



**GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING AND FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA 2025 BUDGET: A CRITICAL  
ANALYSIS OF WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT  
BUDGETARY PROVISIONS**



by  
development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC)

May 2025

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## **Executive Summary**

The Federal Government of Nigeria's 2025 Appropriation Act reflects a notable effort to advance gender-responsive budgeting through increased support for Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE). The approved allocation for WEE projects stands at ₦390.97 billion, representing a 210.92% increase from the 2024 budget. This budget prioritizes initiatives in grant and financial support, infrastructural development, and training and empowerment indicating a strategic focus on economic inclusion. Despite this significant increase, WEE allocations still represent only 1.63% of the capital budget and 0.71% of the total budget, raising concerns about the adequacy of investment relative to the scope of gender disparities in Nigeria.

Analysis of the WEE budget shows that although funding has grown, the number of women-specific projects has declined by 19%, suggesting that expanded funding is not necessarily translating to broader program reach. Moreover, WEE interventions remain fragmented across more than 170 Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), weakening coherence and impact. Other challenges persist, including limited gender-disaggregated data, underinvestment in critical areas like health, policy development, and monitoring, and the impact of inflationary pressures which diminish the real value of allocations. While the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security received the highest WEE allocation, key sectors such trade, health, and education also play significant roles, underscoring the cross-sectoral nature of women's empowerment.

To optimize impact, the report recommends increasing the overall share of WEE funding in national budgets, enhancing inter-ministerial coordination, enforcing gender-disaggregated budgeting, and rebalancing funding across all components of WEE, including health, advocacy, and governance. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation, mainstreaming gender in broader government programs, and improving access to financial services for women are also essential. The 2025 budget presents an opportunity to make women's economic empowerment central to Nigeria's development agenda, but this will require deliberate policy alignment, stronger institutional frameworks, and sustained political will.



## Key Findings

- The 2025 Appropriation budget allocates ₦390.97 billion to WEE, reflecting a 210.92% increase from 2024. However, this constitutes only 1.63% of the total capital expenditure and 0.71% of the entire national budget.
- Despite increased funding, the number of women-specific WEE projects declined by 19%, from 647 in 2024 to 525 in 2025, while the number of combined women-plus-other demographic projects increased by 160.61%.
- WEE projects are unevenly distributed, with over 91% of total allocations concentrated within the top 10 ministries, led by the Ministries of Agriculture, Women Affairs, and Health.
- Funding is heavily skewed toward grant and financial support (24.6%), infrastructural development (22.12%), and empowerment materials (22.83%), while policy and governance (0.67%), health and well-being (4.06%), advocacy (4.28%), and monitoring and evaluation (0.69%) receive comparatively low shares.
- WEE implementation is fragmented across 174 MDAs, with limited coordination mechanisms in place, leading to duplication, inefficiencies, and lack of strategic coherence.
- A significant proportion of projects remain non-gender-disaggregated, making it difficult to assess actual impact on women, and signalling persistent gaps in gender-responsive budgeting practices.
- Inflationary pressures, exchange rate devaluation, and weak revenue projections threaten the real impact of WEE investments despite nominal increases.
- The approved WEE projects show some alignment with Nigeria's WEE Policy 2023–2028, particularly in agriculture and financial inclusion, but notable gaps remain in addressing cross-cutting enablers such as digital access, care infrastructure, and support for unpaid work.
- Monitoring and evaluation components are weakly funded and underdeveloped, limiting the ability to track outcomes, assess value for money, and improve accountability.
- The National Assembly significantly expands the WEE budget during the approval process, with project additions increasing by over 349% and funding by 169% compared to executive proposals, raising concerns about legislative insertions and implementation capacity.



## About dRPC

The development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing sustainable development, research, and capacity building across Nigeria and beyond. Established to bridge the gap between policy, practice, and community impact, dRPC focuses on generating evidence-based solutions to address socio-economic challenges. Through collaborative partnerships with governments, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and international development agencies, dRPC drives initiatives in areas such as health, education, livelihood, poverty and economic empowerment, democracy and good governance, climate action, peace and humanitarian, and gender equality.

The organization conducts rigorous research, implements innovative projects, and provides technical assistance to support informed decision-making and inclusive development. With a commitment to empowering local communities, dRPC emphasizes participatory approaches, ensuring that marginalized groups, including women and youth, are central to its programs. Over the years, dRPC has built a reputation for delivering high-impact interventions that align with global development goals, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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**Citation:** development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC). (2025). *Gender Responsive Budgeting and Federal Government of Nigeria 2025 Budget: A Critical Analysis of Women Economic Empowerment Budgetary Provisions*. dRPC Publication. Abuja, Nigeria. Available at <https://drpcngr.org/resources/#>



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## List of Abbreviation

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
ECT	Information and Communication Technology
EFInA	Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access
ERGP	Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
FGN	Federal Government of Nigeria's
GEEP	Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme
GVG	Grant For Vulnerable Group
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and
MNCH	maternal neonatal and child health
NACEMA	National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NHGSFP	Home Grown School Feeding Programme
NHW	Nigeria Health watch
NPRGS	National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy
NSIP	National Social Investment Program
P-GLOW	Project Guaranteed Loans for Women
pro-WEAI	Project-Level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
SWV	Service Wide Vote
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WEE	Women's Economic Empowerment
WFI	women's financial inclusion
WHO	World Health organization
WISE-P	Women in Self Employment Programme
WOCCIMA	Women's Wing of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture
WOFEE	Women's Fund for Economic Empowerment



## Section 1: Context and Approach

### 1.1 Background

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended provides foundational provisions that eliminate discrimination based on sex. Specifically, Section 15(2) prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex, while Section 42(1) reinforces this by ensuring that no citizen is subjected to any disability or restriction based on gender. Furthermore, Section 17(3)(e) directs government policy towards achieving equal pay for equal work without discrimination, underscoring the constitutional commitment to gender equality in the workforce. In addition to these constitutional provisions, Nigeria has ratified several international treaties that obligate the government to promote gender equality and empower women. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is one such treaty that mandates state parties to eliminate discrimination against women in all forms. This international obligation aligns with Nigeria's National Gender Policy 2021-2026 and The National Women Economic Policy and action Aplan 2023-2028 mainstreams gender considerations into all aspects of governance and development. The policy emphasizes the need for gender-responsive budgeting as a means to achieve equitable resource allocation for women's empowerment initiatives.

The Nigerian government has also made commitments at regional levels, such as through the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. These regional instruments further reinforce Nigeria's obligations to promote gender equality and protect women's rights. By aligning national policies with these international commitments, Nigeria can enhance its approach to gender-responsive budgeting and ensure that budgetary provisions effectively address the unique challenges faced by women.

Despite these frameworks, significant challenges remain in the effective implementation of gender-responsive budgeting in Nigeria. Research indicates that while budgetary provisions may exist on paper, they often lack adequate funding and monitoring mechanisms. For instance, studies have shown that previous budgets have been criticized for being gender-blind or failing to address the specific needs of women adequately. The approved 2025 budget amounts to ₦54.99 trillion, reflecting a significant increase from previous years. This budget aims to address critical areas such as security, infrastructure, and health, while also emphasizing the need for economic recovery and growth in line with the government's broader development agenda. As Nigeria grapples with economic challenges, including a projected fiscal deficit of ₦13.08 trillion, there is an urgent need to ensure that budget allocations are not only sufficient but also equitable. This study will critically assess whether the 2025 Appropriation Act adequately reflects a commitment to gender-responsive budgeting principles and effectively allocates resources for WEE initiatives.

### 1.2 Methodology

The analysis below, to determine the WEE component of the 2025 FGN budget is based on a detailed review of the Capital component of the 2025 budget estimates. In total, the Capital component of all over 850 Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) listed in the budget were reviewed in-depth to identify all WEE interventions. In doing so, we searched for key WEE-related words in the budget of activities targeting women and young girls as economic actors. We picked out activities including - capacity building, vocational training, skill acquisition, grant and start up funds, livelihood support, empowerment materials, reorientation and rehabilitation, sensitization, facilities etc. The analysis is guided by codes used to identify and track WEE projects. These are classified into two categories:

- Women/young girls-only WEE projects with the keywords: female, girl, widow, ladies, and wives



- Women-plus-others demographic groups, especially youth, using the keywords: men and women, female and male, women and youth, women and people with disability, women and children, women and graduates, women and farmers, women and artisans, women and elderly, etc.

The second level of analyses focused on project that are not specifically targeted at women but have greater potential to support women economic empowerment. The per capita WEE figure is calculated using female demographic data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Demographic Statistics Bulletin 2022 **report**. To project values for 2023, 2024, and 2025, yearly increases were determined by subtracting consecutive years' data, and an average annual increase of **2,663,996** was calculated and applied consistently to forecast the future values. The data were analyzed using quantitative methods and approaches, including comparative and trend analysis.

The 2025 analysis introduces health and infrastructural development as critical indicators and categories for Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) projects, signifying a significant shift in focus that has implications for year-on-year comparative analysis. This change suggests that there may be an increase in the number of projects to track and potentially more funding allocated for these specific indicators within budgetary frameworks.

### **1.3 Limitations of the analysis**

This report only applies to MDAs whose capital budget estimates are broken down in budget documents, as opposed to those whose capital budget details are not disclosed. Capital budgets that are not broken down or gender disaggregated are not used for this analysis. For example, several empowerment projects exist in the approved 2025 budget that are not gender disaggregated. Examples include skills development and empowerment of entrepreneurs for improved productivity and employment generation, with a project code ERGP8211658 and funding commitment of N200 million; education support for persons of concerns, with project code ERGP22200579 and a funding commitment of N1.04 billion, and so on.

The non-disaggregation of these projects and several others poses a limitation to this analysis, but more importantly, they signal that MDAs are not yet compliant with basic gender-based budgeting methods and approaches despite trainings, funding, and even multilateral development corporation loans to support the budgetary processes of the Nigerian government. The country is far from achieving gender-based budgeting competencies. Terms such as 'persons of concern' are not defined as a demographic, and anyone can be a beneficiary at the point of implementation.

Another limitation is that the 2025 analysis includes three independent categories that were not standalone categories in previous years. This may have implications for the year-on-year comparative analysis of project classification by intervention.

## Section 2: Overview of the 2025 WEE Budget

### 2.1 Nigeria's 2025 Budget Priorities and Projections

The Federal Government of Nigeria's 2025 budget, titled "Budget of Restoration: Securing Peace, Rebuilding Prosperity," represents the largest fiscal plan in the country's history. With a total approved expenditure of ₦54.99 trillion, it marks a 56.89% increase from the ₦35.05 trillion allocated in 2024, suggests the potential for greater investment in social and economic development. This expansion is aimed at addressing persistent macroeconomic challenges such as inflation, exchange rate instability, and security threats while stimulating economic growth and development. The budget also reinforces the administration's Renewed Hope Agenda, focusing on peace, prosperity, and human capital investment.

In terms of fiscal structure, the budget highlights significant shifts in expenditure priorities. Statutory transfers more than doubled, rising from ₦1.74 trillion in 2024 to ₦3.65 trillion in 2025, signifying a stronger commitment to constitutional obligations such as judiciary and legislative funding. Debt service and sinking fund allocations grew from ₦8.27 trillion to ₦14.32 trillion, a 73.2% increase, while recurrent non-debt expenditure rose modestly by 15.9% from ₦11.27 trillion to ₦13.06 trillion. Capital expenditure, however, saw a major boost from ₦13.77 trillion to ₦23.96 trillion, a 74.0% increase, signalling a renewed focus on infrastructure and development projects. While the naira value of the budget expanded dramatically, it contracted in dollar terms due to currency devaluation. The 2025 budget, at ₦54.99 trillion, represents a 56.8% increase over 2024 in nominal naira terms, yet its value in U.S. dollars declined from \$43.82 billion to \$36.66 billion, a 16.3% drop, because the exchange rate depreciated from ₦800/\$ to ₦1,500/\$.

