



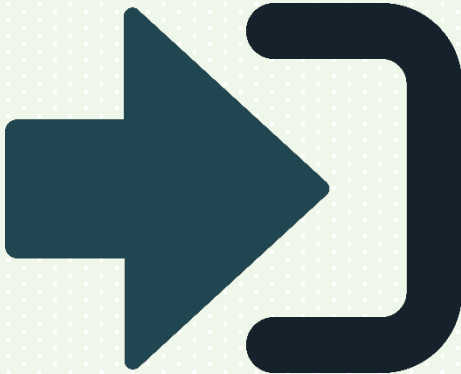
dRPC/WEE/01

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN NIGERIA

FACTSHEET

PARTNERSHIP FOR ADVANCING WOMEN IN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Barriers to Women Economic Participation in Nigeria



Financial inclusion/access to finance

Financial inclusion and access to finance can have transformative effects for women. For instance, when a woman has access to finance, she can provide better education for her children, afford the best possible healthcare for her family and afford better housing. Through financial security, she gains greater economic power. Unfortunately, according to the EFINA Access to Financial Services in Nigeria 2018 Survey, the national financial inclusion rate is 58.9% for women compared to 67.4% for men – leaving a gender gap of 8.5%¹. Lack of access to finance hinders women’s economic potentials as well as their ability to make decision in day-to-day business.



Poverty

Poverty is characterized by illiteracy, hunger, malnutrition, lack of shelter, and failure to access essential social services like basic education, health, water, and sanitation. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2019), the poverty rate is extremely high in Northern states like Sokoto (87.7%), Taraba (87.7%), and Jigawa (87%) who are all above the national average of 40.1%². This is compared to Lagos (4.5%), Delta (6%), and Osun (8.5%)³. In Nigeria, women are deprived the most, Women constitute over 60% of the poorest people in Nigeria. This has brought to the front burner the deteriorating poverty situation at the household level. The high poverty rate amongst women is a result of constraints (such as socio-cultural, political, and legal) placed on opportunities for women to be economically empowered. These constraints play a significant role in how and where women can participate in economic activities in both the formal and informal sectors.



Education

Education impacts skills and proficiencies that are central to human development and enhanced quality of life, bringing wide ranges of benefits to both individuals and societies. Investing in female education yields exceptionally high social and economic returns. Education has long been recognized as a fundamental right with far-reaching impacts on human development and social progress.

According to UNESCO (2015)⁴, education standard in Nigeria is extremely poor. The country ranks 103 out of 113 countries in the world. Lack of government’s commitment and poor funding of the education sector has a negative impact on educating the girl-child. The latest data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (2021)⁵ shows that “female enrolment in adult/basic literacy education in 2016 was 48.49 per cent, it decreased to 45.57 percent in 2017, increased to 50.48 percent in 2018 and decreased slightly to 49.19 percent in 2019”. The number of girls who completed their primary education is

¹ Details in section 6

² National Bureau of Statistics (2019): “2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria: Executive Summary” Page 9

³ National Bureau of Statistics (2019): “2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria: Executive Summary” Page 23

⁴ UNESCO The Education for All Development Index (2015)

<https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/education-all-development-index>

⁵ National Bureau of Statistics (2021): “Statistical Report on Women and Men in Nigeria, 2020” Page 15

about 66% compared to more than 80% for boys. In terms of the out-of-school rate, 32% of girls are not enrolled in school which is higher than 28% for boys⁶.

To make matters worse, the national budgets for education from 2017 to 2020 shows that the government spent 7.41% of the total budget on education in 2017, 7.04% in 2018, 7.1% in 2019 and 6.9% in 2020. Nigeria's spending on education is currently below UNESCO recommended standard of 15% to 20% of the nation's budget. This gender imbalance implies that there are more women in the informal sector than men due to the highly competitive advantage men possess (On average men have higher years of education, 6.6 years compared to 5.6 years for women)⁷. Women are economically disadvantaged due to the high rate of out-of-school girls.



Lack of government's commitment

Lack of government commitment towards women's economic empowerment is hindering women's participation in economic activities in Nigeria. The allocation for the WEE under the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs is below average. In 2018, an estimated 13.48% of the ministry's capital budget was on WEE and 43% in 2019 and 2020. The total WEE budget allocations of 53 Ministries, Departments and Agencies to the total ministry of women affairs budget was 9.9% in 2018, 31.4% in 2019, and 35.1% in 2020. Despite all these efforts, there is a lack of proper monitoring and evaluation of WEE projects and interventions to ensure that funds allocated are effectively utilized.

Similarly, in baseline research conducted by the dRPC to track and rate federal and state governments WEE profile in government-funded economic interventions development policies, programs and projects launched between January 2019 and July 2021. Key findings of the research shows that 69.3% of national-level economic development policies, programs and projects of government tracked between this period are gender-inclusive while 30.7% of the projects tracked have no specific target for women. In terms of outcome, the outcome of 71.2% of projects tracked cannot be ascertained due to lack of M&E to report the progress.

At the state level, 67.5% of economic development policies, programs and projects of government tracked between January 2019 and July 2021 are gender inclusive while 32.4% of the projects tracked have no specific target for women. In terms of outcome, the outcome of 94.5% of projects tracked cannot be ascertained due to lack of M&E to report the progress.

⁶ World Bank/IBRD/IFC (November 2018) Nigeria Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) Transitioning to a Middle-Class Society. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23099>

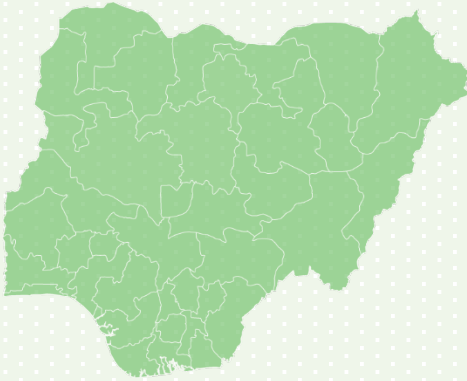
⁷ National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) 2019: "Nigeria Living Standards Survey - 2018/2019" Page 12



Early child marriage

In Nigeria, the female victims of child marriage are mostly married to male adults who are far older than them and, in most cases, adult men who are already married.^{8 9}

A female child in northern Nigeria is 35% more likely to be married off before the age of 15 and on average, she is 45% more likely to have her first child by the age of 18. Apart from facing a 1 in 20-lifetime risk of dying from complications arising during pregnancy or early childbirth¹⁰. She is far less likely to be a labour market prospect or have any long-term economic value. According to International Monetary Fund (IMF, 2018), girls who married early are more likely to be employed in low low-paying jobs, on average earn less than their male counterparts. Early marriage also has a stronger correlation with the level of education. Women with no education have 82% chance of being married before their 18th birthday compared with just 13% of women who have completed secondary school education¹¹.



