

-OFFICIAL ECONOMIC STATISTICS AND WEE- GAPS AND THE WAY FORWARD



Being a paper presented at the 62nd Annual Conference of the Nigeria Economic Societies, with the theme, “Global Uncertainties and Policy Interventions for Macroeconomic Stability in Africa” held between 6th and 29th October 2021.

List of abbreviations

- BOI Bank of Industry
- CBN Central Bank of Nigeria
- DHS Demographic Health Survey
- EFINA Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access
- FMITI Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment
- FMOA&RD Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development
- FMOsYD Federal Ministry of Sport and Youth Development
- FMWA Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
- GDP Gross Domestic Product
- MDAs Ministries, Departments and Agencies
- MICS Multi Indicator Cluster Survey
- MSMEs Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
- NBS National Bureau of Statistics
- NCWD National Centre for women Development
- NEPC National Export Promotion Council
- NMEP National Malaria Elimination Programme
- NPC National Population Commission
- NRS Nigerian Railway Corporation
- NSS National Statistics System
- NYS National Youth Survey
- OES Official Economic Statistics
- SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
- SSAs State Statistical Agencies
- WEE Women Economic Empowerment
- WCSs Women Cooperative Societies
- WEA Women Economic Associations
- WECs Women Economic Collectives
- ZIP Zonal Intervention Programme

Abstract

With various official economic statistics in Nigeria, this research is aimed at ascertaining the official economic statistics on WEE, identify available gaps, and the way forward. Using the desk review method, the findings of the paper show that there are various official economic statistics produced and published by government institutions on different issues. These include income distribution, labor force, industry and services, government expenditure, agriculture statistics, etc. some of which have WEE-related components which include access to income and assets, control and benefits from economic resources as well power to make decisions. Despite their availability, several gaps exist. Some of which include limited coverage of WEE components, data inconsistency, and untimeliness, impact assessment gap, weak M&E framework among MDAs, uncoordinated wee statistics, etc. It however recommended that there should be inter-ministerial, interdepartmental, and interagency collaboration in ensuring a robust WEE statistic and legislation mandating the MDAs to produce WEE statistics on all the programmes and activities. While it is also important to strengthening the existing institutional structure to effectively manage how data is collected, analysed and disseminated on WEE Policies and programmes, it is also pertinent to note that the capacity of the M&E officers of the various MDAs collating, analysing and disseminating data should be built for effective reporting on WEE

Key Words: Official economic statistics, women economic empowerment, government expenditure, policy

Introduction

Countries across the globe measure their social, economic, and political system to ascertain the level of performance and development in a particular period. This enables proper planning. In Nigeria, several official statistics exist covering health, agriculture, oil and gas, demography, debt, labor, market, poverty, revenue, etc. These reports not only assess the states of affairs, but they also analyse the past, the present, and project for the future. By identifying the trends, it allows both the state and non-state actors such as government, media, civil society organisations, financial institutions, academia, businesses to evaluate critical sectoral issues and make informed opinion and decision on specific issues as affect the people, the sectors and society at large. The recent official statistics of unemployment rates among women and men could help to make an informed decision in re-strategising on ways to further bridge the gap and also reduce the trend ¹. With several issues searching for attention and analysis, this paper examines the official economic statistics as relating to women's economic empowerment which has become one of the critical policy issues in Nigeria today. The paper is divided into five parts: basic concepts, dimension of the Nigeria official economic statistics on women, agencies responsible for collecting data on women economic statistics, Official economic statistics on women economic empowerment, gaps in the official economic statistics women economic empowerment, and way forwards.

Basic Concepts

The term economic statistics refers to a historical record of economic activity aimed at guiding the understanding of an economic system as well as formulation of policy within the system. It is the widest government statistic covering large arrays of sectors which includes agriculture, energy, industry and services, general government, science technology and innovation, short terms economic indicators, labor, income distribution, and households' conditions, monetary and finance, national account, and economic history, etc. (Enrico, 2008).

