



Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development (PAWED) -Progress After Programme-



Join us at dRPC/PAWED to Celebrate Nigerian Women in MSMEs Today, June 27th, 2023 – The International Day of Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs)

In Nigeria, Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) contribute to **48%** of Nigeria's National Gross Domestic Product, accounting for **96%** of all enterprises; **84%** of all jobs in the country are also domiciled in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Industry. Nigerian women play a major work in this sector, with women heading **41%** of the country's Micro, Small and Medium-Size Business Enterprises. They run food businesses, tailoring companies, manufacture palm and peanut oil, create content for social enterprises and run a host of other businesses. They do so with limited access to credit, lines of finance, technology, business development products and markets. Despite these constraints, women in Nigeria's MSME sector are present active and struggle for economic empowerment to uplift their families, communities and the nation. The PAWED project supports the collective efforts of Nigerian women for economic empowerment.

dRPC supports WIMBIZ to PAWED Delegation to Women Deliver, Kigali, 17-20 July

The Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development (PAWED) led by the President, Women in Management, Business and Public Service, WIMBIZ, Ms Hansatu Adegbite, is supported by the dRPC to attend the 2023 Women Deliver conference in Kigali, Rwanda.



My participation is to help examine the challenges faced by women in building businesses and to sustain businesses, since women must pay attention to the environment, social climate, strategic communications, and creative solutions. This is why I am joining the PAWED WECs and other global women leaders, with the support of the development Research and Projects Centre, dRPC, to discuss solutions to these challenges



Mrs Hansatu Adegbite
President, WIMBIZ

PAWED is convening a panel on gender on the 18th of July at the Women Deliver conference. WEE

service. With the support of PAWED, they will be attending the **Women Deliver 2023 Conference in Kigali, Rwanda from July 17-20, 2023**. This conference is a significant event that brings together over 6,000 people in Kigali and 200,000+ people online through the Virtual Conference to advance gender equality across multiple sectors. The goal of the conference is to encourage collective action that promotes gender equality, holds leaders accountable, empowers the feminist movement, and creates space for women. WIMBIZ will join other grassroots advocates, civil society, governments, private sector players, multilateral organizations, philanthropies, and youth with diverse expertise to contribute to discussions and interactive workshops on women's economic empowerment, accountability, care economy/unpaid care, data-driven advocacy, economic justice, and rights.

WEE: NCWS President commends PAWED for supporting the upgrading of Nigeria's Women Centre

A coalition member in Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development (PAWED), who is also the President of the National Council of Women's Societies in Nigeria, Hajiya Lami Adamu Lau has commended the federal government for upgrading the National Centre to Women Development, NCWD with more powers to support women's economic empowerment in Nigeria.

She also commended the role of PAWED in the efforts to review the legal status of the Centre and rename it to Maryam Babangida Women's Development Centre.



“Renaming of the Centre is significant for women. There is something that should remind us about yesterday to enable us to do our today better. We need to start putting history into perspective, if we don't do that, we will lose sight of who we are as a people, country, nation, and tribe.”

Hajiya Lamin Adamu Lau
President, NCWS

The NCWS President described what has been achieved with the upgrading of the Centre as a collectively victory for the Nigerian women, praying that the Centre expansion will be a citadel of hope for the Nigerian women and indeed black women around the world.

It could be recalled that Nigeria's National assembly passed the bill to amend the act establishing the Centre in April and former President Muhammadu Buhari signed in into law in May 2023 that strengthens the functions of the Centre and rename it to Maryam Babangida Women Development Centre.

PAWED played a significant role by providing technical support to the Centre during the upgrading process and helping the Centre to articulate its demands to the national assembly during the

across the 774 local government areas in the 36 states of the federation.

PAWED Women Empowerment Collectives to participate in the 2023 National Gender committee on Agriculture retreat in Lagos, 6th to 9th July 2023



Photo of PAWED representative, Mrs Ruth Agbo (seated on the right) with other members of the National Steering Committee on Gender in Agriculture

PAWED WECs which have been active members in the National Gender Committee on Agriculture since 2022 and are now leading voices for women in agriculture are attending the 2023 National Retreat of the Gender Committee on agriculture in Lagos from July 6th to July 9th. The National President of the Association of Women in Trades and Agriculture, Mrs Ruth Agbo will lead the PAWED delegation. The National Gender committee on agriculture is set up by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to mainstream gender in the implementation of the nation's agriculture policies, and to serve as

an accountability arm of the policy implementation. The annual retreat will review all agricultural policies and their implementation within the year and look at whether, gender component of the policy is implemented. The retreat also reviews the general performance of the agriculture sector within the year.

