



Newsletter Edition



2025 Annual Report

Resilience, Innovation & Impact Across Multiple Sectors



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Group Session with the Humanitarian Community to align on crises trajectory at the dRPC/CPAN BASIC dissemination 2025

Introduction

The year 2025 has been a defining chapter for the development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC), marked by resilience, innovation, and impact across multiple sectors. Against the backdrop of global uncertainty and national challenges, from economic shocks and climate stress to humanitarian crises, dRPC has continued to lead with evidence, advocacy, and partnerships that drive transformative change. This newsletter captures the breadth of our work over the past year: advancing gender equality and preventing gender-based violence through Muslim Opinion Leaders; strengthening civil society capacity in the wake of funding shocks; shaping national policy dialogues on social protection, humanitarian response, and women's economic empowerment; and producing cutting-edge research that informs decision-making at all levels. From convening high-level forums to supporting grassroots initiatives, dRPC has remained steadfast in its mission to bridge research and practice, amplify local voices, and promote inclusive development. As you explore this edition, you will find stories of impact from Muslim Opinion Leaders catalysing behavioural change and influencing Sharia court reforms, to women cocoa farmers adapting to climate risks, to survivor-centred approaches addressing conflict-related sexual violence. You will also see how dRPC's leadership in nutrition, health systems, digital rights, and education continues to shape national and global conversations. These are our 2025 highlights, celebrate the milestones achieved, and join us in sustaining the momentum for a more equitable, resilient, and inclusive Nigeria.

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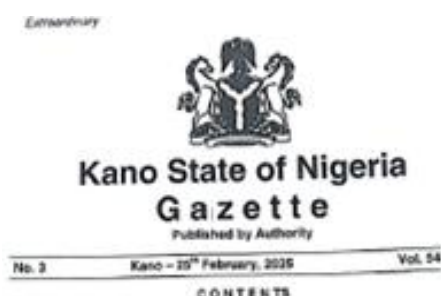
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1. Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

1.1 GBV Prevention through the Muslim Opinion Leaders for GBV (MOLS4GBV) prevention in Northern Nigeria

Since January 2024, the dRPC has been implementing the Muslim Opinion Leaders (MOLs) for GBV Prevention in Northern Nigeria, supported by the Ford Foundation, designed to catalyse behaviour change that addresses GBV in Northern Nigeria. The project engages MOLs, strengthening and positioning them to communicate, advocate for, and model change to prevent GBV.



dRPC's Muslim Opinion Leaders (MOLs) Catalyse the Introduction of new Sharia Court Practice Direction to address the issue of Maltreatment of Women in Kano

Following the Sensitization Seminar organized by the dRPC with the support of the Ford Foundation for Sharia Court Judges from Kano and Kaduna States on Islamic Perspective in Preventing Harm to Women and Girls

(<https://dailytrust.com/50-kano-kaduna-sharia-judges-trained-on-eradicating-gbv/>) held on November 9, 2024,

where the challenges women face in proving cases of physical or oral maltreatment were extensively discussed and deliberated upon, the Grand Khadi of Kano State has issued a new Kano State Sharia Court (Practice Direction) on Practice and Procedure to be adopted by Sharia Courts 2025. This directive was issued on February 25, 2025. The Practice Direction outlines procedures for divorce, abuse and other gender-based violence cases. This marks a significant departure from previous practice, where cases of physical or oral maltreatment were automatically struck out if not substantiated with evidence. The new Practice Direction introduces a structured approach to handling such cases, ensuring that women are not unfairly disadvantaged due to a lack of witnesses in private marital disputes.

Advocacy Visit of the Muslim Opinion Leaders (MOLs) for the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence to HRH, The Emir of Zazzau, Alhaji Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli CFR

26th February 2025 | Emir's Palace, Zaria

The Muslim Opinion Leaders (MOLs) advocated to His Royal Highness (HRH), the Emir of Zazzau, Alhaji Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli CFR, on February 26, 2025, to gain support for the prevention of gender-based violence. The MOLs share from the study tour to Egypt on the Islamic perspective on GBV prevention, reinforcing the protection and dignity of women. In response, HRH, the Emir of Zazzau, welcomed the delegation and



MOLs with His Royal Highness (HRH), the Emir of Zazzau, Alhaji Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli CFR,

commended dRPC's initiative. He acknowledged the value of the study tour and the value it would have in significantly addressing GBV cases in local communities and families



MOLs sensitization of 67 Imams and Muffasirun

MOLs Leverage the Ramadan to Host 2nd Sensitization of Imams and Muffasirun on Gender-Based Violence Prevention from Islamic Perspective

27th February 2025

With the approach of the 2025 Ramadan season and the tradition of Tafseer and lecture sessions during this period, dRPC convened a sensitization session for 67 Friday Mosque Imams and Mufassiroon (44 from Kano and 23 from Kaduna) from various LGAs in both states. The session aimed to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) from an Islamic perspective, equipping religious leaders with the knowledge and tools necessary to sensitize their communities on the collective responsibility of safeguarding women and girls from all forms of abuse and harm during Ramadan. Several participants remarked about the effectiveness of engaging Imams in addressing the rising incidence of GBV.

MOLs Amplify their Message through Phone-In Radio Program on Islamic Perspectives on GBV – A Platform for Dialogue in Kano and Kaduna

The five-week radio program aired in Kano and Kaduna States featured discussions on key topics, including Islamic perspectives on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and interpretations of GBV and the misconceptions surrounding it in the Islamic world. These programs are broadcast to over 10 million listeners across northern Nigeria with over callers calling in with questions seeking clarity. The questions and comments from the Mahanga phone-in radio program provided key insights into the audience's engagement, concerns, and perspectives on GBV from an Islamic perspective.



MOL, Sheikh Nasir Adam discussing GBV from an Islamic perspective



Section of the female students at the dRPC-supported IWD commemoration

MOLs Commemorate the 2025 International Women's Day (IWD) With Message on Islamic Perspective on GBV– Kano State

17th March 2025

To commemorate the 2025 International Women's Day (IWD), the dRPC partnered with the Kano State Ministry of Women Affairs, Children and Persons with Disabilities to organize a large-scale sensitization

event, reaching over 1,000 women and girls. Among them were 150 young and adolescent girls from various tertiary institutions across Northern Nigeria, including. The event featured messages, inspirational speeches, and presentations that celebrated women's achievements and emphasised the importance of gender equity and empowerment from an Islamic perspective.

MOLs Advocacy Visit to the Emir of Dutse on GBV Prevention

17th July 2025

As part of the ongoing engagements under the MOLs project, a courtesy visit was paid to His Highness, the Emir of Dutse, on 17th July 2025. The purpose of the visit was to engage His Highness as a champion for the prevention of GBV aimed at protecting women and girls from gender-based violence (GBV) across Northern Nigeria. This engagement was also a forum to share with him Islam's perspective on GBV. The Emir pledged his full support for the project and appointed Sai of Dutse as the designated focal person for MOLs activities in the Emirate.



MOLs with His Royal Highness, the Emir of Dutse



Group photo of the HRH, Maryam Sanusi II, with the MOLs

MOLs Advocate to the Emir of Kano

21st July 2025

The MOLs have been engaging with traditional rulers as champions for GBV prevention. As part of the ongoing engagements under the MOLs project, a courtesy visit was paid to His Highness, the Emir of Kano, on 21st July 2025. The visit aimed to brief His Highness on the progress made under the project and seek his continued guidance and support. His Highness

acknowledged his role in the Family Law of Kano state and stated his support for the process, noting that the most common cases before the Sharia courts are *Nafaqah* (maintenance) and *Dharar* (maltreatment). He stressed the need for specific Practice Directions to guide their adjudication.

MOLs Engage the Emir of Suleja as GBV Prevention Champion under the MOLs Project Suleja

2nd August 2025

On August 2, 2025, the MOLs visited the Emir of Suleja to update the Emirate Council on efforts to prevent gender-based violence (GBV). This visit also focused on sharing perspectives on protecting the rights and dignity of women and girls by using teachings from Islam. The Emir was besieged to become a champion for GBV as part of the MOLs behaviour change process.



MOLs advocate to His Royal Highness, the Emir of Suleja



MOLs with His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Dr Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar

MOLs partner with Ford Foundation to meet H. E. The Sultan of Sokoto

- 22 September 2025

The MOLs had the opportunity to meet with His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Dr Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, as part of their advocacy and partnership-building efforts in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) and in support of girls' education.

