



development Research & Projects Centre, dRPC

2022 Annual Report

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List of Abbreviation and acronyms

AGILE- Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment
AMKASS - Accountability Mechanism for MNCH in Kano State
BMGF – Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CSO – Civil Society Organization
CSO4KEHS – Civil Society Organizations for Kano Essential Health Services
CSADI - Community Support and Development Initiative Nigeria
dRPC – development Research and Projects Centre
ESP – Education Sector Plan
EiEWGN – Education in Emergency Working Group of Nigeria
ECCD – Early Childhood Care and Development
FP – Family Planning
FME – Federal Ministry of Education
FGMC - Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
FGD – Focus Group Discussion
GBV – Gender based Violence
IECD - Integrated Early Childhood Development
JCCE – Joint Consultative Committee on Education
MDAs – Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MAN – Manufacturers Association of Nigeria
MSH – Management Sciences for Health
NIPSS – National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies
NPHCDA – National Primary Health Care Management Agency
NERICC - National Emergency RI Coordination Centre
NGO – Non governmental Organization
NERDC - Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council
NUC - National Universities Commission
NUT – National Union of Teacher
NANNM - National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives
ORS - Oral rehydration Salts
PACFAH@Scale – Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale
PAS - PACFAH@Scale
PHCUOR – Primary Health Care Under One Roof
PHC – Primary Health Care

PAWED - Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development
PSIPSE – Partnership to Strengthen Innovation and Practice in Secondary Education
RI – Routine Immunization
RMNCAH+N - Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health + Nutrition
SERICC – State Emergency RI Coordination Centre
SUBEB – State Universal Basic Education Board
SESPs – State Education Sector Plans
SSTWG – Safe School Technical Working Group
SMoH -State Ministry of Health
SPHCMB – State Primary Health Care Management Board
TEP – The Education Partnership
UBEC – Universal Basic Education Commission
YFS – Youth Friendly Services
WATIP - West Africa Teacher Innovation Prize
WEE – Women Economic Empowerment
WEC - Women’s Economic Collectives
WCAH - Women, Children, and Adolescents

1

Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale (PACFAH@Scale)



Project Title: PAS | Funder: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) | Project Period: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022 | Status: Ongoing | Location: Anambra, Enugu, Kaduna, Kano, Niger, Rivers, Taraba and Lagos States and National level

1.1 Brief about the Project

The Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale (PACFaH@Scale) project Nigeria, referred to as PAS is a health advocacy project anchored by the Nigeria non-profit, the dRPC and implemented directly by local NGOs and health professional associations. The project is not service delivery and it is not awareness creation. Its focus is limited to evidence-based advocacy. The project's timeline is 2018 to 2022 and the issue areas of the project are:

1. Routine Immunization
2. Family Planning
3. Amoxicillin as first line treatment for Pneumonia and ORS-Zinc as treatment for childhood diarrheal diseases
4. Primary Health Care Under One Roof

The project is designed as an evidence-based advocacy intervention to catalyze government at national and state levels to deliver on pledges, from June 2019 in the areas of:

- Health financing;
- Administrative/regulatory procedures; and
- Child and family health policy

The PAS Project is designed to support the improvement of general poor indices around key health issues, Routine Immunization, Family Planning, Amoxicillin as first line treatment for Pneumonia and ORS-Zinc as treatment for childhood diarrheal diseases and Primary Health Care Under One Roof. Findings specific to states that will be unravelled by this intervention will serve as baseline information and data for an evidence-based advocacy in Kano State specifically.

The focal states of the PAS project in Nigeria are Anambra, Enugu, Kaduna, Kano, Niger, Rivers, Taraba and Lagos States.

1.2 Activities & Achievements

In this reporting period (P6), PAS CSOs implemented the scope of works captured in the amended result framework. However, PAS activities were conducted within a constricted fiscal space and with the 2023 General Elections looming. This context had implications for duty bearers' availability, interest and commitment in responding to advocacy encounters of the PAS CSOs. Within this politically charged programming environment, PAS CSOs achieved 4 out of 5 of its Investment Primary Outcomes; and 8 out of 9 Intermediate Outcomes. Regarding Outputs, PAS CSOs worked to achieve 24 of the 27 outputs captured in the ER program document for P6. Given the unusual nature of the programming environment of 2022, PAS CSOs had to innovate, designing and leveraging opportunities as quick wins to achieve our IPOs. This resulted in as many as 14 quick wins being carried out during the period of performance with associated outputs. Tables 1 and 1a below, summarize achievements by issue areas and by Investment Primary Outcome; Intermediate Outcome; and Outputs. Table 2 summarizes PAS CSO engagement by Issue area. Tables 3 and 3a capture major successes and achievements of P6 of the program by areas of significance.



PAS CSO Mwan with the Minister of Finance, Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed



On 20th January 2022, the Partnership for Advocacy in Child & Family Health at Scale, PACFaH@Scale (PAS) collaborated with the Pediatric Association of Nigeria (PANCONF2022) to host a panel session themed "Sustaining Routine Immunization Financing Beyond the context of COVID-19: Challenges & Opportunities".

1.3 Summary of PAS performance

Table 1: PAS Summary of achievements in the PAS project by Issue Areas

ISSUE AREAS	NUMBER OF INVESTMENT PRIMARY OUTCOMES PROPOSED	NUMBER OF INVESTMENT PRIMARY OUTCOMES ACHIEVED	NUMBER OF INVESTMENT INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES PROPOSED	NUMBER OF INVESTMENT INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES ACHIEVED
FP	2	1	4	4
RI	1	1	2	2
PHCUOR	1	1	2	1
Capacity Building	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	5	4	9	8

Table 1a: PAS Summary performance with outputs achieved in the PAS project by Issue Areas

ISSUE AREAS	NUMBER OF OUTPUTS TO BE ACHIEVED IN PERIOD 5	NUMBER OF OUTPUTS ACHIEVED AND COMPLETED IN PERIOD 5	THE NUMBER OF QUICK WINS CARRIED OUT BUT NOT LISTED IN THE RESULTS FRAMEWORK	TOTAL ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN PERIOD 5
FP	14	14	5	19
RI	7	6	2	8
PHCUOR	3	3	4	7
Capacity Building	3	2	3	5
TOTAL	27	24	14	39

Table 2: PAS CSOs by states and issue areas

PAS FOCAL LOCATIONS	PARTNER CSOs	FOCAL ISSUE AREAS
KANO	FOMWAN- Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria Kano	Cross-Cutting
	MWAN- Medical Women's Association of Nigeria Kano	RI & CKD
	NANNM -National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives Kano	Cross-Cutting
	WIM- Women in Media	FP & PHCUOR
	AMKASS- Accountability Mechanism	Cross-Cutting
KADUNA	NANNM -National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives Kaduna	RI & CKD
	GIWAC- Global Initiative for Women and Children	FP

	PPFN- Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria	FP
	IIGES – Integrated Initiative for Grassroots Support	Cross-Cutting
	MAFAHSU	RI
NIGER	CCRHS – Centre for Communication and Reproductive Health Services	Cross-Cutting
	FOMWAN- Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria Niger	FP & RI
	Islamic Opinion Leaders for Health	FP & RI
LAGOS	AANI -Alumni Association of the National Institute	FP & RI
NATIONAL	AAFP- Association for the Advancement of Family Planning	FP
	SOGON- Society of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians of Nigeria	FP
	FOMWAN- Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria	Cross-Cutting
	MWAN- Medical Women’s Association of Nigeria	RI
	NCWS – National Council for Women’s Society	RI
	PSN- Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria	FP & CKD
	APHPN - Association of Public Health Professionals of Nigeria	Cross-cutting
	WAIPH - West African Institute for Public Health	Cross-cutting
	NACHPN - National Association of Community Health Practitioners of Nigeria	Cross-cutting
	PAN - Population Association of Nigeria	FP
	NIPSS-National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies	Government think-tank

Table 3: PAS CSOs Performance in P6 in Budget Advocacy and achieving technical outcomes

AREA	PAS CSO SCORECARD IN P6
Budget Advocacy Success	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PAS CSOs’ advocacy efforts contributed to increased health budget allocation nationally and in PAS states. The national budget increased from N826 billion in 2022 to N1.1 trillion in 2023, while the Kaduna state health budget grew from N38 billion to N59 billion, Kano state’s health budget increased from N33 billion to N40 billion, and Niger state’s health budget also increased from N21 billion to N28 billion within the same period. 2. Following PAS CSO’s advocacy efforts in period 6, PAS priority states all have FP budget lines for FP in alignment with the FP Blueprint. At the national and in Niger state, the FP budget lines were reintroduced, while in Kano state, the FP budget was increased from N180 million in 2022 to N210 million (16.6% increase) for the 2023 fiscal year. 3. The national RI budget for 2023 was increased to N86 billion, representing a 33.36% increase compared to the 2022 budget of N64 billion. Sub-nationally, Kaduna, and Niger state RI budgets increased from N5 million to N92 million and N416 million to N712 million, respectively, from 2022 to 2023. In comparison, the Kano state budget was reduced from N510 million to N497 million within the same period. 4. PAS CSO advocacy contributed to increases in PHC budgets from N3.7 billion to N4.3 billion for Kano and N5.4 billion to N7.2 billion for Niger states comparing 2022 to 2023 allocations.