**Table 1:** FGN Key Budget Components

Budget Component	2024 Approved (₦Tn)	2025 Proposed (₦Tn)	2025 Approved (₦Tn)	Changes in 2024 and 2025 Approved (₦Tn)	Changes in Proposed and 2025 Approved (₦Tn)
Statutory Transfers	₦1.74	₦4.44	₦3.65	+₦1.91 (+109.8%)	-₦0.79 (-17.8%)
Debt Service / Sinking Fund	₦8.27	₦16.33	₦14.32	+₦6.05 (+73.2%)	-₦2.01 (-12.3%)
Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure	₦11.27	₦14.12	₦13.06	+₦1.79 (+15.9%)	-₦1.06 (-7.5%)
Capital Expenditure	₦13.77	₦14.85	₦23.96	+₦10.19 (+74.0%)	+₦9.11 (+61.3%)
Total Budget (₦)	₦35.06	₦49.74	₦54.99	+₦19.93 (+56.8%)	+₦5.25 (+10.6%)
Total Budget (US\$)	\$43.82 billion	\$33.16 billion	\$36.66 billion	-\$7.16 billion (-16.3%)	+\$3.5 billion (+10.6%)

**Source:** Budget Office of the Federation. Analysis by DRPC

Adjustments between the proposed and approved versions of the 2025 budget reveal a shift in priorities and fiscal discipline. Statutory transfers were reduced from ₦4.44 trillion to ₦3.65 trillion, and debt service allocations were scaled down from ₦16.33 trillion to ₦14.32 trillion. Similarly, recurrent non-debt spending dropped from ₦14.12 trillion to ₦13.06 trillion, reflecting efforts to trim operational costs. Conversely, capital expenditure was significantly increased from ₦14.85 trillion to ₦23.96 trillion, underscoring a strategic move toward long-term investment in infrastructure. The approved budget of ₦54.99 trillion exceeded the initial proposal of ₦49.74 trillion by 10.6%, translating to a dollar increase from \$33.16 billion to \$36.66 billion.

On the macroeconomic front, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts Nigeria's GDP growth at 3.0% for 2025, which is lower than the government's target of 4.6%. While growth may be supported by modest recovery in the non-oil sector, agricultural reform, and improved security spending, key risks persist. These include high inflation, currency depreciation, and the rising burden of debt servicing all of which could hamper poverty reduction and economic stability. By February 2025, actual performance against the 2024 budget (being



implemented until June 2025) revealed significant shortfalls. Oil production, benchmarked at 1.78 million barrels per day, reached only 1.50 million barrels, a 15.7% shortfall primarily due to theft, pipeline vandalism, and underinvestment. The oil price, projected at \$77.96 per barrel, dropped to \$65, a 16.6% decrease, while the exchange rate nearly doubled to ₦1,606/\$, reflecting severe naira depreciation. Inflation also surged to 34.6%, far above the projected 21.4%, and GDP growth underperformed at 3.46%, against a target of 3.76%.

**Table 2:** Key Budget Parameter

Nigeria Parameter	Budget	2024 Approved	Actual in February 2025	Diff. Approved 2024 and Actual as of February 2025	2025 projection	Approved
Oil Production Benchmark (mbpd)		1.78	1.50	-0.28 mbpd (-15.7%)	2.06 million barrels per day	
Oil Price (US\$)		77.96	65.00	-12.96 (-16.6%)	\$75 per barrel.	
Exchange Rate (N/\$)		800.00	1,606.00	+806.00 (+100.8%)	₦1,500	
Inflation		21.40%	34.60%	+13.20% (+61.7%)	15 per cent	
GDP Growth Rate		3.76%	3.46%	-0.30% (-8.0%)	4.6%	

Source: Budget Office of the Federation. Analysis by dRPC

In light of these deviations, the 2025 budget parameters were recalibrated. Oil production is expected to increase to 2.06 mbpd, a 15.7% rise from the 2024 approved figure, showing optimism about resolving production bottlenecks. The oil price benchmark was slightly reduced to \$75 per barrel, reflecting market volatility. The exchange rate assumption was adjusted to ₦1,500/\$, close to current levels, and inflation is projected at 15%, reflecting continued price pressures. Despite these challenges, the government remains optimistic, targeting a GDP growth rate of 4.6%, a 22.3% increase over the 2025 projection, driven by tax reforms and expected oil sector gains.

## 2.2 Approved 2025 Budgetary Allocation to WEE

The Nigeria approved 2025 budget contains thousands of projects, distributed across 56 parent ministries and involving 856 agencies and parastatals. These projects play a crucial role in advancing the nation's social, economic, and political development. Each sector, ranging from security to education, women affairs to trade, health to aviation, work to agriculture, and power, tailors its projects to align with specific mandates. Moreover, there are crosscutting initiatives, particularly in the realms of youth and women empowerment. Within this diverse landscape, each Ministry, Department, and Agency (MDA) has devised empowerment programs that address various aspects such as human, financial, social, and physical capitals, each with defined targets and beneficiaries.

Importantly, it's noteworthy that not all projects are centred around empowerment, and within the empowerment spectrum, not all initiatives are specific to women's economic empowerment. Some projects are geared towards women and girls, while others focus on youth, people with disabilities, children, the elderly, among various other demographics. Examples of 'women economic empowerment' initiatives include training programs on standardized value addition and processing methods, deployment of labour-saving technologies to reduce workload for women, vocational skills acquisition for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), ICT mechatronics skill acquisition, mentoring on horticultural best practices, and grants, all targeting women. On the other hand, there are projects not considered as women economic empowerment, including digitalization and empowerment of the press and public relations unit, funding for national events like Independence Day and Democracy Day celebrations, an environmental beautification skills development scheme, purchase of operational and project vehicles. Etc. These projects also involve vocations, training, and grants that are not specifically targeted at women. Apart from these, the investment in WEE covers policy development and



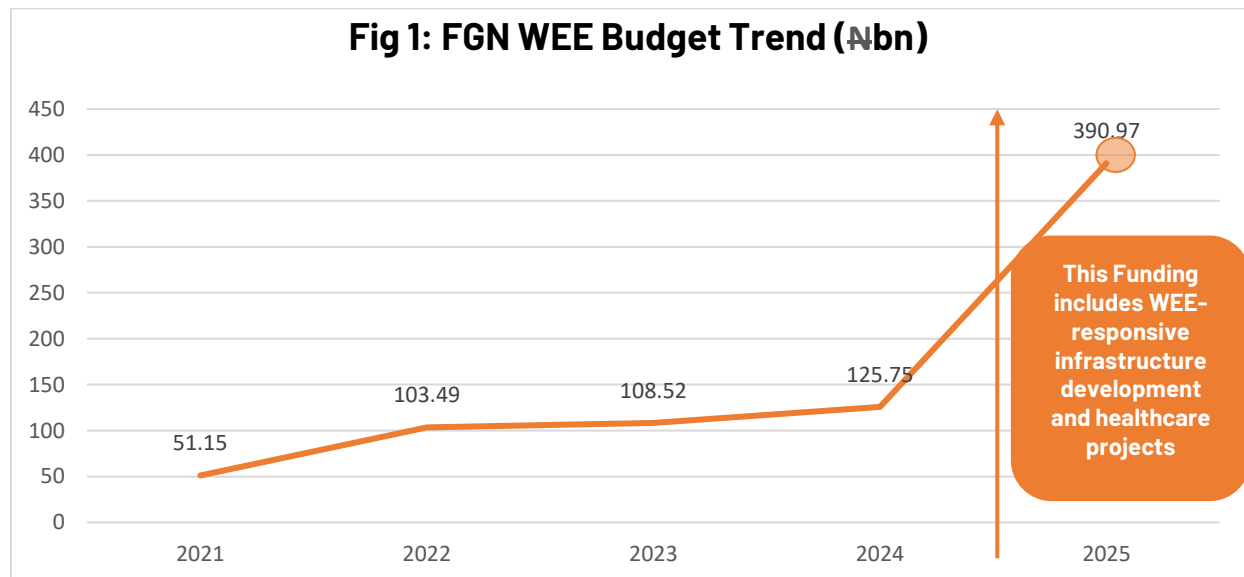
coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and infrastructural development targeting women in a gender-responsive manner.

From the above therefore, the sum of N390.05 billion was allocated to women's economic empowerment in the approved 2025 budget. This amount is N20.14 billion (17.73%) higher than the N125.74 billion for approved for the same related activities 2024. The reason for this increase is the significant introduction of the Multilateral/Bilateral Tied Loan - Nigeria for Women Project of N68 billion. The new methodology also includes health and well-being as a infrastructural development supporting women empowerment.

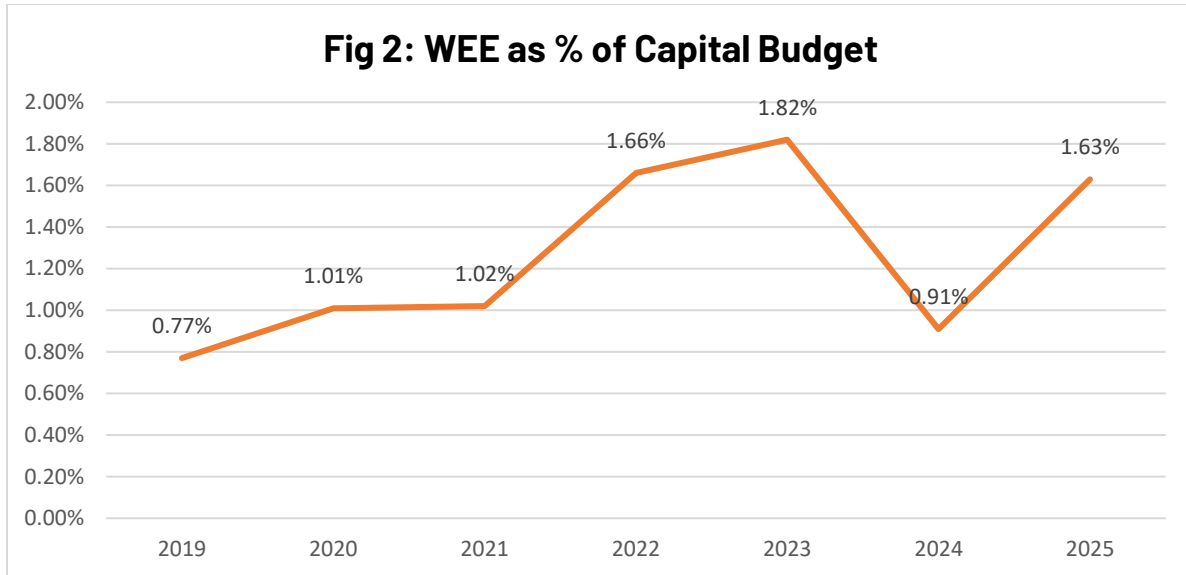
**Table 3:** WEE Allocation in 2025 Approved Budget (₦bn)

Years	2024 Approved + Supplementary Budget	2025 Proposed	2025 Approved	% Increased 2024 & 2025
FGN Budget Size	<b>35,055,54</b>	<b>49,740,165,355,396</b>	54,990,165,355,396	156.86%
FGN Capital Budget	13,773,275,994,384	14,853,717,110,517	23,963,251,624,250	73.98%
Amount Allocated to WEE	125,747,038,165	148,049,256,013	390,973,458,018	210.92%
WEE as % of Capital Budget	0.91%	0.99%	1.63%	
WEE as % of Budget Size	0.36%	0.29%	0.71%	

Source: Budget Office of the Federation, Analysis by dRPC

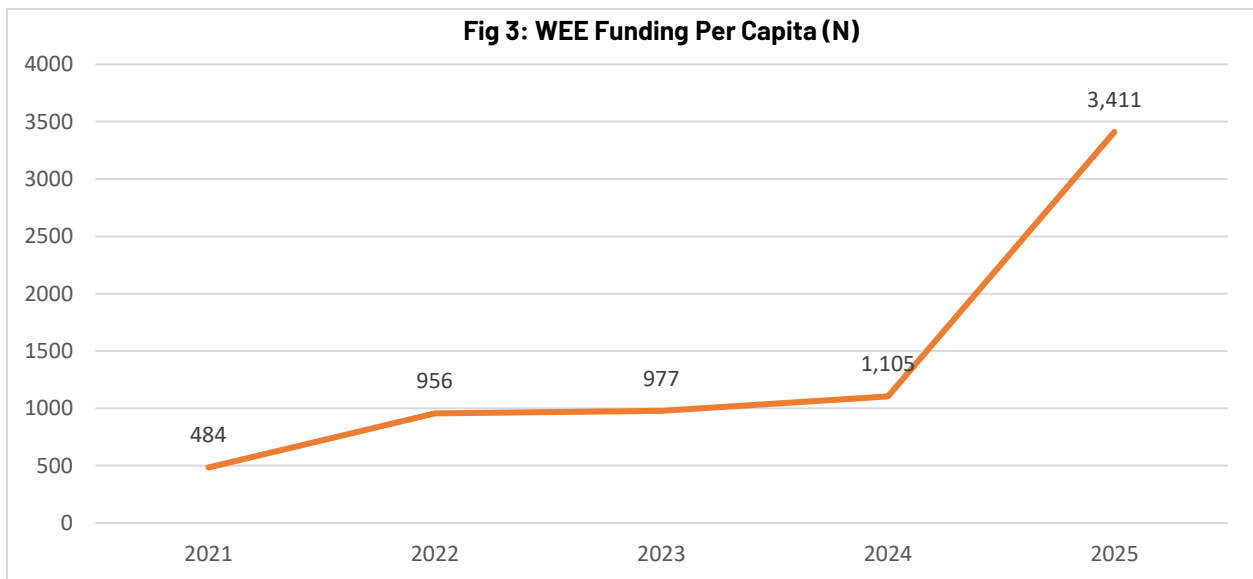


It needs to be noted that the percentage allocated to Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) from the total capital budget estimates increased from 0.77% in 2019, 1.01% in 2020, 1.02% in 2021, 1.66% in 2022, to 1.82% in 2023, 0.91% in 2024 and 0.98% in the approved 2025 budget.



