

About PAWED Project

The Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development (PAWED) project is a two-year (2020 – 2022) grant funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and is anchored by the dRPC. PAWED aims to build and nurture sustainable Nigerian CSO advocacy and communications coalition support leading WEE interventions such as the Nigeria for Women Project (NWFP) at the National and states level through evidence based advocacy, awareness creation, knowledge mobilization and dissemination.

One-Day PAWED WEE Workshop at The National and Sub-National Levels

Following the findings from the 2020 National Survey on the impact of COVID-19, PAWED convened a one-day workshop in February 2023 to increase the capacity of national and state advocacy communication coalitions to spotlight opportunities to advance WEE/WEC salience in ad-hoc and emergency plans such as the COVID-19 economic stimulus Stabilization Plan. In attendance were 29 (28f, 1m) stakeholders from various MDAs and CSOs, such as Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs, Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Center for Women Development, National Cooperative Financing Agency of Nigeria, Nigerian Economic Society, National Council of Women Societies, Albright Stonebridge Group alongside PAWED Women's Economic Collectives coalition and the media.

About dRPC

The development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC) is a registered intermediary non-profit organization established with a mission to strengthen the capacity (organizational and technical capacity) of civil society organizations to design and implement transformative and sustainable development interventions which engage Government and address felt needs of the vulnerable and excluded such as women and girls-



Problem Statement

Desk reviews by dRPC revealed that out of the 274 COVID-19 intervention projects in the national budgets for 2021–2023, only 12 of them targeted women, including individuals with disabilities, children, youth, and the elderly. As a result, only three projects targeted women alone.

From the N745 billion COVID-19 interventions (2020-2023 cumulatively), only 0.01% of the fund targeted women, 0.08% of the fund targeted women alongside others such as youth, children, elderly, people with disability among others, while 99.9% of the fund has no defined beneficiaries.

Program Description

Presentations during the activity informed two panel discussions which sought to provide information and the way forward towards increasing accessibility for women and girls to Governments economic empowerment initiatives. The first panel discussion was by Government MDAs who spoke on the COVID-19 interventions for women. MDA representatives, included Hajiya Hafsat Baba (Honorable Commissioner of Human Services, Kaduna state), Hajiya Asabe Vilita (Director General, National Center for Women's Development), Mrs. Ifeoma Anyanwu (Deputy Director Gender, Federal Ministry of Agriculture

and Rural Development), Mrs. Chioma Achilam (Director Gender, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment) and Mrs. Ramat Musa (Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs).

The second panel discussion was centred around the accessibility of COVID-19 stimulus programs; experience sharing by WECs. On the panel were Mrs. Ruth Agbor (AWITA), Barr Vera Ndanusa (NAWE), Mrs. Lami Adamu Lau (President, NCWS), Mrs. Constance A (NAWORG) and (Mrs. Rinmicit Aboki (Gender lead ASG).

Outcomes of the Workshop

- ✚ The panel discussions revealed that a lot of Govt interventions were ongoing but with little data to back them up. The MDAs affirmed that they were working in silos and need to strengthen their partnerships.
- ✚ The experience sharing also revealed that women groups need more awareness on the COVID-19 interventions by Govt MDAs to improve accessibility.
- ✚ A committee was formed to improve information dissemination anchored by PAWED WECs and the National Council of Women's Societies. At this forum, commitments from the Govt to increase the visibility and accessibility of the interventions were made and also regular meetings with women groups for update and feedback on implementations were scheduled.



Recommendations by Participants for Improved Co-ordination of MDAs

- ✚ Improve coordination and collaboration between government MDAs, development partners, and women's economic collectives in planning, implementing, and monitoring these interventions and programs.
- ✚ Government should improve collaboration between national and sub-national level implementers of the COVID-19 stimulus programs and interventions for women.
- ✚ Implementation of the COVID-19 stimulus programs and interventions for women should include key performance indicators that are SMART.
- ✚ Government should improve awareness creation and implementation policies around the interventions and programs at grassroots levels.

Recommendations by Participants contd.

- ✚ Government should improve the coordinating capacity of the National Council for Women's Society (NCWS) as a touch point for addressing women's issues and a platform for reaching women's collectives while implementing the COVID-19 stimulus programs and interventions for women.
- ✚ The government should improve the women's social register and database to reflect the actual demographic picture and eliminate duplication of effort and waste.
- ✚ MDAs must conduct themselves responsibly and without corruption when implementing the COVID-19 stimulus programs and interventions for women

Recommendations by Participants contd.

- ✚ The government should create forums for continuous engagements with women's groups and economic collectives to gain insight into their lived experiences to improve the quality and delivery of the interventions and programs.
- ✚ Government should reduce the bureaucratic bottleneck on the part of the MSMEs, especially in rural areas, for access to the funds from the programs.
- ✚ Government should move from tokenism for women to women's economic empowerment that improves the agency of women beneficiaries to make economic progress.

■ Workshop Evaluation to Determine Improved Participants Knowledge of how and where to take advocacy action for the exclusion of women from COVID19 stimulus programs and interventions