Success in realizing technical outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PAS CSOs AAFP-PAS & SOGON-PAS participated in and drove the development, launch, and increased awareness of 2 significant health policies (the FP 2030 recommitment policy and the revised National Population Policy and Sustainable Development). 2. PAS CSOs provided technical support for the subnational implementation of the FP Blueprint and other health reform programs. 3. PAS CSOs developed and disseminated high-level budget work to set the Grantee partner agenda 4. PAS CSOs tracked the health MOU pledges, holding the government to account with People's Scorecards
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Table 3a: PAS CSOs Performance in P6 in terms of partnership engagements, accountability, capacity strengthening & gender

AREAS	PAS CSO SCORECARD IN P6
Success with government partnerships and engagements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NIPSS emerged as a health champion partner organization within the executive and increased the visibility of child and family health within the government with new champions created. 2. NIPSS, the Apex Federal government think tank, partnered with PAS over the life of the program, training 45 senior civil servants as Champions; co-convened 10 PAS engagements; disseminating Health Advocacy Briefs to the Legislature in 2019; and modifying the NIPSS research methodology of Senior Executive Course to include consultation with CSOs. 3. PAS capacity building for PCN and PSN-PAS advocacy actions was critical to the passing of the Pharmacy Bill
Governance through CSO inclusion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PAS supported the revision of the NPHCDA assessment methodology for PHCUOR Scorecards 5 and 6 to include CSO consultations 2. PAS Kaduna State CSO Coalition supports Kaduna state in adopting the National Guidelines for State-Funded FP commodities, and CSOs are providing M&E support for the implementation.
Capacity Strengthening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PAS CSOs in Kano and Kaduna state trained and mentored traditional leaders to be champions and advocates for PHCUOR, creating a new cohort of non-conventional advocates for child and family health 2. PAS strengthened the organizational capacity of 23 CSOs to network and form coalitions across thematic areas and geographies 3. PAS succeeded as an intermediary and a pipeline for CSOs to attract new funds directly from donor agencies, with 8 of the 23 CSOs already accessing various donor funds 4. PAS increased the technical capacity of CSOs in budget literacy and evidence-informed advocacy. 8% > in the capacity of PAS CSO leaders and staff to use data & evidence for policy advocacy; 15% > in skills to face & engage duty bearers; 10%> in capacity to design and convene policy advocacy dialogues & engagements; 50%> to develop evidence-informed advocacy messages; 56%> to insert CSOs into policy implementation spaces & to hold that space; to step down PAS skills to other CSOs & staff to strengthening their CSOs; & 10%> in capacity to visualize & plan for sustainability 5. PAS has become a learning model for the CSO Capacity Building programs with think pieces by global partner DEVEX spotlighting PAS best practices

Gender mainstreaming	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Successful mainstreaming of gender into PAS with seven female-headed PAS CSOs in PAS making advocacy messages of family health as women's health on International Women's Day 2022 2. Women headed PAS CSOs mainstreamed gender into health, using the tagline women's health as national health, PAS women-led groups worked together to issue public statements international women's day in 2022 3. Medical women of Nigeria also used their national and International conventions supported by PAS as strategic advocacy platforms 4. PAS supported and amplified the voices of 5 women groups in the health CSO space in Nigeria. 5. PAS CSOs expanded health policy implementation platforms, ensuring the representation of CSOs and 5 women groups, in the NPHCDA PHCUOR Scorecard assessments, NERICC and SERICC platforms
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1.4 Challenges

Challenges presented themselves as barriers during to achieving the health impacts that investment primary outcomes aimed to achieve over the reporting period. Barriers included the lack of political will in government to prioritize family planning amidst the resource constraints and competing priorities from security, social protection and other sectors. Also, during the budget preparation process, PAS CSOs noted the need for more technical capacity of the Federal Ministry of Health to defend their budgets in the presence of NASS budget review committees and take up true stewardship of issue areas such as RI and FP health. Other barriers lay with the overwhelming focus on systems strengthening to achieve output and process performance indicators rather than high level impacts and health metrics. During the reporting period there were other barriers in the form of institutional reluctance from MDAs to respond to CSO engagement, poor transparency, and bureaucratic bottlenecks. At the sub-national level, MDAs operated in ignorance of national level policy objectives and with an over-dependence on donors and the federal government to fund child and family health policy implementation. Most worrying, however, duty bearers at both national and state levels made and/or reaffirmed pledges and commitments which they later failed to honour. This is indicative of a more significant barrier of poor accountability which permeates the health sector at both national and state levels. The negative effect of such barriers became heightened in the politically charged programming environment of 2022 which found most policy makers preoccupied politics and not policy making.

2

Building Capacity of Indigenous CSOs working to end Gender Based Violence in West Africa



Project Title: PAS | Funder: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) | Project Period: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022 | Status: Ongoing | Location: Anambra, Enugu, Kaduna, Kano, Niger, Rivers, Taraba and Lagos States and National level

2.1 Brief about the project

The Building Capacity of indigenous CSOs working to end Gender Based Violence in West Africa is a capacity building with a research component anchored by the dRPC with funding from the Ford Foundation. The Project is designed to increase the success and sustainability of CSO and CSO networks working across programming areas to address and respond GBV through deliberate capacity building, evidence generation, sharing and cross learning. The specific objectives of the project are:

- Improve the competences of the applying CSO, the development Research and Projects Center, to deliver on its capacity strengthening role in support of CSOs and CSO networks working to end GBV in Nigeria
- Strengthen the networking capacity of CSOs working to end GBV in Nigeria to facilitate collaboration through effective broad-based networks
- Improve sub-regional learning on new drivers and manifestations of GBV as well as emerging solutions and strategies to transcend GBV in West Africa
- Expand knowledge of the CSO capacity building peer learning model in Nigeria and support replication of the model in other ending GBV interventions

2.2 Key activities and achievements

Some of the key activities conducted are:

- I. **2nd Phase- Capacity Building of CSOs and Strengthening the EiE Stakeholders coordination at state level in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara:** In commemoration of the 2022 International Day to Protect Education from Attack, dRPC conducted 3-day Safe Schools System Strengthening Workshop to Improve Education Stakeholders Coordination in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara and Sokoto for implementing the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence Free Schools in Nigeria. The workshop, which was

held from 9th – 11th September 2020, built the knowledge base of 25 NGOs, 10 relevant Ministry of Education officials and SUBEB officials from Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara on the National Policy Framework on Safe Schools and provided a platform and guide for the establishment of Education in Emergencies Working Group coordination points in Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara in collaboration with the relevant state MDAs and partners. At the end of the Workshop, the participants issued a communique urging the State Governments to adopt and implement the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-Free Schools (NPSSVFS). [Safe Schools Technical Working Groups were formed in the 4 states with the state ministries of education taking lead and supported by education focused CSOs in the state.](#)