Geographical divide

There is a high rate of inequality in the human development indicators in Nigeria. Geographically, women in the Southern part of Nigeria are better off than women in the Northern part of the country. Regarding the level of education, the World Bank data shows that 42% of adults in the north have no formal education which is in sharp contrast to just 13% recorded in the south. Further breakdowns indicate that a staggering figure of two-third of girls in the north who are between the ages of 15 to 19 cannot read or write compared to just 10% in the south¹². In the north, a girl from a poor household has a 24% chance of being enrolled in primary education and just a 9% opportunity of being enrolled in secondary school. Shockingly, the percentage of

girls who were able to complete their secondary school stood at just 3%. On the contrary, girls in the southern part of the country are 87% more likely to be enrolled in primary school and a 79% chance of being enrolled in secondary school¹³. This created a gender gap between the north and south. Socio-economically speaking, women and girls in northern Nigeria lag behind those in the southern part. Women earn just 65% of men's earnings due to lower wages and hours worked.

⁸ National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). (2017). Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2016-17, Survey Findings Report. Abuja, Nigeria: National Bureau of Statistics and United Nations Children's Fund.

⁹ National Population Commission (NPC) [Nigeria] and ICF. (2019). *Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2018*. Abuja, Nigeria, and Rockville, Maryland, USA: NPC and ICF.

¹⁰ (DHS, 2018).

¹¹ IMF (2018). Nigeria, Selected Issues Paper. IMF Country Report no .18/64. Washington, D.C.: International Monetary Fund.

¹² World Bank/IBRD/IFC (November 2018) Nigeria Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) Transitioning to a Middle-Class Society

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23099>

¹³ National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). 2017 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2016-17, Survey Findings Report. Abuja, Nigeria: National Bureau of Statistics and United Nations Children's Fund.

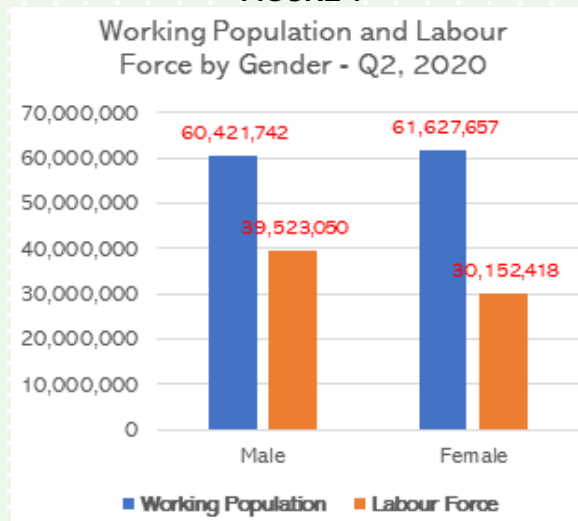
Religion

Certain religious beliefs create a barrier to women’s economic participation in Nigeria. Muslim women in Nigeria are more likely not to engage in any economic activities compared with other religions. Christian women in Nigeria are more likely to be engaged in the formal sector where Muslim women are more likely to be engaged in petty business or work at home¹⁴.

2. WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL SECTOR

With regards to how women participate in the formal and informal sector, it is important to examine the total working population and the gender segregation of the country’s labour force. Recent findings from NBS show that as of 2020, women (61.6million) hold the advantage over men in the total working population (see figure 1). This is expected to translate to more economic participation for women in the labour force. The reverse is the case as there are more men (39.5million) than women (30.1million) in the total labour force (see figure 1). Data also shows that the total women labour force participation declined by 2.5% from 45.5% in 2019¹⁵ to 43% in 2020¹⁶. The gender gap means men have 9 million more manpower than women.

FIGURE 1



Source: NBS (2021)



Employment Rate

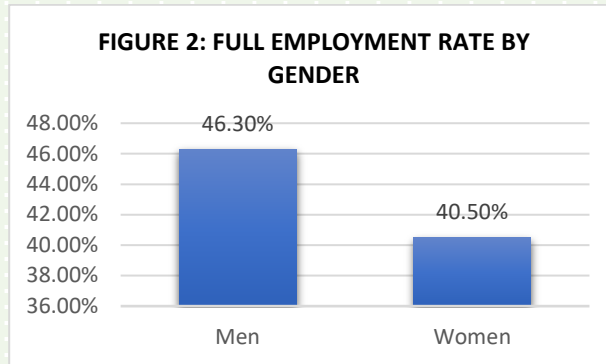
As a result of the gender gap in the total labour force, the manpower supplied by women in Nigeria is relatively low compared to men. In 2020, about 40.5% (12.2million) of women among the total female labour force were fully employed. In the same year, 46.3% (18.3million) of men out of the total male labour force gained full employment¹⁷ (see figure 2). This means that there is still a gender gap of about 6% in the country’s work force.

¹⁴ K4D (2019): “Gender Roles and Inequalities in the Nigerian Labour Market”. *Helpdesk Report*

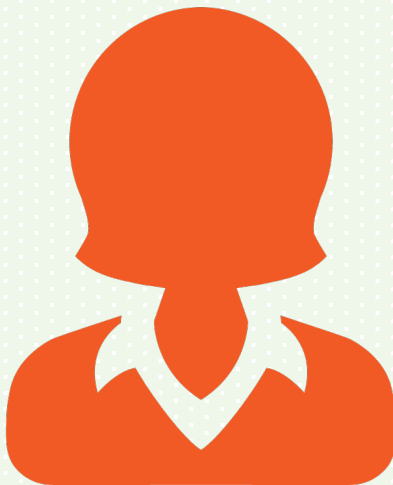
¹⁵ World Bank Economic Outlook 2019.

¹⁶ NBS (2021): Labour Force Statistics, Unemployment and Under-Employment by State - Q4 2020 page 33 & 34

¹⁷ NBS (2021): Labour Force Statistics, Unemployment and Under-Employment by State - Q4 2020 page 33 & 34



Source: NBS (2021): Labour Force Statistics, Unemployment and Under-Employment by State - Q4 2020, page 33 & 34

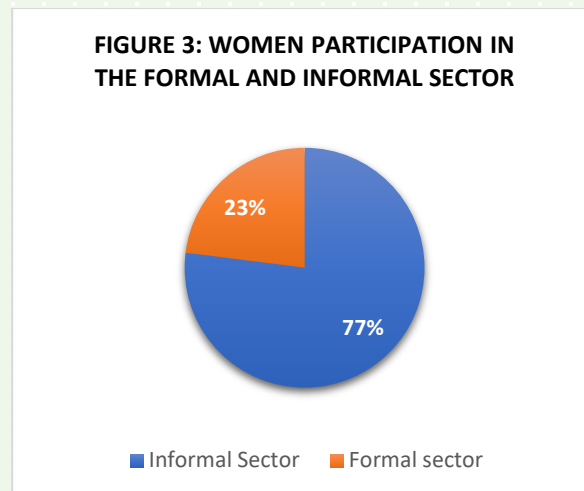


Female Employment in the Formal and Informal sector

The composition of the women labour force in the formal and informal sector shows that 23% of women are engaged in the formal sector while the majority (77%) of the women tend to work in the informal sector (PwC, 2020). Women who work in the formal sector tend to have higher educational qualifications than women who work in the informal sector.