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

Charles (2016) refers to economic statistics as any piece of quantitative information that is valuable to either the public or private sector for the analysis of a relevant economic issue. This quantitative information includes data on manpower, production, distribution, transport, foreign trade, prices, employment, etc. According to Enrico, (2008) economic statistics analyses the level of economic variables or how they change over time. Yasuto (2011) on the other hand sees economic statistics beyond the economy but as a combination of both social and economic situations. These would include the collection and analysis of data on healthcare, poverty, education, population, labour among others. Accordingly, one of the major functions of economic statistics in the word Enrico (2008) “is to develop concepts, definitions, classifications and methods that can be used to produce statistical information that describes the state of and movements in economic phenomena, both in time and space”. This information in turn used to analyse the behavior of economic operators, forecast likely movements of the economy as a whole, make economic policy and business decisions, weigh the merit and demerit of alternative investments, etc. What statistics collected by a country varies in terms of need, interest, available accountability mechanism, resources, tools, and human and technical capacity to conduct, analyse, and made the same available for public consumption.

Therefore, women empowerment according to the World Bank (2001) is the expansion of freedom of choice and actions and increase one’s authority and control over the resources and decisions that affect one’s life. The idea involves the provision of enabling environment for their productive and intellectual abilities to be realised. Therefore, the term women economic empowerment (WEE) is a process of personal and social change, taking place over interlinked and mutually reinforcing psychological, political, social, and economic domains, and through which women individually and collectively gain power, meaningful choices, and control over their lives (O’Neil et al., 2014). Taylor and Pereznie (2014) define WEE as a means of allowing women to achieve equal access to and control over economic resources. Through this process, the lives of women and girls are transformed from a situation where they have limited power to one where their power is enhanced. In essence, it is maintained in the Djakarta Declaration (1994) that the empowerment of women is not only equal consideration; it was a necessary precondition for sustainable economic and social development. It is believed that when women gain greater access to economic resources and opportunities, combined with an increased agency to voice and influence important decisions in their homes and communities; make their own strategic life choices; and retain control over resources, substantial and wide-ranging development results ensue (DCED, 2018). Without economic self-sufficiency, other rights and scopes remain meaningless (Keshab, 2013). Thus, by empowering women economically, they will be free from all kinds of deprivation and oppression; can directly enjoy the benefits from markets as well as household; can easily manage a square nutritious food and fulfill basic requirements such as a house, cloth, medicine, and pure water, in essence, they are relieved from oppression.

Dimension of the Nigeria official economic statistics on women

Since 1960, the arrays of official economic statistics on women have changed from just the population size, working ages, employment and unemployment rate to includes their contributions to the nation’s socio-economic and political development. This is as a result of taking into consideration the emerging issues relating to the gender and the commitment of the world leaders to identify gaps in the women involvement in various aspect of human lives. In 1995, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which was adopted in the 4th world conference on women recommended the collection, compilation, analysis and presentation data based on the issues and questions relating to women and men in society. In this regard, “Women and economy” was identified as one of the twelve (12) domains ² of the framework for gender statistics. This domain answers questions on the women involvement in the various economic activities.

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• (2) The 12 domains of the Framework are women and poverty; education and training of women; women and health; violence against women; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights of women; women and the media; women and the environment; the girl-child

To what extent do they involve, in what aspect of the economy they actively and majorly involved, what was their contribution to the nation's economy, how are they accessing fund to manage their business, what opportunities are available for them in specific sector of the economy (agriculture, industry and services), how many of them were able to access funding and what challenges they face are some of the critical issues. Indeed, it is expected to reflect differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men in the economy ³.

The government established a commitment to support the social and economic empowerment of women to foster gender equality through series of policies, reassessment of priorities, and programs such as the Federal Republic of Nigeria Economic Recovery and Growth Plan 2017- 2020, Economic Sustainability Plan 2020, and Medium-Term National Development Plans 2021-2025. All these plans have women empowerment elements. Although there were little or no official statistics and gender audits that show data of women beneficiaries. Several economic and empowerment policies and programmes are also currently being implemented such as National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy (NPRGS) ⁴ with over N300 billion proposed budgets in the 2022 fiscal year ⁵.

Agencies responsible for collecting data on women economic statistics

The Statistics Act 2007 established Nigeria's National Statistics System (NSS) with the sole aim of collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating quality statistical data. The NSS is saddled with the responsibility of building sustainable capacity for production and use of statistical data and information in the country for planning purposes ⁶. It is expected to promote the use of information at individual, institutional, local government area, state, national and international levels especially for evidence-based policy design and decision-making. Therefore, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) coordinate Statistical Operations of the NSS in the production of Official Statistics in all the Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), State Statistical Agencies (SSAs) and Local Government Councils (LGCs). At the federal and national levels, each Ministry, Department and Agency has a Director of Statistics and there is also a Head of statistics Unit at Local Government Areas across the federation ⁷. All these including Statistical Institutes constitute the Nigeria National Statistical System (NSS) and were responsible for the collection of the various data including the women economic statistics.

