




NIGERIA STABILITY
AND RECONCILIATION
PROGRAMME

2nd Session of the 2017 Thematic Exchanges of the Working Group on
Women, Youth, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel

Topic: *“Situation of women and youth in areas affected
by Boko Haram activities”*

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A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the slide consists of several overlapping, thick, curved bands. The colors transition from a bright cyan on the left to a vibrant green on the right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Introduction

- Since the emergence of the terrorist group popularly known as Boko Haram (meaning western education is sinful) since 2011 in the Northeast Nigeria- mostly Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states, there has been enormous loss of lives and properties with women, children and youth constituting the majority of the internally displaced persons. The insurgency has triggered the displacement of over 2.3 million people, over 1,800 schools have been closed down and damaged, over 670,000 children(youth) are deprived of education.



Consequences of Boko Haram on women and youth in Nigeria

- There is no doubt that conflict affects women and men but women are affected differently and often times have become prime targets of armed conflict and suffered its impact disproportionately.
- Abduction of women and girls as weapon of war & terror: There have been reported cases of the abduction of women and girls by the Boko Haram group. In April 2014 ,over 200 girls were abducted by the group from Government Secondary School in Maiduguri.
- Since then, there have been many more kidnappings. In April 2015, a well-documented report estimated Boko Haram had taken more than 2,000 girls and young women, most unmarried, over the previous twelve months ;



Consequences of Boko haram on women and youth contd

- Exploitation and sexual harassment of women by government security agents and Civilian Joint task force (vigilante group): There have been reported cases of the security agents and vigilante groups being accused of using their “status” to harass and sexually assault women, particularly at checkpoints at night. Many women are encouraged by their families and communities not to report these events, lest it leave the community unprotected or targeted for revenge attacks.



Consequences of Boko haram on women and youth contd

Use of Girls (youth) as suicide bombers: There are reported cases of girls being used as suicide bombers by the terrorist group. The United Nations Children Fund, UNICEF, has said that at least 27 teenage girls have been used as suicide bombers in Borno within the first quarter of 2017.

Forced Marriage: Girls are forced into marriage as a coping strategy in an economically desperate households.

Use of woman as wartime labour force Women and girls are also used by Boko Haram as wartime labour force. Women and youth captured by Boko Haram are used for cooking, cleaning and other duties that may be assigned to them by their captors. Many may also be forced to bear children that will grow to further the course of the insi

Consequences of Boko haram on women and youth contd

- Stigma of Boko Haram wives and children
- Livelihood crisis: women play active role in agriculture and rural livelihood, but the fear of attacks by the insurgents has often driven them into hiding. The restrictions of movement and communications in the conflict affected areas have slowed down economic activities with direct implications on the economic earnings.



RESPONSE

- Multinational Joint task force
- Civilian joint task force
- Local hunters
- UNICEF trained health workers and community volunteers, many of whom are among the displaced, to provide an integrated package of services to manage and prevent acute malnutrition. UNICEF also helped expand nutrition programmes in the conflict affected Zones
- Other humanitarian agencies.



The Role of WPS

- The Women Peace and Security network have used the network to promote for the participation of women in peace building and conflict resolutions processes.
- Organizations such as NSRP and UN Women supported the Nigeria Government to develop the First National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 which expired in August 2016 and also the revised NAP 1325 due for launch on 9th May 2017.



The Role of WPSN contd

- The new NAP1325 recognises the huge humanitarian gaps and regional peculiarities that exist in the old NAP such as countering violent extremism and humanitarian response.
- NSRP also supports the WPS platforms in all the 8 implementation states namely to act as drivers for the realization of the UNSCR 1325 and other related instruments.

UNSCR 2349 (2017)

- Through the activities, efforts and collaboration of WPSN and Nigeria Government with Niger, Chad, and Cameroun on tackling the issues of Boko Haram insurgency, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2349 at its 7911th meeting on 31, March 2017
- In the new UNSCR 2349 , women are mentioned 16 times indicating the importance of women



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide coordinated and adequate humanitarian aid
- Involve women in rebuilding
- Domestication and funding of NAPs
- Provide holistic trauma counselling
- Develop strategies for countering violent extremism



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Thank you.

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