### 2.3 WEE Funding Per Capita

The per capita funding for Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) increased from N484 in 2021 to N3,411 in 2025, reflecting a 604.75% growth over the years. The funding saw a 97% increase in 2022, followed by a 2% rise in 2023, a 13% increase in 2024, and a 208.68% increase in 2025. On average, the WEE per capita funding stands at N1,386.6 across these years.





### Section 3: Classification of WEE Interventions

#### 3.1 WEE Project Classification by Beneficiaries

The women-specific WEE projects are initiatives targeting women exclusively, without combining women's gender with any other group or person. Some of these projects include training women on vocational skills and providing vocational equipment, offering financial grants to rural market women, launching the Gender Start-up Support Scheme for female entrepreneurs, and conducting training programs for widows in vocational skills, among others. The number of women-specific WEE projects saw a fluctuating trend over the years, increasing from 43 in 2019 to 54 in 2020, 118 in 2021, and peaking at 164 in 2022. However, it declined to 103 in 2023, rebounded significantly to 647 in 2024, and then dropped again to 525 in the approved 2025 budget.

Between 2024 and 2025, the number of projects declined by 19%. The classification of Women WEE funding by beneficiaries reveals that a total of 162 projects constitute ₦231.56 billion. This accounts for 0.97% of the Federal Government of Nigeria's (FGN) approved capital budget and 0.42% of the overall approved budget size. Furthermore, this amount represents 59.23% of the total ₦390.73 billion allocated to WEE in the approved 2025 fiscal year.

**Table 4:** Classification WEE Approved Allocations by Beneficiaries 2024-2025 (Nbn)

Description	2024		2025	
	Women-Core	Women-Plus others	Women-Core	Women-Plus others
Number of Projects	647	293	525	774
Actual Funding	N39.60bn	N86.14bn	N231.56bn	N159.41bn
Actual Funding as a % of Total WEE Budget	31.49%	68.51%	59.23%	40.77%
Actual Funding as a % of FGN Capital Budget	0.30%	0.40%	0.97%	0.67%
Funding as a % of FGN Budget Size	0.14%	0.30%	0.42%	0.29%

**Source:** Budget Office of the Federation, Analysis by dRPC

The Women and Others Combined WEE projects are specifically targeted at women and other categories of people. These individuals include people with disabilities (PWD), youth, children, vulnerable groups, graduates, farmers, artisans, the elderly, etc. Examples of such projects include grants to women, youths, and PWDs. Another example is the vocational training of unemployed youths, women, and retirees in arable crop production and livestock rearing, as well as the empowerment of women, children, and the vulnerable, among others. Many of these projects have allocations worth billions of naira.

The total number of Women and Others Combined WEE projects increased significantly from 527 in 2021 to 774 in 2022 but declined to 442 in 2023. This downward trend continued, with projects dropping to 293 in 2024 and further increased to 774 in the approved 2025 budget. Notably, between 2024 and 2025, the number of projects increased by 160.61%, indicating a sharp increase in the scope of interventions under this category. In the approved 2025 budget, the total Women and Others Combined WEE projects constitute ₦159.41 billion, compared to ₦86.14 billion in the fiscal year 2024, reflecting a 85.06% increase. This allocation represents 0.67% of the Federal Government of Nigeria's (FGN) approved capital budget and 0.29% of the overall approved budget size. Additionally, the ₦159.41 billion accounts for 40.77% of the total ₦390.73 billion allocated to WEE in the approved 2025 fiscal year.

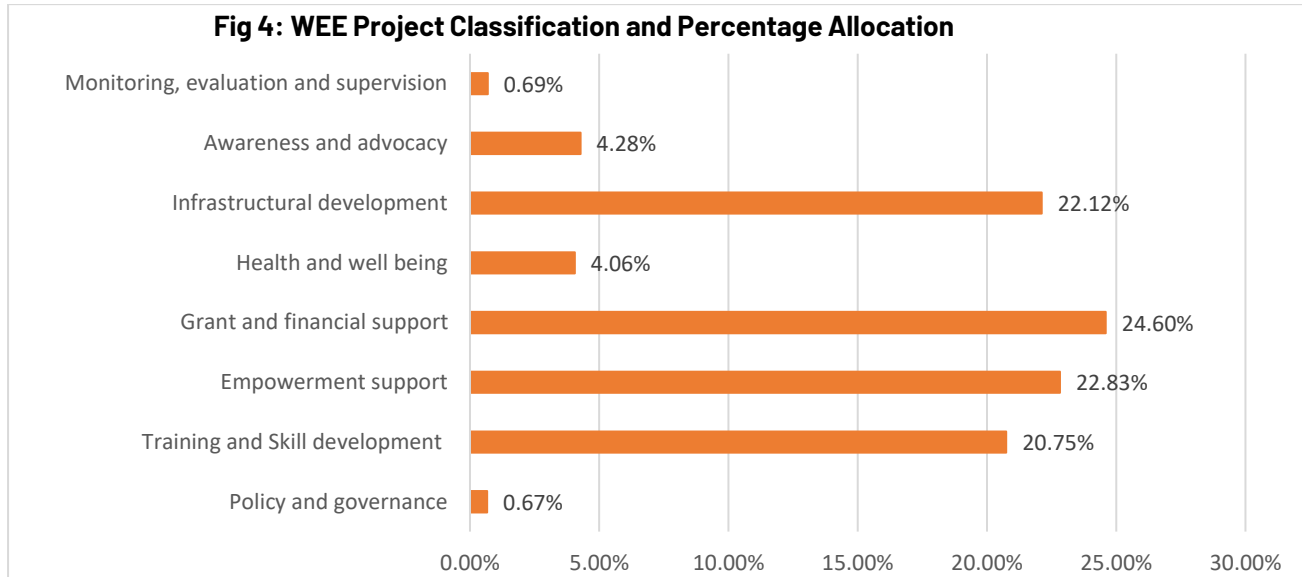
#### 3.2 WEE Project Classification According to Projects Intervention

A total of 1,299 WEE projects are classified into eight categories: Policy and governance, Training and empowerment initiatives, Grant and financial support, Health and well-being, Infrastructural development,

Awareness and advocacy, and Monitoring, evaluation, and supervision. These categories reflect the diverse focus areas of the projects, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing women's economic empowerment. Grant and financial support take the largest share of the allocation, with ₱96.19 billion (24.6%), signifying the government's emphasis on enhancing women's access to capital for business ventures and entrepreneurship. Infrastructural development, with ₱86.50 billion (22.12%), follows closely, showcasing investments in physical facilities and resources designed to provide women with the tools needed to thrive economically. Allocations such as ₱81.11 billion (20.75%) for training and skill development reflect the importance of equipping women with critical skills, while ₱89.24 billion (22.83%) for empowerment initiatives provides tools and materials for women. Additionally, ₱15.87 billion (4.06%) allocated for health and well-being highlights efforts to improve healthcare access and address gender-specific health concerns. Additionally, policy and governance receive ₱2.62 billion (0.67%) which seeks to strengthen institutional frameworks and policy implementation for sustainable empowerment. Awareness and advocacy and monitoring, evaluation, and supervision, with ₱16.72 billion (4.28%) and ₱2.69 million (0.69%) respectively, indicate the government's intent to ensure accountability and promote societal inclusion.

**Table 5:** Classification of FGN WEE Allocation by Projects Intervention

Classification	Indicator	Amount	%
Policy and governance	Fund allocated for the development and implementation of gender-focused policies, frameworks, and governance systems to promote WEE.	2,620,812,672	0.67%
Training and Skill development	Fund allocated for programs providing skills acquisition, vocational training, and capacity-building to enhance women's employability and entrepreneurship	81,115,002,065	20.75%
Empowerment support	Project focused on direct such as the provision of materials aimed at enhancing women's economic, social, or political agency	89,244,560,754	22.83%
Grant and financial support	Direct financial assistance or grants to women entrepreneurs and businesses owned by women to promote economic independence.	96,192,742,342	24.60%
Health and well being	Projects focused on improving access to healthcare services, nutrition programs, psychosocial support, and reproductive health for women.	15,875,221,621	4.06%
Infrastructural development	Funds allocated for gender-sensitive infrastructure projects such as safe public spaces, skill acquisition centre, maternal health centre, school structure, and community centers that address women's specific needs.	86,500,258,128	22.12%
Awareness and advocacy	Fund to raise awareness about gender equality, women's rights, and promoting societal attitudinal change toward WEE.	16,726,341,548	4.28%
Monitoring, evaluation and supervision	Fund for tracking project implementation progress, evaluating impact outcomes, and ensuring accountability in WEE interventions.	2,698,518,888	0.69%



The following is the breakdown of the approved 2025 WEE projects and funding across the eight key thematic areas.

**I. Policy and Governance:** The Nigerian government's commitment to gender equality through its National Development Plan demonstrates a strategic approach to integrating women into governance and economic frameworks. The 2025 approved budget allocates a total of N2.26 billion naira to policy and governance projects to enhance WEE in Nigeria. This funding supports a range of initiatives that focus on increasing non-oil exports, formalizing informal cross-border trade, and promoting women and youth-led businesses to expand export volume and value. A large portion of the budget also goes toward policy development and strategic initiatives to promote gender equality and improving social welfare. For instance, the budget allocates funds for implementing policies related to women's rights, maternal health, and social intervention services for women and children. The establishment of guidelines for women's empowerment, the reduction of maternal mortality, and the promotion of women's peace and security are key aspects of these policies. These initiatives also include international commitments, such as the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, and aligning national policies with international conventions and protocols. The funding allocated for these projects highlights Nigeria's commitment to improving gender equality, strengthening the institutional framework for women's advancement, and addressing pressing issues such as maternal mortality and vulnerability among women, children, and marginalized groups.

The funding constitutes 0.67% of the total WEE budget and increased by 510.81% compared to the 2024 fiscal year. Studies show that countries with gender-sensitive policies see improved economic outcomes for women. For instance, the World Bank's report on Nigeria highlights that closing the gender gap in economic sectors could yield gains between \$9.3 billion and \$22.9 billion, emphasizing the importance of supportive policies for women's participation in the economy (World Bank 2023). Table 7 below shows some of the key projects in this regard.

**Table 6:** Some Selected Approved FGN 2025 WEE Funding on Policy and Governance (₦)

S/N	Budget Code	Projects	Amount
1	ERGP30112596	DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL CONVENTIONS, TREATIES AND PROTOCOLS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN TO WHICH NIGERIA IS A SIGNATORY	170,000,000

2	ERGP1229237	WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (WEE) POLICY	100,563,000
3	ERGP22229449	COORDINATION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL ADVOCACY COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (WEE) POLICY & NATIONAL ACTION PLAN	100,000,000
4	ERGP25225170	INSTITUTIONALISE RMNCAEH QUALITY OF CARE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FACILITIES AT ALL LEVELS TO REDUCE MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY.	66,393,361
5	ERGP1228273	INCREASING NON OIL EXPORT THROUGH FORMALIZATION OF INFORMAL CROSS BORDER TRADE AND EXPANDING AND GROWING WOMEN/YOUTH LED BUSINESSES TO INCREASE THE VOLUME AND VALUE OF EXPORT	60,000,000
6	ERGP22229596	WOMEN'S RIGHT AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM	55,000,000

**II. Training and Skill Development Initiatives:** The Nigerian government has allocated ₦20.74 billion for training initiatives as part of the 2025 approved budget aimed at fostering economic empowerment for women. These initiatives focus on various sectors including agriculture, vocational training, and small-scale business development, targeting youth, women, and vulnerable groups across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones. Key programs include the Agribusiness Training for MSMEs, Women, and Youths, which will be carried out across the three geopolitical zones, and the Women Empowerment in Agriculture and Agribusiness initiative, designed to equip women with essential skills in agricultural production, food security, and value chain processes. Other initiatives include the development of Agripreneurship for youth and women, climate-smart agriculture programs, and training for vulnerable groups such as widows and women with disabilities in various skills such as tailoring, fish farming, and poultry production. Similarly, the empowerment programs in the 2025 budget also seeks to promote women's participation in leadership and entrepreneurship, with targeted initiatives like Mentoring of Youths and Women on Horticultural Best Practices and Training in Digital and Creative Businesses. Furthermore, programs focusing on ICT Skills Acquisition for women and youth, Support for Women Entrepreneurs, and Capacity Building for Auto Gelle and Cosmetology will enhance women's involvement in tech-driven sectors and creative industries.