His Eminence expressed deep appreciation for dRPC's commitment to engaging the Sultanate, especially through the dispatch of a high-level delegation led by women, whom he described as "the heads of the family." He recalled a recent event—Haske 2 (Two Lights), held at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Jaji, during which he presented a paper on family and security and emphasized the importance of following up on the recommendations made at such forums. Finally, the Sultan proposed the organization of a roundtable meeting for religious leaders, similar to the interfaith summit held every five years under the global organization Religions for Peace, of which he is a Co-President. He also assured the dRPC delegation of his full support and willingness to collaborate on future initiatives, pledging an open-door policy for continued engagement.

The dRPC support the MOLs to host a Stakeholder Dialogue on the Islamic Perspective on GBV Prevention and Launch of GBV Prevention Guides for Muslim Opinion Leaders (MOLs)

25 September 2025

The dRPC in collaboration with the Centre of Islamic Civilization and Interfaith Dialogue (CICID), convened a Stakeholder Dialogue on the Islamic Perspective on GBV Prevention and launched the GBV Prevention Guides for Muslim Opinion Leaders (MOLs) in Nigeria. The event formed part of the *Muslim Opinion Leaders for GBV Prevention in Northern Nigeria* project. Professor Gamaleldin Abouelserour, Director of the International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research (IICPSR) at Al-Azhar University, Cairo, and co-author of the acclaimed UNDP publication *Islamic Perspective on Gender-Based Violence* gave the Keynote Presentation on Religious Guidelines and the Role of Muslim Leaders in the Prevention of GBV. During the dialogue, the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs reaffirmed its commitment to sustained collaboration with dRPC in combating GBV. This assurance was delivered by Barr. Aisha Gana on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Women's Affairs, Hajiya Iman Sulieman-Ibrahim, who officially declared the workshop open. The Ministry emphasized the critical role of Islamic scholars in correcting harmful misconceptions, preventing violence, supporting survivors, influencing policy, and promoting justice and dignity in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. The keynote address was delivered by the Imam of the National Mosque, Abuja, Prof. Iliyasu Usman. He emphasized that Islam upholds kindness, mercy, and nonviolence, and that cultural misinterpretations of religious texts used to justify



Group photo of MOLs at the launch of GBV Prevention Guides

violence are inconsistent with Islamic ethical and moral foundations. In his welcome address, the Director of CICID, Prof. Taufiq Abubakar, reaffirmed that Islam strictly forbids aggression, molestation, and transgression, stressing that adherence to Islamic principles of respect, equity, and mutuality would significantly reduce GBV. In a goodwill message, the Vice-Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, Prof. Haruna Musa, fsi—represented by Dr. Safiya Ahmad Nuhu—commended dRPC for its innovative and impactful interventions, noting that engaging Islamic scholars as change agents enhances the relevance and sustainability of GBV prevention efforts. The Ford Foundation Program Officer, Mr. Oumar Ndiaye, encouraged Muslim Opinion Leaders to disseminate the messages and tools widely within their communities and the broader Muslim population. At this engagement, the GBV Prevention Guides for Muslim Opinion Leaders, translated into Hausa and available in English, were launched.

1.2 Support for Survivors of GBV



Group photo of Government Officials, Community and Faith leaders

Preventing the Double Victimisation of GBV Survivors: How dRPC's MOLs project approach rehabilitation in Niger State

On February 14, 2024, armed bandits abducted 27 women and girls from Rafi and Shiroro Local Government Areas in Niger State, forcing them into captivity for 17 months. Their rescue on July 15, 2025, by police in Falu-Waya village offered hope, but many survivors expressed a chilling preference to return to their captors rather

than face their communities, fearing stigma and rejection. This reflects the hidden crisis of double victimisation, where survivors endure trauma not only from their perpetrators but also from societal judgment. According to the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS). Nearly one in three women has experienced physical violence since age 15. About 33% of ever-married women have faced intimate partner violence.

North-Central Nigeria, including Niger State, reports higher-than-average prevalence due to factors like poverty and insecurity. More than half of survivors of GBV from this region do not seek help, as they fear stigma and social exclusion by their community. To address the double victimisation of survivors, the dRPC under the Muslim Opinion Leaders (MOLs) GBV Prevention Project, organised a 2 day workshop, on July 26th and 27th 2025 for 40 frontline actors, comprising security personnel, GBV desk officers, government officials, traditional leaders, and Islamic scholars from Niger State, organised to address the double victimisation of survivors through faith and community accountability. The training reframed GBV as a violation of human dignity rather than a private shame, equipping participants to understand secondary victimisation and provide trauma-informed care rooted in Islamic values. Faith-based scholars,



Capacity strengthening for NDLEA on stigmatization

Traditional Rulers, Government Officials, Security agents, CSOs, and academia led the facilitation of the 2-day workshop to drive home the teachings on the need for a stigma-free environment for survivors. The survivors were also exposed to religious provisions to support survivors of GBV and how community support around them is considered as a religious duty. At the end of the 2-day workshop, participants committed to co-creating a culturally grounded GBV response protocol to support survivors upon their return. The participants also committed to continuous engagement in Rafi and Shiroro LGs areas through mobilising various community leaders to ensure that the returning women and girls experience acceptance and protection rather than judgment. This intervention highlights the importance of addressing social norms in GBV prevention, acknowledging faith leaders as vital agents of change, and the necessity of community-anchored approaches in fragile contexts. With sustained investment, this model can be expanded to reach more survivors, promoting their right to return home with dignity.

Read more -

- [Fear of stigma: Rescued abducted women in Niger threaten to return to terrorists - The Nation Newspaper](#)
- <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/07/group-niger-govt-ministries-train-service-providers-security-agencies-on-religious-perspective-on-gbv/>
- <https://www.thisdaylive.com/2025/07/29/niger-trains-staff-security-agencies-others-on-tackling-gbv-stigmatisation-through-religious-perspective/>
- <https://dailynigerian.com/gbv-group-partners-niger-govt-to-train-service-providers-security-agencies-on-tackling-stigmatisation/>

1.3 dRPC's Groundbreaking Research on Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in the North East

The Nigeria Reparations Study on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) was commissioned by the Global Survivors Fund (GSF) and carried out by the dRPC. This study focuses on the reparations needs of CRSV survivors in Nigeria and explores avenues for delivering reparations through judicial and administrative mechanisms. Conducted over one year, from September 2023 to December 2024 and launched in December 2025, the research adopted a mixed-methods approach. Key informants included 82 survivors, government stakeholders, civil society representatives, and community leaders. The qualitative phase constructed sampling frames for participant selection, utilizing Key Informant Interviews designed with input from survivors to enhance relevance. Research was focused on Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States, heavily impacted by the Boko Haram insurgency. Engagement also occurred at the national level in Abuja to gather policy perspectives on reparations. A total of 126 respondents participated, with interviews conducted in local languages. The study aimed to enhance the discourse on reparations and support the needs of CRSV survivors in Nigeria, contributing significantly to their healing and justice.

The full report is available at:

<https://drpcngr.org/reparation-priorities-for-survivors-of-conflict-related-sexual-violence-perpetrated-by-boko-haram-in-north-east-nigeria/>



Roundtable engagement with the Grand Mufti- His Eminence Sheikh Nazir Mohamed Ayyad in Cairo