In addition to the statistic units, there was also a gender department working collaboratively with other departments such as Research and Planning as well as the Monitoring and Evolution whose responsibility is to ensure the collection, processing and analysis of gender-disaggregated Official data in all MDAs at all levels. The NBS supports a uniform standard and methodologies amongst the various agencies to improve on the quality comparability and timeliness of their statistics output. However, every sector or programme has a specific methodology and data collection instruments. The collection of data of official women economic statistics in terms of their participation in the labour force, formal and informal sectors, access to financial inclusion/access to finance, contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), asset acquisition, trade, innovation and investment education, participation in the agricultural sector, etc. are collected by the respective MDAs and coordinated by the National Statistical System for the production of national economic official data ⁸. For instance, the NBS quarterly rail transport data is provided by the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) and verified and validated by the NBS ⁹.

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- (3) <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Handbooks/gender/Integrating-a-Gender-Perspective-into-Statistics-E.pdf> Page 1
 - (4) https://www.proshareng.com/admin/upload/report/14651-PEAC%20NPRGS%20Final_25%20March%2020211-proshare.pdf
 - (5) Federal Government Proposed 2022 budget.
 - (6) Statistics Act 2007
 - (7) <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/page/about-us++8>
 - (8) NBS: Nigerian Gross Domestic Product Report, Q1 2020, Page 1.
 - (9) NBS: Rail Transportation Data, Q2 2018

Often time program-based statistics are also collected by the MDAs. For instance, the Ministry of Women Affairs collect data on gender-based violence, looking at the socio-cultural and economic causes as well as how it affects women economically and from attaining their potentials. It's supervisory agency National Centre for Women Development (NCWD) also collates sex disaggregated data participation in economic development and valuation of women's unpaid care work in Nigeria.¹⁰ Certain government establishment such as the Bank of Industry (BOI) publishes information on the women beneficiaries of some government Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) programs and credits support to women. Some of these data are also shared or collected by the other MDAs when the need arises (see table 1).

MDAs also partner with corporate organisations to collect, analyse and publish official economic data. A good example is the Nigeria Demographic Health Survey, being implemented by the National Population Commission (NPC) in collaboration with the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP) of the Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria. Although the funding for this project was provided by the international partners, ICF provided technical assistance through the DHS Program. The document provided statistics on women's economic empowerment. Another notable example was the Central bank of Nigeria in partnership with EFinA collected data on the national financial inclusion rate in Nigeria in 2018 and 2019. The findings of the data resulted in the Bank's Framework for Advancing Women's Financial Inclusion in Nigeria 2020¹¹ - a blueprint for driving sustainable access to and usage of financial services by women in Nigeria.¹²

Table 1: MDAs and the Nature of the Official Economic Statistics on Women

S/N	GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	RELATED MANDATES	TYPES OF OFFICIAL ECONOMIC DATA COLLECTED ON WOMEN	FREQUENCY OF DATA	AVAILABILITY
1	NBS	Development and management all official statistics in the country	Household enterprise, Labour force statistics etc	Monthly, quarterly, yearly	Available
2	CBN	Currency regulator or bank of issue. Managing Cash reserves, lender of last resort, credit control.	National Financial Inclusion Rate	Monthly, Quarterly, yearly	Available
3	NCWD	Promote women's advancement through research, training & documentation, etc.	Women in paid and unpaid work	Rarely	Not Available
4	FMWA	That guarantees access to social, economic and wealth creation opportunities to all gender.	Access to social, economic and wealth creation	Rarely	Not always Available
5	BOI	Provision pf financial assistance for the establishment of small, medium and large-scale micro enterprise.	Women in business, asset finance, micro enterprise, small and medium enterprises, large scale enterprises	Monthly, Quarterly, yearly	Available
6	NEPC	Promotion, development and diversification of exports	Women in export	Monthly, Quarterly, yearly	Available
7	FMITI	Provide the public with a seamless data collection process geared towards service delivery	Provide information of women in trade and industries	Monthly, Quarterly, yearly	Not Available
8	FMoA&RD	Coordinating agricultural and rural development data and information management system ¹³	Women in Agriculture	Monthly, Quarterly, yearly	Not always
9	NPC	Provide information and data on population for the purpose of facilitating economic and development planning	Women population which consists of birth, death, demographic information such as age, sex, annual income, occupation, language	Monthly, Quarterly, yearly	Available