The funding constitutes 20.75% of the total approved and reduced by -66.78 compared to the ₦62.44 billion in 2024. WEE budget. Studies consistently highlight the critical role of training and skill acquisition in advancing women's economic empowerment. For instance, Minister of Finance, and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun, (2024) emphasized that strategic interventions in education and entrepreneurship training for women not only foster individual economic growth but also contribute to broader societal development by addressing gender disparities. Similarly, a randomized controlled trial conducted across three Nigerian states found that advocacy and leadership training significantly improved women's access to livelihood opportunities, particularly when combined with allyship training for their male counterparts (Kosec et al., 2024). Furthermore, EFINA (2024) reported that education and skill acquisition are among the most significant drivers of women's economic empowerment in Nigeria, as they enhance women's ability to access financial services, adopt innovative practices, and participate in higher-income activities. Table 8 below shows the top 6 projects in this regard.

**Table 7:** Some Selected Approved FGN 2025 WEE Funding on Training and Skill Development Initiatives (₦)

S/N	Budget Code	Projects	Amount
1	ERGP20261265	VOCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT FOR YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN FOOD SECURITY AND BEST AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN FARMING FOR SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN NIGERIA	2,500,000,000
2	ERGP20261244	VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF YOUTH ARTISANS AND WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAIN IN SELECTED STATES ACROSS THE NATION	2,000,000,000



3	ERGP20255430	TRAINING FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN IN SOME SELECTED LOCATIONS IN THE NORTH WES	1,000,000,000
4	ERGP20262704	CAPACITY BUILDING AND STRATEGIC EMPOWERMENT FOR YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN SOUTH WEST OGUN STATE	2,000,000,000
5	ERGP20257985	TRAINING AND START UP EQUIPMENT ON INTERGRATED FARMING FOR UNEMPLOYED WOMEN AND YOUTHS IN AKPABUYO LGA, CROSS RIVER STATE	50,000,000
6	ERGP22229776	SPECIALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR THE RESCUED CHIBOK GIRL	224,000,000

**III. Empowerment Materials:** The empowerment materials allocated in Nigeria’s 2025 budget, totalling ₦86.44 billion, are designed to enhance WEE provide resources to foster self-sufficiency and economic resilience across sectors like agriculture, trade, education, and the digital economy. Projects under this classification include the supply and distribution of items such as sewing machines, grinding machines, refrigerators, fertilizers, and motorcycles. Other interventions aim to boost agricultural productivity seedlings, garri processing machines, sewing machines, fish smoking machines, and rice milling machines cooking stoves, motorcycles, tricycles, deep freezers, food packs, water pumps, cooking gas, generators, irrigation pumps, hair dressing machines, etc. While the federal government has initiated distribution of empowerment these materials, challenges persist in scaling these efforts and ensuring equitable access, especially in rural areas (Chika, 2024). Studies reveal that women farmers receive less than 10% of agricultural inputs such as land, seedlings, and fertilizers, largely due to customary laws that restrict land ownership and limited government support for rural electrification and agricultural productivity enhancement (Farmsquare, 2023). Recent study by NHW (2025) revealed lack of start-up equipment and materials is a major barrier for women aspiring to start or expand businesses, with 62% of women citing this as a key obstacle to economic empowerment. Socio-cultural factors, infrastructural deficits, and limited political commitment also contribute to women’s restricted access to productive resources, thereby limiting their economic independence and sustaining poverty

The provision of vocational assets like sewing machines, hairdressing equipment, and grinding machines aligns with evidence from sub-Saharan Africa, where women’s engagement in small-scale enterprises, such as tailoring and food processing, has been shown to reduce household poverty and enhance economic agency. A study in Bangladesh found that women with access to business equipment like sewing machines saw a 0.809% decline in multidimensional poverty, as these tools enabled income generation and improved living conditions (Oyekanmi, 2018). In Nigeria, similar interventions, such as the distribution of tricycles and motorcycles, facilitate mobility and market access, particularly for rural women, enabling them to participate in trade and agricultural value chains. However, the effectiveness of such interventions depends on complementary training, as illiterate women or those lacking market knowledge often face exploitation in value chains, underscoring the need for skill-building alongside asset provision.

Agricultural empowerment materials, such as fertilizers, water pumps, and irrigation systems, are critical for women in Nigeria, where macroeconomic challenges like the naira’s depreciation to ₦1,606/\$ and 34.6% inflation in February 2025 erode purchasing power and business viability. Studies, including one from northern Ghana, demonstrate that women’s control over agricultural resources enhances household food security by increasing investments in nutrition and health. Initiatives like the distribution of high-quality seeds and agrochemicals (Olatunji, 2024).

**Table 8:** Some Selected Approved FGN 2025 WEE Funding on Training and Empowerment Initiatives (₦)

S/N	Budget Code	Projects	Amount
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1	ERGP20257878	SUPPLY OF FARM IMPLEMENTS FOR OKPOGA RURAL WOMEN IN ADO/OKPKWU/OGBADIBO FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, BENUE STATE	50,000,000
2	ERGP20257468	ERGP20261261 EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTHS AND WOMEN WITH OPEN CARGO TRICYCLES IN SELECTED AREAS OF NIGER DELTA STATES	2,200,000,000
3	ERGP20255147	ERGP20255147 SUPPLY OF DEEP FREEZERS TO WOMEN IN BAGUDO/ SURU FEDERAL, CONSTITUENCY, KEBBI STATE.	200,000,000
4	ERGP20261611	PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL TRICYCLE, SALOON KITS, MINI BLOCK MAKING KITS, MOTOR BIKES, HERBICIDE EMPOWERMENT ITEMS TO YOUTHS/WOMEN IN BENUE SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.	1,000,000,000
5	ERGP20260673	PROVISION OF SEWING MACHINE FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN MUSAWA LOCAL GOVT KATSINA STATE	100,000,000

**IV. Grant and Financial Support:** The Approved 2025 Federal Government of Nigeria budget includes a significant allocation of N96.19 billion for grants and financial support aimed at empowering women across various sectors. Notable initiatives under this allocation include the "Women in Self Employment Programme (WISE-P)" with a grant of N99.90 million to support women entrepreneurs in self-employment ventures. Another key initiative, "Financial Inclusion Programme for Women Entrepreneurs" is earmarked with N49 billion to enhance women's access to financial services. Additionally, there is the "Gender Start-Up Support Scheme for Female Entrepreneurs" which will distribute N30 million to support women-owned start-ups. The funding is designed to offer both direct financial grants and facilitate access to loans, creating an enabling environment for women in business. A significant portion of the funding is allocated to larger-scale projects such as the "Multilateral/Bilateral Tied Loan - Nigeria for Women Project" with a massive N68 billion earmarked for fostering women's participation in large-scale, cross-border financial initiatives. Furthermore, the "Programme to Improve Women's Access to Finance for Digital Platform Development" with N49 million will focus on increasing women's access to digital finance, empowering them in the tech-driven economy. While the 2025 allocation constitutes 24.60% of the total WEE fund, it should also be noted that this funding has increased by 573.13% compared to N14.29 billion in the 2024 fiscal year.

Studies shows that Nigerian women face significant challenges in accessing financial services, with only about 47% accessing formal financial services compared to 58% of men, largely due to cultural norms, lower literacy levels, and limited financial literacy (EFInA, 2024). Despite some progress, a pronounced gender gap remains: just 15% of Nigerian women hold bank accounts, and only 3% of female farmers are formally enrolled in financial systems, compared to 10% of male farmers (World Bank, 2025). Structural barriers such as commercial banks prioritizing large clients, high costs, logistical difficulties in rural areas, and underfunded microfinance institutions limit women's access to credit and savings products. Additionally, distrust of formal institutions, lack of awareness about credit products, and socio-cultural factors restrict women's financial inclusion, pushing many to rely on informal savings groups that often lack security and adequate support (Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, 2024). These intersecting challenges reduce women's ability to save, invest, and grow businesses, thereby constraining their economic empowerment and perpetuating poverty.

Access to financial resources is a cornerstone of women's empowerment. Grants enable women to start businesses and improve their livelihoods. The Women's Fund for Economic Empowerment (WOFEE) provides loans and grants specifically for women entrepreneurs, facilitating their entry into the business world. A study indicates that, on average worldwide, women reinvest approximately 90 percent of their income back into their families and communities, a striking contrast to men, who typically reinvest only 30 to 40 percent of their income (IMF, 2024). Additionally, the World Bank's \$500 million investment in the Nigeria for Women Program aims to enhance financial opportunities for women, showing a commitment to long-term economic support (World Bank 2023). Table 9 below shows some of the inclusion projects in the approved budget.

**Table 8:** Some Selected Approved FGN 2025 WEE Funding on Grant and Financial Support (₦)

S/N	Budget Code	Projects	Amount
1	ERGP22234170	MULTILATERAL/BILATERAL TIED LOAN - NIGERIA FOR WOMEN PROJECT	68,220,000,000
2	ERGP18229464	OPERATION FUND FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT	100,000,000
3	ERGP8114937	WOMEN IN SELF EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME (WISE-P)	99,900,000
4	ERGP22211395	FINANCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS	49,000,000
5	ERGP22112809	GENDER START UP SUPPORT SCHEME FOR FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS	30,000,000
6	ERGP8230213	GRANT FOR WOMEN AND ARTISANS IN SELECTED COMMUNITIES IN OLA-OLUWA AND AYEDIRE L.G.A, OSUN STATE	1,000,000

**V. Health and Well-being:** Women's health is a critical factor in women's economic empowerment (WEE) due to its direct impact on their economic performance, productivity, and overall well-being. Health crises, such as limited access to reproductive health services, can restrict women's educational and employment opportunities, while the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work often results in negative health outcomes like sleep deprivation and anxiety, further hindering their ability to engage in paid employment. The sum of N15.87 billion was allocated to initiative on women's health. Key initiatives under this funding include the provision of nutrition, food supplements, psychosocial support, and medical services to women and children in IDP camps across the country, with a budget of N30 million Naira. Additionally, aftercare services are being offered to violated and traumatized women and girls, with N20 million Naira allocated to support these efforts. Other notable initiatives focus on maternal and child health, including the scaling up of maternal, infant, and young child nutrition interventions, the procurement of micronutrient supplements, and the implementation of maternal neonatal and child health (MNCH) innovations in various zones, with substantial funding in the North East, North West, South East, and other regions.

Other programs, such as menstrual health initiatives for girls with disabilities, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programs for women and children, aim to address both the physical and social challenges faced by these populations. Programs focusing on health education and access to healthcare services can lead to better economic outcomes. Study indicates that the socioeconomic empowerment of women contributes to improved health, while their health, in turn, supports greater socioeconomic empowerment (WHO, 2017). Onarheim at al, (2016) study indicate cate that healthier women are more productive; one report found that improved maternal health services could increase women's productivity. The total funding for this component constitutes 4.06% of the WEE budget. Table 10 below shows the top health and well being projects.