2. Championing Behavioural Change through Peer-to-Peer Study Tour Learning Mechanism

Since 2003, the dRPC, working in collaboration with our institutional partners, has identified, trained, and provided mini-grants and technical support to over 162

leading MOLs from 12 states in Northern Nigeria to address misconceptions and communicate accurate messages on the Islamic perspective on several issues. Over a 2-week peer-to-peer learning study tour, the Nigerian MOLs meet with scholars to discuss Islamic women's rights and gender justice. The dRPC's peer-to-peer study tour model is unique and fosters collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the sharing of best practices, enhancing learning outcomes in an engaging way. The process allows the MOLs to come to self-realisation through these engagements. This peer-to-peer study tour process has been tested, validated and implemented over 21 years with support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation through the Institute of International Education, USAID/Nigeria, Management Sciences for Health, Grand Challenges Canada, and the Gates Foundation. Since 2025, the dRPC has continued its good work, engaging MOLs to catalyse them as behaviour-change agents. For the MOLs4GBV prevention project supported by the Ford Foundation, the dRPC, through the peer-to-peer learning process, focuses on the MOLs' role in GBV prevention, supporting them in changing the attitudes, beliefs, and practices of the faithful. In the last year of dRPC programming with MOLs alone, the activities and pronouncement of the scholars have created an enabling environment for the passage of gender-facing policies in states, for example, the Women's Economic Empowerment policy which now mainstreams gender-based violence in Kaduna and validated in Kano state, as well as the Practice Direction for Sharia Court Judges from Kano and Kaduna States on Islamic Perspective in Preventing Harm to Women and Girls. The MOLs have established and run more than 10 new radio programs on gender-based violence prevention, reaching over 10 million listeners, discussing the many forms of GBV and the Islamic position. MOLs have also conducted over 20 step-down trainings for over 500 of their apprentices, sharing learnings from the peer-to-peer study tours. The learnings have also been shared with over 50 Sharia court judges, who themselves adjudicate GBV cases. The MOLs have also lent their voices through Friday mosque prayers to hold over 50 lectures to educate the Muslim Ummah on Islam's perspective on GBV and harm to women and girls. 50 Female heads of Da'wah groups were trained on the Islamic perspective on GBV prevention in Kaduna and Kano State. The MOLs completing the peer-to-peer trainings have joined advocacy platforms to advocate to state governments like Niger state and the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs to provide a practice guide on how to treat survivors who have been abducted and returned to their families, some of whom may have been remarried off and returned with children without re-stigmatisation. Advocacy efforts extended to royal palaces and traditional councils across Northern Nigeria with advocacy visits to the Sultan of Sokoto, Emirs of Dutse, Kano, Suleja and

Zazzau. The MOLs have conducted advocacy visits to first-class Emirs in Northern Nigeria to share lessons learned from Egypt and gain support from the revered leaders in addressing the deeply entrenched practices that perpetuate violence against women and girls within our communities. The MOLs have worked to produce and translate their position paper on Islam's perspective on GBV into Hausa for other scholars in the region to use. The dRPC has positioned MOLs as gender champions to support climate change advocacy and how it affects women and girls. The MOLs are now also consulted by other development partners, government and NGOs to share their insights on women-related issues, such as Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Women's Economic Empowerment.

3. Agriculture and Climate Change

dRPC Partners AWITA to support Research on Cocoa and Climate Change

Women, Cocoa and Climate Change (Ondo & Oyo States): Nigeria's cocoa sector, central to rural livelihoods and export earnings is increasingly exposed to climate variability, pest outbreaks, and declining yields. These risks are acutely gendered. Women shoulder a disproportionate share of labour across cocoa production and post-harvest processing, yet face structural barriers to land, credit, extension services, and decision-making. By mid-2025, women cocoa farmers in southwest Nigeria were reporting sharp yield declines, rising input costs, and unfamiliar pest pressures, threatening household incomes and food security. Addressing climate risks in cocoa therefore required centring women's lived experiences and practical adaptation strategies.



Research team with Official at the OSMA&F



Women Cocoa Farmers -FGD Group 1

national research collaborators, combining community-level evidence with policy and market perspectives.

Building on these findings, dRPC undertook a policy-facing follow-up study with AWITA's Women in Cocoa Cluster on 25 November 2025, documenting women's perspectives on sector reform and climate stressors in the context of the proposed National Cocoa Management Board

Between 24–26 June 2025, dRPC led a multi-stakeholder situational analysis in Ondo State, convening focus group discussions with women cocoa farmers in Ile-Oluji/Okeigbo LGA, alongside consultations with the Ondo State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and a private cocoa processor (Johnvent Industry) in Akure. This work was delivered in partnership with the Association of Women in Trade and Agriculture (AWITA) and



Research Team with Mr. Seyi Kehinde, Company Sustainability Country Lead

(NCMB). In parallel, dRPC extended engagement to Oyo State, working with the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) and value-chain actors to ensure research insights aligned with agronomic realities and ongoing innovation efforts.

Across sites, women described escalating climate exposure irregular rainfall, pest infestations, declining chemical effectiveness and the compounding labour burdens these create. Despite constraints, women deploy adaptive practices: shade management, organic inputs (e.g., composted pods, neem-based mixtures), intercropping, collective labour, and careful post-harvest handling to protect quality. Yet these strategies demand time, cash, and knowledge that are unevenly available. Crucially, women reported limited awareness of sector reforms and weak inclusion in extension and input systems gaps that risk deepening inequality as climate pressures intensify.

Read more of our outputs here -

- development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC). (2025). *Environmental Conservation Practices in Ondo State*, dRPC Research Brief. Available at <https://drpcngr.org/resources/#>
- development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC). (2025a). "We Want to Be Part of It" *Rural Women's Perspectives on the Proposed National Cocoa Management Board (Establishment) Bill, 2025*, dRPC Publication. Abuja, Nigeria. Available at <https://drpcngr.org/resources/#>
- development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC). (2025b). *Women, Environment, and the Cocoa Economy in Southwest Nigeria: Sustainability Practices, Production Shifts, and Equity Imperatives*. dRPC Publication. Abuja, Nigeria. Available at <https://drpcngr.org/women-environment-and-the-cocoa-economy-in-southwest-nigeria/>



dRPC panel session on Climate Adaptation and Resilience at the NAS conference

dRPC hosts panel session on Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Nigeria at the 6th Nigeria Academy of Science Conference, Abuja,

21st and 22nd January 2025

The sixth edition of the Nigerian Academy of Science conference, themed "Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Nigeria," brought together key stakeholders to address pressing environmental challenges. A notable session, hosted by the dRPC, focused on "Gender and Intersectionality

Dimensions of Climate Change." During this panel, Mrs Vivian Njemanze, Deputy Clerk at the Federal House of Representatives and Technical Advisor at dRPC, emphasised the critical need for enhanced research on environmental issues to support government actions. She advocated for the development of legislative frameworks that would cultivate a democratic body of knowledge surrounding climate change. Highlighting the pivotal role women play in natural resource management, Njemanze pointed out their significant contributions to adaptive livelihood strategies amidst changing environmental conditions. She strongly recommended the integration of gender perspectives into both mitigation and adaptation initiatives. "Climate change actions must prioritize consultations with women," Njemanze stated. "By valuing their skills and knowledge, we can create better opportunities for improving health, education, and livelihoods. Women's issues, needs, and contributions should be seamlessly integrated into the

planning and execution phases of climate change policies and projects.” The conference continues to shed light on the intersection of gender and climate issues, advocating for inclusive approaches that recognize the essential role of women in achieving sustainable development.

Read more here:

- <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/768780-stakeholders-advocate-gender-sensitive-laws-policies-for-effective-climate-action.html>
- <https://punchng.com/stakeholders-advocate-gender-sensitive-laws-for-improved-climate-actions/>

4.dRPC's Formative Work for the Nutrition Space Leadership

The dRPC is currently supporting Sight and Life to landscape the MMS policy, fiscal, and product markets as it supports the government’s rollout and eventual scale-up.

In 2021, Nigeria's Honourable Minister of Health issued a Ministerial Order approving the use of Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS) during pregnancy, effectively permitting a transition from Iron-Folic Acid Supplementation (IFAS) to MMS as the standard for antenatal care. This decision, embedded in the updated 2021 National Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Micronutrient Deficiencies in Nigeria, was grounded in the World Health Organisation's 2020 recommendations on antenatal care. Under the current administration, which assumed office in 2023, the government has demonstrated a clear practice of advancing MMS through targeted transition actions absent a transition plan. In January 2024, the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Welfare reaffirmed the transition from IFAS to MMS for pregnant women. MMS has been included in the National Essential Medicines List, enabling public procurement and aligning with cost-effectiveness standards. By the 17th of December 2025, during the 2025 Biennial National Micronutrient Conference, the government launched further policy thrusts, including its Roadmap for Scaling MMS (2025–2029), alongside the Micronutrient Supplementation Landscape Analysis Report and the Nutrition in Emergencies Strategy. The National Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition also incorporates MMS, while investments in local manufacturing, supported by the Presidential Initiative for Unlocking the Healthcare Value Chain, aim to ensure sustainable supply. Since 2024, the government has consistently provided a budget line for MMS and has allocated approximately N120 million for 2026.

Maternal Nutrition Funding (₦)

YEAR	NUTRITION FUNDING	MATERNAL NUTRITION FUNDING	MMS
2026	149,325,807,492	350,337,639	120,835,917
2025	170,416,892,422	1,421,040,657	172,622,738
2024	127,249,722,346	62,688,897	20,000,000
2023	26,418,894,657	24,615,279,452	-
2022	37,400,673,490	32,926,460,904	-
2021	20,071,186,437	16,743,763,451	-

Source: FGN Approved 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and Proposed 2026 Budget Documents

At the sub-national level, the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has issued guidance to states. This push seeks to reduce the levels of anaemia in pregnancy; according to the 2023/24 National Demographic Health Survey, it is at 50%.