- II. Third dRPC/NIPSS workshop for directors of states implementing SESP on the Flexible Implementation of Education Sector Plans Addressing Issues Impacting on Girls' Education at Basic Education Level:** The dRPC and NIPSS convened the third workshop for directors of states implementing SESP on flexible implementation of issues impacting on girls' education at basic education level with funding from Ford Foundation on the 26th July 2022 at the Conference Hall, Alpha-Plus Apartments in Abuja Nigeria. In attendance were officials from the Federal Ministry of Education (FME) led by the Permanent Secretary represented by Hajia Binta Abdulkadir, the Executive Secretary of National Education Resource Development Council (NERDC) represented by Dr. Chima Egbujoo, Representatives of UNICEF and Malala Fund, representatives of the CSOs Safe Schools Community and eleven (11) directors from state Ministries of Education and State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Jigawa, Sokoto and Zamfara. The workshop which aimed to strengthening the capacity of the directors of states implementing SESP on flexible implementation of issues impacting on girls' education at basic education level in 6 states also gave a platform for education experts, gender experts, government education strategists and the education partners to discuss responding to Safe Schools in the Education Sector Plans. At the end of the workshop participants identified key constraints, learned new planning techniques and approaches to introducing flexibility into the education sector planning process at state level and explored methodologies of strategically incorporating gender planning into the Education Sector Plans. One of the key recommendations from this workshop was to advocate for synergy between the government and partners in the review of ESPs, implementation and performance review of Education Sector Plans. [The dRPC assured its commitment to](#)

[supporting states in reviewing their ESPs plans to incorporate components responding to safe schools and girls' education needs at basic level.](#)

[Link to news report](#)

III. Commemoration of International Days

a) #16days of Activism to end Violence Against Women and Girls (25th November – 10th December 2022)

1. Three-day training workshop on the Role of State Hisbah in protecting women and girls from gender based violence – Applying Islamic Perspective: In commemoration of the 2022 Annual 16 days of Activism against gender based violence, the dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation and in collaboration with the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN), AI-NAS Consulting Limited and Community Awareness Development Association (CADI) convened a 3 day training workshop on the roles of state Hisbah in protecting women and girls from gender based violence through applying Islamic perspectives for Kano, Kebbi, Katsina, Jigawa, Sokoto, and Zamfara States Hisbah Commanders. The workshop, which was held on the 6th, 7th and 8th December 2022 in Kano State, was attended 52 participants (including Hisba Officials, FOMWAN Ameerahs, and other high-level dignitaries). The workshop was declared opened by the Commandant-General, Kano State Hisbah Board with a keynote address on the nature and character of GBV in Northern Nigeria. The keynote address was followed by presentations on the extant laws protecting women and girls from GBV, Islamic Law and GBV, the role of Hisbah in addressing GBV and group work sessions.

One of the key achievements of the workshop was the evident increase in knowledge of the Hisbah officials as indicated by their responses in the post evaluation questionnaires that they have learnt the GBV laws passed in the Northwest States were vetted and reviewed by legal experts and Islamic scholars to ensure its conformity with Shariah. They also indicted that they have learnt about the Islamic provisions on issues relating to gender based violence and some of their misconceptions about the extant laws on Gender Based Violence (GBV) were addressed.

The participants expressed their commitments to protect women and girls from all forms of Gender based violence and cascade their learnings to all Hisba Officials in their States. As such, the hisbah officials will be supported by the dRPC through the Ford Foundation BUILD project to stepdown the training in their various states with the

aim to improve the responsiveness of the state Hisba commands to gender based violence against women and girls.

2. In Kaduna State, the dRPC in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Development (MHSSD) to organize a two-day experience-sharing workshop for the Commissioners of Women Affairs and Education of the North-western States of Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara from the 29th -30th of November 2022 at Bafra Hotel in Kaduna.
3. In the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the National Council for Women Societies (NCWS) was supported by the dRPC to organize a press conference in commemoration of the 16days of activism against women and girls held on the 26th of November 2022 at the Art Center.

b) International Day to Protect Education from Attack- 2022

1. In commemoration of the International Day to protect Education from attack - the 9th of September 2022, the dRPC, with funding from Ford Foundation, supported the Federal Ministry of Education to conduct the Ministerial Press Briefing on the Implementation of the National Safe Schools Policy to Protect Education from attack; our collective responsibility and a webinar on the implementation national safe schools for protective learning environment. <https://von.gov.ng/nigerian-government-urges-stakeholders-to-use-school-safety-guidelines/>
2. dRPC built the capacity of CSOs from 4 states to establish Safe Schools Technical Working Group to support the implementation of the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence Free schools.

c) World Teachers Day Celebration

In commemoration of World Teachers Day, October 5th, The Education Partnership (TEP) Centre and the development Research and Projects Center (dRPC), two leading non-state organisations supporting girls' education across West Africa, called for nominations for the maiden West Africa Teacher Innovation Prize (WATIP). The advert was first launched at the AROCSA conference in Senegal and announced on Devex https://pages.devex.com/index.php/email/emailWebview?md_id=73205.

WATIP will recognize teachers who have introduced a specific innovation which improved the ability of girls to learn in safe and secure school settings since 2020. Nomination of teachers were made by students (both male and female students); teacher/colleagues; principals; community leaders; Ministries or Departments of

Education or Women's Affairs. Self-nominations were also received. Applications were received from Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal and Cameroon. A team of ten (10) high level education experts from the CSOs safe schools community will evaluate and select the applications to be awarded at the 7th NEDIS Conference coming upon the 24th of November in Lagos.

d) International Day of the Girl Child – October 11th 2022

1. Thirty (30) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from Safe Schools Technical Working Groups (SSTWG) in the north-west and individual education focused CSOs who applied for funding support to conduct safe schools activities were supported by the dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation. Safe Schools Advocacy activities were conducted in Kano, Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara, Borno, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Oyo State to commemorate the 2020 International Day of the Girl Child – October 11th.
<https://dailytrust.com/how-state-govts-are-woood-working-to-implement-safe-school-policy>
2. Safe Schools Technical Working Groups: In Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara, CSOs working with the state Ministries of Education to form an Education in Emergencies coordination point in the States with support from dRPC conducted advocacy visits to the States' Commissioners for Education/ Permanent Secretaries. The State teams advocacy ask was for the State Ministry of Education to take the lead in establishing a working group to coordinate interventions of Safe Schools in the states to implement the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-free Schools in the state. These state teams were recently trained by the dRPC in collaboration with the Nigerian Education in Emergency Working Group (EiEWGN) and the participation of the Federal Ministry of Education in a 3 day workshop on Safe Schools System Strengthening to Improve Education Stakeholders Coordination held from the 9th -11th September 2022 in Kano state.

Kaduna: <https://thenewsinvestigators.com/2022/10/23/coalition-moves-to-create-safe-spaces-in-kaduna-schools/>

Kano: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=s3kDjasAVPA&feature=share>

Katsina: <https://nnn.ng/ktsg-pledges-to-support-partner-ngo-on-education/>; Zamfara: <https://www.thetimes.com.ng/2022/10/zamfara-reopens-45-schools-as-insecurity-ebbs/>

e) Commemoration of the Global Action Week for Education (GAWE)

1. School Safety and Digital Alternatives of Education in Nigeria: As part of the activities organized in commemoration of the Global Action Week for Education (GAWE), dRPC hosted a on webinar on School Safety and Digital Alternatives of Education in Nigeria. The webinar, which was held on Tuesday, April 26th 2022, laid the groundwork for a better understanding of the challenges of education in Nigeria and sought to identify gaps in strategizing for best digital alternatives to education in the country. The session featured the Director of the youth leaders of digital education NGO, Brian Builders; a representative from the government (the ES Professor Ismail Junaidu, Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council - the NERDC), civil society organizations (CSOs), academics, journalists, researchers from Leiden University (who collaborated with dRPC to launch a project titled Education for All, School Safety, and Digital Alternatives to Education in Nigeria), and the dRPC as panellists. [The discussion was further enriched by contributions from the attendees including federal and state Ministry of Education officials, Education NGO representatives, academics and students.](#)
2. Press Conference/ Policy Dialogue on the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence Free Schools in Nigeria: dRPC supported Brain Builders Youth Development Initiatives, an indigenous education NGO, to organize a press conference and policy dialogue on the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violent-Free Schools in Nigeria held on the 27th April 2022. [The Policy dialogue which was endorsed and supported by Kwara State Ministry of Education and Human Capital Development was aimed at increasing political will to guarantee quality, transformative and inclusive education with lifelong learning prior and post emergencies at the local, national, regional and global levels through partnership and support from education partners, increasing public financing for education and lifelong learning in emergencies, including mobilization of resources for Safe Schools in Nigeria and raising the voices of the people whose education is affected by emergencies by keeping them at the centre of the global education agenda while increasing their capacities to promote their involvement in the decision-making processes.](#)