**Table 9:** Some Selected Approved FGN 2025 WEE Funding on Health and Well-Being (₦)

S/N	Budget Code	Projects	Amount
1	ERGP25138814	MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTHCARE (MCH)	305,697,857
2	ERGP25224287	IMPLEMENTATION OF MATERNAL NEONATAL AND CHILD (MNCH) INNOVATIONS IN PRIORITIZED LGAs IN NORTH CENTRAL ZONE	248,758,864
3	ERGP25224291	IMPLEMENTATION OF MATERNAL NEONATAL AND CHILD (MNCH) INNOVATIONS IN PRIORITIZED LGAs IN NORTH EAST ZONE	284,295,845
4	ERGP25224304	IMPLEMENTATION OF MATERNAL NEONATAL AND CHILD (MNCH) INNOVATIONS IN PRIORITIZED LGAs IN NORTH WEST ZONE	284,295,845
	ERGP25224317	IMPLEMENTATION OF MATERNAL NEONATAL AND CHILD (MNCH) INNOVATIONS IN PRIORITIZED LGAs IN SOUTH SOUTH ZONE	213,221,883
5	ERGP25224324	IMPLEMENTATION OF MATERNAL NEONATAL AND CHILD (MNCH) INNOVATIONS IN PRIORITIZED LGAs IN SOUTH WEST ZON	213,221,883

**VI. Infrastructural Development:** The government has allocated a total of N86.50 billion for infrastructural development targeting women, which will significantly contribute to advancing the WEE agenda. This funding aims to address critical issues that directly impact women, such as student accommodation, water access, crisis and safety initiatives, maternal health, and vocational and market access. The breakdown of the funds reveals that N7.5 billion is earmarked for student shelters, ensuring safe and conducive environments for women in education. Additionally, N68 million is dedicated to improving water access, while N82.8 million will go towards crisis and safety initiatives. Maternal health receives the largest allocation of 48.29 billion. Furthermore, N1.32 billion is designated for vocational and market access, helping women gain the skills and resources necessary for economic independence and participation in the marketplace. The funding constitutes 22.12% of the total WEE budget.

Despite numerous government projects improving infrastructure for women such as the construction and renovation of female hostels, mother and child health centers, markets, and skill acquisition centers across Nigeria poor infrastructural development continues to significantly impede women’s economic empowerment. Many of these projects, while commendable on paper, often face challenges of incomplete execution, inadequate maintenance, and limited reach, especially in rural and underserved communities. The lack of reliable electricity, water supply, accessible roads, and secure accommodation restricts women’s ability to participate fully in educational, entrepreneurial, and agricultural activities. For example, insufficient hostel facilities and poorly equipped health centers limit women’s access to quality education and healthcare, while inadequate market and processing infrastructure hinders their ability to scale businesses and access broader markets. Furthermore, the absence of safe and functional spaces for training, storage, and production perpetuates gender disparities and keeps many women confined to low-income, subsistence activities. Furthermore, infrastructural deficits exacerbate gender inequalities by reinforcing women’s limited mobility and access to resources, thereby sustaining poverty and economic dependence (IAWJ, 2025).

Research indicates that when infrastructure is designed with a gender-sensitive approach, it significantly reduces women’s time poverty, allowing them to allocate more time to paid work and income-generating activities. For instance, the GrOW program highlights that improved access to basic infrastructure, such as safe public spaces, enables women to engage in economic opportunities that were previously inaccessible (IDRC, 2023). According to UNOPS (2020) “...the development of gender-responsive health infrastructure is critical, not only in increasing access to basic services and reducing the number of maternal deaths, but also in ensuring the safety and well-being of girls and women.” Similarly, EFINA (2022) study indicates that better infrastructure directly correlates with increased participation of women in economic activities, thereby boosting GDP growth by up to 23% by 2025 if barriers are reduced. Table 11 below shows some of the key projects in this regard.

**Table 10:** Some Selected Approved FGN 2025 WEE Funding on Infrastructural Development (₦)

S/N	Budget Code	Projects	Amount
1	ERGP25233911	ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL MOTHER AND CHILD CARE CENTER	10,000,000,000
2	ERGP25233940	ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL MOTHER AND CHILD CENTRE	10,000,000,000
3	ERGP25233921	CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING REGIONAL MOTHER & CHILD CENTER	10,000,000,000
4	ERGP25233750	ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL MOTHER AND CHILD CENTRE	10,000,000,000
5	ERGP25233958	CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF MOTHER AND CHILD CARE CENTRE, FETH, AKURE, ONDO STATE	6,639,336,080
6	ERGP23233618	CONSTRUCTION AND FURNISHING OF STUDENT HOSTEL 300 BED CAPACITY EACH FOR MALE AND FEMALE	1,500,000,000



7	ERGP1208767	ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING INCUBATION CENTRES FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN ACROSS THE SIX GEO-POLITICAL ZONES	650,000,000
8	ERGP29112652	ICT INFRASTRUCTURE AND EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN, YOUNG LADIES AND CHILDREN	50,000,000

**VII. Awareness and Advocacy:** A total of ₦16.73 billion was allocated to the "Awareness and Advocacy" component of the WEE budget, funding various initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality, women's participation in socioeconomic activities, and addressing gender-specific challenges. Key projects include the promotion of women's participation in agriculture, entrepreneurship, and cross-border trade (₦50 million), as well as the commemoration of international days like World Ocean Day, Safe Motherhood Day, and International Women's Day to amplify awareness of gender issues (₦100 million). Additionally, specific initiatives such as advocacy for nomadic girl-child education (₦50 million) and sensitization of community leaders on women's access to land for livestock production (₦26 million) aim to tackle structural barriers. Collaboration with NACEMA and WOCCIMA businesswomen groups (₦10 million) and initiatives supporting sexual and reproductive health rights (₦67 million) further highlight the comprehensive focus on addressing women's needs through strategic advocacy.

Moreover, the allocation supports awareness initiatives tied to broader national priorities, such as Nigeria's participation in international sports tournaments like AFCON 2025 and AWCON 2025 (₦6 billion), and the acquisition of content from domestic professional sports leagues for broadcast and monetization (₦3 billion). Other projects include promoting girl-child education (₦25 million), organizing national stakeholders' meetings on sexual and gender-based violence (₦58 million), and fostering education and environmental sustainability programs for illiterate adults (₦30 million). This shows efforts for inclusive and supportive environment for women and girls, empowering them to thrive across multiple sectors while addressing societal barriers and fostering community-wide awareness of gender-related issues. The funding constitutes 4.26% of the total WEE funding. Table 12 below shows own of the key projects in this regard.

**Table 11:** Some Selected Approved FGN 2025 WEE Funding on Awareness and Advocacy (₦)

S/N	Budget Code	Projects	Amount
1	ERGP26233967	NIGERIA PARTICIPATION IN AFCON 2025 (AFRICAN NATIONA'S CUP) AWCON 2025 (AFRICAN WOMEN NATION'S CUP AND OTHER FIFA TOURNAMENT FOR MEN AND WOMEN, WHICH NIGERIA HAS ALREADY QUALIFIED TO IN 2025	6,000,000,000
2	ERGP30233963	ACQUISITION OF CONTENT (SUPPORT RIGHT) OF DOMESTIC PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL (MALE AND FEMALE) AND OTHER ELITE SPORTS LEAGUES FOR NATIONAL BROADCAST AND MONITIZATION THROUGH NTA AND OTHER MEDIA PLATFORMS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL	3,000,000,000
3	ERGP30229948	HOSTING OF 2025 REGULAR NATIONAL COUNCIL ON WOMEN AFFAIRS	150,000,000
4	ERGP28111008	PROMOTION OF GENDER/WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SECURITY	120,000,000
5	ERGP30229549	COMMEMORATION AND POPULARIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAYS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS	100,107,016
6	ERGP25158195	INCREASE ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE AND QUALITY FAMILY PLANNING INFORMATION, SUPPLY CHAIN AND SERVICES, INCLUDING SELFCARE INTERVENTIONS.	66,393,361

**VIII. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Supervision:** The monitoring and evaluation of the WEE budget accounted for ₦2.69 billion in the approved 2025 budget. These activities covered a range of gender-responsive initiatives, including the production of statistical reports on women and men in Nigeria (₦14 million), drafting Nigeria’s annual report on the implementation of women’s rights (₦20 million), and coordinating interventions to address gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, and improved access to sexual and reproductive health services (₦53 million). Additionally, supervision and technical support for the implementation of maternal morbidity and mortality reduction strategies received ₦59.7 million. Another notable project, budgeted at ₦37.5 million, focused on energy efficiency, rural energy poverty’s socio-economic impact on women in Enugu State, and consumer perceptions of prepaid electricity meters in Nsukka metropolis.

The M&E funding constitute 0.69% of the total approved WEE funding. Research indicates that projects with strong evaluation components are more likely to achieve their goals. Mayra et al, (2020) stated that well-designed M&E frameworks allow for the systematic collection of data on women’s participation, progress, and the barriers they face in economic programs, enabling policymakers to refine strategies and allocate resources more efficiently. Similarly, a report by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) emphasized that M&E not only tracks outcomes such as income generation and decision-making power but also measures shifts in agency and social norms, which are essential for sustainable empowerment (ICRW, 2016). Additionally, the World Bank highlighted that M&E frameworks bridge information gaps and provide evidence to scale up successful initiatives while addressing shortcomings in existing programs (World Bank, 2019). Table 13 below shows own of the key projects in this regard.

**Table 12:** Some Selected Approved FGN 2025 WEE Funding on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Supervision (₦)

S/N	Budget Code	Projects	Amount
1	ERGP30210217	PRODUCTION OF STATISTICAL REPORT ON WOMEN AND MEN IN NIGERIA	14,096,054
2	ERGP30229561	DRAFTING OF NIGERIA’S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN RIGHT	20,000,000
4	ERGP25167980	COORDINATE, SUPERVISE AND MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE INTERVENTIONS FOR REDUCTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS SERVICES.	53,114,689
5	ERGP25225181	SUPERVISION, TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND MONITORING OF MPCDSR IMPLEMENTATION AT FACILITY AND COMMUNITY LEVELS FOR SUSTAINABLE REDUCTION OF MATERNAL MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY	59,754,025
6	ERGP30225338	ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH AND FIELD STUDIES (I) CUSTOMER PERCEPTION AND ACCEPTABILITY ON THE USE OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY PREPAID METER IN NSUKKA METROPOLIS (SURVEY); SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF RURAL ENERGY POVERTY ON WOMEN IN ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA (SURVEY)(II) LABORATORY EMISSIONS MEASUREMENT SYSTEM (ISO - LEMS SENSOR BOX	37,500,000

### 3.3 Classification by MDAs: Top WEE-Focused Ministries and Their Budget Shares

In the 2025 federal budget, the top 10 ministries implementing WEE initiatives accounted for 91.67% of the total WEE allocation, amounting to ₦358.41 billion. Leading this list is the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, with ₦117.16 billion (29.97%) spread across 457 projects implemented by 38 MDAs. This dominance reflects the strategic role of agriculture in empowering women, especially in rural areas, through access to inputs, tools, training, and market linkages. Agriculture remains a primary source of livelihood for many Nigerian women, making this investment both impactful and necessary. Following closely is the Ministry of Women Affairs, with just 2 MDAs implementing 139 projects but receiving ₦92.75 billion (23.72%) in allocations. Despite having fewer implementing agencies, its high share of the budget suggests focused, large-scale

interventions tailored specifically to women’s empowerment. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare ranks third, overseeing 74 projects through 37 MDAs with ₦65.83 billion (16.84%) allocated. This emphasizes the importance of addressing gender-specific health needs and social support systems as foundational to women’s participation in economic life.

Other notable ministries include Labour and Employment, Science, Technology and Innovation, and Education, which together account for about 13.5% of the WEE budget. These allocations support skills development, innovation-driven training, and inclusive education for women and girls. Ministries with lower but still significant allocations—such as Sports Development, Industry, Trade and Investment, the Secretary to the State Government, and Information and National Orientation indicate a broader, multi-sectoral approach to WEE. Collectively, the data shows that while a few ministries dominate WEE spending, a wide range of government sectors are engaged in driving women’s empowerment through varied policy and programmatic interventions.