Source: Compiled from Various Sources

- (10) Federal Government Appropriation Act 2018- page 1226, 2019- page 905, Revised 2020 - page 1305, Approved 2021- Page 1033 and Proposed 2022- Page 1223.
- (11) EFinA (2019): "Assessment of Women's Financial Inclusion in Nigeria" December 2019
- (12) https://www.cbn.gov.ng/Out/2020/DFD/Framework%20for%20Advancing%20Women's%20Financial%20Inclusion%20in%20Nigeria_Final_5MB.pdf Page 2.
- (13) <https://fmard.gov.ng/who-we-are/>

Official economic statistics methodologies and WEE indicators

Economic statistics reports are with different approaches depending on the issue, activities and economic programmes being measured. Most official economic statistics are produced from direct surveys and from the Government administrative records. One of the popular statistics is the gross domestic products produced based on four methodological pillars: System of National Accounts, International Standard Industrial Classification, Central Product Classification and the Quarterly Establishment Survey. These methodologies are without any indicator for measuring WEE or individuals or group contribution to the economy, rather the product or sectoral contribution remains the major focused ¹⁴. Some economic statistics reports on labour force, household enterprise, are also collected through survey. Similarly, measurement of WEE indicators also varies from organization, region, or countries. According to a study carried by the Center for Global Development and Data2x, there are more than 312 indicators to measure across different WEE framework dimensions. The specific dimensions of WEE indicators the government use in collecting data are explained in the table below:

Table 2: WEE Indicators for Official Economic Statistics

CLASSIFICATION	WEE INDICATORS
Unpaid work	Average number of hours spent on unpaid domestic work by sex, Average number of hours spent on paid and unpaid work combined (total work burden) by sex.
Informal employment	Informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment, by sex, Youth unemployment by sex, Labour force participation rates by sex, Proportion of employed who are working as contributing family workers, by sex.
Earnings and opportunity cost of paid work	Proportion of employed who are own-account workers, by sex Women access to and control over cash earnings.
Employment mobility	Employment rate of persons aged 25-49 Proportion of employed persons working part-time, by sex Employment rate of persons aged 25-49
Entrepreneurship	Proportion of employed who are employer, by sex Percentage of firms owned by women, Proportion of women patents. Distribution of Small-Scale Industrialists by Sex
Asset ownership	Proportion of (adult) population who own land, by sex Gender gap in wages
Productivity in agriculture, mining, innovation and technology, entertainment etc.	% Of women in various economic sectors by sex, Percentage distribution of the employed population by sector, each sex
Access to financial services	Proportion with access to credit by sex, Ownership and use of bank accounts by sex
Access to ICT (mobile phones & Internet)	Proportion of the population who are internet users, by sex, Proportion of the population who are mobile cellular telephone users, by sex, Access to mass media, ICT.
Decision making	Power to make decision by sex

Source: Data 2X: Mapping Gender Data Gaps, DHS, MICS

Nigeria official economic statistics on Women Economic Empowerment

While there are several Official Economic Statistics (OES) which are without WEE related components (such as Trade Summary, Consumer price index, Central Bank of Nigeria economic reports, CBN statistics Bulletin, money and Credits statistics, financial statistics, real sector statistics, external sector statistics, etc), there are also multi-sectoral official statistics (economic, social and political) with WEE components such as the Annual Abstract Statistics produced by the NBS ¹⁵, Demographic Health Survey (DHS) produced by the National Population Commission ¹⁶ and Nigeria Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) produced by the NBS among others. These documents measure key indicators for policies and programmes development. They also help to monitor progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international commitments ¹⁷.