IV. dRPC's Participation in Key National Education Activities

1. dRPC supports six CSOs representing geopolitical zones in Nigeria to provide stakeholders input at the Financing Safe Schools Forum convened by the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning in Abuja: Following the ratification of the International Safe Schools Declaration President Muhammadu Buhari in 2019, the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning convened a one-day

national stakeholders' engagement forum on financing safe schools themed; Financing Safe Schools in Nigeria, Issues and Strategic Options for the way forward, on Monday 22nd August 2022 in Abuja. The dRPC being the key education stakeholder identified for CSOs capacity building on safe schools in Nigeria was invited to support CSOs from the 6 geopolitical zones working at the grass root level in Nigeria to provide input in the activity's panels. Six education and safe school focused CSOs trained by the dRPC on School Safety and Resilience System were supported to participate in the Financing Safe Schools Forum. The CSOs supported include; TalentPlus Resources International from Lagos State (South-West), Afro Centre for Development, Peace and Justice from Delta State (South-South), Inspiring Generation and Humanity Support Foundation Africa, Ebonyi State (South-East), Hope for Community and Children Initiatives, Kaduna State (North-West), Community Links and Human Empowerment Initiative, Benue state (North Central), Hope and Rural Aid Foundation, Adamawa State (North-East). The National Stakeholders' Engagement Forum on Financing Safe Schools is a national response consultative forum with the aim to develop a robust, collaborative and prioritized plan which will adopt the whole society approach to safe schools in Nigeria. [Link to news report](#)

2. The 81st Plenary Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee on Education (JCCE) held in Yola, Adamawa state - 18th to 22nd July 2022: The 81st Plenary JCCE meeting with the theme: Strengthening of Security and Safety in Nigerian Schools for the Achievement of Education 2023 Agenda was held from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd July 2022 in Yola, Adamawa State. The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education. In attendance were all Permanent Secretaries of Education of the 36 States and the FCT, Heads of Education Parastatals, Directors of Education, SUBEB Chairpersons, JCCE Desk Officers, and other Education Stakeholders. The dRPC, being one of the key education stakeholders in Kano State, was invited by the Permanent Secretary, Kano State Ministry of Education as one of the delegates from the State. A total of 41 memos were deliberated upon at the meeting. The meeting also featured presentations of status report by the states and Federal Government Education Agencies and parastatals such as NERDC, NUT, MAN, NUC, etc.

3. One Day Coordination Meeting of Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE): Kano State has received the sum of \$100 million to implement the AGILE project. AGILE project is a multi-sectional project that seeks to provide secondary school opportunities to adolescent girls, in targeted areas with perfect avenue that could be a suitable hub that will strengthen coordinative structure for partnership, collaboration, support and intervention. The project is performance based and no counter funding. The project implementing team invited education stakeholders to a Coordination meeting on 6th July 2022 to discuss ways of collaborating with State MDAs and other NGOs working to support adolescent girls in Kano State. The dRPC representative provided update on the dRPC interventions in the area of girls' education.

4. Approval of dRPC's Memo at the 66th National Council of Education (NCE) Meeting: The Ministerial Session of the 66th National Council of Education themed "Strengthening of Security and Safety in Nigerian Schools for the Achievement of Education 2030 Agenda" was held from the 31st of October to the 4th of November 2022 in Abuja. Based on the theme of the meeting, dRPC submitted a supporting memo at the 81st Joint Consultative Committee on Education (JCCE) Plenary meeting held at Yola, Adamawa State, July 2022 in support of the memo on Monitoring and Evaluation of Security and Safety in Nigerian Schools.

f) African Union Commission (AUC) Country Monitoring Visit to Nigeria on Ending Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGMC)

The AUC hosted by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and supported by the dRPC with Funding from Ford Foundation met with 18 CSOs working on Ending Child Marriage in Nigeria and 8 traditional /religious leaders from Kano, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina and Jigawa to discuss the status of Child Marriage (CM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) on the 10th of November 2022. The AUC team of 4 people led by Kembo Takam Gagsing Hermine from the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). CSOs and traditional leaders were supported by the dRPC to attend this engagement to share with the AU Commission their implemented projects on Ending Child Marriage and FGMC, share best practices and highlight the challenges faced by the CSOs in the campaign to end child marriage in the country. Some of the most effective strategies identified by the CSOs include the conditional cash transfer to parents for keeping girls in

school, the TOSTAN model and advocacy for free and compulsory education for the girl child.

The engagement with the traditional leaders featured the citation of religious and cultural misconception which are now widely tackled by sensitization of the community members in their various communities. The traditional leaders noted that the issues of child marriage is mostly linked with poverty, gender disparity and insecurity in the communities. Hence, they recommended to the AUC that further support should be given in terms of skill acquisition and funding support to educate the girl child in the rural communities. [They also noted that the term “child marriage or early marriage’ should be re-coined to enhance better acceptability and prevent clashes with some religious perspective while ultimately protecting the girl child from the harms of child marriage.](#)

g) State of the Nigeria Girl's Summit (SONGS) Steering committee

On the invitation from the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, dRPC participated in the State of the Nigeria Girl's Summit (SONGS) Steering Committee Meeting held on the 17th May 2022. SONGS is conceived as an annual forum at which relevant stakeholders will converge to discuss the situation of the Nigerian girl and come up with recommendations on how to better the situation of the girl child in Nigeria. The objectives of the meeting were to provide an overview on what the Ministry of Women Affairs has done to date, and to deliberate on the modalities for achieving SONGS by the committee members present. dRPC presented the report and recommendations of the pre-summit dRPC-CSO Safe Schools Movement project convened at the African Girls Summit Niamey 2021, as well as the dRPC's support for several safe school initiatives in Nigeria.

2.2 Successes and Achievements

1. NCE Approved Memo on Safe Schools: One of the key successes recorded by the dRPC was the approval of the basis of the dRPC's submitted memorandum from Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) on 'The Need For all Schools to Ensure Adequate Monitoring of Teachers and Learners During School Hours for Safety and Security in order to Achieve Education 2030 Agenda'.
2. Creation of State level Safe Schools Technical Working Groups: The project has recorded the establishment of 6 State level Safe Schools Technical Working groups in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara, Lagos and Ebonyi state.
3. CSOs Capacity building: Through the Ford Foundation supported Safe Schools project, the dRPC has built the capacities of 55 education focused indigenous CSOs as master

Trainers on Safe Schools and Resilience Building and also system strengthening to improve coordination between stakeholders and government on school safety.

4. Awareness on School Safety across the 6 geo-political Zones: The support from dRPC funded by Ford Foundation to the CSOs Safe Schools Community in conducting 23 state level safe schools sensitization activities including school level capacity, press conferences and advocacy visits has greatly created awareness on the National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence Free Schools and the School Safety in the education setting.
5. An increased commitment by stakeholders to collaborate towards ending harmful practice of child marriage and other forms of child abuse in the Northwest and improved knowledge on handling issues of gender-based violence by the HISBAH in six states (Kano, Kebbi, Katsina, Jigawa, Sokoto, and Zamfara States). The Hisbah is the state based moral and religious police operating in the northern states to handle community-based issues before referral to the police for criminal cases;
6. Commitment from the commissioners and representatives from the North-western region to continuously collaborate towards ending the harmful practice of child marriage and other forms of child abuse in the region;
7. Support each other through experience sharing so as improve the well-being of children, especially the girl child and also eradicate all forms of child abuse in the region;
8. Strengthen the regulatory authorities and ensure full enforcement of the Child Rights Act across the region and initiate/sustain policies and programmes that would enhance the livelihood of the girl child thus improving the general socioeconomic indicators of the North-western region and the country at large;
9. The religious and traditional leaders in participation also committed to continuously sensitize their followers on the need to ensure proper parenting, enrolment and retention of their children in schools to mitigate all forms of negative societal influence.
10. Platforms for CSOs to Contribute to National Output on Schools Safety and Ending Child Marriage: [On the 25th August 2022, 6 CSOs representing the 6 geopolitical zones were supported by the dRPC with funding from Ford Foundation to provide the CSOs stakeholders input on financing safe schools in Nigeria Forum organized by the Federal Ministry of Budget and Planning. Similarly, the dRPC supported CSOs and traditional leaders to meet with the African Union Commission Team on a Country visit to Nigeria to assess the situation of ending Child Marriage \(CM\) and Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting \(FGM&C\).](#)

2.3 Project Activities in pictures

3

Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development (PAWED)



Project Title: PAWED | Funder: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) | Project Period: September 2, 2021 – June 30, 2022 | Status: Ongoing | Location: Nigeria

3.1 Brief about the Project

The Partnership for Advancing Women Empowerment in Development (PAWED) is a two-year project implemented with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation (BMGF). PAWED is to build 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 PAWED is aimed at advancing women's economic empowerment by nudging policy makers to increase funding, implement and scale up investment in WEE policies, programs, and projects with an initial focus on increasing the salience of women's empowerment collectives in Nigeria.