Beneficiaries at the NSI Grant award ceremony in dRPC Office Abuja

5. dRPC's CSO Capacity Strengthening in the Context of Aid Retreat through the NGO Support Initiative (NSI)

The year 2025 marked a pivotal chapter for Nigeria's civil society landscape, a story of resilience forged in the wake of an unexpected crisis. Following the abrupt withdrawal of USAID funding in 2024, a severe funding shock rippled through the nation, destabilizing community

services and threatening the very existence of countless local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

In response, dRPC launched the **NGO Support Initiative (NSI)** – a critical, rapid response mechanism designed to be a lifeline with kind support from Ford Foundation. The NSI's mission was clear: to facilitate the immediate restoration of essential community activities, rebuild organizational stability, and sustain critical services.

From July to September 2025, the NSI strategically deployed crucial, flexible grants of ~~N5~~ **₦85 million** each, totalling **₦85 million** to 17 local, women-focused, and community-based organisations across all six geopolitical zones. While this capital represented only a fraction of the total funding lost, its tactical deployment yielded immediate and far-reaching impact.

The NSI partners reached **6,555 beneficiaries** in just three months, with women making up the majority at 65.4% (4,291 individuals). The impact was multi-sectoral, addressing the most pressing needs: 2,490 beneficiaries were supported through Gender Equality and GBV Prevention programmes; 2,018 accessed vital Women's Health services; and others benefited from Education, Economic Empowerment, and Climate resilience projects. The efforts of organisations like Unique Royal Sisters, Resonat Spei Humanitarian Hub, GEPaDC, and collectively delivering over two-thirds of the total reach.



Beneficiaries of the NSI grantee (VIWADA) in Benue state after a cooperative meeting.

Yet, the NSI was about more than just money. Its cornerstone was a robust capacity-strengthening and mentorship model. Eight (8) experienced professionals, drawn from dRPC's long-established programmes, provided targeted technical support to grantees. This mentorship focused on strengthening core functions, from Financial Management and Accountability to Procurement Integrity, Advocacy Strategy, and Programme Implementation. This structured guidance ensured that the grantees not only survived the immediate crisis but emerged stronger, with enhanced accountability systems, better reporting quality, and the capacity for long-term, evidence-based programming.

Beyond the metrics, the NSI played a profound role in restoring morale and trust. For many grantees, the support was the "lifeline" that allowed them to return to communities, resume paused activities, and rebuild credibility. It mitigated the devastating risk of job loss, restored staff confidence, and strengthened critical partnerships with government agencies and



NSI Mentor, Ruth Agboh with Resonat Spei team in Adamawa state during implementation

community structures. The NGO Support Initiative successfully demonstrated the transformative power of blending rapid, flexible funding with structured technical support in a crisis setting. By achieving simultaneous programmatic impact and deep institutional strengthening, the NSI model stands as a high-leverage blueprint for future donor engagement, underscoring the vital importance of investing directly in the grassroots organisations that are the backbone of Nigeria's gender equality, health, and resilience efforts.

For More Details, visit: <https://drpcngr.org/ngo-support-initiative/>

6. GIZ Partners with dRPC on Capacity Strengthening for Government Officials and the Media in the North-East

GIZ- dRPC strengthens the capacities of Female Elected and Appointed Officials on gender responsiveness, budgeting, and Advocacy

For 14 days, the German Society for International Cooperation, GIZ and the development Research and Projects Centre, dRPC organised capacity building workshops for Borno and Adamawa States female elected and appointed politicians and Media practitioners on good governance, gender-responsive budgeting, gender advocacy, and gender responsive reporting. The workshop series, which started in Abuja for female politicians, CSOs, Media, and traditional rulers on the 14th and 16th of October 2025, culminated on the 13th of December 2025 in Gombe state.



Female elected and appointed politicians from Adamawa state at a 4-day workshop in Gombe on 8th to 13th December 2025



Female LG chairpersons, Vice, and Budget Officers from Adamawa state in a group exercise at the workshop in Gombe

Over 120 female politicians, especially elected local government chairpersons, their deputies, budget officers, traditional rulers, senior government officials, CSOs, and media practitioners, attended the various series of workshops that were aimed to enhance the participants' knowledge on gender responsive budgeting, governance, policy formulation, and gender responsive reporting in Borno and Adamawa states. The post-workshop evaluation demonstrated significant improvements in

participants' knowledge and skills related to gender-responsive governance and concepts. Initially, familiarity varied, with participants rating their understanding of Gender Responsive Budgeting highest. At the workshop's onset, 50% rated their knowledge as excellent, while self-

assessments for other concepts such as evidence-based advocacy and gender neutrality showed moderate levels of understanding.

By the end of the workshop, participants reported marked advancements in their knowledge across all areas, notably with 66.7% rating their Gender Responsive Budgeting knowledge as excellent. Knowledge of evidence-based advocacy also increased, with 40.5% rating themselves as excellent.

Understanding of female political actors improved, and while knowledge of lobbying remained comparatively weaker, improvements were noted. In terms of skills, initial assessments indicated moderate capabilities in generating data for advocacy and gender-responsive budgeting. Post-workshop evaluations revealed substantial improvements, particularly in skills for gender-responsive budgeting, where 54.8% rated their skills as excellent. Skills for working inclusively with female political actors also saw significant gains, showcasing the workshop's effectiveness in practical engagement strategies.

Participants identified structural and political barriers as significant obstacles to women's political participation, with concerns about the strategic capacity of women being the most prominent at the workshop's outset.

While significant progress was also recorded post-training as media practitioners, who attended the workshops, showed a significant increase in their knowledge on gender responsive reporting, and gender responsive governance in both Adamawa and Borno states. These findings highlight the need for continued focus on strengthening women's roles in governance through targeted training and support.



Media Practitioners from Borno state at the 2-day workshop on gender responsive reporting in Maiduguri on 15th and 16th of October 2025



Media Practitioners at the workshop on gender responsive reporting in Maiduguri on the 16th of October 2025

7. The dRPC as a Think Tank - Thought Leadership

In 2025, the dRPC generated a total of thirty-one (31) knowledge products that encapsulate insights and findings across several thematic areas. We highlight a selection below.





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29. Assessing GBV Prevalence and Public Financing in Nigeria: Evidence from NDHS and 2025 Budget Data
30. Nigeria's Education Budget in 2025
31. Girls' Education Financing in Nigeria's 2025 Budgets Federal-State Patterns, Visibility, and Gaps

Find these products also on our website.

7.1 Nigeria's 2023/24 NDHS and the Maternal Mortality Data Gap

For nearly two decades, the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) has served as the definitive scorecard for the nation's reproductive health. The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, was a cornerstone of the 2008, 2013, and 2018 reports. However, the release of the 2023/24 NDHS Key Indicators Report has raised technical concerns. For the first time in years, the MMR is conspicuously absent. The previous surveys provided the evidence base for Nigeria's maternal health interventions. In 2008, the MMR stood at 545, rising to 576 in 2013, and remaining stagnant at 512 in 2018. While these figures were often contested by global estimates (with the WHO suggesting figures as high as 1,047 in 2023), they provided a consistent, longitudinal benchmark for our national domestic policy. While the 2023/24 report highlights improvements in skilled birth attendance (45.7%) and antenatal care (52.4%), the lack of MMR creates a blind spot. Without a mortality ratio, we can measure processes (how many women saw a health professional) but not outcomes (how many women survived the pregnancy). The Nigerian government proactively sought to fill this void during the 2025 Joint Annual Review (JAR). However, comparing these two scorecards did not provide clarity. While the NDHS provides a population-based snapshot, the 2025 JAR functions as a clinical and administrative audit. The 2025 JAR reported a 17% reduction in maternal deaths in 172 high-burden LGAs, attributed to the Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Initiative (MAMI). The challenge for data observers and policymakers lies in the denominator problem. The JAR's 17% reduction is based largely on facility-based data (deaths occurring in health facilities). However, with only 45.7% of women delivering in facilities (per NDHS), nearly half of all births and potentially the most at-risk deaths remain outside JAR's primary lens. This important difference matters because Nigeria still accounts for 14% of global maternal deaths, and the missing MMR data can potentially obscure actuarial planning, budgeting and accountability.