- (14) Nigerian Gross Domestic Product Report Q3 201, page 80
- (15) NBS: Annual Abstract Statistics, 2019 Edition, page 2
- (16) NBS-2019 Demographic Health Survey, Published in October 2019.
- (17) NBS: Multi Cluster Indicator Survey, 2016/2017, published in February 2018

Meanwhile, there are specific official economic statistics with women economic empowerment components. Seven (7) categories of these official economic statistics are identified (see table 2). These include income distribution, labour force statistics, industry and services statistics, government expenditure statistics, etc. This classification is in line with the WEE components that are clear and well defined, and that were found to be either more commonly used from the literature review or are published by the government institution. For instance, the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics “poverty and inequality in Nigeria” provide information on household head’s income-generating activities. This was classified under income distribution and household situations. The industry and service sector (with activities such as social work, banks, recreation, real estate, retail, computer services, communications, media, etc.) has WEE related components that includes women financial inclusion, asset and control over asset, women ownership of bank account, etc. The NBS report on women and men in Nigeria has specific statistics on women power and decision making. This was classified under the income distribution and household situation. Labour participation is classified under the labour force statistics. These WEE components are identified from various sources/reports such as National Youth Survey (NYS)-NBC, DHS-NPC, MICS-NBS, Statistical Report of Women and Men in Nigeria (SRW&M)-NBC etc. Thus, other WEE components are also classified under the official economic statistics category that they fall under (see table 2 below).

Table 3: Official Economic Statistics on WEE

S/N	OFFICIAL ECONOMIC STATISTICS	WEE-RELATED COMPONENTS	KEY SOURCES
1	Income distribution and households' situations	It measures access to education, health and basic services, employment, assets, income, poverty level, etc. Power to make decision ¹⁸	NPC-DHS, NBS, SRW&M in Nigeria, NBS
2	Labour Force	Women labour participation rate: total women in labour force as a percentage of the total population. Women unemployment rate: the ratio between the number of unemployed and the total labour force. Women Employment rate: the ratio between the women employed and the working age population	NBS
3	Industry and services	Women financial inclusion rates, access to bank loans, business enterprises,	CBN- EFinA, NYS – NBS, FMoSYD
		Women access to and control over cash earnings,	NPC-DHS
		Women asset ownership and control over earning	NPC-DHS
		Ownership and use of bank accounts	NPC-DHS
		Women contribution and use of ICT, Ownership and use of and mobile phones	NPC-DHS
		Women in sports Distribution of Employment in Small and Medium Enterprise, Distribution of Small-Scale Industrialists by Sex and Sector ¹⁹	NYS – NBS, FMoSYD
4	Government Expenditure	Dedicated budget lines for women economic empowerment programmes and activities by key MDAs	Appropriation Act/Law
5	Science, technology and innovation	This should include women patents, women participation in science and technology, women in research and development, etc.	FMoSTI, NPC-DHS, FMoTI, FMoCDE, NBS-MICS
6	Agriculture statistics	Women access to land and agricultural inputs.	FMoA&RDm, CBN Economic Report, ²⁰ NYS-NBS, FMoSYD

Source: Compiled from Various Sources

Gaps in the official economic statistics on WEE

In Nigeria, several gaps exist in the collection, analysis, and publication of the official economic statistics on WEE. These include the following.

1. Limited Coverage of WEE Components

Although the concept of WEE is wide and it means different things to different people across the geographical divide, not all elements of the WEE are captured in the most available official economic statistics. Some of these elements include the statistics about the number of Women Economic Associations (WEA), Women Economic Collectives (WEC), Women Cooperative Societies (WCS) their contribution to the nation’s economy. There is also a dearth of specific data on the statistics of women in various economic sectors (mining, energy, transport, service, etc) both formal and informal.

- (18) NBS- 2020 Statistical Report of Women and Men in Nigeria, August 2021, page 46-51; NPC-DHS,
- (19) NBS- 2020 Statistical Report of Women and Men in Nigeria, August 2021, page 40
- (20) Central Bank of Nigeria economic Report, April 2021, page 17.

The National Youth Survey 2020 by NBS in partnership with the Ministry of youth and development which shows the distribution of small-scale industrialists by Sex and Sector and the distribution of Employment in Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) by Sex and Sector, there was no mention of men and women situation in the other unpaid positions ²¹. On this note, the NCWD had allocated the sum of N193,692,603 between 2018 and 2022 for the collation of sex disaggregated data on women's involvement and participation in economic development (entrepreneurship) and valuation of women's unpaid care work (care economy) in Nigeria. No such report is available in the public.

