early action, while the community-level results expected from supported initiatives remained prospective.

LEARNING AREA 1: Capacity strengthening worked most clearly as a catalyst. It deepened existing motivation, gave participants practical language and tools, and accelerated actions that some were already considering. Future measurement should capture this contribution rather than assuming that all change began with the project.

2.4 Localisation produced ownership and coordination before policy adoption

In Edo State, the localisation process convened government institutions, civil society, security actors, women leaders, and other stakeholders around the development of a State Action Plan. The Local Steering Committee provided a coordination structure, and the Ministry of Women Affairs supported continuity by providing meeting space and coordination support. Interviewees described stronger relationships, a wider understanding that WPS is not the responsibility of one ministry, and increased attention to budgeting, monitoring, and institutional roles.

The formal adoption of the Edo State Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (ESAP) was not completed within the project period. This is not evidence that the localisation process had no value, but it places the result at an intermediate stage: stakeholder ownership, a draft plan and relationships were established, while the authoritative policy decision and subsequent implementation were still pending. In Lagos, WANEPI–Nigeria reported slower progress because of stakeholder buy-in, institutional processes and competing priorities; the planned costing and budgeting activity did not proceed.



Participants review and validate sections of the draft Edo State Action Plan (SAP) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 during the Edo State SAP Costing Workshop, 2 October 2025. Photo credit: WANEP-Nigeria.

2.5 Media learning generated advocacy and verified production

Media respondents reported a stronger understanding of gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive reporting, including solution journalism, inclusive sourcing, sensitive language, and reduced sensationalism. The journalist KII provides a concrete example of practice: the respondent reported writing articles and commentaries, engaging public officials on delays to the Edo State Action Plan, and continuing to develop further coverage. The project also expanded the planned fellowship from one to eight fellows, creating a wider network for WPS and YPS reporting.

The PMF verifies that trained journalists developed and published or broadcast 28 gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive media and communication products between May and June 2026, substantially exceeding the target of four. This makes media one of the clearest pathways from learning to documented output. The evidence remains appropriately differentiated: all 13 surveyed media practitioners reported a significant knowledge increase, while a separate assessment found that 68% maintained or improved demonstrated knowledge and capacity, below the 80% target. Production volume,



Training of media practitioners in Edo State: 13-14 May 2026. Photo credit: WANEP-Nigeria.

demonstrated competence, content quality, and audience influence are related but distinct results and should continue to be measured separately.

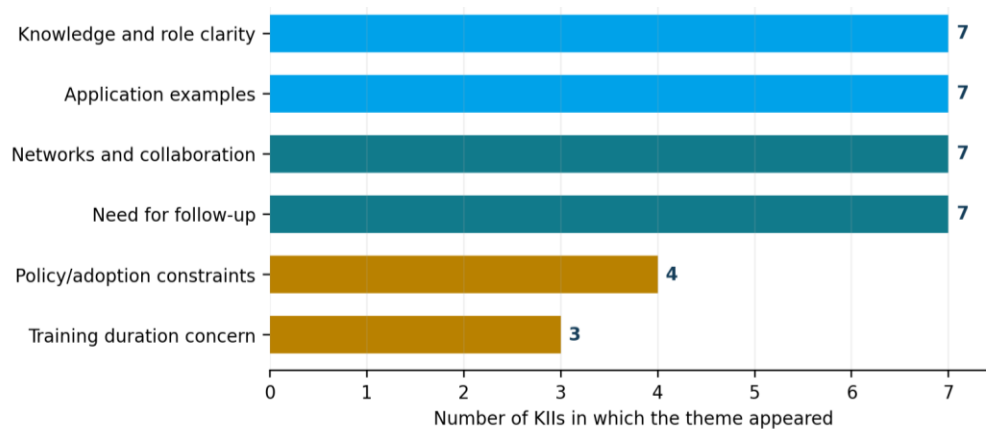
LEARNING AREA 2: The media component shows what supported applications can produce: trained practitioners, an expanded fellowship, and a clear production requirement generated 28 verified outputs. The next measurement step is to assess content quality, audience reach and whether reporting influences public understanding or institutional action.



Selected media Fellows in Edo State: 13-14 May 2026. Photo credit: WANEP-Nigeria.

2.6 Networks became part of the change mechanism

Figure 3. Recurring themes across the seven KIIs



Source: thematic coding of seven KIIs. A single interview could support more than one theme; counts indicate recurrence, not magnitude.

All seven KIIs described stronger relationships or collaboration. Participants reported continued contact, invitation of peers to later events, exchange of opportunities, cross-sector engagement, collective advocacy, and emerging professional partnerships. Networks supported application by giving participants people with whom to test ideas, collaborate, and sustain motivation. They were not simply an additional benefit of training; they were part of how learning was expected to travel into organisations, institutions, and public discourse.