The Nigerian Informal Sector (IS) is a major contributor to the Nigerian economy, accounting for a significant portion of employment and national GDP. Generally speaking, the impact of this sector cannot be over emphasized in terms of employment generation, capital savings and mobilization, efficiency, strong linkages with other sectors, utilization of local technology training ground for entrepreneurs and self-reliance¹⁸. According to the Bank of Industry (2018), the Nigerian informal sector accounted for ~65% of Nigeria's 2017 GDP¹⁹.

Economically, 77% of women in this sector concentrate on casual, low-skilled, low-paid employment due to lack of opportunities and low education attainment. Lack of access to financial services even though women are known to pay back on loans, further affects gender equality, business growth and development (see figure 3).



Source: NBS (2021)

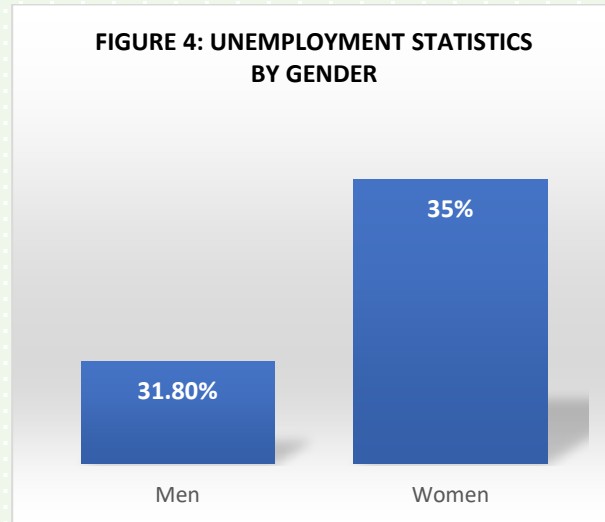
¹⁸ Fasanya and Onakoya (2012): "Informal Sector and Employment Generation in Nigeria: An Error Correction Model". *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*, ISSN 2222-1719 (Paper) ISSN 2222-2863 (Online) Vol 2, No.7, 2012

¹⁹ Bank of Industry. (2018). Economic Development through the Nigerian Informal Sector: A BOI perspective.

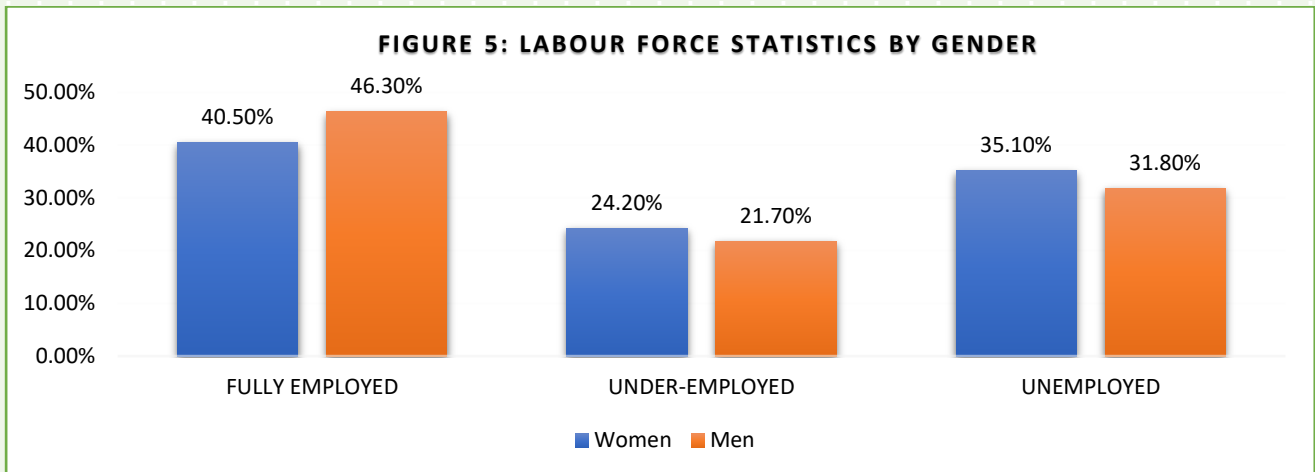


Unemployment Rate

Going by NBS Labour Force statistics 2021, more agile women who are willing and able to work are currently unemployed compared to men. The data shows that 35% of women out of the total women labour force are idle and currently not economically productive as against 31.8% for men (see figure 4). The implication is that there exists a gender gap of 3.2% in the unemployment rate as a result of the barriers hindering women’s economic participation in Nigeria.



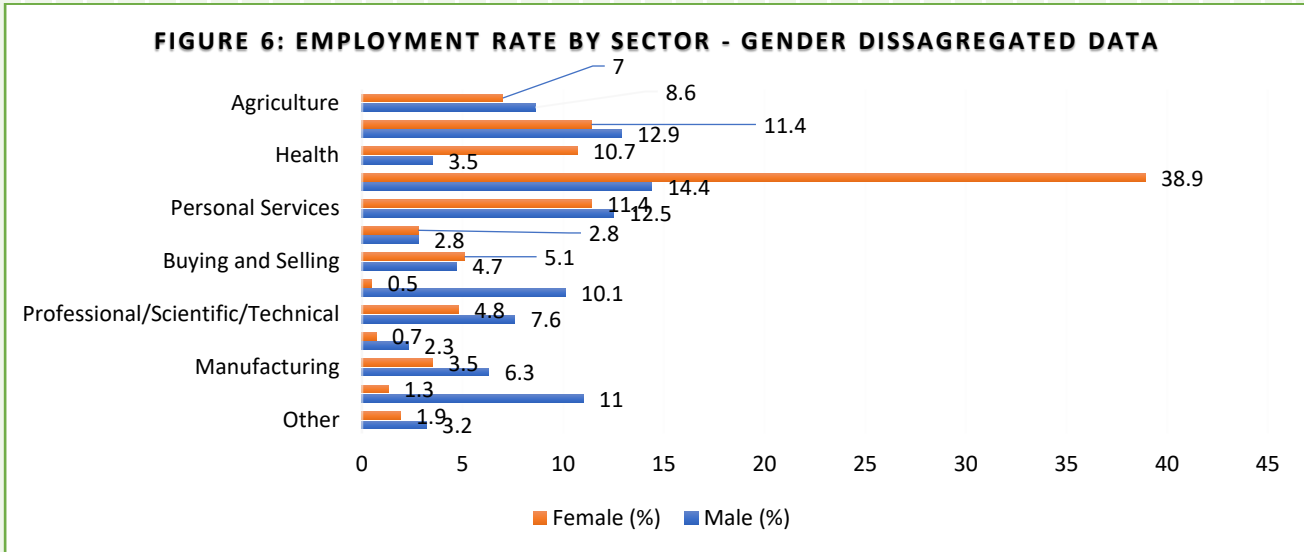
Source: NBS (2021)



Source: NBS (2021)

3. SECTORAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY

In the sectoral breakdown of how women participate in the economy, it was discovered that women still lag behind men in 10 out of 13 sectors documented by the NBS. The three sectors where women have a marginal advantage over men in terms of employment are the Education sector (38.9%) compared to 14.4% for men, the health sector (10.7%) compared to 3.5% for men and lastly Buying and selling sector (5.1%) compared to 4.7% for men.