In the same vein, the Nollywood Movie Production statistics by NBS have never shown how many of the movies were produced by women at the national and the subnational level ²². Evidently, women also register new companies, innovate, lead and participate in research and development, there is limited information about the related statistics in the public domain. This raised a serious gender issue in the document. This limited coverage of WEE data in the official economic statistics is also common among the MDAs. Several MDAs have a poor culture of collecting, analysing, and publishing their data. The challenge is often blame on inadequate funding and poor capacity.

2. Conceptual Issue

As noted earlier, the concept of WEE varies. The variation is due to the perception that the labour force participation of women is often classified as women economic empowerment. However, when women work for pay, it should not be automatically considered as WEE. This is because “woman’s ability to earn income does not ensure that she has control over how it is spent, saved, or invested”²³.

3. Methodology Gap

There is lack of general consensus on what kind of methodology to use to measure or track changes in the level of women economic empowerment. The variation in approach often makes it difficult to determine whether or not the strategies deployed towards WEE are achieving the desired result. In Nigeria, the government tends to measure WEE from a broad sense or societal level while development partners and donors tends to measure WEE based on the impact of the project being funded at the local level.

4. Data Inconsistency and Untimeliness

Sometimes data on WEE are not collected continuously. For instance, the Nigeria Labour force statistics which captured women's participation in labour, employment, and underemployment rates has not been forthcoming in recent time. In 2015, 2016, 2017, this report was published quarterly (Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4). In 2018, only the Q1, Q2, and Q3 were collected, analysed, and published. While no such statistics were not made available in 2019. In 2020 only Q2 and Q4 were made collected, analysed, and published. As of Q3 2021, nothing of such has been published. In the same vein, the 2020 poverty and inequality in Nigeria for 2020 is yet to be published as of October 2021. That of 2019 was published in May 2020.

It is also important to note that the report from the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation on the government spending on various activities does not show how much of these funds are released and spent on the WEE-related programs. In the same vein, the open treasury portal only made releases available according to the MDAs and not the budget lines.

5. Impact Assessment Gap

Several women's economic empowerment programs are designed and implemented by the government of Nigeria there was little or no information about their impact. Most available statistics do not capture how the investments have improved not only on the individual or group but their family and the society at large. For instance, the Federal government of Nigeria launched the conditional cash transfer programme in 2016 and part of the objectives was to promote financial inclusion especially among women ²⁴. Five years after, there is not known official economic report detailing the number of women beneficiaries, and percentage of their contribution to the nation socio-economic development. Several of such programs exist in the appropriation acts including in the Zonal Intervention Programme (ZIP) with no official economic statistics about the beneficiaries and impacts. In fact, the Federal government of Nigeria allocated about N51 billion in the 2021 Appropriation Act for women-empowerment related budget lines.

(21) NBS- FMOsYD: National Youth Survey, 2020.

(22) NBS: Nollywood Movie Production Data, Q2 2021.

(23) Mayra et al (2020): "Measuring Women's Economic Empowerment, A Compendium of Selected Tools" Center for Global Development (CGD) and Data2X

(24) <https://www.fmhds.gov.ng/programms/new-programme-coming-soon-2/>

6. Weak M&E Framework among the MDAs

In Nigeria, many elements of WEE data are not always captured in the various government statistics. These include gender disaggregation of projects, policies, and interventions. The implication is that without adequate data, it is difficult to ascertain if a project or policy is impactful to women and how do we measure success for scale-up. The followings are some of the challenges facing data collection of WEE statistics.

- Poor prioritisation of M&E by the MDAs. It is not uncommon that several MDAs have funding for M&E in their annual budget, hardly do they follow the guidelines in their budget preparation, monitoring, and implementation.
- There are very weak institutional structures and human capacities to effectively manage, track and report on the implementation of the WEE policies and programs which led to the absence of Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound (SMART) Indicators to track implementation of the WEE related Programs and Projects in many implementing MDAs’.
- There is also the issue of poor data collection capacity among the MDAs on the identified Indicators (especially geospatial data) of WEE-related policies, programs, and projects.²⁵ At government MDAs, there are poor disaggregated data on WEE related projects and interventions.
- Poor analysis and reporting on the WEE programs to key stakeholders in a user-friendly manner
- The feedback and review mechanisms on the findings of the WEE program and projects amongst stakeholders is weak
- Absence of Evaluation culture to assess relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the WEE policies and programs over time.
- Poor mainstreaming of the evidence generated from the M&E processes into Budgets and other important policy decisions.