7.2 Delays with National Datasets

Persistent delays in the availability of national and humanitarian datasets continue to constrain timely policy and response planning in Nigeria. Core national surveys exhibit particularly long lags: the National Living Standards Survey (NLSS 2023) was released in August 2025, reflecting a delay of approximately 12–32 months after data collection, while the 2024 Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) was only launched in October 2025, about 10–12 months post-fieldwork. Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) estimates typically lag by around one year, with the latest report (2022) relying on 2021/22 data. Humanitarian datasets are more frequent but still delayed, with the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) released 6–9 months after data consolidation, food security and nutrition analyses delayed by 4–6 months, and IDP and protection dashboards reflecting 1–3 month reporting gaps. Administrative systems such as the National Direct Benefit Transfer Dashboard provide more current information but remain inconsistently updated, requiring validation against audits and ministry records.

The NBS corruption surveys are conducted at multi-year intervals (2016, 2019, and 2023), leaving a four-year gap with no annual or interim data to track short-term changes in governance, service delivery, or reform impacts. In addition, the most recent survey reflects experiences from October–November 2023 but was published in July 2024, meaning that policy analysis and programming in 2024–2025 relied on data that was already 8–20 months out of date in a rapidly shifting economic and political context. key gaps remain: the report does not

capture sub-state (LGA/community-level) variations or link corruption experiences to service delivery outcomes, budget execution, or sectoral performance, limiting its operational use for targeted reforms.

Based on dRPC's programme, evaluation, and policy engagement work in 2025, these cumulative delays were observed to materially affect poverty diagnostics, crisis targeting, transparency and accountability, as policy debates and humanitarian planning routinely relied on datasets that no longer reflected rapidly changing conditions driven by inflation, displacement, flooding, and insecurity, underscoring the need for faster release cycles, strengthened administrative data, and routine triangulation with rapid assessments.

8. dRPC's Work with Governments

8.1 Collaborations with the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS)

The National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) is Nigeria's apex policy think tank within the executive with supervision from the office of the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The dRPC has been in a sustained partnership with the National Institute since 2006. The engagement with NIPSS creates champions and partnerships within the executive who will be receptive to CSO advocacy advancements to reform policy agenda.

In March 2025, NIPSS collaborated with the dRPC to conduct a six-month crisis-trajectory research project in Benue and Borno states. This process applied the Delphi methodology to project future crises in these states.

On 7 July 2025, in partnership with NIPSS and under the umbrella of the BASIC research programme, dRPC co-convoked the webinar *"2025 Benue Crisis: Insights to Action"*, bringing together more than 60 policymakers, security practitioners, researchers, and civil society leaders including Prof. Umar S. Usman (Nasarawa State University), Dr. Joseph Ochogwu (Director General, IPCR Abuja), Ene Obi (former Country Director, ActionAid Nigeria), Dr. Iorwakwagh Apera (dRPC Consultant), Dr. Julie Sanda (Plateau State Peacebuilding Agency), and Dr. Henry Mang (dRPC Consultant). The session examined crisis trajectories in Benue State, unpacking drivers of conflict, peacebuilding prospects, and actionable policy options, with dRPC presenting evidence on local resilience and governance gaps; key takeaways underscored the necessity of integrated state-community security frameworks, strengthened early warning systems, and accountability mechanisms that elevate citizen voices in crisis-affected areas. These findings were presented to the Benue state government. Other findings were presented to the Borno and Plateau state governments as early warning signal reports on crises in the region.



The dRPC is also working with NIPSS to support the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning on its Official Development Assistance policy.



dRPC Team met with Former Minister of MHA&PR to present research

8.2 Support for the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs

Since 2025, the dRPC has been supporting the Ministry for Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction as a go-to data partner in a period of heightened uncertainty and reform. Its work speaks directly to priorities around crisis response, equity, localisation, and evidence-informed policy change. At a time when aid is under pressure and governments are seeking

more effective, accountable, and adaptive social protection systems, dRPC offers deep contextual knowledge, strong government access, and a proven ability to shape national conversations. On 29 May 2025, dRPC held a policy engagement meeting with the Honourable Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction, Prof. Nentawe Yilwada, to discuss evidence from dRPC's poverty and social protection research and its relevance for strengthening the design and delivery of federally funded humanitarian and poverty-reduction programmes. The discussion focused on the use of public and donor resources, household data systems, delivery mechanisms, and how dRPC's research can support improved targeting, implementation, and accountability within national humanitarian interventions. On 29 May 2025, dRPC convened a capacity-building engagement for Data Desk Officers of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction, funded through dRPC's ongoing research and policy support work, to strengthen evidence use and communication in poverty and humanitarian programming. The training focused on effective and responsive communication of administrative and poverty data, including translating data into policy-relevant narratives, improving data credibility, and supporting informed decision-making within the Ministry's social protection and humanitarian intervention.



dRPC strengthens the capacity of Data Desk Officers of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction



dRPC presents office secretariat equipment to the Hon Dr Tanko Sununu, the Hon Minister of State FMBEP, accompanied by the Permanent Secretary

The dRPC also donated office equipment (printers, toner, and stationery) to the ministry to establish a functional secretariat at the Ministry to enhance its operations and functionality.

8.3 Work with the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs Presidential High-Level Advisory Council (P-HLAC)

The dRPC's Executive Director, Judith-Ann Walker, PhD, is a member of the Presidential High-Level Advisory Council (P-HLAC), which was reconvened on February 9, 2025, by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development at the Transcorp Hilton, Abuja. At that meeting, the Honourable Minister, Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, emphasized the need for coordinated national action to advance gender equality and empower women and girls in Nigeria. The Minister introduced a Strategic Roadmap focusing on nine key programs under the Renewed Hope Social Impact Intervention, requiring an estimated ₦1.6 trillion in funding over five years. The P-HLAC, established in December 2022, will operate through four thematic subcommittees: Women's Economic Empowerment, Health, Rights and Safety, and Political Leadership. The success of the Council will be measured by its impact on lives and state budgets.

8.4 Collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning

The dRPC has been supporting the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning since 2023. It supported the launch and pilot of the women's economic empowerment policy in 2023 and subsequently the national monitoring and evaluation policy. On the 11th of February 2025, the dRPC supported the Ministry to sensitize other ministries on the national monitoring and evaluation policy.



dRPC supports the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning to host the M&E policy sensitization meeting

In 2025, the dRPC supported the Official Development Assistance (ODA). Under the succeeding administration, efforts to advance the policy resumed in 2022, culminating in its presentation to the NEC in 2023. Deliberations at NEC highlighted the need for additional refinements to better incorporate emerging expectations from the states particularly those at the sub-national level. This informed the current review process, which commenced in 2024 and is being supported by the dRPC as part of the policy finalization effort.

The renewed ODA Policy 2025 draws on the outcomes of a series of structured, dRPC-convened policy review engagements undertaken to support the finalisation of the policy. These included a National ODA Policy Review Workshop held on 17 October 2025 and a Review and Consensus Meeting convened on 31 October 2025, both hosted at the dRPC office in Abuja. The two engagements brought together senior representatives of the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, including the Acting Permanent Secretary and Directors, officials from the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Budget Office of the Federation, the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation, the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), and the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA). The process also benefitted from the direct leadership of the dRPC Board Chair, who is the Director-General of the NIIA, alongside contributions from academia, civil society policy experts, and development practitioners. The

engagements provided high-level platforms for structured dialogue, technical review, and consensus-building on Nigeria's evolving development cooperation priorities.



dRPC supports Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning to host ODA policy review meeting.

The review process adopted a participatory and evidence-driven methodology, combining plenary presentations, syndicate group discussions, comparative analysis of international ODA policy frameworks, and structured technical reviews. It explicitly responded to lessons learned from earlier coordination frameworks, including gaps in institutional arrangements, alignment with national systems, results management, risk

mitigation, and transparency practices. Recommendations emerging from the two engagements were systematically synthesised and translated into concrete policy provisions, ensuring that the revised ODA Policy is robust, inclusive, nationally grounded, and well-positioned to guide effective development cooperation.