**Table 13:** Top 10 Explicit WEE Implementing MDAs by Budgetary Allocation in 2025 (₦)

Ministries	Number of WEE Implementing MDAs	Number of Project	Allocation (₦bn)	Allocation As % of Total WEE Budget
Agriculture and Food Security	38	457	117,159,917,462	29.97%
Women Affairs	2	139	92,750,247,765	23.72%
Health and Social Welfares	37	74	65,825,297,177	16.84%
Labour and Employment	4	120	19,355,486,500	4.95%
Science, Technology and Innovation	16	96	17,869,508,184	4.57%
Education	61	94	15,707,720,357	4.02%
Sports Development	2	4	9,152,000,000	2.34%
Industry Trade and Investment	5	43	8,159,578,564	2.09%
Secretary to the State Government	4	55	6,494,560,000	1.66%
Information and National Orientation	5	15	5,931,254,351	1.52%
<b>Total</b>	174	1097	358,405,570,360	91.67%
<b>WEE Total</b>	3,411	1,299	390,973,458,018	-

Source: Budget Office of the Federation, Analysis by dRPC

### 3.4 Broader Empowerment Programs with Potential Gender Impact

The Approved 2025 budget includes various empowerment interventions across multiple sectors, many of which are not explicitly gender-targeted but still aim to address key developmental objectives such as poverty reduction, skills acquisition, and economic growth. Notable among these is the ₦1.41 trillion allocated to "Special Intervention" programs under the Service Wide Vote (SWV). Other significant initiatives include ₦200 billion dedicated to the National Social Investment Program (NSIP) and ₦100 billion for the National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy (NPRGS), both of which aim to enhance income generation, job creation, and livelihood diversification, particularly within the agricultural sector. Similarly, ₦100 billion is earmarked for Special Intervention/Constituency Projects managed by the National Assembly, while ₦67.5 billion is set aside for the Value Chain Development Project under the Agriculture and Food Security sector.

Additional funding streams target specific areas of development. For instance, ₦100 billion is allocated to the Consumer Credit Fund to enhance financial access, and ₦50 billion will support a new Student Loan Scheme. The National Home Grown School Feeding Programme (NHGSFP) also receives ₦100 billion to address food security and nutrition. Other notable allocations include ₦71.7 billion for the National Social Insurance Trust Fund and ₦1.8 billion for N-Power and related youth-focused programs under the National Social Investment Office. While these initiatives reflect a broad commitment to empowerment, the gender-specific impacts of these funds remain unclear due to a lack of explicit allocation details for women-focused projects.

**Table 14: Other Implicit Interventions in the 2025 Approved Budget (₦)**

Project code	Budget Lines	Amount	Implementing MDAs
22021052	SPECIAL INTERVENTION	1,413,703,962,054	SWV- FMB&NP
23050161	SPECIAL INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS	7,000,000,000	SWV-FMB&NP
ERGP16210802	NATIONAL POVERTY REDUCTION WITH GROWTH STRATEGY (NPRGS)	100,000,000,000	SWV- FMB&NP
ERGP16210804	NATIONAL SOCIAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM	200,000,000,000	SWV- FMB&NP
ERGP1210823	SPECIAL INTERVENTION/CONSTITUENCY PROJECTS	100,000,000,000	National Assembly
ERGP22219766	NATIONAL HOME GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME (NHGSFP)	100,000,000,000	SWV - FMB&NP
ERGP1212130	CONSUMER CREDIT FUND	100,000,000,000	SWV- FMB&NP
ERGP22211682	NATIONAL SOCIAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND	71,749,561,242	SWV- FMB&NP
ERGP5234139	VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT	67,500,000,000	Agriculture and Food Security
22021063	SPECIAL INTERVENTION FUND	200,000,000,000	SWV- FMB&NP
ERGP22213042	STUDENT LOAN SCHEME	50,000,000,000	SWV- FMB&NP
ERGP22200711	JCU (N-POWER + BUILD & EQUIP+ SKILLS FOR JOBS + INNOVATION HUBS)	1,817,964,867	National Social Investment Office
ERGP22234183	GVG (GRANT FOR VULNARABLE GROUP)	1,064,174,556	
ERGP22200699	HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING	1,817,964,867	
ERGP22200702	GEEP (MARKETMONI, TRADERMONI, FARMERMONI)	1,064,174,556	

Source: Budget Office of the Federation

## Section 4: Policy Alignment and Strategic Fit

### 4.1 Interest Alignment: Proposed Vs Approved 2025 WEE Budget

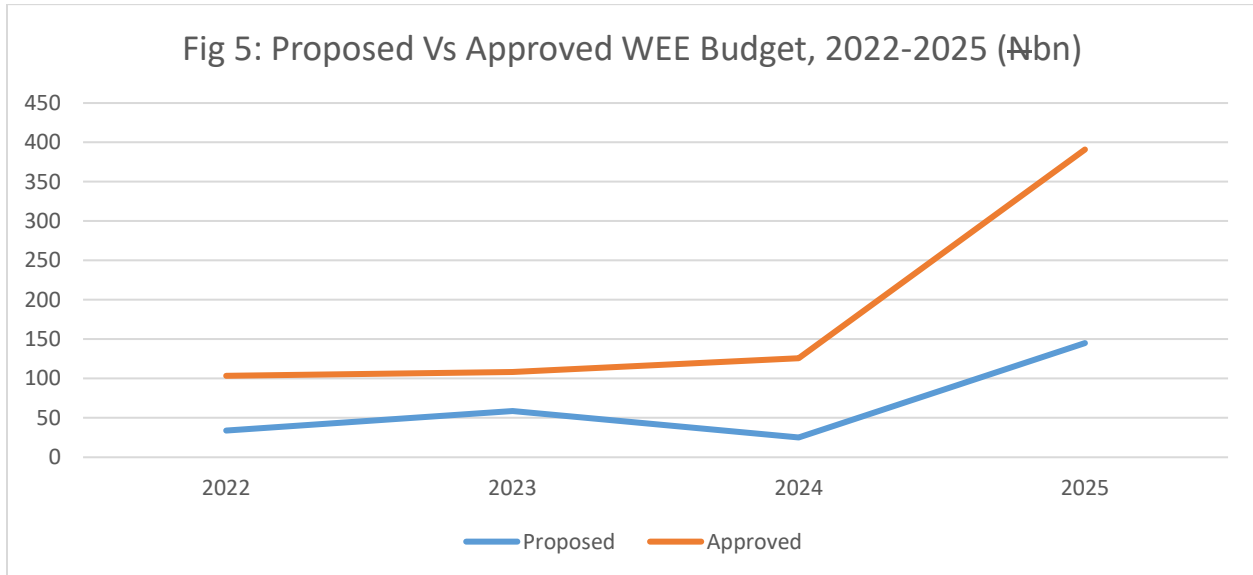
The 2025 WEE Budget for Nigeria reflects significant changes between the proposed and approved versions, particularly in the allocation of funds across various project classifications aimed at enhancing women's economic participation. The approved budget increased the total funding from ₦148.05 billion across 289 projects to ₦390.97 billion for 1,299 projects, a substantial expansion driven by the addition of 1,010 projects and ₦242.92 billion in additional funding. Key areas such as policy and governance saw a modest increase from ₦1.04 billion for 21 projects to ₦2.62 billion for 44 projects, reflecting a focus on strengthening institutional frameworks. Training and skill development experienced a dramatic rise, with the number of projects growing from 91 to 428 and funding increasing from ₦5.44 billion to ₦81.12 billion, emphasizing capacity building for women. Empowerment support projects surged from 25 to 451, with funding rising from ₦3.43 billion to ₦89.24 billion, indicating a strong push for initiatives like micro-enterprise support and women's cooperatives.

**Table 16:** Specific Areas of Projects and Funds Increase (₦bn)

Projects Classification	Initial		Additional		Total Approval	
	Number of Projects	Amount (₦bn)	Number of Projects	Amount (₦bn)	Number of Projects	Amount (₦bn)
Policy and governance	21	1.04	23	1.58	44	2.62
Training and skill development	91	5.44	337	75.68	428	81.12
Empowerment support	25	3.43	426	85.81	451	89.24
Grant and financial support	8	68.55	119	27.64	127	96.19
Health and well being	14	2.05	31	13.83	45	15.88
Infrastructural development	102	57.28	41	29.22	143	86.50
Awareness and advocacy	23	10.08	23	6.65	46	16.73
Monitoring, evaluation and supervision	5	0.18	10	2.51	15	2.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>148.05</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>242.92</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>390.97</b>

Source: Budget Office of the Federation, Analysis by dRPC

Grant and financial support also saw significant growth, with projects increasing from 8 to 127 and funding rising from ₦68.55 billion to ₦96.19 billion, aimed at providing direct financial assistance to women entrepreneurs. Health and well-being initiatives expanded from 14 projects worth ₦2.05 billion to 45 projects at ₦15.88 billion, aligning with broader health sector goals to improve women's access to healthcare. Infrastructural development, critical for economic empowerment, grew from 102 projects at ₦57.28 billion to 143 projects at ₦86.50 billion, focusing on projects like market facilities and rural infrastructure tailored to women's needs. Awareness and advocacy efforts doubled in project numbers from 23 to 46, with funding rising from ₦10.08 billion to ₦16.73 billion, underscoring the importance of public engagement. Monitoring, evaluation, and supervision, though smaller in scale, increased from 5 projects at ₦0.18 billion to 15 projects at ₦2.69 billion, reflecting a commitment to accountability and impact assessment.



Historically, there has been a consistent and significant variance between the WEE capital projects proposed by the Executive and the final approvals by the National Assembly, particularly between 2022 and 2025. On average, while the Executive proposed 188 projects annually with a funding estimate of ₦65.71 billion, the National Assembly approved an average of 931 projects amounting to ₦182.18 billion—more than doubling the funding levels. The number of projects added by the National Assembly each year averaged 743, indicating a 411.15% increase in the project count, while funding rose by 214.74% on average. This pattern shows that the legislature plays an outsized role in shaping the WEE budget, both by volume and financial allocation. The year-on-year trend further reveals fluctuating degrees of variance, with 2022 seeing the most dramatic increase in project count (594.07%) and funding (204.99%), likely indicating a surge in legislative interest or political motivations early in the administration. In contrast, 2023 saw a lower percentage increase in both project numbers and funding, suggesting a temporary recalibration. However, 2024 and 2025 again showed sharp increases, with 2024 experiencing the highest funding variance (399.61%) despite a relatively low proposed budget. This could reflect strategic legislative insertions in response to fiscal constraints or priorities in emerging WEE sectors. Overall, the trend suggests a pattern of budget expansionism by the legislature, which raises questions about project implementation capacity, duplication risks, and the alignment of approved interventions with national WEE policy priorities.

**Table 17: Trend in WEE budget variance Executive and National Assembly approved (₦bn)**

Year	Proposed Projects	Proposed Amount (₦bn)	Approved Projects	Approved Amount (₦bn)	Total Added by NASS (Projects)	Total Added by NASS (₦bn)	% Projects	% Funding
2022	135	33.93	938	103.49	803	69.56	594.07%	204.99%
2023	122	58.71	545	108.52	423	49.81	346.72%	84.83%
2024	206	25.16	940	125.75	734	100.59	356.31%	399.61%
2025	289	145.05	1,299	390.97	1,010	245.92	349.48%	169.54%
<b>Average (2022-25)</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>65.71</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>182.18</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>116.47</b>	<b>411.15%</b>	<b>214.74%</b>

Source: Budget Office of the Federation, Analysis by dRPC

#### 4.3 WEE Budget Alignment with the Policy Framework

Nigeria’s 2023–2028 WEE Policy and Action Plan marks a significant step toward addressing gender disparities in economic participation, launched as a comprehensive framework to empower women across multiple sectors. The policy targets critical areas such as agriculture, entrepreneurship, the traditional labour market, emerging industries, and education and skill acquisition, while incorporating crosscutting accelerators like women’s financial inclusion (WFI), digital innovation, literacy, and access, as well as support structures at the household, workplace, and community levels. It also emphasizes gender-responsive and data-driven government processes to ensure accountability and impact. Drawing from various government policies and the national development plan, this sectoral approach aims to holistically transform women’s economic prospects by addressing systemic barriers such as limited access to finance, land, and markets, as well as restrictive social norms. The policy recognizes the shared responsibility of government and private sectors, with the government bearing the primary burden of implementation through budgetary allocations and programmatic interventions. The following shows then level of the 2025 budget to policy.

##### a. Core Sectoral Pillars

**Agriculture** recognizes the centrality of agriculture to women’s economic empowerment and emphasizes the need to dismantle structural barriers impeding women’s full participation in the sector. As the Nigeria WEE Policy states, "Improve women smallholder farmers’ access to agricultural financing and markets; Establish pathways for moving women into more high value crop and livestock value chains." In alignment with this, various projects demonstrate targeted efforts to empower women in agriculture. For instance, ERGP30175085: Mainstreaming Gender in Agribusiness (₦867,882,551) promotes inclusive agricultural practices, while ERGP20254021 focuses on aquaculture and value addition for women. ERGP20257662 enhances resilience and access to inputs for communities affected by insecurity, and ERGP20254387 fosters capacity building across the agricultural value chain. Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate a growing commitment to enhancing women’s access to agricultural resources, training, and market opportunities, aligning with national goals for gender-responsive and climate-resilient agricultural development.