Over the next two years, the PAWED project will identify the most influential WEE advocacy organizations (governmental and nongovernmental) in Nigeria as well as strategic individual WEE champions (both traditional and non-traditional champions), bringing them together to form Advocacy and Communications Coalitions at national and at state levels. Coalition members will work together to distill and communicate the evidence that investing in WEE in Nigeria benefits the woman, the household and is in the best interest of communities and the Nigerian nation. Coalitions working at national level and in 6 priority states to translate and package and communicate evidence into clear and achievable policy asks, directed at key policy makers, prompting them to advance women's economic empowerment in Nigeria.

3.2 Activities & Achievements

The PAWED project helped in increasing the salience of WEE with national and state government ministries, increasing the salience of effective policies and programs to advance WEE with donors and national and state government ministries, with a primary focus on WECs

and increasing the salience of WEE amongst civil society and influential leaders to support change.

Table 2 WECs strengthened by geographies

GEOGRAPHIES OF NIGERIA	NUMBER OF WECS STRENGTHENED IN P3	NUMBER OF CSOS STRENGTHENED IN P3	STATES	
			NAME OF STATE	NUMBER OF WECS & CSOS STRENGTHENED BY STATES
National level	14	1	NA	NA
Northcentral	47		Benue	5
			Plateau	17
			Kwara	18
			Niger	7
Northeast	23		Bauchi	15
			Taraba	8
Northwest	20	1	Kaduna	1
			Kano	12
			Kaduna	1
			Kebbi	6
Southeast	9		Enugu	9
Southwest	31		Lagos	21
			Oyo	6
			Ondo	4
Southsouth	13		A/Ibom	1
			Edo	12
TOTALS	157	2	16 STATES	143

PAWED was implemented at the national level and in sixteen priority states (see Table 2 above). The project was implemented through WEC/CSO partners from different thematic areas, including WEC/CSOs in Agriculture, Environment, and Climate change; WECs in Trade, and Industry; WECs in Health groups; WECs in Energy, Oil, and Gas; WECs in Business and Entrepreneurship, WECs in Export, WECs in Cooperatives and WECs with cross-cutting thematic areas—all forming coalitions at national and in the priority states. (To see the complete list of PAWED WECs/CSOs, click here¹). The WECs Coalition members worked together to distil and communicate the evidence that investing in WEE is in the best interest of

¹ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17hBm3Wd6h206krb4mZ2vRCOxQefcvFey?usp=share_link

Nigeria. Coalitions working at the national level and sixteen priority states worked jointly to translate, package, and communicate evidence through strategic channels into clear policy asks directed at key policymakers, prompting them to prioritize and advance WEE in Nigeria. In period 3, WEE in Nigeria still faces significant challenges, but the efforts of PAWED WECs/CSOs in increasing the salience of WEE have led to some positive developments. On the one hand, women in Nigeria continue to face discrimination and marginalization in many areas of economic stimulus activity. For instance, they often have limited access to credit², property rights³, and business networks⁴, making it difficult to start and grow businesses. Additionally, women in Nigeria continue to face cultural and social barriers that can prevent them from pursuing certain types of economic activity or participating fully in the workforce⁵. The non-disaggregation of important data at ministries, departments, and agencies (MDA) levels persists. On the other hand, there have been some positive developments since the last year. For example, the Nigerian government has made some efforts to promote women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment through initiatives such as the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP 2.0) and ramping up of aid for women's productivity through the National Women's Empowerment Fund (NAWEF)⁶ as the government announced plans in 2022 to increase the fund's capital base from N1.6 billion to N10 billion, which was intended to make more funds available to women entrepreneurs. Additionally, in 2022, there were growing numbers of programs in Nigeria (within and outside the budgets) focused on supporting women entrepreneurs and helping them overcome some of the barriers they face.

Also, in period 3, despite the Nigerian government's efforts to fund WEE programs and initiatives, there are concerns that the funding allocated to WEE programs is still inadequate. For example, in 2022, the Ministry of Women's Affairs budget, which oversees some of these programs, was only around 0.01% of the national budget. In comparison, the total WEE budget was 0.60% of the overall national budget size. Additionally, PAWED WECs coalitions report delays in the disbursement of funds and challenges in accessing the loans and other support provided by these programs.

² <https://businessday.ng/news/article/98-percent-of-nigerian-women-lack-access-to-formal-credit-markets-report/>

³ [https://dailytrust.com/inside-nigerias-harmful-traditional-practices-that-impede-womens-rights-to-land-ownership/#:~:text=The%20Nigerian%201999%20constitution%20\(amendment,Discrimination%20Against%20Women%20\(CEDAW\).](https://dailytrust.com/inside-nigerias-harmful-traditional-practices-that-impede-womens-rights-to-land-ownership/#:~:text=The%20Nigerian%201999%20constitution%20(amendment,Discrimination%20Against%20Women%20(CEDAW).)

⁴ <https://sunnewsonline.com/nigerian-women-need-to-work-together-okorocho/>

⁵ <https://tribuneonlineng.com/are-nigerias-labour-laws-on-women-outdated-discriminatory/>

⁶ <https://businessday.ng/news/article/aid-for-productivity-empowering-women-through-innovation/>

As of 2022, the Nigerian government has been prompted by PAWED WECs/CSOs to take policy steps to increase the salience of WEE in the country. Within the same period, the Nigerian government launched the revised National Gender Policy, which focuses on promoting women's economic empowerment. This policy includes specific recommendations for increasing women's access to finance, improving their participation in the formal economy, and addressing gender-based discrimination in the workplace. The Nigerian government has also launched a Women in Agriculture Program intended to support and train women farmers. The program includes initiatives to increase women's access to land, credit, and other resources needed to succeed in agriculture.

This Period 3 report highlights the PAWED WEC/CSO coalition's performance at national and in PAWED priority states in increasing the salience of WEE for the year and including a three months no-cost extension period.



Group photo of Prince Clem Agba, Honourable Minister of State, Budget, and National Planning with high level dignitaries during the Launching of the National M&E WEE Policy Document

3.3 Key Achievements of PAWED Project

1. PAWED successfully identified and built the advocacy and communications capacity of 143 WECs at the national and state level, building the capacity of 30 media partners on the need to prioritize WEE in opposition to social norms.
2. PAWED WECs conducted 33 evidence-based advocacies to 278 advocacy targets in the government and served on three technical working groups with the government, which informed action on budgetary decisions resulting in a 4.85% increase in the 2023 budget for WEE.

3. PAWED WECs successfully increased the salience of WEE M&E for MDAs implementing WEE, getting the government (Federal Ministry of Finance Budget and National Planning) to pilot and launch an M&E framework integrating WEE policies and programs.
4. PAWED WECs, through collaborative efforts, have successfully initiated and increased the salience of WEE in the budgeting process with CSOs and governments supporting the accountability process for the budget implementation process for WEE in WEE- implementing MDAs.
5. PAWED WECs are now recognized as key stakeholders and partners by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, partnering with them on the National Council of Women Affairs Congress and hosting sessions on the salience of WEE, and supporting them with the revised gender policy.
6. PAWED WECs successfully supported mainstreaming gender into two federal government policy documents (The National M&E Policy and the National Framework for WEE).
7. PAWED was nominated as a high-level advisory committee (HLAC) member on WEE and Gender in Nigeria, the highest advisory body for WEE and Gender in Nigeria.