8.5 Collaboration with the National Council on Education in Ondo State

Between 4–6 November 2025, during the National Council on Education (NCE) meeting held in Akure, Ondo State, dRPC convened a focused policy engagement alongside the Council, bringing together senior federal and state education officials and leading education-focused civil society organisations. The



Focussed Group Discussion Participants

engagement drew on dRPC's consultative work with NGOs actively addressing out-of-school children and girls' education, including the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN), Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA), Kids and Teens Resource Centre (KTRC), the Child Protection Network (CPN), and the YemSmith Initiative for Community Development.

dRPC facilitated structured discussions that linked frontline NGO experience with policy priorities, with emphasis on enrolment barriers, retention challenges, financing constraints, and the implementation of gender-responsive education policies at state and local levels. The engagement centred on five critical policy questions: the role of NGOs in reducing high rates of out-of-school children; evidence on strategies and projects that are working; identification of high-performing NGOs; options for sustaining civil society education interventions amid declining donor funding; and an assessment of the adequacy of Nigeria's policy focus on girls' education. dRPC facilitated evidence-informed discussion that connected NGO field experience with the policy responsibilities of state and federal education authorities.

9. High-level Conferences, Convenings, and Forums hosted by the dRPC



dRPC panel at the 64th NES conference

9.1 dRPC hosts panel at the 64th Nigerian Economic Society of Nigeria

The panel discussion on “Rethinking Linkages Between Social Protection in Crisis and Economic Transformation” was held on 11 September 2025 at the 64th Annual Conference of the Nigerian Economic Society (NES) at the NAF Conference Centre, Abuja, Nigeria’s premier economic policy forum convened annually by the Nigerian Economic Society. The side panel was organised by dRPC as part of the dissemination

of findings from the FCDO-funded Better Assistance in Crisis (BASIC) Research Programme, coordinated globally by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) through the Chronic Poverty Advisory Network (CPAN). The session was attended by approximately 37 participants and featured high-level panellists including Dr. Kabiru Abdullahi (Senior Special Adviser, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation), Professor Musa Emmanuel Umar (Director of Research, NIPSS), Dr. Stanley Ilechukwu (Executive Director, SSDO), Dr. Henry Mang (National Open University of Nigeria), and Hajia Hafsat Adamu Gumel (Research Consultant, Jigawa State), alongside academics, policymakers, and development practitioners .

dRPC played a leadership and convening role in the panel. The session was moderated by Dr. Judith-Ann Walker, Executive Director of dRPC, and drew directly on evidence from the FCDO-funded Better Assistance in Crisis (BASIC) Research Programme (2020–2025) implemented in Nigeria by dRPC in partnership with IDS and CPAN. dRPC researchers presented findings from longitudinal life-history studies across six states and a Delphi-based crisis trajectory study conducted with NIPSS, positioning dRPC as a bridge between empirical research and national economic policy dialogue. Key takeaways from the discussion included the need to move social protection beyond short-term consumption smoothing; address elite capture and intra-household gender dynamics; strengthen federal-state coordination using the National Social Register; and adopt proactive, multidisciplinary approaches that link social protection to viable economic escape pathways.



Participants at the workshop

9.2 dRPC hosts the CPAN BASIC-DEEP End-of-Project Dissemination Workshop (Nigeria)

The End-of-Project Dissemination Workshop of the BASIC (Better Assistance in Crises) and DEEP (Data and Evidence to End Extreme Poverty) Programmes was held on 30 October 2025 at Hawthorn Suites, Abuja, and was convened by the development Research and

Projects Centre (dRPC) in partnership with the Chronic Poverty Advisory Network (CPAN) at IDS (UK), the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), and the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA). The workshop brought together 65 participants (44 men, 21 women), including senior federal and state policymakers, development partners, academics, and civil society leaders. High-level personalities engaged included representatives of the Office of the Vice President of Nigeria, the Nigeria Governors' Forum, federal ministries responsible for Budget and Economic Planning, Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction, Health and Social Welfare, and Women Affairs, as well as senior representatives of FCDO, the World Bank, UNICEF, GIZ, and commissioners and directors from multiple state governments. Key takeaways included the need to move beyond short-term cash responses toward adaptive, shock-responsive social protection systems; strengthen community-based and conflict-sensitive targeting; adopt hybrid digital and in-person delivery models to avoid exclusion of women, older persons, and rural populations; improve coordination across federal and state institutions; and embed evidence directly into planning instruments such as the forthcoming National Development Plan (2026–2030).

9.3 dRPC hosts ALIGN Research Dissemination on Digital Threats to Women in Politics (TF-GBV) – 2025

The one-day national research dissemination on "Digital Threats to Women in Politics in Nigeria" was held on Friday, 28 November 2025 at the Abuja Continental Hotel, jointly convened by the Development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC) and ALIGN (ODI). The



High-level participants at the launch of the ALIGN TF-GBV report

forum brought together 63 participants (31 men and 32 women) from government ministries and agencies, political parties, civil society organisations, academia, development partners, and the media. High-level personalities included Dr. Salma Anas Ibrahim (Special Adviser to the President on Health and dRPC Board Member), Jan Michalko (ODI-ALIGN), Prof. Musa Umar, mni (Acting Director of Research, NIPSS), Mr. Yusuf Dantalle (Chairman, IPAC), representatives of INEC, National Population Commission, leaders of political party women's wings, and senior journalists and gender scholars. The forum examined the growing problem of technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TF-GBV) as a structural barrier to women's political participation, accountability within political parties, and democratic integrity in Nigeria .

Key takeaways included the recognition of TF-GBV as a deliberate political tool rather than isolated online misconduct; the identification of political parties as the weakest institutional link in addressing digital abuse; the need for enforceable party-level sanctions and reporting mechanisms; stronger civil society digital monitoring coalitions; and the urgent use of NDHS data to design targeted interventions for girls and young women most exposed to online harm.



Panellists hold up copies of the *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in North-East Nigeria* report

9.4 dRPC supports Global Survivors Fund to host a Survivor-Led Research on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in North-East Nigeria

On 9 December 2025, stakeholders convened in Abuja for the official launch of *Reparation Priorities for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Perpetrated by Boko Haram in*

North-East Nigeria. The event brought together survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, senior government representatives, development partners, civil society organisations, researchers, and the media to centre survivor voices within national conversations on justice, healing, and recovery in the North-East. The launch was opened by Dr Salma Anas-Ibrahim, Special Adviser to the Minister on Health and a member of dRPC's Board, who situated the study within more than a decade of dRPC-led research on conflict-related sexual violence in Northeast Nigeria, including earlier work on conjugal slavery in war. The study forms part of the Global Reparations Study commissioned in 2023 by the Global Survivors Fund, and was designed using a survivor-centred, co-creation methodology.

dRPC played a research leadership and convening role, leading the Nigeria component of the Global Reparations Study and designing the process to position survivors not only as respondents but as narrators and analysts of their own experiences. The research, conducted in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States and Abuja, drew on in-depth interviews with 82 women survivors aged 18–75, documenting lived experiences of sexual violence and survivors' priorities for reparations. Key takeaways from the engagement included the need for context-specific, survivor-defined reparations frameworks, stronger national and state-level policy commitments, and sustained institutional accountability beyond symbolic recognition

10. dRPC's leadership in Poverty and Social Protection Research

Nigeria's poverty landscape is increasingly defined by polycrisis—the intersection of inflationary shocks, climate stress, conflict and displacement, health emergencies, and macroeconomic adjustment. These pressures do not operate as isolated events; they interact over time to shape household trajectories, deepen vulnerability, and constrain pathways out of poverty. In this context, poverty is no longer best understood as a static condition measurable at a single point in time, but as a dynamic process, marked by downward and upward movements influenced by risk exposure, coping strategies, and access to effective social assistance. This evolving reality has exposed the limits of short-term, consumption-focused interventions and

intensified national debate on how social protection systems can respond to crisis while supporting longer-term economic engagement, equity, and resilience.

dRPC has emerged as a leading Nigerian institution shaping this debate, combining rigorous research, policy engagement, and convening power. As Nigeria's anchor institution within the Chronic Poverty Advisory Network (CPAN) under the FCDO-funded BASIC programme, dRPC has played a central role in advancing poverty dynamics research that goes beyond headcount measures to examine lived experiences, shock trajectories, and decision-making under constraint. Through longitudinal qualitative research, political economy analysis, and integration of national datasets such as the NLSS and administrative social protection data, dRPC has generated evidence on how households navigate intersecting crises and how social assistance interacts with labour, assets, gender norms, and informal institutions. This work has positioned dRPC at the forefront of debates on shock-responsive social protection, "growth from below," and the conditions under which social assistance can support—not undermine—longer-term poverty reduction.