Thus, climate change financing gained visibility through targeted budget allocations, recognizing the importance of integrating gender considerations into climate adaptation strategies across sectors. Despite this, only ₦3.59 billion approximately 0.92% of the total budget was dedicated to WEE initiatives related to climate change, underscoring the need for greater prioritization and investment in this area. Notable allocations include ₦2 billion for agro-processing empowerment in the South-South, ₦500 million for irrigation support in Mbanyam, and other smaller-scale interventions focused on irrigation, greenhouse farming, organic agriculture, and climate-smart training across various states. These projects reflect early efforts to link WEE with climate action, but the low proportion of total funding highlights a gap that must be addressed to ensure inclusive and sustainable climate resilience.

**Table 14: Climate Change WEE Allocation (₦bn)**

Implementing MDAs	Budget code	Budget Line	Amount
NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE-IBADAN	ERGP20261213	EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTHS AND WOMEN INVOLVED IN AGRO PROCESSING TO ENSURE SERVICE DELIVERY AND SUSTAINABLE INCOME ACROSS SOUTH SOUTH GEO-POLITICAL ZONE @ 100M PER LOT	2,000,000,000
LOWER BENUE RBDA	ERGP20261387	EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUTH WITH IRRIGATION PUMPS, FERTILIZERS, MOTORCYCLES AND OTHER STARTER PACKS ACROSS MBANYAM	500,000,000

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCE	ERGP28230960	EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUTH ON DRY SEASON/IRRIGATION FARMING IN KEFFI LGA OF NASARAWA STAT	250,000,000
LOWER BENUE RBDA	ERGP202502921	EMPOWERMENT ON YOUTH AND WOMEN ON IRRIGATION FARMING IN IKPOBO, OMADEWU COMMUNITIES IN OKONOBO WARD OF OKPOKWU LGA, BENUE STATE.	200,000,000
NATIONAL LOTTERY TRUST FUND	ERGP20260439	EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUTH FARMERS WITH GREENHOUSE FARMING IN DELTA CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT, DELTA STATE.	200,000,000
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCE	ERGP2811008	PROMOTION OF GENDER/WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SECURITY	120,000,000
FEDERAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE- OJI RIVER	ERGP20257615	SENSITIZATION/AWARENESS TRAINING FOR YOUTHS AND WOMEN ON IRRIGATION FARMING IN ADAMTURU/TAUMUWA GUJBAU YOBE STAT	100,000,000
SOKOTO RIMA RBDA	ERGP5230952	TRAINING/EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTHS AND WOMEN ON IRRIGATION FARMING IN SHINKAFI AREA, SHINKAFI LGA ZAMFARA STATE	100,000,000
FEDERAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGE- KADUNA	ERGP18228768	TRAINING ON MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT ON ORGANIC FARMING FOR SOME SELECTED WOMEN FOR SELECTED ARE IN KADNA	45,000,000
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE - ENUGU	ERGP20257784	SURCING OF ISUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (PSN) TRAINING TO SELECTED WOMEN GROUP N ENUGU EAST/ISIUZO FEDERAL CONSTITUENC	30,000,000
	ERGP30155122	EMPOWERING YOUTH AND WOMEN IN CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE FOR EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	20,000,000
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT HEADQUARTERS	ERGP20227145	IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE	15,000,000
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI	ERGP20259338	PROVISION OF TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT ON IRRIGATION FARMING FOR WOMEN AND YOUTHS IN IKPOGO AND OMADEWU COMMUNITIES IN OKONOBO WARD IN OKPOKWU LGA, BENUE STATE	12,500,000

**Entrepreneurship** is positioned in the Nigeria WEE Policy (2023) as a vital mechanism for advancing women's economic empowerment, emphasizing that "Facilitate women's access to capital – and other foundational business needs, such as business sensitization, skills, and energy." Reflecting this policy directive, various projects directly invest in building women's entrepreneurial capacity through training, digital skills, and SME support. ERGP20262586 offers entrepreneurship training for women, while ERGP20254374 integrates digital tools like e-commerce and financial literacy for market women. Similarly, ERGP20253982 and ERGP20262701 provide localized entrepreneurial development and SME empowerment, respectively. These initiatives collectively advance the policy's goals by removing barriers to business development, equipping women with the tools, knowledge, and capital needed to thrive in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

**Traditional Labour Market** is centred on increasing women's access to conventional employment sectors by dismantling systemic barriers, workplace biases, and promoting equitable governance. The Policy seeks to "Overhaul existing labour laws to create pathways for more equitable corporate governance, representation, and leadership; Tackle biases about women's role in the traditional labour market through training and sensitization". The approved WEE project covers skills training programs, particularly in ICT, agriculture, and vocational sectors with projects like "Training on ICT for Women and Youth" (₦300 million) and various others amounting to over ₦81 billion, directly equipping women for traditional job markets. In addition, projects addressing gender biases, such as capacity-building workshops on gender-based violence and gender mainstreaming initiatives, support safer, more inclusive work environments, indirectly contributing to the policy's goal of equitable labour participation. Though the WEE project does not directly reform labour laws, governance, focused initiatives like the Coordination of the High-Level Advocacy Council on the WEE Policy



(₦100 million) and implementation of the National Gender Policy indicate a commitment to systemic change by influencing policy frameworks and promoting women's representation. With a total funding commitment exceeding ₦390 billion in 2025, including over ₦2.6 billion for policy and governance reforms, the WEE project lays a robust foundation for realizing the Traditional Labour Market pillar's objectives and advancing structural reforms that support women's economic integration.

**Emerging Industries** underscores the importance of integrating women into forward-looking sectors such as technology, renewable energy, and the creative economy. According to the Nigeria WEE Policy (2023), women's participation in emerging industries such as ICT, renewable energy, and creative industries is critical for economic diversification and innovation. This vision is supported by a range of projects that equip women and youth with the skills necessary to thrive in these fields. ERGP20262096 facilitates ICT training, enhancing digital literacy in Borno; ERGP20258700 and ERGP20193343 promote women's entry into the renewable energy space through solar technology and clean energy initiatives. Meanwhile, ERGP20263256 focuses on digital marketing and e-commerce, key areas in the growing digital economy. Collectively, these initiatives reflect a strategic alignment with the policy's emphasis on inclusive participation in industries essential to Nigeria's economic future.

**Education and Skill Acquisition** emphasizes the foundational role of learning and vocational training in empowering women economically. As stated in the Nigeria WEE Policy (2023), education and skill acquisition are foundational to women's economic empowerment, requiring targeted interventions to address gaps in access and quality. In alignment with this, several projects directly address these gaps through targeted training and educational support. ERGP20257662 and ERGP20259138 focus on agricultural and aquaculture skills, equipping women and youth with practical expertise for productive livelihoods. ERGP20255637 targets marginalized women with vocational training, ensuring inclusivity. Additionally, ERGP18230720 supports girl-child education through scholarships and awareness programs, reinforcing the long-term benefits of educational access. Together, these interventions reflect the policy's commitment to building women's capacities and enabling their fuller participation in the economy.

#### **b. Crosscutting Accelerators**

**Women's Financial Inclusion (WFI) and Literacy** is a critical accelerator for economic empowerment as outlined in the Nigeria WEE Policy (2023), which states that " Develop tailored information that caters to every demographic group (including various cadres of women) and develop systems to disseminate this information; Maintain its dual approach to growing financial inclusion with a focus on both brick-and-mortar access as well as scaling digital solutions." The policy's focus is well-reflected in several approved projects that combine financial access with capacity-building. For instance, ERGP20257504 provides direct cash grants to rural women, supporting informal livelihoods. ERGP202502359 expands impact by coupling micro-credit with financial literacy training, ensuring that beneficiaries can make informed economic decisions. Similarly, ERGP20260376 strengthens community-based cooperative structures by channelling grants through microfinance institutions. Collectively, these interventions align with the WFI pillar by reducing financial barriers, enhancing economic agency, and promoting sustainable financial behaviours among women.

**Household, Workplace, and Community Support Structures** are critical components identified in the Nigeria WEE Policy (2023), which states that strengthening household, workplace, and community support structures is essential to reduce barriers to women's economic participation. The alignment of projects with this pillar is evident in initiatives that build local leadership, institutional coordination, and access to social services. ERGP20258506 invests in capacity development for royal fathers, fostering inclusive community leadership and mentorship. ERGP22229449 supports policy coordination and high-level advocacy, enhancing national-



level structures that sustain women’s empowerment efforts. ERGP20253936 provides essential medical outreach for widows and vulnerable women, directly addressing health-related barriers. These initiatives collectively promote supportive environments across households, communities, and institutions, enabling women to participate more fully in economic life.

**Gender-Responsive and Data-Driven Government Processes** are foundational to effective policy execution, as underscored by the Nigeria WEE Policy (2023), which states, gender-responsive and data-driven government processes are critical for effective policy implementation and monitoring. Several projects directly support this goal by embedding gender considerations into policy and building robust data infrastructure. ERGP30175085 promotes gender mainstreaming in agribusiness, while ERGP30230856 supports the creation of a centralized Gender Equality and Social Inclusion database. ERGP30210217 enables the production of gender-disaggregated statistics, and ERGP22158374 contributes to real-time monitoring through a Gender-Based Violence Dashboard. Collectively, these initiatives strengthen institutional capacity to track gender outcomes and inform inclusive policymaking, fully aligning with the policy’s call for evidence-based, gender-responsive governance.



## Section 5: Budget Implementation Challenges

### 5.1 Budgetary Commitment, Fragmentation, and Fiscal Constraints

**Budgetary Commitment and Fragmentation:** The Approved 2025 Nigerian budget demonstrates a commitment to advancing WEE through various programs. However, one of the challenges is the fragmentation of funding across multiple ministries and agencies, which may dilute the effectiveness of implementation. While ₦390.73 billion is allocated to WEE initiatives, a significant portion overlaps with non-gender-specific projects, such as combined empowerment programs targeting youth, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. This lack of focused investment in women-centric initiatives could limit the impact of funding on closing gender gaps in economic participation.

**Debt Servicing and Fiscal Space:** The heavy reliance on borrowing to finance the ₦13.08 trillion budget deficit, as noted by Grant Thornton, raises sustainability concerns, with debt servicing consuming ₦14.32 trillion, accounting for almost 26% of the total budget. This crowding-out effect reduces the fiscal space available for gender-focused investments such as microfinance programs, vocational training for women, maternal health, and entrepreneurship support. Without ring-fencing funding for these sectors, women-focused initiatives risk being deprioritized, especially during budget revisions or cash flow constraints.

**Revenue Uncertainty and Vulnerability of Women's Programs:** Furthermore, while statutory transfers and recurrent expenditure increased moderately, these funds largely support institutions like the judiciary and legislature that have limited direct impact on women's livelihoods. Without a strong policy framework and enforcement mechanism, increases in public spending will not automatically translate into improvements for women's economic status. The government's revenue projections for 2025, though ambitious at ₦36.35 trillion, remain uncertain. Historically, Nigeria's government projected revenues of ₦7.89 trillion, ₦10.49 trillion, and ₦18.32 trillion for 2022, 2023, and 2024, respectively, but actual collections fell short at approximately ₦4.64 trillion (41% shortfall), ₦7.6 trillion (27% shortfall), and ₦12–14 trillion (24–34% shortfall). These gaps, driven by low oil production, oil theft, and weak tax administration, underscore uncertainty about the ambitious ₦36.35 trillion revenue target for 2025. Despite reforms like fuel subsidy removal and exchange rate unification, structural constraints, including a low tax-to-GDP ratio (7.6% in 2023) and high debt service-to-revenue ratio (74% in 2024), continue to challenge Nigeria's fiscal performance. and if this trend continues, discretionary programs including women's economic empowerment schemes could face funding cuts or delays. Women-targeted programs like the Women's Fund for Economic Empowerment (WFEE), Project Guaranteed Loans for Women (GLOW), and WISE-P are vulnerable under such conditions, especially as they rely on allocations not protected by law.

**Macroeconomic Instability and Women's Economic Inclusion:** Macroeconomic instability also threatens women's access to finance and economic inclusion. The naira's depreciation from ₦800/\$ in 2024 to ₦1,606/\$ by February 2025 along with inflation rising to 34.6%, severely erodes women's purchasing power and business viability. Women, especially in the informal sector, often operate with thin margins and limited savings. These shocks make it harder for them to repay loans or access new financing. According to EFINA (2023), 47% of women accessed formal financial services, compared to 58% of men, indicating that while overall financial inclusion is improving, the gender gap remains substantial and even widened slightly from 8% in 2020 to 9% in 2023 (Helen, 2024).