3.4 Project Activities in Pictures



PAWED WECs; AWITA, NAWE, MATAN & ANWBN in an advocacy visit to the Hon. Minister of State, Trade & Investment - Amb. Mariam Yalwaji Katagum held on 12th April 2022



PAWED is supported NAWIA to conduct advocacy on women's livelihoods and climate change in rural Benue State on the 18th – 20th April 2022

4

Supporting Coordinated Civil Society Advocacy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (WCAH) in COVID-19 Response and Recovery



Project Title: CSOs4Kano Essential Health Services (CSOs4KEHS) | Funder: Management Sciences for Health | Project Period: September 2, 2021 – June 30, 2022 | Status: Ongoing
Location: Kano, Nigeria

4.1 Brief about the Project

The CSOs4Kano Essential Health Services (CSOs4KEHS) project is a strategic intervention funded by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Small Grants Mechanism. Implemented by the development Research and Project Centre (dRPC), the project aims to encourage the Kano state government to address barriers to essential health and nutrition services for women, children, and adolescents (WCAH) during the COVID-19 response and recovery period.

The project has three main objectives:

- To increase the advocacy capacity of 15 civil society organizations in health accountability platforms.
- To enhance the capacity of accountability platforms in monitoring and generating data for evidence-based messaging.
- To strengthen the ability of civil society organizations to amplify evidence-based messaging and communications through accountability platforms and networks.

Due to the national lockdown declared by the Federal Government of Nigeria on March 30, 2020, the Kano state government implemented various COVID-19 measures. These measures included the establishment of the State Task Force on COVID-19 response, budget revisions, and the construction of COVID-19 treatment centers. Despite these efforts, the disruption caused by the pandemic had an impact on essential health services, such as family planning and routine immunization.

The Kano state government has made efforts to sustain essential health services for women, adolescents, and children, particularly through programs focused on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH). However, challenges related to the timely release of funds have hindered the effective implementation of these programs. Timely and

adequate funding is crucial for ensuring the continuity of essential health services, especially at the primary healthcare level.

The CSOs4KEHS project specifically targets policymakers in the executive and legislative branches of the Kano state government. It aims to provide evidence-based advocacy messaging to address barriers and improve access to essential health services for vulnerable populations. The project has increased the advocacy capacity of civil society organizations, enhanced the monitoring and data generation capabilities of accountability platforms, and strengthened the communication and messaging efforts of civil society organizations through accountability platforms and networks. The project is implemented in Kano State, located in Northwest Nigeria, with a population of approximately 13.4 million people. The state faces challenges in maternal and child mortality rates, and the project aims to address these issues through evidence-based advocacy.

The project is implemented by the dRPC in partnership with three health accountability platforms: Kano State Emirates Councils Committee on Health (KASECCoH), Kano Budget Working Group, and the Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale (PACFaH@Scale) Coalition. The coalition includes organizations such as the Medical Women Association of Nigeria, Women in Media Communication Initiative (WIM), Accountability Mechanism for MNCH in Kano State (AMMKaS), Federation of Muslim Women Associations in Nigeria, Community Support and Development Initiative (CSADI), and National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM).

4.2 Project Activities

The key activities conducted in the year 2022 are:

1. Advocacy Visit to the Kano State Ministry of Health – 22nd June 2022

On June 22nd, 2022, CSOs4KEHS conducted an advocacy visit to the Kano State Ministry of Health. The meeting included remarks from the Director of Public Health and Disease Control, as well as a representative from the Kano Emirates Council Committee on Health. During the meeting, the Co-chair of the CSO4KEHS Coalition informed the representative of the Honorable Commissioner about the RMNCAH+N Survey in Health Facilities in Kano State, conducted by the CSO4KEHS Coalition. The survey aimed to assess the availability of high-quality RMNCAH+N services, supplies, and information in selected facilities, as well as the

impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on service provision and measures taken to address the resulting gaps.

The survey involved the collection of qualitative and quantitative data from 23 health facilities, including 2 tertiary, 9 secondary, and 12 primary healthcare centers, randomly and systematically selected by the MSH project team. The tools used for data collection were pre-designed by the MSH Coalition members with the support of officials from the Department of Public Health and Disease Control, State Ministry of Health, and the Departments of Family Health and Disease Control and Epidemiology, State Primary Health Care Management Board.

The analysis of the collected data revealed several key findings. Firstly, 43% of the Health Facility Officers in charge were unaware of the newly introduced RMNCAH+N strategy, with 30% of this group representing PHC Officers in charge. Additionally, the survey found that many facilities did not receive feedback on referrals made to the next level of care.

Furthermore, the survey highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted 77% of health facility services, with ANC (65%) and hospital deliveries (61%) being the most affected RMNCAH+N services. Regarding the availability of commodities, 74% of the surveyed health facilities reported regular supply of RMNCAH+N commodities but experienced stockouts at least once a year for 2 to 3 months.

Client satisfaction ratings varied, with 42% rating the service provision as excellent, 39% as very good, and 19% as good.

Based on the data collected and analyzed, the CSO4KEHS Coalition made the following recommendations to the State Ministry of Health (SMoH):

- Fast-track the implementation of the RMNCAH+N policy and establish operational research to provide regular updates on its implementation.
- Sensitize healthcare workers at the point of care about the RMNCAH+N strategy and provide capacity building to effectively contribute to its goals and objectives.
- Focus efforts on promoting access to Youth Friendly Services (YFS) in Kano State, considering the data indicating lower service provision in this area.

- Sustain the COVID-19 phone call consultation strategy to prevent future disruptions of healthcare services.
- Address the Human Resource for Health gaps in facilities, especially those located in rural areas, by redistributing healthcare workers.
- Explore solutions to address barriers in accessing data on RMNCAH+N services at the National Orthopedic Hospital and similar national outfits.

During the meeting, Dr. Rahila raised concerns about the challenges faced in accessing data on RMNCAH+N from the National Orthopedic Hospital, as the hospital management subjected the ethical approval from the SMOH to another internal review process, resulting in delayed ethical approval.

In response to the recommendations made by CSOs4KEHS, the Permanent Secretary acknowledged the efforts being made to address the skewed distribution of healthcare workers across the state. The Kano State Primary Healthcare Management Board is in the process of recruiting healthcare workers to bridge the Human Resource gap. [The Permanent Secretary also assured that the Ministry of Health would make every effort to address the recommendations provided by CSOs4KEHS.](#)

2. Advocacy Visit to the Executive Secretary, Kano State Primary Health Care Management Board - 9th June 2022

After the introductions, Alhaji Ubale Ibrahim Rano expressed gratitude to the Executive Secretary of the Kano State Primary Health Care Management Board (SPHCMB) for taking the time to meet with the CSO4KEHS coalition. He mentioned that the coalition had previously paid an advocacy visit to the ES, SPHCMB at the beginning of the project and is now visiting again at the project's end.

The Co-chair of the CSO4KEHS Coalition began by offering condolences to the ES, SPHCMB for the loss of the former Zonal Director and Permanent Secretary, Alhaji Bilyaminu Gambo Zubairu. She expressed appreciation to the ES, SPHCMB for granting the CSO4KEHS Coalition an opportunity to meet despite their busy schedules. She acknowledged the various initiatives introduced by the ES, SPHCMB, such as the establishment of the Quality of Care Unit, Human Resource for Health Unit, and Information Technology Unit, all aimed at improving primary healthcare services in Kano State.

She then provided an overview of the CSOs4Kano Essential Health Services project implemented by dRPC with the support of the Kano Emirate Councils Committee on Health, PAS Coalition, and Kano Budget Working Group. The project aims to remove barriers to essential health and nutrition services for women, children, and adolescents (WCAH) in Kano, aligning with the state's COVID-19 response and recovery plan and national priorities.

In April 2022, the MSH coalition conducted a survey on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health + Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) in Health Facilities in Kano State. The survey assessed the availability of high-quality RMNCAH+N services, supplies, and information in selected facilities, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on service provision and the measures implemented to address the resulting gaps.