This year's retreat will take place in Lagos and is expected to be declared open by the Permanent Secretary of the federal Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Ernest Afolabi Umakhihe. The Director Special duties of the Ministry, Mrs Fausat Lawal will give opening remarks, while the Director, Nutrition of the Ministry, Mrs Sugra Mahmood will give the closing remarks.

A special session with the theme , practical and innovative strategies for enhancing the visibility and functionality of the committee for the effective delivery of its mandate will have Dr Amina Saliu, Dr Thomas Arokayo, Dr John Onokwat, Mrs Gold Nyong, Mrs Asma'u Leo, and Barrister Ladi Aduwak as discussants. Other sessions will be on Creating a Community of Practice for implementing the National Gender Policy in Agriculture and Advocacy and other Strategies for engaging with the new Public Administration.

Inspired by PAWED Lagos State WECs, the Lagos state administration expands its commitment to WEE

PAWED WECs have been working in Lagos state since the roll out of PAWED to increase salience for WEE through advocacy engagements with the first Lady of Lagos state Governor Mr Babanji Sanwo-Olu.

This year, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation in Lagos State under the directive of the Executive Governor has announced its commitment to improving the status of women in society by implementing various programs and policies. Their focus is on empowering women and promoting their inclusion in all aspects of life. This aligns with the government's agenda of social inclusion under Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's leadership. The state's efforts are geared toward creating a safe and secure environment for women, enabling them to achieve financial independence through various policies, programs, and activities. These initiatives are designed to promote gender equality, reduce poverty, and create opportunities for women to flourish and reach their full



PAWED WECs Barr Veronica Ndanusa & Mrs Ruth Agbo in one of the advocacy visits to Lagos State Governor, Mr Babjide Sanwo-Olu

resources, education, and skills necessary to succeed in all aspects of life. [Read here for more](#)

dRPC/PAWED supports Policy Advisory Council as Sub-committee on Women's Affairs and Social Development to inform the transition process for the incoming administration



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the Federal Executive Council Meeting

Photo credit: Channels TV

The Women's Affairs and Social Development sub-committee sought to inform the in-coming on strategic matters related to women, including women's economic empowerment (WEE). The sub-committee was powered by Albright Stonebridge Group (ASG) and supported by the dRPC/PAWED project, along with the Policy Innovation Centre (PIC-NESG). The team worked to develop a roadmap to inform the transition process for the incoming administration, highlighting the gaps and vulnerabilities with the lack of adequate investment in women's economic empowerment, and making the case for prioritization and investment in the WEE space.

The sub-committee's output will inform institutional and financial reforms, and sectoral interventions for a more inclusive economy and critical targets, setting milestones for the near, medium, and long term. The dRPC/PAWED will be monitoring uptake of recommendations as the new administration rolls out its economic and women focused policies, programs and projects in the coming months.

PAWED partner WIMBIZ Leads H-LAC committee on WEE

The National President, Women in Management, Business and Public Service, WIMBIZ, Hansatu Adegbite, a partner in the PAWED project, has been elected to chair the Gender sub-committee of the High Level Advisory Council (HiLAC) set up by the Federal government of Nigeria to advise the government on all issues related to Nigerian women and girls.

The 56-member national Advisory committee is significant and important, especially in the context of recent failed attempts to pass gender-focused laws to redress economic, political, and social imbalances against women and girls in the country. The HiLAC, which is set up to serve as a veritable bridge between administrations on key development issues affecting women and girls. Flagship projects such as the Nigeria for Women Scale-Up project and the Adolescent Girls Initiatives for



Group photo of members of the H-LAC committee

collectives such as WIMBIZ will play an important role channeling the voices of women, their needs and pain-points into HiLAC to be addressed by the new government. The dRPC is also a member of the HiLAC.

PAWED WECs supports the validation & participated in the launch of the National WEE Policy



Lauching of National WEE policy document

among stakeholders to ensure Nigerian women are empowered.

The Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development, PAWED, through our WECs participated in FGDs and meetings channelling the lived experiences of women into the validation process and launch of the National Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Policy and Action Plan which took place on 20th May 2023 at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja. The WEE policy aims to address disparities faced by women in accessing financial benefits and opportunities in various sectors of the economy. It also seeks to enhance gender equality, reduce poverty and coordinates efforts



“The policy's conception, dialogue, and development process were informed by data from direct beneficiaries gathered through focus group discussions with the WECs. The PAWED WECs, along with other partners, developed this blueprint for advancing toward a more balanced economy that required strategic, intentional, multisectoral, and innovative buy-in and feedback.”