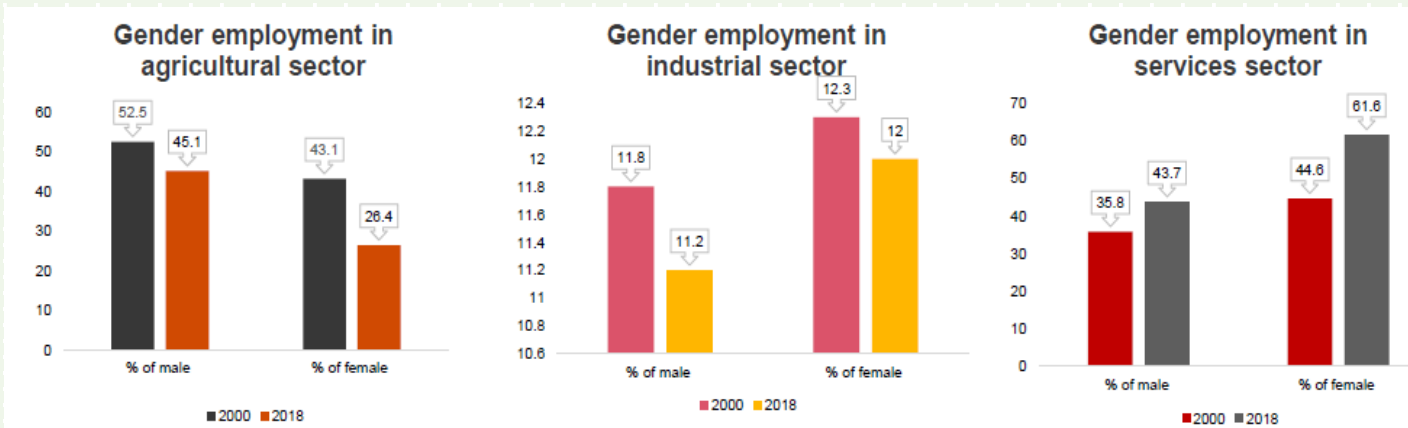
Source: Nigeria Living Standards Survey - 2018/2019 page 55 and 56

It is worth noting that, women’s participation in the Mining/Construction, Transportation and Electricity/Water/Gas sectors are extremely low and unacceptable. This shows that women are not being given enough opportunities in these sectors. From the graph above, men outnumbered women in the Mining/Construction sector by almost 10 times (11% for men to just 1.3% for women). In the Transport sector, women barely exist or participate. Ten percent (10%) of men are engaged in this sector compared to just 0.5% for women. In the Electricity sector, only 0.7% of women are engaged in this sector compared to 2.3% for men (see figure 6).

Over the last 18 years (from 2000 - 2018), the numbers of female participation in the agricultural sector have dropped from 43% in the year 2000 to 26% in 2018. In the industrial sector, there is also a slight decline in women’s participation as shown in the graph below (see figure 7). The only improvement is in the service sector (from 44.6% to 61.6%) where more women are engaged in several economic activities such as “catering, medical services, educational services, transportation, etc”²⁰

²⁰ Nevin, A.S. (2020): Impact of Women on Nigeria’s Economy. Nigeria. PriceWater Copper. Available at: www.pwc.com/ng/en/assests/pdf/impact-of-women-nigeria-economy.pdf Page 7

FIGURE: 7 GENDER EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER BY SECTOR FROM 2008 TO 2018



Source: PWC

Access to finance, credible information and equal opportunities increase the chances of success for women-owned enterprises. With 104 million of the total population being women, Nigerian women account for about 41% of the ownership of micro-businesses in the country, placing Nigeria among the highest entrepreneurship rates globally²¹.

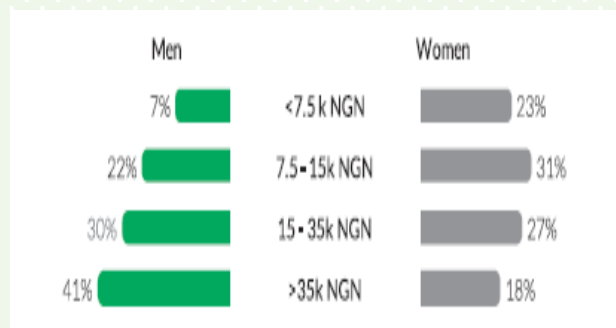
Also, there are 23 million women entrepreneurs in the small and micro-enterprise sector of the country. Here, women only own 20% of enterprises in the formal sector, and about 12% of the Directors on corporate boards of directors are women.

4. WAGE AND INCOME GENDER DIFFERENTIALS IN NIGERIA

On average, more than half of Nigerian’s total population survive on less than \$2 per day, this is equivalent to ~700 Naira per day²². Typically, Nigerian women earn less compared to men. A woman invests a large proportion of her income on day-to-day household expenditures like food, clothes, her children’s education etc. The higher a woman earns, the higher her expenditure on school enrolment for children.

Unfortunately, there is high gender differential in income distribution in Nigeria. Women are faced with restrictions in economic participation thereby affecting their talent pool in the labour market. As a result, their total factor productivity and output growth are generally low compared to men.

FIGURE 8: INCOME DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER



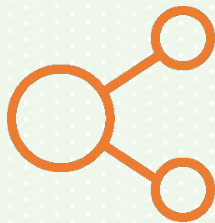
Source: EFinA (2019) page 10

²¹ Pricewater Copper MSME Survey (2020). Building to Last, Nigeria Report. www.pwc.com/ng Page 53

²² World Poverty Clock, 2018 – using USD 1.90/day as the UN definition for extreme poverty and using USD/ Naira exchange rate as November 11th, 2019, this yields 689 Naira.

Low-income distribution means low marginal propensity to save, little to no disposable income for consumption, and low investment for women. Findings have shown that women experience significantly lower educational attainment than men thereby impacting their earning capacity.

A study by EFinA (2019)²³ shows that 23% of women earn less than N7,500/month compared to just 7% for men. Twice as many men as women earn more than N35,000/month (41% of men, 18% of women). As a result of these income differentials, it can be concluded that women are more likely than men to be poor. More so, according to the Demographic and Health Survey (2018)²⁴, the majority of women earn less than their husbands (84%); only 5% earn more than their husbands.