The survey collected qualitative and quantitative data from 23 health facilities, including 2 tertiary, 9 secondary, and 12 primary healthcare centers, randomly and systematically selected by the MSH project team. The tools used for data collection were developed by the MSH Coalition members in collaboration with officials from the Department of Public Health and Disease Control, State Ministry of Health, and the Departments of Family Health and Disease Control and Epidemiology, State Primary Health Care Management Board.

The analyzed data revealed important findings. Firstly, 43% of the Health Facility Officers in charge were unaware of the newly introduced RMNCAH+N strategy, with 30% of this group being PHC Officers in charge. The survey also highlighted that many facilities did not receive feedback on referrals made to the next level of care. Moreover, 77% of the health facilities experienced service disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with ANC (65%) and hospital delivery (61%) being the most affected RMNCAH+N services. Approximately 74% of the surveyed health facilities reported regular supply of RMNCAH+N commodities but experienced stockouts for 2 to 3 months at least once a year. Client satisfaction ratings were as follows: 42% rated the service provision as excellent, 39% as very good, and 19% as good.

Hajiya Halima informed the ES, SPHCMB that based on the data collected and analyzed, the CSO4KEHS Coalition would like to make the following recommendations:

- Sensitize healthcare workers at the point of care about the RMNCAH+N strategy and empower them through capacity building to effectively contribute to the goals and objectives of the RMNCAH+N policy.
- Address the low provision of Youth-Friendly Services (YFS) in Kano State, as indicated by the survey findings for Quarter 4, 2021, and Quarter 1, 2022.
- Sustain the newly implemented COVID-19 phone call consultation strategy to prevent future disruptions of healthcare services caused by pandemics, endemics, or outbreaks.
- Urge the State Government to engage relevant partners in conducting a more comprehensive survey to assess the implementation of the RMNCAH+N strategy.
- Redistribute healthcare workers to address the Human Resource for Health gaps, particularly in facilities located in rural areas.

3. Advocacy Visit to the Kano State House of Assembly

Due to the increased political activities in preparation for the 2023 election in Nigeria, the CSOs4KEHS coalition encountered difficulties in obtaining an appointment to pay an Advocacy Visit to the Kano State House of Assembly Committee on Health. However, they managed to meet with the committee's Secretariat and conveyed their concerns about the delay or non-release of funds for RMNCAH+N services in Kano state. The coalition informed the committee's secretary that their Quarterly report on RMNCAH Budget Releases in Kano State revealed that although the Kano State Government had made significant efforts to allocate the right budget for RMNCAH+N services, there were insufficient budget releases, particularly for nutrition and pregnancy and childcare services. A copy of the Quarterly report was shared with the Secretariat, who promised to disseminate the information and report to the members of the Kano State House of Assembly Committee on Health.

Based on this interaction, the CSOs4KEHS coalition identified the following advocacy priorities:

1. Urgently advocate for the release of the budget allocated for Child Birth Spacing, Routine Immunization, and other RMNCAH+N services.
2. Follow up with the Kano State House of Assembly Committee on Health to emphasize the urgent need for timely releases of the RMNCAH+N budget in Kano State.

Disseminations and aired/published sensitization campaign aired on traditional and social media

The findings from the survey on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health + Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) Survey in Health Facilities in Kano State was widely disseminated by the Media Trust, a privately held Nigerian newspaper publishing company based in Abuja and one of the leading media companies in Nigeria.

S/NO	MEDIA	LINKS
1	Daily Trust	https://dailytrust.com/half-of-neonatal-deaths-in-kano-are-from-maternal-causes-report
2	Daily Trust	https://dailytrust.com/77-of-health-facilities-disrupted-by-covid-19-pandemic

The key findings were also widely disseminated by the members of the CSO4KEHS coalition through the social media handles:

ORGANIZATION	SOCIAL MEDIA LINK
Kano Emirate Councils Committee on Health facebook page	https://web.facebook.com/Kano-State-Emirate-Councils-Committee-on-Health-108287311919351
Kano Budget Working Group facebook page	https://web.facebook.com/KANO-Budget-Working-Goup-1924745251160586
Medical Women Association of Nigeria Kano	https://web.facebook.com/groups/1809551185854221/

4. Open access platform operational on where and how to access WCAH and nutrition services during COVID -19 recommendations

The CSOs4KEHS Project collaborated with the Kano State Primary Healthcare Management Board (KSPHCMB) to establish a webpage on the KSPHCMB's website containing information about Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs) and the services they offer. The development of this page involved a series of virtual and physical meetings with the KSPHCMB's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Unit.

The first meeting took place on March 24th, 2022, during which the concept of creating the page was discussed and agreed upon. The KSPHCMB ICT unit was assigned the task of developing a proposal and budget for the page's development.

The second meeting occurred on April 15th, 2022, during which the draft proposal and budget created by the ICT unit were reviewed. The team was also requested to develop a template for the PHCs Services and Locations platform page.

On April 20th, 2022, the dummy PHCs Services and Locations platform, developed by the KSPHCMB's ICT unit, was reviewed. Chaired by the Executive Secretary (ES) of KSPHCMB, the meeting included the management team of KSPHCMB. The platform provided detailed information about 280 facilities across the 44 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Kano State.

This information included the facility name, type, operating hours, days of operation, phone number, email address, address, longitude, latitude, and services offered by each facility. The platform also allowed clients to provide feedback on the services provided by each facility. After minor corrections, the platform was approved by the KSPHCMB.

On June 7th, 2022, the revised platform page was presented to the ES of KSPHCMB and other officials, who granted approval for its launch. The platform can be accessed at the following URL: <https://knsphcmb.org/news/phcsal.php?knsphcmb=kano>.

4.3 Key Achievements

- With the support of the CSOs4KEHS project, the Kano State Primary Health Care Management Board has established an open-access platform called "Facility Finder" on its website. This platform provides information about 280 health facilities located across the 44 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Kano State. The platform includes details such as facility names, types, phone numbers, addresses, operating hours, days of operation, and services offered by each facility.
- Three advocacy visits were conducted, including two to the Kano State Ministry of Health and one virtual engagement with the Secretariat of the Kano State House of Assembly Health Committee.
- The State Ministry of Health made commitment to carefully review and subsequently implement the recommendations from the Survey on RMNCAH+N Services:

4.4 Project Activities in Pictures

5

The dRPC's Early Childhood Development Intervention



Project Title: ECD Project | Funder: dRPC | Project Period: 2019 – to date | Status: Ongoing | Location: Jigawa and Kano States

5.1 Brief about the Project

In 2013, the dRPC implemented the second phase of the MacArthur Foundation funded Partnership to Strengthen Innovation and Practice in Secondary Education (PSIPSE) project which benefitted the Nigerian Education Sector for 5 years through teacher training; curriculum reform; after school clubs establishment in 33 Public Secondary School in Kano and Jigawa state; and direct tuition to improve learning outcomes in the senior secondary school exams of Nigeria. The end of project evaluation showed that girls in PSIPSE schools in Kano and Jigawa states in Northern Nigeria were 2 times as likely to pass 5 subjects and attain a full secondary school certificate when compared to non-PSIPSE schools (based on 2018 SSCE Results).

This finding inspired the dRPC to an innovative phase of the PSIPSE project where girls faced with the anticipation of a life of early marriage; domestic servitude; seclusion coupled with strong sense of failure due to inability to attain the required 5 subjects for transition to tertiary education were empowered to focus on their passion for teaching to established community based ECCD centers. In 2019, forty (40) female secondary school leavers in Kano and Jigawa State to establish and run home- based ECCD centers in collaboration with respective Ministries of Education and SUBEBs in the States. [The idea was that they should establish and manage these centers within a free and safe space within their homes targeting the millions of out-of-school children in their communities in Kano and Jigawa states in Northern Nigeria.](#)

5.2 Project Activities

National Dialogue on Play based learning in ECCD in Nigeria held in Abuja, February 2022

Over 24 years of work in ECCD on the Policy and Practice showed that most ECCD classes, even in private schools, a low-value is placed on play and early years' education is almost identical to that of primary one. The following key factors were observed to explain the low priority accorded to play in ECCD settings:

1. Teachers and caregivers of ECCD and nursery schools prioritize education components and give little time and attention to play;
2. Most learning environments for children do not have adequate play spaces and do not have funds to purchase crayons, colored paper and other play items, this is particularly the case in non-formal education settings such as displaced persons camps
3. The child's ability to recite states and capital and the alphabet at 4 or 5 years is the most important indicator for parents and guardians that their child is learning as opposed to their ability to draw or to sing a song;
4. Teachers have reported that the national ECCD curriculum and teachers' manuals do seem to not give enough detailed guidance to in-service teachers on how deliver child-centered, play based pedagogy. This is also the case for pre-service teacher training curriculum.
5. Against the background of the new national Language Policy where the pupil's first language would be the compulsory medium of instruction, the absence of instructional ECCD material in the Mother tongue has emerged as a new challenge Following these observations, the dRPC in collaboration with Nigeria Educational Research Development Council (NERDC) and support from Ford Foundation convened National Policy Dialogue on Play based Learning in ECCD held in Abuja, Nigeria.