Barr Veronica Ndanusa
President, NAWE



dRPC PAWED becomes a member of the Development Partners Group on Gender (DPGG)



The UN WOMEN which leads on coordinating the Development Partners Group on Gender (DPGG), took the forward step of launching a blueprint for gender in the development sector in tandem with the National Women Economic Empowerment Policy. The Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Coordination Strategic

Framework (2023-2028) to provide technical support for policy, program, and budget decisions at all levels of governance in line with the Paris Declaration principles. As the largest multisectoral Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) accountability donor led group in Nigeria, the DPGG serves as a coordination point for development financing related to women and girls. EWE and a platform for information sharing and learning. Together with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and other relevant government institutions in Nigeria, PAWED and DPGG are working to close the gender digital divide, promote full participation and leadership of women in technology and innovation, and enhance data science to achieve gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls. Effective 2023, the dRPC/PAWED has become a member of the DPGG.

dRPC/PAWED partner South Sahara Social Development Organization (SSDO), organize Agroecology Training in Orokoro Community, Enugu State

SSSDO, is the Southeast CSO hub supporting WECs in Nigeria's East in the PAWED project. SSSDO continues to advance the work of PAWED in the post-project period by addressing the challenge of climate change as it impacts negatively on women. South Saharan Social Development Organization, organized a 3-day Agroecology training for women farmers under the Local Rights Programme in Orokoro community, Isi-Uzo LGA, Enugu State. Participants were trained on advocacy to local government authorities; modern farming techniques; and alternatives to chemical pest control and



Group photo of PAWED partner, South Saharan Social Development Organization (SSSDO) with women farmers during the 3-day Agroecology training under the Local Rights Programme in Orokoro cummunity, Isi-Uzo LGA, Enugu State

Ministry of Agriculture. It covered topics such as soil conservation, sustainable water management, reduction in the use of agrochemicals and composting, pest control, multiple cropping, rotation, and intercropping. In a truly participatory approach, the community donated four plots of land and were given 75 improved palm seedling for their model farm and personal farms. This would help improve the socioeconomic status of the households and community. It will also help the community be more resilient to climate change through afforestation and improved seedlings.

WEE: PAWED WEC, AWITA empowers 50 Women with entrepreneurship & advocacy skills



Indigent women from the peri-urban of Abuja presenting pastries, bakery, and snacks

The Association of Women in Trades and Agriculture, a PAWED partner organized a 5-day skill acquisition for 50 indigent women from the peri-urban of Abuja, the federal capital territory as part of their annual women's economic empowerment intervention.

The women were trained on advocacy and communication, how to make pastries, bakery, and snacks and how to market them as part of their plan to remove members of the association from extreme poverty.

National President of AWITA, Mrs Ruth Agbo, while issuing certificates of completion to the participants, urged them to use the training received to train their children and feed their homes as support to their families. She disclosed that the women will also be trained on safe protection, gender-based violence and financial literacy under the continuous economic empowerment process of the association.

While commending PAWED for supporting the initiatives, she requested other civil society organization to continue to support empowerment of indigent women in Nigeria to reduce poverty, create employment opportunities and wealth.

“ Our aim is to continue to organize this type of trainings so that we contribute our quota to the growth and development of women in Nigeria. I urge other partners to support us to reach more women in the FCT. We also concluded plans to organize same training in the 36 states of federation in this year and in the first and second quarter of 2024 ”



Some of the beneficiaries described the skill acquired as essential in reducing poverty within their community, promising to work hard to pay the confidence reposed on them by the association.

Nigeria's Leading Federal Labour Institute requests dRPC/PAWED to develop Strategic plan 2023-2027 with WECs focus



*Michael Imodu institute of Labour Studies (MINILS)
Director General, Mr Issa Aremu*

The Michael Imodu institute of Labour Studies, Nigeria's only national labour training Institute, a WEE Champion agency under the PAWED project, requested the dRPC for technical support to develop the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan with a focus on formalizing and strengthen WECs.

MINILS was established by the federal government of Nigeria to build the capacity of labour in the formal and informal sectors. Issa Aremu, the Director General of the Institute personally participated in all capacity strengthening activities targeting WECs in the

two years of the PAWED project. The Michael Imodu Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS) has strong links and collaborative partnerships with the ILO. The MINILS dates back to the 3rd National Development Plan 1975 to 1980 when the Federal Government of Nigeria took over the Patrick Lumumba Labour Institute and the Trade Union Institute for economic and social development established by the banned Nigerian Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (NTUC) and United Labour Congress of Nigeria (ULCN) respectively.

New AANI Exco to work with PAWED on gender, WEE

The dRPC/Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development (PAWED) is collaborating