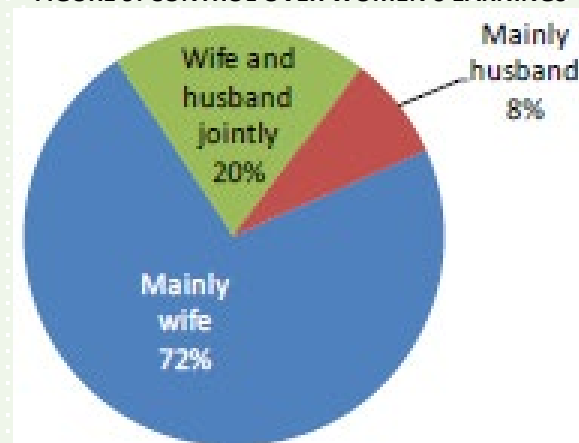


Control over women's earnings

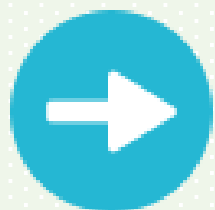
In addition to earning income, women need to have control over their earnings to be considered empowered. Findings from the DHS (2018) show that 72% of women mainly decide how their cash earnings are used and 20% report that they make such decisions jointly with their husbands. Only 8% say that these decisions are made primarily by their husbands (see figure 9).

By zone, most women in the North-West (88%) decide on their own how their earnings are used while few women in the South-East (40%) have control over their earnings.

FIGURE 9: CONTROL OVER WOMEN'S EARNINGS



Source: Demographic and Health Survey (2018)



Ownership of Assets

In Nigeria, men are more than three times as likely to own a house or land as women. Thirty-seven percent of men own a house and 38% own land alone or jointly with someone, as compared with only 11% and 12% of women, respectively. By zone, house ownership among women is highest in the Southeast (27%) and lowest in the Northwest (4%). The proportion of women who own land is highest in the Southeast (31%) and lowest in the Southwest (5%)²⁵.

²³ EFinA (2019): "Assessment of Women's Financial Inclusion In Nigeria" December 2019

²⁴ Demographic and Health Survey (2018), page 381

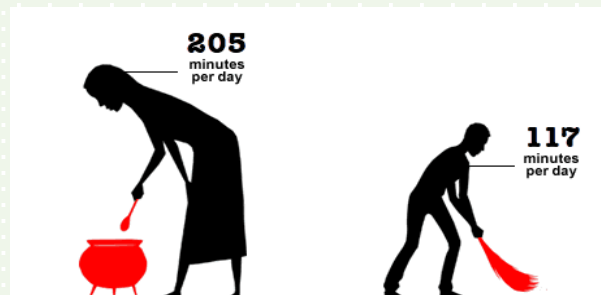
²⁵ DHS (2018). Page 382

5. UNPAID LABOUR OF WOMEN IN NIGERIA

Unpaid labour is an essential but often unrecognized dimension of human well-being that provides essential domestic services within the household, for other households and community members. Often called unpaid care work, unpaid labour is unaccounted for in the Gross Domestic Product estimates because it falls outside the production boundary (both formal and informal sector) of an economy.

In Nigeria, women produce most of the unpaid labour services and are often termed, domestic workers. This group of women earns a low and irregular salary, which is below the national minimum wage of N30,000/month. The salary of a domestic worker in Nigeria ranges between zero naira (or being paid in-kind) to N1,500 per month. The average salary is about N13,000/month²⁶.

FIGURE: 10



Source: <https://interactions.eldis.org/unpaid-care-work/country-profiles/nigeria>

Aside from low pay, women overwork and spend more time than men doing domestic work (see figure 10). On average, women spend fewer hours sleeping than men each day. They also spend more than 4 hours a day taking care of their children. “Women spent on average 80 minutes each day collecting water and complained of feeling exhausted as a result”.²⁷

Some of the factors responsible for the high level of unpaid labour amongst women

1. High level of illiteracy amongst women compared to men.
2. High unemployment rate amongst females compared to men.
3. The low status of women is embellished by culture.
4. Poor health of the people especially women and deteriorating environmental conditions especially as it affects women.
5. High degree of poverty, accompanied by high levels of fertility, morbidity and mortality rate.

The opportunity here is that if unpaid jobs are regulated by the government and assigned monetary value, they would constitute between 10% and 39% of GDP.

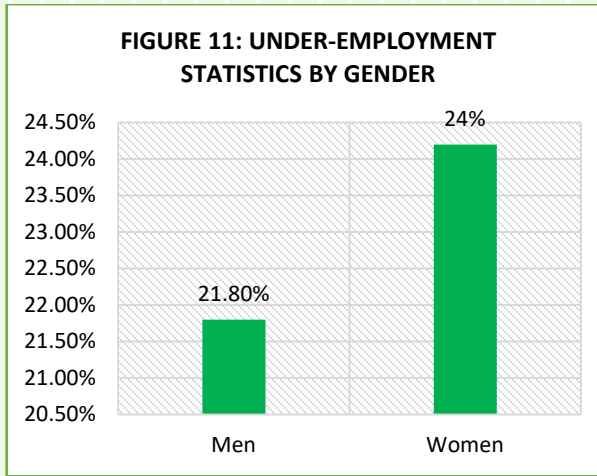
²⁶ <https://www.unicef-irc.org/article/1961-gender-paid-domestic-work-and-social-protection.html>

²⁷ <https://interactions.eldis.org/unpaid-care-work/country-profiles/nigeria>



Under-employment rate in Nigeria

In terms of under-employment, 24.2% (7.3million) of Nigerian women out of the total women labour force are currently under-employed. They work between 20 – 39 hours mostly part time (see figure 11).



Source: NBS (2021): Labour Force Statistics, Unemployment and Under-Employment by State - Q4 2020, page 33 & 34

6. GENDER AND ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES IN NIGERIA

Having access to finance creates greater economic stability and prosperity for women, their households, and their communities. It builds their assets and gives them the ability to respond to family needs and mitigate risk. When a woman has access and control over her finance, she not only contributes to her own well-being but also to the well-being of her family.

In Nigeria, financial access is skewed towards men than women. According to the Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access (EFInA)²⁸, the number of women who can access financial services is 49.9million, a little bit higher than 49.7million for men. Of this 29.4 million (59%) of women are financially included, while about 67% of men are financially included. Leaving 41% of women financially excluded and 33% of men financially excluded (a gender gap of 8.5%).

A further breakdown shows that out of the 29.4 million women financially included, 21 million are served by formal services with 8.4 million only accessing informal finance. The reason why some women were not able to access formal financial services is either by default or not using any financial services although they might have proof of identification, access to a mobile phone and financial institution. Twenty million (20million) women do not use any form of financial service or products with the largest proportions excluded by design (lacking identity papers, or access to a financial institution to a mobile phone) or default²⁹.

Over the years, the numbers of women who have access to one form of finance or another have improved significantly (see figure 12). From 2008 to 2018, the percentage of women who are financially excluded dropped from 49% to 33%. In addition, the percentage of women who access finance informally dropped from 22% in 2008 to 13% in 2018. Although adult men are more likely to be banked than adult women, but from 2008 to 2018 the number of banked women increased from 15% to 33%.