Participants at the CPAN-BASIC Research Dissemination

Beyond knowledge production, dRPC has exercised significant convening and agenda-setting influence. It has brought together federal ministries, state governments, development partners, and civil society actors through high-level policy dialogues, dissemination workshops, and targeted briefings. These engagements—ranging from national economic forums to direct engagement with the Ministry of

Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction—have created spaces where evidence is interrogated alongside policy constraints, implementation realities, and political incentives. dRPC's ability to translate complex research into accessible policy narratives has made it a trusted interlocutor for government actors grappling with reform questions around targeting, financing, delivery systems, and coordination across federal and state levels.

The following are the Poverty and Social Protection knowledge products in 2025:

- Diwakar, V.; Walker, J.-A.; Turnwait, M.; Eichsteller, M. and Adeniran, A.P. (2025) 'Poverty Dynamics and Social Assistance Amidst Intersecting Crises in Nigeria', BASIC Research Working Paper 35, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: 10.19088/BASIC.2025.004
- Abdulrasaq, K.; Walker, J.-A.; Ukpai, S. and Diwakar, V. (2025) 'Political Perspectives of Social Assistance Amidst Economic Shocks in Nigeria', BASIC Research Briefing 7, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: 10.19088/IDS.2025.043
- Abdulrasaq, K. and Shepherd, A. (2025) 'Growth from Below: Poverty Reduction beyond Social Protection in Nigeria', BASIC Research Policy Briefing 11, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: 10.19088/BASIC.2025.027
- Shepherd, A. et al. (2025) 'Social Assistance and Poverty Reduction Amidst Multiple Crises', BASIC Research Policy Briefing 9, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: 10.19088/BASIC.2025.017
- Walker, J.-N, Abdulrasaq, K, and Eichsteller, M. (2025) 'Poverty Dynamics and Social Protection Amidst Complex Crises in Akwa Ibom', BASIC Research Briefing, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/poverty-dynamics-and-social-protection-amidst-complex-crises-in-akwa-ibom-state/>
- Walker, J.-N, Abdulrasaq, K, and Eichsteller, M. (2025) 'Poverty Dynamics and Social Protection Amidst Complex Crises in Anambra', BASIC Research Briefing, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/poverty-dynamics-and-social-protection-amidst-complex-crises-in-anambra-state/>
- Walker, J.-N, Abdulrasaq, K, and Eichsteller, M. (2025) 'Poverty Dynamics and Social Protection Amidst Complex Crises in Benue', BASIC Research Briefing, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/poverty-dynamics-and-social-protection-amidst-complex-crises-in-benue-state/>
- Walker, J.-N, Abdulrasaq, K, and Eichsteller, M. (2025) 'Poverty Dynamics and Social Protection Amidst Complex Crises in Ekiti', BASIC Research Briefing, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/poverty-dynamics-and-social-protection-amidst-complex-crises-in-ekiti-state/>
- Walker, J.-N, Abdulrasaq, K, and Eichsteller, M. (2025) 'Poverty Dynamics and Social Protection Amidst Complex Crises in Borno', BASIC Research Briefing, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/poverty-dynamics-and-social-protection-amidst-complex-crises-in-borno-state/>
- Walker, J.-N, Abdulrasaq, K, and Eichsteller, M. (2025) 'Poverty Dynamics and Social Protection Amidst Complex Crises in Jigawa', BASIC Research Issue Brief, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/poverty-dynamics-and-social-protection-amidst-complex-crises-in-jigawa-state/>
- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) 'Stakeholders' Perspective on Intersecting Crises and Resilience in Benue: A Decade of Conflict, Displacement, and Response', BASIC Research Issue Brief, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/stakeholders-perspective-on-intersecting-crises-and-resilience-in-benue-state/>
- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) 'Stakeholders' Perspective on Intersecting Crises and Resilience in Borno: A Decade of Conflict, Displacement, and Response', BASIC Research Issue Brief, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/stakeholders-perspective-on-intersecting-crises-and-resilience-in-borno-state/>
- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) 'Household Vulnerability, Coping and Social Assistance: Evidence from the Nigerian Living Standard Survey, 2023', dRPC Research Brief, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/household-vulnerability-coping-and-social-assistance-in-nigeria/>
- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) 'Donor Grants and Loans for Social Assistance (SA) and Social Protection (SP) in Nigeria, 2023–2026', dRPC Issue Brief, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/donor-grants-and-loans-for-social-assistance-sa-and-social-protection-sp-in-nigeria-2023-2026/>
- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) 'Nigeria's 2025 Budget Analysis: Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation Strategies for Inclusion', dRPC Research Brief, Available at

<https://drpcngr.org/nigerias-2025-budget-analysis-social-protection-and-poverty-alleviation-strategies-for-inclusive-growth/>

- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) 'Multidimensional Poverty and Social Assistance in Nigeria', dRPC Factsheet, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/multidimensional-poverty-and-social-protection-assistance-in-nigeria/>
- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) 'Gender Responsive Budgeting and Federal Government of Nigeria 2025 Budget', dRPC Research Brief, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/gender-responsive-budgeting-and-federal-government-of-nigeria-2025-budget-a-critical-analysis-of-women-economic-empowerment-budgetary-provisions/>
- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) 'Strengthening Nutrition Financing in Nigeria for Vulnerable Groups: A Multisectoral Analysis of the 2025 Federal Budget and State-Level Commitments', dRPC Research Brief, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/strengthening-nutrition-financing-in-nigeria-for-vulnerable-groups-a-multisectoral-analysis-of-the-2025-federal-budget-and-state-level-commitments/>
- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) 'Understanding the Nigeria 2025 Proposed Budget: The Healthcare Sector in Focus', dRPC Issue Brief, Available at https://drpcngr-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/a_kareem_drpcngr_org/1QDKz074nNmF0b1HTGoSZyb5ASm0taCfsDWmB3BhvUz4s00?e=uhKqtG
- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) 'Analysis of the Federal and the State Ministry of Women Affairs 2025 Approved Budget Estimates', dRPC Research Brief, Available at https://drpcngr-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/a_kareem_drpcngr_org/1QA3WJo_fmhvQKrfiLUWvx0aAXq-kB3clnILFBG1U1mzBS0?e=feTN6U

11. Capacity Strengthening of Health Professional Associations

Between 27th and 28th of January 2025, dRPC facilitated a 2-day capacity-building workshop for the Executive Council of the Nutrition Society of Nigeria (NSN), funded through dRPC's nutrition leadership support initiatives, to strengthen



2025 EXCOs of the Nutrition Society of Nigeria with PAS facilitators

the leadership, governance, and advocacy capacities of NSN leaders in advancing nutrition policy and practice. The dRPC brought together a training team of subject experts on CSO organizational and technical capacity strengthening to step-down the expertise gained over 9-years of training and mentoring under the Partnership for Advancing Child and Family Health (PAS) Program, 2015-2023. The PAS program was implemented by the dRPC and was supported by the Gates Foundation. The training team of Executive Directors; Program and Finance Managers of PAS supported Health Professional Associations, took the NSN EXCO through various topics, including:- Strategic Planning; Branding and Marketing; Analysis of the Proposed 2025 Budget and role of Professional Associations as Advocates; Mainstreaming Gender in Nutrition; and CAC Compliance, Accountability, Fiduciary Responsibility and Financial Leadership.

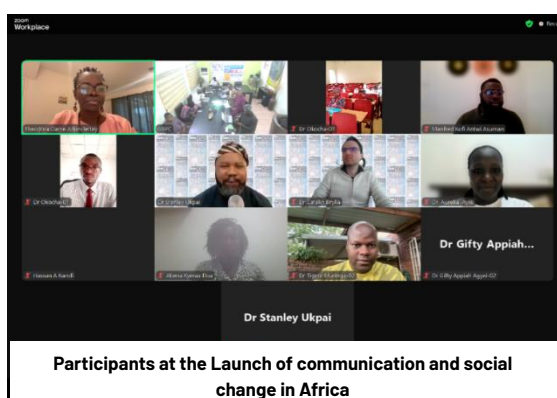
Below are some of the knowledge produced on related nutrition sector.

- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) 'Strengthening Nutrition Financing in Nigeria for Vulnerable Groups: A Multisectoral Analysis of the 2025 Federal Budget and State-Level Commitments', dRPC Research Brief, Available at <https://drpcngr.org/strengthening-nutrition-financing-in-nigeria-for-vulnerable-groups-a-multisectoral-analysis-of-the-2025-federal-budget-and-state-level-commitments/>
- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) Maternal Nutrition Financing at the National Level Budgetary and Program Mapping of Federal Health Allocations and Releases for the 2025 Fiscal Year. dRPC Research Brief,
- development Research and Projects Centre (2025) Improving Maternal Nutrition Outcomes in Nigeria: State Analysis of Financing, Service Delivery, and Micronutrient Supply Chains', dRPC Research Brief.

