

Strengthening capacity for realising women, peace and security agenda in Plateau State.

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*Women for Positive Peace Building Initiative
(WOPPI)*

(A Case Study)

Overview

The SPRING programme provided support to the **Women for Positive Peace Building Initiative (WOPPI)** for the purpose of operationalising the implementation of the Plateau State Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (2024 – 2028). Through a combination of stakeholder dialogues, customised capacity strengthening and short-term mentoring support, WOPPI supported the resuscitation of the State Action Plan Implementation Committee, which is now fully functional and institutionalised at the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.



Source: WOPPI

Context

Plateau State has faced persistent challenges stemming from intercommunal violence, farmer-herder clashes, land disputes, violence against women and political instability. Structural gender inequality continues to marginalise women from peacebuilding and decision-making platforms. As a result, the perspectives, priorities, and protection needs of women and girls are frequently overlooked in processes meant to restore peace and rebuild communities.

The third State Action Plan (SAP) on Women, Peace and Security (2024–2028) provides a framework for reversing this exclusion. However, its implementation had stalled due to institutional gaps, weak coordination, unclear roles, and a near-dormant State Action Plan Implementation Committee (SAPIC).

The SAPIC had no functional leadership or clear mandate. It had an outdated membership list that excluded critical government stakeholders and lacked formal instruments to operationalise its mandate. Members had limited understanding of the SAP framework while activities were sporadic and not properly documented, monitored, or evaluated. SPRING's support to WOPPI made it possible to address the above gaps and provide the State with a template for peacebuilding in Plateau State that is context-specific and inclusive.

"The WOPPI project has given life to the WPS Agenda and the third State Action Plan. Through WOPPI's support, the Ministry has been able to enhance coordination and collaboration, fostering key partnerships and creating synergy between the Ministry and other Agencies and CSOs to address existing gaps and facilitate transformative change through prompt response to the five pillars".

Caroline Dafur, Hon. Commissioner of Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.

Approach and Activities

The process relied on a methodological approach that included an initial technical review and mapping of organisational gaps, followed by technical assistance and hand-holding support to address identified capacity deficits. This covered support to reconstitute the membership of the committee making it more inclusive, co-creating the Committee's terms of reference and appointment letters with the State Ministry of Women Affairs, delivering capacity strengthening workshops, and supporting the institutionalisation of quarterly meetings to help sustain the structure.

Results

The State Action Plan Implementation Committee (SAPIC) is now a functional and credible state coordination mechanism, with strengthened technical capacity among its' 40 members. Also, there is improved alignment at National, State and Local Government level in terms of the approach to women, peace and security which is critical to meeting Nigeria's peace and security policy at national and international levels.

Finally, 10 youths, and 2 persons with disabilities (PWDs) are now part of the SAPIC which originally featured women and CSOs, creating a foundation for long-term sustainability. There are improved partnership and collaboration among WPS actors as evidenced by recent initiatives such as the International Peace Day Road walk, Female Novelty football match, Live radio programme media coverage of activities and 16 Days of Activism.

The WOPPI Project is *timely because it is creating a lot of awareness and revamping some of the policies and programmes in the area of WPS that were earlier abandoned and not completed by other projects. The radio programme has also sensitised people on a lot of issues affecting women that have been neglected for long..*

Stanley Slyvester Mani, Secretary for HeforShe

Lessons

Stakeholder mapping and analysis revealed non-inclusion of key actors in the SAPIC. Key actors omitted included government functionaries and representative bodies of youth and persons with disability. The initiative facilitated engagement of all stakeholders from government and civil society. By promoting consultation and inclusion of all groups, WOPPI has enhanced the stakeholder ownership of State Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and the prospects of its implementation.

About the SPRiNG Programme

Strengthening Peace and Resilience in Nigeria (SPRiNG) is a UK-funded initiative designed to support a more peaceful and climate-resilient Nigeria. By addressing the root causes of conflict and vulnerability, SPRiNG works to reduce violence, strengthen local systems, and promote inclusive governance across conflict-affected areas in North-West and North-Central Nigeria.

SPRiNG is grounded in a politically informed, evidence-based approach that integrates environmental science, political economy, and conflict analysis. Our goal is to create a more stable and peaceful Nigeria where citizens benefit from reduced violence and increased resilience to the pressures of climate change.



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