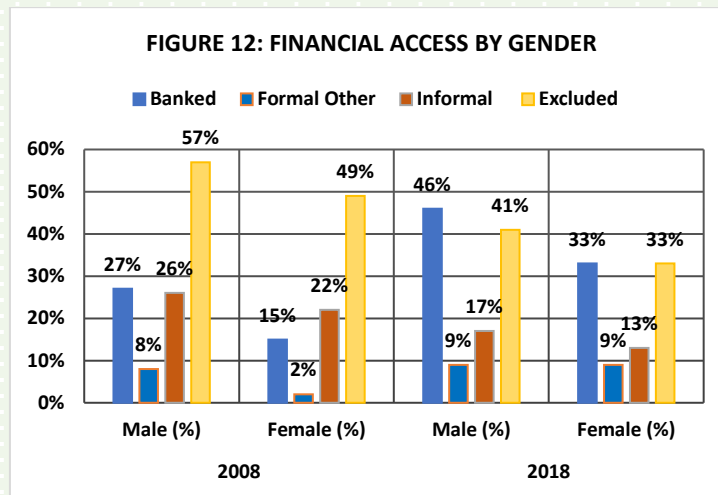
The high concentration of unserved and underserved women in the lower-income segments of the population was a result of low monthly income. The majority of these women earn less than N40,000 in a month³⁰.

²⁸ Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access (2018): Access to Financial Services in Nigeria 2018 Survey. Available at: <https://www.efina.org.ng/our-work/research/access/>

²⁹ (EFInA, 2018:54)

³⁰ CBN page 9

- Twice as many men as women are likely to have a pension product (10.6% of men, 5.4% of women).
- Only 1% Of women have at least 1 insurance policy.

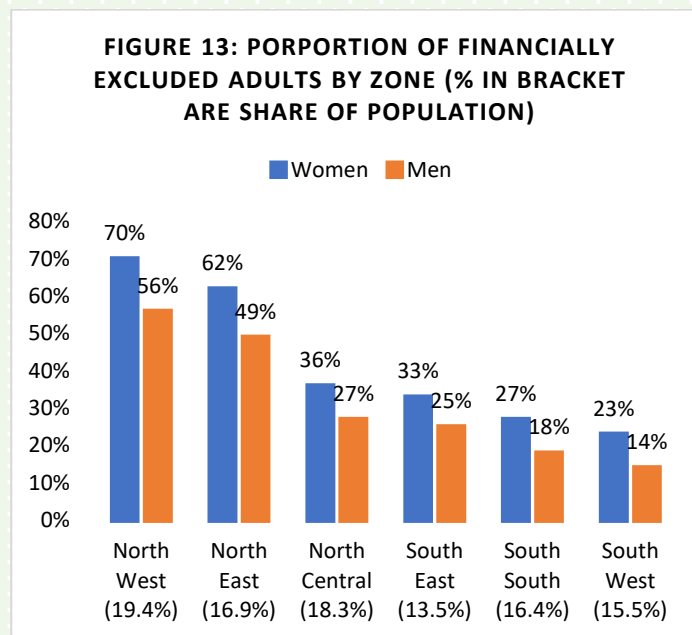


Source: EFINA Access to Financial Services in Nigeria 2008/2018 surveys page 41, dRPC Analysis.



Geographical Data

Based on research conducted by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access (EFInA) in 2019, women in the North are more excluded than their Southern counterparts in terms of access to funds³¹ (see figure 13). This contributes to the high rate of household poverty in the region. Women in the Northwest (70%) and Northeast (62%) are most likely to be excluded than women in the South South (27%) or Southwest (23%)³². This means that women in South south and Southwest have more access to financial resources than their Northeast and Northwest counterparts.



Source: CBN (2019)

³¹ Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access (2019): “Assessment of Women’s Financial Inclusion in Nigeria”. Page 14

³² Central Bank of Nigeria (2019): “Framework for Advancing Women’s Financial Inclusion in Nigeria” page 42

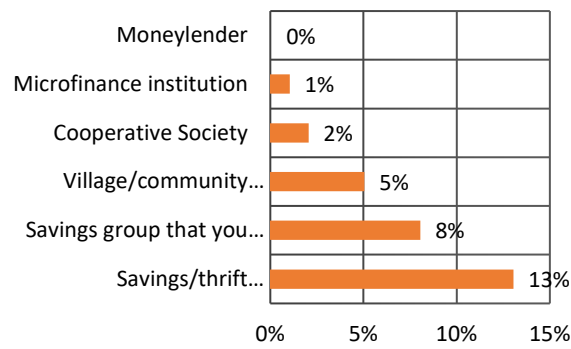
The gap is particularly acute in rural areas: 24% of women in rural areas register ownership of formal accounts, as opposed to 54% of men.



Informal financial service providers used by women

Informal finance can be defined as a small, unsecured and short-in-maturity form of raising capital. In Nigeria, 31% of women use informal financial services compared to 29% of men. Nigerian women are more likely than men to rely exclusively on informal financial services³³. In this category, 13% of women use savings/thrift collectors as their financial service providers while 8% of women source funds from savings groups. Five percent (5%) of women uses village savings and loan association, 2% uses cooperative society and just 1% apply for loan from microfinance institutions (see figure 14).

FIGURE 14: INFORMAL FINANCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS USED BY WOMEN



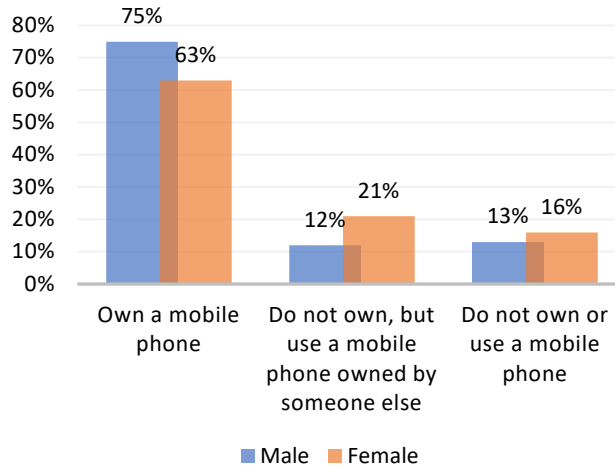
Source: EFinA (2019), page 45



Access to technology

Having access to technology is essential for commerce in the 21st century. Mobile Phone is the most common piece of technology used to transact business. In Nigeria, **84%** of women own or use a mobile phone (see figure 15). Only 16% of women do not have access to a mobile phone³⁴.