The high-level workshop themed - *Play-based learning in ECCD in Nigeria, challenges, opportunities and the way forward* aimed was to determine the challenges and obstacles of play-based learning in formal and non-formal ECCD settings and to make recommendations for increased implementation of play-based learning in ECCD in Nigeria.

Twenty five (25) participants drawn from the NERDC, national and state MDAs; academics and experts on ECCD and Inclusive Education; Civil Society Organizations, teacher training agencies working on ECCD and international development partners. Three panel discussions were held to discuss the challenges of incorporating play into public, private formal and non-

formal ECCD education and strategies for addressing the identified challenges, Designing of safe play spaces to meet the needs of children, including children with disabilities and children in non-formal settings such as hospitals & displacement camps and Pre-service teacher training and in-service teacher development to strengthen teacher capacity for facilitating Play-based learning in Nigeria. The rich mix of key stakeholders at the end of the workshop studied the key policy instruments for ECCD in Nigeria; [the Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy and the NERDC Minimum standards for Safe Schools and recommended for the urgent review of the documents last reviewed in 2007 to address the current issues of ECCD education in Nigeria.](#)

The dRPC with support from Ford foundation is working with the Federal Ministry of Education (FME), the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Centre (NERDC) and the UNICEF to review the IECD Policy, the Minimum Standard for ECCD and the development of the Teachers' Guide in Nigeria by 2024.

Activity: One Day Experience Sharing and Sustainability Meeting for ECD Schools in Kano and Jigawa- 1st April 2022

Success Story: Sustainability of MacArthur Foundation Girls Education Project.

In 2019, the development Research and Projects Centre with funding from MacArthur Foundation through the Partnership to Strengthen Innovation and Practice (PSIPSE 2013-2019) supported 40 girls graduates who found it difficult to transition to tertiary institutions from 33 girls secondary schools in Kano and Jigawa States to establish community based Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers. The beneficiaries underwent series of capacity building workshops on how to establish and effectively manage ECD centers. They were also provided with cash support and items required to start off an ECD centers.

Monitoring visits paid to the centers in March 2022 showed that there are a total 29 committed and active ECD centers with a total of 1685 pupils. The proprietresses have also engaged a total of 52 supporting teachers. The dRPC education team also found out that the active ECD centers have been sustained with the support of community leaders and parents/guardians while the inactive centers are on the verge of closing/closed because they lack support from their husbands/parents and their immediate communities.

To address the observed challenges, dRPC organized a One Day Experience Sharing and Sustainability Meeting on April 1, 2022 with the aim of discussing the prospects of sustainability of the ECD centers, sensitizing the guardians of the ECD girls about the ECD project, its implementation, the support provided for the girls so far and dRPC's vision for the ECD schools, encouraging support and commitment of the guardians for the ECD schools,

boosting the morale of inactive ECD girls and unsupportive guardians through experience sharing by active ECD girls and supportive guardians.

The meeting featured presentation on Overview of the dRPC's ECD Project (Goal, objectives & dRPC's vision for the ECD Schools), experience sharing between the ECD proprietresses and FGDs with the ECD girls and their parents/guardians

It was gathered during the experience sharing with the parents/guardian that some centers are generating income as high as N300, 000 and some centers have over 200 pupils.

At the end of the meeting, all the parents/guardians pledged to provide financial and moral support the girls as they have better understanding of the reason behind the establishment of the centers for girls.

5.3 Key achievements

- As of March 2022, there are a total of 29 committed and active Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers in operation. These centers cater to a total of 1,685 pupils, and the proprietresses have employed 52 supporting teachers to assist in providing quality education and care.
- The ECD centers are receiving positive support from community leaders, as well as parents and guardians. This support underscores the recognition of the importance of early childhood education in the community, and the collective effort to ensure the well-being and development of the children enrolled in these centers.

5.4 Project Activities in Pictures



Cross section of participants at the National Dialogue on Play Based ECCD in Nigeria - 15th February 2022

6

Gender Review of the State Education Sector Plans (SESPs) for six Northern States of Nigeria



Project Title: Gender Review of the State Education Sector Plans | Funder: Malala Fund | Project Period: December 13, 2021 - February 25, 2022 | Status: Closed | Location: Kano, Katsina, Kaduna, Jigawa, Sokoto and Zamfara States

6.1 Brief about the Project



Malala commissioned the dRPC to conduct a gender review of the Education Sector Strategic Plans (SESSPs) in Kano, Katsina, Kaduna, Jigawa, Sokoto, and Zamfara States. The objective of the review is to assess the potential of SESSPs to promote a gender-responsive education system that enables girls' participation, learning, and

progression. The gender review was developed using a rigorous scientific process, ensuring the production of verifiable evidence to support the new policy advocacy agenda of the Malala Fund/Education Champions Network of Nigeria. The MF/ECN is a coalition of prominent civil society advocates and activists with a proven history of mobilizing various stakeholders in girls' education to engage in evidence-based advocacy. Their contribution to this research involved shaping the research framework, reviewing and providing feedback at all stages, from the initial concept note to the validation workshop held on July 26th, 2022, facilitated by the development Research and Projects Center (dRPC) and the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS).

6.2. Project Activities

1. Third dRPC/NIPSS workshop for directors of states implementing SESPS on the Flexible Implementation of Education Sector Plans Addressing Issues Impacting on Girls' Education at Basic Education Level: The dRPC and NIPSS convened the third workshop for directors of states implementing SESPs on flexible implementation of issues impacting on girls' education at basic education level with funding from Ford Foundation on the 26th July 2022 at the Conference Hall, Alpha-Plus Apartments in Abuja Nigeria. In attendance were officials from the Federal Ministry of Education (FME) led by the Permanent Secretary represented by Hajia Binta Abdulkadir, the Executive Secretary of National Education Resource Development Council (NERDC) represented by Dr. Chima Egbujoo, Representatives of UNICEF and Malala Fund, representatives of the CSOs Safe Schools Community and eleven (11) directors from state Ministries of Education and State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Jigawa, Sokoto and Zamfara. The workshop which aimed to strengthening the capacity of the directors of states implementing SESPs on flexible implementation of issues impacting on girls' education at basic education level in 6 states also gave a platform for education experts, gender experts, government education strategists and the education partners to discuss responding to Safe Schools in the Education Sector Plans. At the end of the workshop participants identified key constraints, learned new planning techniques and approaches to introducing flexibility into the education sector planning process at state level and explored methodologies of strategically incorporating gender planning into the Education Sector Plans. One of the key recommendations from this workshop was to advocate for synergy between the government and partners in the review of ESPs, implementation and performance review of Education Sector Plans. [The dRPC assured its commitment to supporting states in reviewing their ESPs plans to incorporate components responding to safe schools and girls' education needs at basic level.](#)

[Link to news report](#)

2. Data Collection: Researchers were engaged across 6 states to collect data on gender mainstreaming in education planning.

6.3. Achievement

A comprehensive Gender Review of the State Education Sector Plans in Nigeria from 2011 to 2022 was conducted, resulting in the production of a detailed report. The purpose of this review was to assess the effectiveness of the Gender Responsive Model implemented by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). The document thoroughly examined the extent to which the state education sector plans in Nigeria incorporated gender-responsive approaches and strategies.

6.4. Project Activities in Pictures



Cross section of participants at the 3rd dRPC/NIPSS Workshop for Directors of States Implementing SESP on Flexible Implementation of ESPs to address emerging issues Impacting on Girl's Education at Basic Education Level Workshop held on 26th July 2022 in FCT Abuja

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