7. Uncoordinated WEE Statistics

Despite the National Statistics System (NSS), the government does not have coordinated or centralised WEE statistics. Different agencies collect WEE data using their respective defined concept and methodology. This challenge may not be unconnected with poor inter-ministerial, inter-departmental, or inter-agency collaboration. MDAs prefer working independently of their sister agencies, although this may have its specific benefits in terms of quick decision making and timesaving, the implication is more devastating. Apart from the repetition of programs and activities, there is the possibility of investing in the same set of people, or things over time. The non-coordination of efforts in achieving a national development plan is also possible.

The way forward

Going forward, to ensure that quality WEE data is captured in the official economic statistics, the process of collecting the data must follow these steps: -

- There is a need for an institutional structure to manage how data is being collected, analysed, and disseminate for WEE Policies as well as building the capacity of key stakeholders that are responsible for the collection of these data.
- There is a need for a strategic plan with detailed programs and projects that are gender & WEE compliant as well as indicators with clear baselines & targets for the WEE Programs.
- There is a need for a continuous data collection system on the identified indicators established using scientific tools such as GPS and cameras which can be inputted into a central management information system.
- There is a need to develop an effective M&E framework for all the WEE Implementing Agencies. This will ensure that they have the capacity to analyse and interpret the data collected on the field and to ensure that there is adequate reporting and dissemination of findings to the WEE Stakeholder

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(25) Lawal Zakari, Monitoring & Evaluation of Women Economic Empowerment Policies & Programs of Ministries, Departments and Agencies in Nigeria: The Missing Link, being a Paper Presented at a Training Workshop for Strategic Officials in MDAs with Responsibility for WEE Interventions on the 22nd-23rd September 2021, pages 14-15:46
(26) Lawal Zakari, Monitoring & Evaluation of Women Economic Empowerment Policies & Programs of Ministries, Departments and Agencies in Nigeria: The Missing Link, being a Paper Presented at a Training Workshop for Strategic Officials in MDAs with Responsibility for WEE Interventions on the 22nd-23rd September 2021, page 12-13

- There is a need to undertake feedback and validation (including verification) sharing results, recommending actions to improve management of the WEE interventions.
- Inter-ministerial, interdepartmental, and interagency collaboration is key in ensuring a robust WEE statistic. This will allow for the development of a unique concept and globally accepted methodology and data collection instrument for WEE across sectors.
- There is a need for a policy framework or legislation mandating the MDAs to produce WEE statistics on all the programs and activities they implement.
- There is a need for adequate budgetary allocation, and timely releases of funds for collection, analysis, and publication of the WEE data. MDAs can also partner with international donors to provide financial and technical assistance in this regard.
- There is a need to connect to knowledge banks to hire and retain talent and improve statistical production processes and the quality and timeliness of data relies largely on the skillset available within the NSS.

Conclusion

Finding from the research analysis shows that there are several official economic statistics produced by different government institutions on different economic sectors. Many of them do not capture WEE components. It was observed that the available OES on WEE are with gaps not limited to a poor coverage of the WEE components, methodology gap, data inconsistency and untimeliness, impact assessment gap, weak M&E framework among others. With MDAs always complain about the poor funding and poor capacity to collect and analyse data on all issues including WEE, there is a big challenge that many data that ought to be in the public space about women economic empowerment might not be.

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PAWED Profile

Partnership for Advancing women Empowerment in Development (PAWED) is two years project with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation (BMGF). It is aims at building a Nigerian CSO advocacy and communications coalition to advance evidence, policies and programs that further women's economic empowerment vanguard organizations such as Women's Empowerment Collectives. The project is being implemented by development Research and Project Centre (dRPC).

The three primary objectives for the PAWED project are: ·

- Increase the salience of women's economic empowerment with national and state government ministries, writ large
- Increase the salience of effective policies and programs to advance women's economic empowerment with donors and national and state government ministries, with a primary focus on women's empowerment collectives
- Increase the salience of women's economic empowerment amongst civil society and influential leaders and their appetite to support change that might be in opposition to cultural and social norms

Citation: “Official Economic Statistics and WEE Gaps and the Way forward”, A Publication of PAWED Advocacy Coalition, Abuja Nigeria, October 2021.

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October 2021

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Women’s Economic Empowerment is National Economic Empowerment



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