3.0 What Worked, for Whom and Why

3.1 Localisation was effective because it made the agendas actionable

Institutional and Edo-based respondents consistently identified localisation as strategically important. It translated national commitments into state priorities, gave otherwise separate institutions a shared task and linked policy discussion with costing, monitoring and accountability. Its value came from combining technical content with the practical work of developing a State Action Plan.

The difference between Edo and Lagos also shows that localisation is context dependent. Progress will vary where political sponsorship, institutional ownership and stakeholder incentives differ. Future localisation should therefore use adaptive, location-specific engagement strategies rather than a uniform workshop sequence.

“Localization is not simply a technical process; it is also a political and institutional process that requires sustained engagement, consultation, and advocacy.”

KII, government representative

3.2 Practical and participatory learning supported retention and confidence

Group work, case studies, presentations, conflict-analysis tools, action planning and peer feedback made the frameworks less abstract. Participants could work through real problems, learn across backgrounds, and strengthen collaboration, facilitation, accessible communication, and initiative design.

The training was particularly relevant to participants already leading organisations, initiatives, or professional platforms because they had immediate spaces in which to use the learning. Future cohorts should retain such multipliers while deliberately including less-connected young women and marginalised groups who may need more support to access application opportunities.

3.3 Multiple entry points allowed stakeholder-specific application

Table 2. How different stakeholders benefited

Stakeholder group	Most evident value	Application or emerging change	Remaining constraint
Young women and gender equality allies	Framework knowledge, confidence, conflict analysis, facilitation, and peer networks	Step-down learning, mentorship design, organisational application, and early initiative planning	No supported community initiative completed within the period; confidence is uneven across the broad ToT curriculum
Government and Local Steering Committee actors	Localisation, costing, monitoring, and cross-sector role clarity	Meeting support, plan development, coordination, and policy engagement	Approval delays, financing needs, and incomplete operational monitoring systems

Stakeholder group	Most evident value	Application or emerging change	Remaining constraint
Journalists and media fellows	Conflict-sensitive framing, solution journalism, and advocacy confidence	Twenty-eight verified products, official engagement, and continuing journalist networks	Demonstrated assessment below target; quality, reach, and influence require further assessment
Women political leaders and actors	Understanding of WPS/YPS linkages, common ground, and advocacy roles	Step-down mentoring, local advocacy, and cross-partisan relationships	Survey subgroup was small; longer-term political participation outcomes not yet observable

Source: Synthesis of endline survey, PMF, and KII evidence.

3.4 The strongest model combined content, practice, relationships and follow-up

The evidence suggests that no single activity explains the strongest results. Learning was more likely to move towards application when four elements came together: relevant technical content, an opportunity to practice, relationships that supported collaboration, and follow-up or an institutional platform through which action could continue. Local Steering Committees provided this structure for localisation, while the fellowship and participant networks offered a comparable, though less formalised, mechanism for media practitioners and young women.

LEARNING AREA 3: Training created the best prospects for change when participants had somewhere to use the learning immediately. Application opportunities should be designed and resourced as part of the intervention, not left to individual initiative after the activity.

3.5 The project surfaced useful disagreement about training duration

Time was the most frequent improvement request in the endline survey. Three KII participants also considered the two-day training format too compressed for the volume and complexity of content, recommending an additional day or a narrower curriculum. One political actor considered the duration sufficient and prioritised follow-up and accountability instead. This is a useful mixed finding rather than a contradiction to be resolved by simply making every training longer.

A more responsive solution is to define essential learning outcomes, streamline slide content, retain practical exercises, assess starting knowledge and offer advanced or follow-up sessions for participants who need greater depth. This protects accessibility without assuming that duration alone guarantees learning.

“Continuous engagement is important because awareness alone is not enough. Participants need ongoing opportunities to learn, share experiences, and strengthen their capacity to advocate for and implement these agendas.”

KII, woman political actor

3.6 Emerging change story: journalism as an accountability tool

Box 1. From media training to policy-facing advocacy

What happened	Why it matters
A journalist participated in localisation, media training and the fellowship, gaining stronger knowledge of WPS frameworks and confidence to engage public officials.	The learning connected technical WPS content with an existing professional platform.
The journalist reported publishing articles and commentaries on delays to the Edo State Action Plan and directly engaging government actors.	This is a specific example of application beyond stated intention.
The advocacy prompted responses on the status of the plan and contributed to continued public discussion, but adoption remained pending.	Media engagement can increase visibility and accountability, but it cannot substitute for political sponsorship and formal approval.
The journalist network continued exchanging ideas and considering collective advocacy after project activities.	The fellowship has sustainability potential if editorial support and product tracking continue.