**Decline and Inflationary Pressure on WEE Projects:** There is growing concern regarding the real value of funding for the WEE initiatives, especially in light of the significant increase in the prices of goods and services. The approved budget for 2025, amounting to ₦390.73.05 billion reflects a 56% increase from the



2024 budget of ₦125.75; however, this increase may not adequately address the inflationary pressures that could diminish its purchasing power.

## **5.2. Participatory Budgeting and Legislative Insertions**

The expansion of the WEE project generated varied arguments among experts regarding the National Assembly's right to make such substantial insertions. This is consistent with the similar scenario in the proposed budget in 2022, 2023 and 2024 which in most cases are increased by the National Assembly during the project review. For instance, in the proposed 2024 budget, a total of 206 projects were proposed across 61 MDAs, this was increased to 940 by National Assembly Appropriation Committee, thus showing a 734 or 356% of the approved budget. This same scenario played out in 2025. Stakeholders, including some CSOs and public analysts, question the power of the National Assembly to insert projects into the national budget without prior consultation with the implementing MDAs and whether the insertions align with any policy direction set by the executive. The Nigerian National Assembly has affirmed its constitutional authority to insert projects into the national budget, as granted by the 1999 Constitution. This power is rooted in Sections 80-84, which provide the legislature with extensive control over budgetary matters, including the ability to amend allocations without restrictions on projected expenditures or revenues. As part of this authority, it is believed that National Assembly can modify the draft budget submitted by the President, adding new projects or adjusting existing allocations to address local needs and priorities that may have been overlooked in the initial proposal.

Proponents argue that the National Assembly's additions, which inflated the budget, including WEE-specific projects, are justified as they address critical local needs often overlooked in executive proposals. For instance, projects like training programs and empowerment support directly respond to grassroots demands for women's economic inclusion, particularly in underserved rural areas. Experts supporting this view, emphasize that legislators, as representatives of their constituencies, have the constitutional mandate to amend budgets to reflect local priorities, such as boreholes and market infrastructure, which enhance women's economic activities (Taiwo, 2022). This perspective aligns with the Open Government Partnership's push for participatory budgeting, where citizen needs, especially those of women, are prioritized through transparent and inclusive processes.

However, critics argue that the National Assembly's insertions raise concerns about fiscal discipline and transparency. Experts, contend that the significant increase in projects particularly in empowerment support and training lacks clear justification and risks inefficient fund utilization due to inadequate planning (Joseph, et al 2022). The addition of 337 training projects and 426 empowerment projects, for instance, has been criticized for potentially duplicating existing programs, leading to resource waste. Critics argue that such insertions, while well-intentioned, may prioritize political patronage over strategic economic planning, undermining the budget's ability to deliver sustainable outcomes for women's empowerment.

## **5.3 Data Gaps and Monitoring Limitations**

**Data Limitations and Impact Assessment:** The 2025 federal budget of ₦54.99 trillion the largest in Nigeria's history offers both opportunities and challenges for WEE. On the surface, the budget's significant expansion, representing a 56.8% increase from the 2024 allocation, suggests the potential for greater investment in social and economic development. However, a deeper analysis reveals that critical macroeconomic pressures and spending priorities may limit how much of this expansion directly benefits women, particularly those in vulnerable or informal sectors.

Despite the potential of empowerment materials, challenges persist in ensuring their sustainable impact. A systematic review of agricultural projects using the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI) found that while asset provision improves autonomy in income and group membership, it can exacerbate

workload imbalances or fail to address social norms like male backlash, which limit women’s agency (Gartaula, 2025). In Nigeria, the lack of gender-disaggregated data, as noted in the 2025 budget critique, complicates tracking the effectiveness of these interventions, risking inefficient resource allocation. For materials like cooking stoves, deep freezers, and generators, studies in sub-Saharan Africa suggest they reduce women’s time poverty by streamlining domestic tasks, yet unreliable electricity supply often undermines their utility.

**Recurring Issue of Poor Gender-Disaggregated Data:** There is also recurring issue of poor gender-disaggregated data, which limits the ability to accurately assess the allocation and impact of resources on women-specific initiatives. Without detailed data that separates expenditures by gender, it becomes challenging to track progress, measure the effectiveness of programs, and ensure that women are the primary beneficiaries of WEE projects. This lack of granular information undermines evidence, based policymaking and makes it difficult to identify and address gender gaps, ultimately hindering efforts to promote inclusive and equitable economic empowerment.

#### **5.4 Gaps in Policy Alignment and Geographic Equity**

**Gaps in Policy Alignment:** While the WEE projects demonstrate broad alignment with the policy’s pillars, there are notable gaps in depth and coverage. For instance, Pillar Three: Traditional Labour Market is underrepresented, with only a few projects like ERGP18176293 (Gender Mainstreaming in Workplaces, ₦11,000,000) directly addressing workplace policies, compared to the heavy emphasis on agriculture (22.83%) and entrepreneurship (24.60%). This suggests a lack of focus on formal sector employment opportunities for women, which the policy aims to address through gender-responsive workplace policies. Similarly, Pillar Four: Emerging Industries has significant investments in ICT and clean energy (e.g., ERGP20262096, Training on ICT, ₦300,000,000), but these are concentrated in specific regions (e.g., Borno, Lagos) and lack nationwide scalability, potentially excluding women in less urban areas. The crosscutting accelerator of Household, Workplace, and Community Support Structures is also underexplored, with projects like ERGP22228429 (Women/Child Protection Structures, ₦20,000,000) being small in scale relative to the need for systemic childcare or community support to reduce unpaid caregiving burdens. Additionally, while Gender-Responsive and Data-Driven Government Processes are supported through initiatives like ERGP30230856 (Gender Equality Database, ₦74,528,319), the limited budget (0.69% for monitoring and evaluation) indicates weak emphasis on impact assessment and data-driven scaling, which could hinder long-term policy effectiveness.

**Geographic and Demographic Exclusion:** Another critical gap lies in geographic and demographic inclusivity, as well as sustainability. Many projects are concentrated in specific federal constituencies or senatorial districts, which may exclude rural or conflict-affected regions not explicitly mentioned, such as parts of the Northeast or Middle Belt, despite the policy’s emphasis on inclusive growth across all geopolitical zones. Furthermore, projects like cash grants (e.g., ERGP20257504, ₦50,000,000) and empowerment material supplies (e.g., ERGP20259085, Sewing Machines, ₦50,000,000) often lack clear mechanisms for sustained economic impact or follow-up support, risking short-term benefits without addressing structural barriers like access to markets or credit. The Education and Skill Acquisition pillar is well-represented (20.75% of budget), but the focus on short-term vocational training (e.g., sewing, soap making) may not fully equip women for high-skill, high-demand sectors like technology or advanced manufacturing, limiting alignment with the policy’s vision for transformative skill development. Addressing these gaps requires broader geographic coverage, increased focus on formal employment and emerging industries, stronger support structures, and robust monitoring frameworks to ensure sustainable impact.

#### **5.5 Capital Expenditure and Infrastructure Opportunities**

On the other hand, the 74% increase in capital expenditure from ₦13.77 trillion in 2024 to ₦23.96 trillion in 2025 presents a strategic opportunity. If properly targeted, these funds could be used to finance gender-responsive



infrastructure, including women’s cooperatives, market facilities, digital hubs, and agro-processing centres that empower women. Yet, past trends show that less than 10% of public capital projects explicitly benefit women, indicating the need for deliberate planning and gender budgeting to ensure women are not left out of large-scale public investments.

## Section 6: Conclusion and Recommendations

### 6.1 Conclusion

The 2025 Appropriation Act presents both opportunities and challenges in advancing WEE through gender-responsive budgeting in Nigeria. Although the budget marks a nominal increase in WEE allocations—rising to ₦390.97 billion, a 210.92% surge compared to 2024, this still represents only 0.71% of the total budget size and 1.63% of capital expenditure. This underrepresentation highlights the persistent gap between policy intent and fiscal prioritization. Moreover, the significant variance introduced by the National Assembly, which added over 1,000 WEE projects beyond the Executive’s proposal, raises concerns about the coherence, duplication, and sustainability of interventions. Without stronger coordination mechanisms, gender-focused allocations risk being diluted across overlapping mandates and fragmented implementation strategies.

Despite these challenges, the expanded scope of WEE interventions in the 2025 budget reflects a notable shift toward inclusivity and structural support. The introduction of health, infrastructural development, and grant-based financial assistance as core components of WEE indicates a broader understanding of the socio-economic barriers that women face. Ministries such as Agriculture, Women Affairs, and Health dominate WEE-related allocations, aligning with national policy pillars like the Women’s Economic Empowerment Policy and Action Plan (2023–2028). However, for these budgetary commitments to translate into tangible outcomes, Nigeria must institutionalize gender-disaggregated data, enhance monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and strengthen the capacity of implementing agencies. Only then can the promise of gender-

### 6.2 Recommendations

- A. To ensure that budgetary allocations effectively address gender disparities, the share of funds dedicated to WEE initiatives must be significantly increased. While improvements have been made in recent years, the proportion remains insufficient relative to the scale of need. A higher allocation will enable targeted interventions in sectors where women are underrepresented or face systemic barriers. Federal and state governments should adopt a progressive funding approach that steadily increases WEE allocations over successive budget cycles, ensuring that these investments are not symbolic but transformative.
- B. Improving coordination across ministries, departments, and agencies is essential to maximize the impact of WEE programs. Currently, initiatives are dispersed across numerous institutions, often leading to duplication, inefficiencies, and diluted outcomes. A dedicated coordination mechanism, possibly within the Ministry of Women Affairs or the Budget Office should be established to oversee the design, implementation, and monitoring of WEE projects across sectors. This mechanism should standardize project design, enforce gender accountability, and ensure alignment with national gender policies.
- C. Gender responsiveness must be embedded into the budgetary process from inception. This includes requiring all MDAs to disaggregate their programs by gender and clearly indicate the expected impact on women. Empowerment programs that use vague or inclusive language without targeting women directly should be revised or restructured. MDAs must be held accountable through legislative oversight, and those that fail to adopt gender-sensitive planning and reporting should face budgetary penalties or be required to undergo remedial capacity training.
- D. Resource allocation should be balanced across all pillars of women’s empowerment, not just grants or infrastructure. While physical and financial capital are important, other categories, such as health and well-being, awareness and advocacy, policy and governance, and monitoring and evaluation play equally crucial roles in creating a supportive environment for women. Strategic rebalancing of funding would strengthen the institutional foundations for women’s economic participation, reinforce community awareness, and support better tracking of outcomes.
- E. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) must be prioritized as an integral part of the WEE agenda. Increased investments in M&E frameworks will provide real-time feedback on what is working and what needs



improvement. A minimum benchmark such as 5% of total WEE spending should be allocated to rigorous data collection, project audits, and impact assessments. In addition, gender-sensitive indicators should be developed to assess not only project implementation but also long-term empowerment outcomes, such as increased income, business ownership, and participation in leadership roles. Reactivation of the National M&E framework on Women Economic Empowerment launched in 2022.

- F. Participatory budgeting should be institutionalized to give women and grassroots organizations a voice in the planning and review of government budgets. Public hearings, consultations, and gender-balanced budget committees can help institutionalize inclusive governance and ensure that resource distribution is equitable and responsive to local realities.
- G. Expanding financial inclusion for women must remain a central priority. Many women, especially in rural areas, still lack access to formal financial services, which constrains their ability to save, invest, or grow businesses. Government should scale up existing financial empowerment programs and ensure that all new financial inclusion initiatives include dedicated components for women. These should include grants, loans, savings groups, credit guarantees, and digital financial tools designed to meet the needs of women entrepreneurs.
- H. Gender considerations should be systematically integrated into broader government empowerment and social intervention programs. Large-scale initiatives such as the National Social Investment Program or constituency projects must include explicit gender targets and reporting mechanisms. Gender audits should be conducted regularly to ensure these programs are inclusive, and a portion of their budgets should be earmarked for WEE-aligned sub-projects. Without such integration, these high-investment schemes risk perpetuating gender gaps.
- I. Finally, government institutions must invest in stronger data systems that can track gender outcomes effectively. This includes not only collecting sex-disaggregated data but also training officials in gender budgeting techniques and the use of WEE classification codes. Strengthening these systems will provide a robust foundation for evidence-based policymaking and ensure that resources are directed toward interventions that yield measurable improvements in women's economic empowerment.

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