FIGURE 15: ACCESS TO MOBILE PHONES

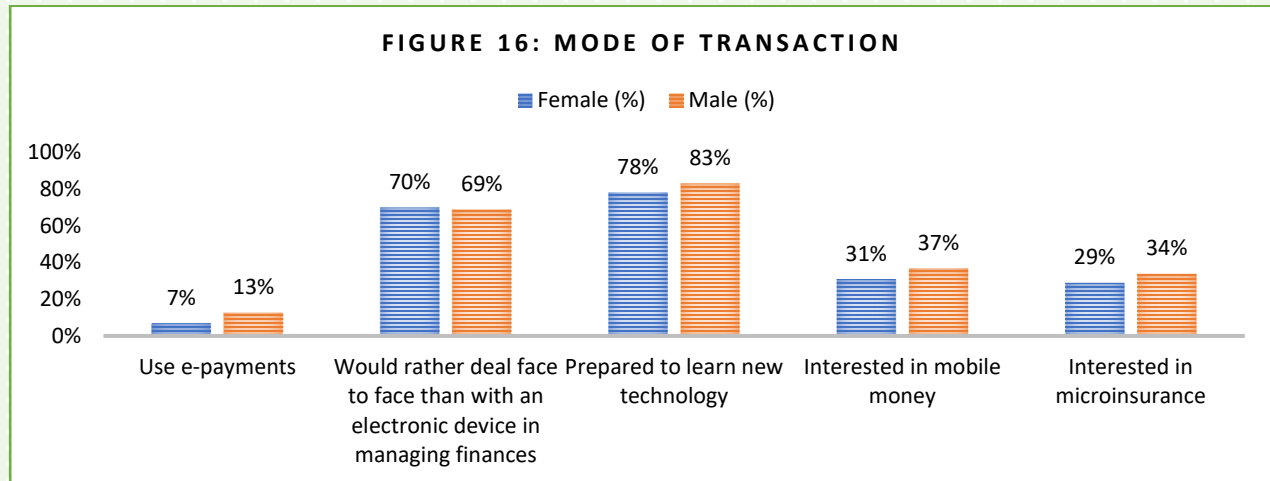


Source: EFinA (2019), page 47

³³ EFinA page 45

³⁴ EFinA page 47

The use of the mobile phone will promote cashless transactions through mobile money. According to EFinA Access to Financial Services in Nigeria 2018 survey, women are less likely than men to express interest in learning new technology and using mobile money and microinsurance. More than three-quarters of women (78%) say that they are prepared to learn new technology, 31% are interested in mobile money while only 7% use e-payment platforms³⁵ (see figure 16). The implication is that women use fewer electronic channels to pay for goods/services/bills than men.



Source: EFinA (2019), page 48

7. EVIDENCE THAT INVESTING IN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IS BENEFICIAL TO THE HOUSEHOLD, COMMUNITY AND THE NATION

The benefit to the household

1. Investing in WEE enhance productivity in household: The Strengthening Dairy Value Chains (SDVC) project which provided training and education for 36,000 farmers and 1,162 producers groups with 90% women participants reported some great outcomes for women. Women farmers who engaged in the training experienced an overall 75% increase in milk production. There were also incremental changes in production which were higher for women than for men and helped to reduce the production gap. Lastly, income from dairy production increased overall by 164%³⁶.

2. Improvement in Household feeding: an impact evaluation on the UNICEF cash transfer program shows that the frequency of household feeding patterns increased by 15.8% in the project state (Niger and Sokoto). Through the women's economic empowerment project, 53% of households were able to afford three meals per day. Furthermore, the net change in average monthly expenditure on health per household was positive and statistically significant in the project states, i.e average monthly health expenditure increased by 19.5% in Niger state and 12.8% in Sokoto state³⁷.

3. Reduction in household poverty: Unequal opportunities between women and men continue to hamper women's ability to lift themselves from poverty and gain more options to improve their living standards. According to a study by FAO (2011)³⁸, it shows that when women are given the same access to productive resources as

³⁵ EFinA page 48

³⁶ Women's Economic Empowerment Impact Report 2018, https://insights.careinternational.org.uk/media/k2/attachments/WEE_impact_report_2018.pdf

³⁷ UNICEF, 2017. Impact Evaluation of UNICEF Nigeria Girls' Education Project Phase 3 (GEP3) Cash Transfer Programme (CTP) In Niger And Sokoto States.

³⁸ FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). 2011. "State of Food and Agriculture – Women and Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development." Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

men, on average they could increase yields on their farms by 20–30 percent. The benefit of investing in WEE to reduce household poverty are as follows³⁹:

- Augmented care for household children in terms of both healthcare and education as a consequence of increased household income
- Better management of household funds earned by women
- Increased household security due to higher savings

High investment in programs such as financial assistance, grants, microcredits, unconditional cash transfer and provisions of empowerment materials will help in lifting vulnerable women out of poverty and improves their standard of living.

4. Improvement in household health: improving the welfare of women and closing the inequality gap can lead to improved childhood nutrition and reduced mortality, increased school enrollment, improved maternal and children's health and improved natural resource management. WEE is one such characteristic that can influence a woman's experience of pregnancy, delivery, and postnatal care. Empowerment has been associated with reduced rates of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, like gonorrhoea, HIV/AIDS etc.

5. There is also some evidence that women's economic empowerment strengthens vulnerable groups' participation in decision-making. For example, microfinance programs have been shown to bolster women's influence within the household and marketplace. The evidence also suggests that economic power is often easily 'converted' into increased social status or decision-making power⁴⁰.

6. Benefits of Financial Support to Women: a percentage increase in finance will cause entrepreneurship to improve by 1.60 percent⁴¹. Therefore, expanding the potentials of women to gain financial resources needed to improve their business activities will increase their access to capital, increase their business potential, increase their access to markets (local and international), and improve independence for women, including widows, single mothers, and unmarried/divorced⁴².

7. Benefits of training women in business and money management: According to Valderio et al, (2014)⁴³, business training for women estimated that graduates of business and money management programs earn on average 27 percent more than other women in developing countries including Nigeria. Therefore, building the capacity of women in business and money management will lead to the following⁴⁴: -

- Women's access to education increases their likelihood of starting an independent business and becoming financially self-sustaining.
- Boost self-confidence
- Prevent losses due to lack of knowledge or inappropriate behavior/wrong strategies
- Know-how to access markets and exploit them efficiently
- Increased familiarity with fund and resource management and allocation
- Increased job opportunities for trainers.

The benefit to the community

1. Investing in WEE allow poor people to think beyond immediate daily survival and to exercise greater control over both their resources, life choices. For example, it enables households to make their own decisions around making investments in health and education and taking risks to increase their income. According to the UNICEF

³⁹ The World Bank (2018): Nigeria For Women Project (P161364). *Washington D.C. Page 93*

⁴⁰ See: <https://n-sip.gov.ng/success-stories/>

⁴¹ Olukayode, Russell, and Christopher Somoye. 2013. "The Impact of Finance on Entrepreneurship Growth Nigeria: A Cointegration Framework." *ACRN Journal of Entrepreneurship Perspectives* 2 (2): 21–45. ISSN 2224-9729

⁴² The World Bank (2018): Nigeria For Women Project (P161364). *Washington D.C. Page 91 - 93*

⁴³ Valderio, Alexandria, Brent Parton, and Alicia Robb. 2014. "Entrepreneurship Education and Training Programs around the World – Dimensions for Success." *Directions in Development*. World Bank.