Source: KII, journalist and media fellow; triangulated with PMF and WANEP–Nigeria KII.

4.0 Challenges, Sustainability and Lessons for Future Programming

4.1 Challenges and their implications

Table 3. Challenge, effect and programme implication

Challenge	How it affected results	Programme implication
Policy and bureaucratic delays	The Edo State Action Plan remained unsigned; momentum and some Local Steering Committee participation weakened while stakeholders waited.	Build political sponsorship, approval milestones and post-drafting advocacy into the design.
Uneven institutional ownership	Progress was stronger in Edo than Lagos; the Lagos costing activity did not proceed.	Use location-specific stakeholder and political-economy analysis before fixing common timelines.
Insufficient implementation support	Young women developed ideas and action plans, but 0 of 4 initiatives received support within the period.	Protect time and resources for selection, grants, mentoring and completion after training.
Training density and different starting points	Some participants found content rushed, while others considered the duration adequate.	Use tiered learning, streamlined materials and follow-up workshops rather than a single solution for all participants.
Uneven Result verification	Twenty-eight media products were verified, but several other application claims remained self-reported; media quality, reach and influence were not yet established.	Use light evidence packages, initiative registers, content-quality review and periodic outcome follow-up.
Structural barriers to participation	Women and young people still faced limited representation, resources and access to decision-making.	Combine capacity building with access, mentorship, institutional commitments and inclusion support.

4.2 Sustainability is promising but conditional

The most durable gains are likely to be individual knowledge, professional relationships and a stronger shared language around WPS and YPS implementation. Platforms such as the Local Steering Committees, young women's network, cross-partisan platform and media fellows have potential, but their continuation cannot be assumed. Interviewees repeatedly linked sustainability to regular engagement, coordination, mentoring, institutional ownership and modest resources.

Table 4. Sustainability outlook

Result or platform	Evidence of continuation	Main risk	Outlook
Participant knowledge and role clarity	Applied examples across all stakeholder categories	Knowledge may not translate into sustained action without opportunity	Relatively strong
Edo Local Steering Committee	Multi-sector relationships and Ministry meeting support	Reduced momentum while policy approval remains pending	Emerging, conditional
Young women's network	Continued contact, opportunity sharing and mentorship ideas	Platform inactivity and lack of application support	Promising, conditional

Result or platform	Evidence of continuation	Main risk	Outlook
Media fellows and journalist network	Twenty-eight verified products, continued advocacy, and peer contact	Ongoing editorial support, quality review, and audience tracking are not yet assured	Promising, conditional
Cross-partisan women's platform	Common concerns and relationships across political differences	Voluntary participation and election-cycle pressures	Emerging
Edo State Action Plan process	Drafting, stakeholder ownership, and continued advocacy	Formal approval, financing, and implementation remain pending	Uncertain

4.3 Key lessons

THE ‘WHO WILL BELL THE CAT?’ QUESTION Stakeholders increasingly understood the problem and what implementation was required. The unresolved issue resembled the old story of the mice and the cat: everyone could agree that the cat should be bellied, but who would accept responsibility for doing it? Future programming must name the accountable actors, provide authority and resources, set deadlines, and track whether commitments are carried out.

- **Localisation is political as well as technical.** A strong draft, consultation process, and trained stakeholders did not guarantee approval. Political sponsorship, influence mapping, and institutional timing are part of programme design.
- **Capacity is most useful when followed by an application opportunity.** The project generated confidence and ideas, but supported community initiatives did not begin within the reporting period. Training and implementation should be treated as one sequence.
- **Networks are a programme result and a delivery mechanism.** Relationships enabled continued exchange, advocacy, and collaboration, but they need ownership and an engagement rhythm to remain active.
- **Awareness, demonstrated competence, and practice are different results.** The combination of 100% self-reported media knowledge, 68% maintained or improved demonstrated capacity, and 28 verified products shows why multiple measures are necessary.
- **Monitoring must be operational, not only taught.** Participants valued M&E training, yet states still lacked continuing reporting systems, benchmarks, and accountability mechanisms. The earlier partnership also treated monitoring of localisation as a specific project activity. Repeated experience now points to the need for a standing UNSCR 1325 tracking system that operates beyond individual projects.
- **Stakeholder groups require different pathways to change.** Government actors need ownership and authority; young women need practice, mentorship, and resources; journalists need editorial support and production opportunities; political actors need networks and access.

LEARNING AREA 4 The project's next frontier is not more awareness alone. It is a practical UNSCR 1325 tracking and accountability system that converts commitments into assigned actions, financing, documented implementation, and measurable results.

4.4 Prioritised recommendations

The recommendations are prioritised based on the strength and consistency of evidence across the endline survey, PMF, KIIs, and project documentation.