Read more – [A Communique issued At The End of A 2-Day Training Workshop For The Executive Council Of The Nutrition Society Of Nigeria](#)

12. dRPC's Sectoral leadership role in Health; Digital Rights; Girls' Education; Women's Rights to Political Participation; Women's Economic Empowerment Rights

In 2025, the dRPC played a pivotal role in shaping **health** discussions and research in Nigeria through a series of impactful events and presentations. On January 17th, dRPC hosted a panel session at the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria conference, focusing on the critical issues of Nigerian women's health and the effects of economic and environmental stressors. This session was a significant step in addressing the unique health challenges faced by women in the country.



A notable highlight of the year was the book launch on communication and social change in Africa, held on March 21st, where dRPC contributed a chapter reflecting on the Gates Foundation-supported PACFAH and PAS projects. This event featuring 120 participants from Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Canada and beyond underscored the importance of effective communication strategies in health initiatives.

The dRPC was invited to speak on civil society accountability at the Reimagining the future of Health Financing Nigeria, organized by the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. On April 8th, dRPC hosted a validation meeting in Kano State to discuss zero-dose research findings with SERICC and local government officials, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions in health services. This was



dRPC panel at the Reimagining the future of Health Financing Nigeria

followed by a presentation on the implications of aid cuts at the Public Health Wales learning forum on April 16th, which shed light on the challenges posed to health funding. In July, dRPC hosted a panel session at the Inaugural Africa Primary Health Care Forum to advocate for improved health systems across the continent.



Presentation of the dRPC research at ICOPH, Bangkok, Thailand

Later in the year, dRPC presented key research findings on zero-dose children in Kano state at the ICOPH International Public Health Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, in August, contributing valuable insights to the global public health discourse. In February, we convened another panel at the Population Association of Nigeria Conference, further establishing its presence in collaborative health initiatives.

Finally, from August 31st to September 4th, dRPC played a crucial role at the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria's biennial scientific conference in Kaduna, contributing to ongoing dialogues on women's health and well-being. The dRPC supported its NSI partners to reach 2018 beneficiaries, Headfort Foundation, Unique Royal Sisters and FOMWAN were hosted health behind bars outreaches targeting female inmates, HIV testing in key population and maternal health. Throughout these events, dRPC has demonstrated its commitment to enhancing health outcomes in Nigeria, fostering collaboration, and advocating for vulnerable populations.



Unique Royal Sisters through outreach providing HIV testing services to key populations



Rising Hope Girls' Educational Foundation provides 170 girls with access to digital infrastructure in Dutse Alhaji



Rising Hope Girls' Educational Foundation with teachers to educate them on digital infrastructure



Women leaders of Political parties listen to findings on TF-GBV

In the **Digital Rights Space**, the dRPC produced the most influential and informed piece on technology-facilitated gender-based violence and women in politics. Providing data on TF-GBV and its implications for women's political participation. The dRPC was invited to present research findings at the Westminster Foundation for Development to women political party leadership from all the political parties on the 10th of December 2025.

dRPC supported partner Rising Hope Girls' Educational Foundation to provide 170 girls with access to digital infrastructure in a marginalised community, by providing access tools for digital learning in terms of internet access, gadgets and other support needs. This support donated equipment for a functional ICT lab in the community secondary school in Dutse Alhaji to drive teachers and students (especially the girls) with digital literacy skills.



SkillHer meeting with 30 women in Ibadan



Webfala Digital Skills Hub trains 20 girls in Kwara

dRPC supported partner SkillHer to equip 30 women (ages 18–35) with digital, entrepreneurial, and soft skills for improved livelihoods in Ibadan. In Kwara, another of our partner Webfala Digital Skills Hub was supported to empower 20 girls and young women in underserved Nigerian communities with digital, business, and life skills that enhance their employability, promote self-reliance, and foster long-term economic empowerment.

The dRPC continues to support impactful **Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE)** activities.

The dRPC supported community-based partner Family Life and Community Health Society to increase agricultural productivity, food security, and economic resilience among 100 female farmers in Nasarawa State by facilitating access to hybrid seeds, delivering climate-smart agricultural training, and strengthening communal support systems. Also supported the Heal the Youth Foundation to empower 200 women in Plateau state with VSLA capital and linkages to markets. NNEW supported the training of 100 petty traders in the Lagos Mile 12 market on essential entrepreneurial, financial, and health-related skills while providing capital to these women.



FLACHS delivers climate-smart seeds to women farmers in Nasarawa



Heal the Youth Foundation to empower women with VSLA in Plateau



NNEW builds financial skills of market women in Lagos



VIWADA works with small scale farmers on climate-smart cash crops in Benue

dRPC partner VIWADA built the capacity of small-scale women farmers across all 23 LGAs in Benue State for climate-smart cash crop production, promoting gender equity in cash crop production through awareness-raising, capacity-building and engagement with traditional institutions on land access and inclusion, enhancing digital literacy and promoting the use of cyber extension tools and channels among women farmers in Benue

State, using Benue State's three senatorial zones as centralised training hubs.

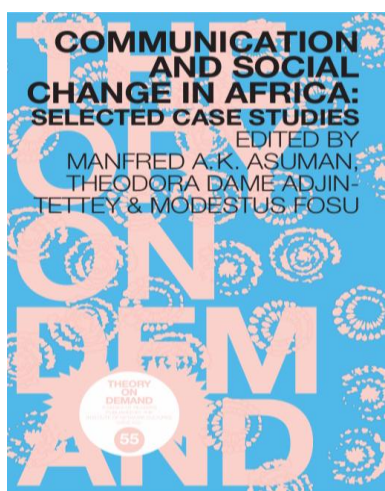


dRPC MOLs meet the Hon Commissioner of Kano State Ministry of Women Affairs, Children and Disabled on GBV and WEE

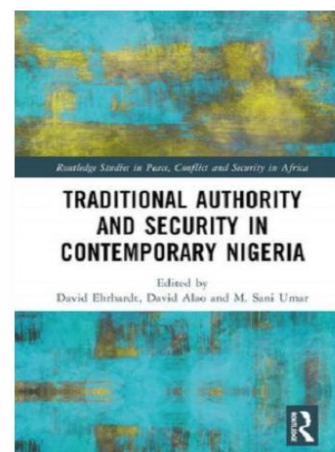
At the policy level, the dRPC is supporting the Kano State Ministry of Women Affairs, Children and the Disabled in developing their women's economic empowerment policy. The dRPC has provided technical support for consultative and policy development meetings to ensure a robust policy. On the 16th of December 2025, the dRPC's Muslim Opinion Leaders met with Her Excellency the Commissioner to mainstream gender-based violence prevention in the WEE policy to provide protection for women in the workplace.

13. 2025 Book Publications and Article Features

In 2025, we showcase recent book publications generated by the dRPC in collaboration with various partners. These publications focus on critical issues. Through rigorous research and stakeholder engagement, these works aim to inform policy and practice, fostering sustainable solutions to pressing development challenges. Below are summaries of key publications and events from the dRPC, showcasing our commitment to contributing to thought leadership.



PDFCommunicationandSocialChangeinAfrica_INC2025_T0055.pdf



Also in 2025, we have authored a few opinion pieces in national dailies, please read some of these articles published

- <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/opinion/762257-2025-state-budgets-and-poverty-reduction-through-economic-empowerment-by-judith-ann-walker.html>
- [Localising Humanitarian And Development Programmes In 2025 - Daily Trust](#)
- [Invest in Women -Invest in Localization: Development Partners and Nigeria's New Policy Directions](#)

14. Global Impact and Partnerships

The dRPC's work has been acknowledged and cited by

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR
EDUCATION
UNITED STATES



dRPC's core mission is to promote and empower activists, local champions and civil society groups to design and lead projects, research and initiatives to address Nigeria's multiple social challenges, in particular, socio-economic barriers to girls' education.



The dRPC's global partnership extends to the Learning Mindset Hub, led by Caroline Archambault and David Ehrhardt at Leiden University. Learning Mindset is a project bringing together educators, researchers, and students to design fun and effective ways to foster autonomous learning.