⁴⁴ The World Bank (2018): Nigeria For Women Project (P161364). *Washington D.C. Page 92-93*

impact evaluation report⁴⁵, aside from the positive impact on household welfare, the CTP promoted income-generating activities among beneficiaries in the CTP communities in the two project states, and the household decision about sending girls to school was to a very large extent influenced by the project as well as CTP sensitization and mobilization activities at the community level in the project states.

2. Societies with greater gender equality not only offer better socio-economic opportunities for women, but also grow faster and more equitably. BOI understands this impact with a \$10m investment in women-owned businesses partnership with Alitheia Capital. To the bank, sustainable growth is achieved with the full participation of women as vital economic links between agriculture, industry and trade⁴⁶.

3. Investing in WEE help to create job opportunities. In 2019, the Bank of Industries (BOI) made available the sum of N37.95bn worth of loans to help support women-owned businesses. In the same year, 496 women-owned enterprises were supported in 2019 and 168,000 jobs were facilitated through support for women in the same years.

4. Through the disbursement of over N2 billion to Money Deposit Bank to lend women-owned businesses leveraging on their widespread network to reach out to more women in more friendly terms than obtained in commercial banks. The initiative increased accessibility to cheaper finance, longer loan tenor and favorable terms by female entrepreneurs, enhance their capacity building development and promote more local resources usage among women in their various communities⁴⁷.

5. Active involvement in women's groups offers women a voice to help them successfully champion their cause. Besides that, women have opportunities to organize themselves into agricultural production, manufacturing and marketing groups. For instance, according to FAO and ECOWAS (2018)⁴⁸ report, the majority of female farmers who live in these villages have increased food security in their various households. Therefore, the performance achieved by the participants inspired other women who were formally not active in agricultural activities

6. Investing in WEE increase ease of doing agribusiness for women, it also strengthens market driven-rural business incubators and improves the production, productivity and marketing of agro-entrepreneurs through public-private producer partnership (PPP) models. Furthermore, it enhances market participation and profitability of women through sustainable enterprises, improved market infrastructure, access to financial services, access to land as well as the use of improved technologies (IFAD- Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project in the Niger Delta of Nigeria (LIFE-ND) 2017⁴⁹.

7. By empowering girls, the Educating Nigerian Girls in New Enterprises (ENGINE) program was able to change participants' parents and guardians on the role of girls and women in society and attitudes towards girls' education and skills acquisition. At the end of the program, the participants' parents and guardians were more supportive of girls' education and skills acquisition. Their attitudes toward girls' skills acquisition were mostly positive and tended to emphasize future financial returns so that their children can have a better future⁵⁰.

8. Benefits of Financial Literacy and Life Skills Training⁵¹

- Direct benefit: increased resources due to improved cooperation
- Higher social capital facilitates inter-lending processes making resources more readily available
- Indirect benefit: positive spillover effect on the community due to increased consumption and business activity

⁴⁵ UNICEF, 2017. Impact Evaluation of UNICEF Nigeria Girls' Education Project Phase 3 (GEP3) Cash Transfer Programme (CTP) In Niger And Sokoto States.

⁴⁶ BANK OF INDUSTRY (2019): "Annual Report & Accounts 2019", <https://www.boi.ng/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/BOI-Annual-Report-2019-min.pdf>

⁴⁷ (BOI Annual Report 2019).

⁴⁸ FAO and ECOWAS Commission. 2018. National Gender Profile of Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods – Nigeria. Country Gender Assessment Series, Abuja.

⁴⁹ IFAD, (2017). "Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project in the Niger Delta of Nigeria (LIFE-ND)" Project design report.

⁵⁰ Jeni Klugman, Jennifer Parsons and Tatiana Melnikova (2018). "Working to Empower Girls in Nigeria - Highlights of the Educating Nigerian Girls in New Enterprises (ENGINE) Program" Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security

⁵¹ The World Bank (2018): Nigeria For Women Project (P161364). *Washington D.C. Page 91*

- Improved life skills with positive spillovers to the community
- Greater financial literacy reduces distortions and financial losses. Also creates awareness of money value.

9. Reduction in gender-based violence: Women's economic empowerment will help increase women's access to formal and informal justice systems for risk mitigation, prevention and response to Gender-based violence. In all societies, women and girls are vulnerable to physical, sexual or psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture. The low social and economic status of women can be both a cause and a consequence of violence.

The benefit to the nation

1. Investing in WEE reduced sociocultural barriers retarding the growth of women and weakening the societal growth and development. According to the Country Gender Assessment Series, through the support to women (in cash and kind) to boost their agricultural activities, they were able to operate in mixed farmers groups in states across the country without sociocultural restrictions. (FAO and ECOWAS Commission. 2018)

2. Benefits of Financial Literacy and Life Skills Training⁵²:

- Reduced costs of regulating the transaction
- Increased GDP as a consequence of improved cooperation and consumption
- Social capital allows for improved self-regulation of society
- Less deadweight losses (and therefore increased efficiency) increase revenues.

3. Benefit to Financial Support to Women to the society⁵³:

- Increased access to finance facilitates transactions and improves fiscal revenues
- Higher availability of resources would create a more stable society, with fewer risks overall.

4. Benefit to Literacy, Confidence Building, and Money Management Training to the society

- Reduction of unemployment due to business formation
- Reduction of crime/violence as a positive externality.

5. Benefit of Female Participation in Household Livelihoods Initiatives

- Increased output leading to higher revenues
- Less violence/crime due to improved economic conditions.

6. A study by IMF in 2018 also shows that "if Nigeria reduced gender inequality both in the labor market and in political representation; in education; in legal rights; and also, by improving health outcomes for women, the economy could grow on average by as much as 1.25 percentage points more"⁵⁴.

8. RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND CENTRES ON WEE IN NIGERIA

- The development Research and Project Center
- National Centre on Women Development Abuja
- African Centre for Peace Research, Empowerment and Documentation
- International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
- Centre for Gender and policy studies- Obafemi Awolowo University
- National Institute for Social and Economic Research
- National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies
- Gender and Development research group – University of Nigeria Nsukka
- Women's advocates research and documentation centre (WARDC)
- Civil Resource Development and Documentation centre (CIRDDOC)
- Women's Research and Documentation Center (Nigeria)
- Centre for Gender studies -Benue state university
- Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access
- Centre for Gender Studies – Bayero University, Kano
- Women Studies Institute of Education University of Nigeria

⁵²Page 91

⁵³ NFWP page 92

⁵⁴ IMF (2018): Transcript of podcast with Monique Newiak: "Good for Women, Good for Growth: Closing Nigeria's Gender Gap"



- Nigerian Women in Agricultural Research for Development (NIWARD)
- African Research Academies for Women
- Centre for Women Studies and Intervention
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Gender Mainstreaming Office – University of Ibadan
- Centre for Gender and Women Studies, University of Jos
- Center For Economic Empowerment and Gender Activities (CEEGA)