Table 5. Recommendation action matrix

Priority action	Lead actors	Timing	Priority
Close the policy loop in Edo through a time-bound approval and transition plan, including senior-level sponsorship, targeted advocacy, and implementation-readiness support.	WANEP–Nigeria, GNWP, Edo State Government, and LSC	Immediate, 0–6 months	High
Undertake stakeholder, influence, and political-economy mapping for each location before finalising activity sequences and policy timelines.	WANEP–Nigeria and government partners	At design and inception	High
Create a funded application window for young women and other trainees, combining small grants or in-kind support, mentoring, milestones, and evidence requirements.	GNWP and WANEP–Nigeria	Next phase	High
Develop a standing UNSCR 1325 tracking, monitoring, and reporting system that consolidates state commitments, implementation benchmarks, financing, periodic results, and public accountability. The proposed UNSCR 1325 Monitoring and Reporting Action Lab could incubate this function.	WANEP–Nigeria, government, state actors and civil society	6–12 months	High
Adopt a tiered learning model: essential modules, practical exercises, streamlined materials, facilitator rehearsal, and scheduled post-training clinics.	WANEP–Nigeria and facilitators	Next training cycle	Medium
Give each platform a named steward, engagement calendar, and minimum operating package, covering the LSCs, young women’s network, cross-partisan platform, and media fellows.	WANEP–Nigeria and platform members	Within 3 months	High
Strengthen the media fellowship with editorial mentoring, production briefs, publication verification, content review, and audience-reach tracking.	WANEP–Nigeria, GNWP, and media partners	Next fellowship cycle	Medium
Improve institutional diffusion by encouraging two participants from priority organisations, step-down sessions, and inclusion support for marginalized participants.	WANEP–Nigeria and partner organisations	Next phase	Medium

Source: Recommendations derived from triangulated endline, PMF, and KII findings.

4.5 Conclusion

The project made a credible contribution to stronger WPS and YPS knowledge, role clarity, confidence, relationships, and practical application across a diverse group of stakeholders. Its strongest contribution was not a single training result, but a shift in how participants understood their responsibilities and the creation of platforms through which they could act. The 28 verified media products demonstrate what can happen when learning is connected to an explicit application pathway. The evidence also shows the limit of stopping at learning and mobilisation. Supported community initiatives, formal policy adoption and continuing implementation-monitoring systems had not fully materialised by the reporting cut-off.

The future of WPS programming will not be determined by how many people know UNSCR 1325, but by how effectively institutions translate commitments into accountable action that improves the lives of women, young people, and communities.

Future programming should therefore preserve the project's practical, participatory, and network-based strengths while extending the results pathway. The critical move is from learning to supported application, from policy development to financed implementation, and from periodic project measurement to a standing UNSCR 1325 tracking and accountability system.

Annex 1. Evidence and Interpretation Matrix

Learning question	Main sources	Overall finding	Confidence
What changed?	Endline survey, PMF, and seven KIIs	Strong perceived gains in understanding, confidence, and role clarity; practical monitoring depth was weaker than general understanding.	Moderate
How was learning applied?	Seven KIIs and PMF	Application was evident in advocacy, step-down learning, organisational practice, and coordination; several initiatives remained at the planning stage.	Moderate
What worked and why?	Endline open responses and seven KIIs	Localisation, practical exercises, dialogue, peer learning, and network formation were consistently valued.	Moderate to strong
What constrained results?	PMF and KIIs	Policy delays, uneven ownership, insufficient follow-up, training density, and uneven verification constrained progression to outcomes.	Moderate
What is sustainable?	Seven KIIs	Knowledge and relationships are the strongest prospects; formal platforms and policy results remain conditional on ownership and support.	Emerging

Annex 2. Data Sources and Assessment Notes

- Endline Survey Report, July 2026, based on 63 completed electronic survey responses.
- Nigeria Partner PSOP Performance Measurement Framework, updated for the reporting period.
- Seven KIIs: government representative; civil society and Local Steering Committee representative; two young women leaders; woman political actor; journalist/media fellow; and WANEPI–Nigeria representative.
- Scope of Work: Endline Survey and Project Learning Report.

Interpretation note. For PMF indicator 1110, the endline report shows 62 of 63 respondents reporting increased implementation capacity and 62 of 63 reporting increased monitoring ability when the two questions are analysed separately. The formal PMF reports the more conservative combined result, 61 of 63 respondents who reported an increase in both measures. This report uses the combined result when referring to the indicator and the separate distributions when discussing the depth of change.

Quotation notes. Verbatim extracts are attributed by stakeholder category rather than personal name. Minor punctuation has been standardised where necessary without altering meaning.