

# Women for Women International - Nigeria

## Challenges women face

59.6%  
Can read<sup>1</sup>



71.5%  
Complete primary school<sup>2</sup>

39%  
Marry by the age of 18<sup>3</sup>



5.6  
Average number of children<sup>4</sup>

46%

Believe that a husband beating his wife is a justifiable action<sup>5</sup>



16.2%  
Experience physical, psychological or sexual violence<sup>6</sup>

64.9%

Pregnant women want a male child due to inheritance rights denied to females<sup>7</sup>



814/ 100,000  
Maternal deaths  
Live births<sup>8</sup>



Participants during the 2016 International Women's Day March in Jos, Nigeria.  
Photo credit: Bilikissu Mohammed

## Country profile

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, and home to the continent's largest economy. Unfortunately, economic benefits are not reaching Nigeria's women, who are 25% less likely than men to participate in the labor force, and whose wages tend to be 25% smaller when they do. Additionally, Nigeria's parliament is controlled almost exclusively by men, which helps to explain the prevalence of discriminatory laws, derogatory traditional and cultural practices, and high rates of domestic abuse (some experts estimate more than 65% of Nigerian women experience abuse from their partners).

Nigerian communities face conflict in the north, Middle Belt and the Delta. Boko Haram, a terrorist group operating mainly in northern Nigeria, has been specifically targeting women and girls, forcing them to be slaves, wives, or suicide bombers. Human rights groups estimate that over 2,000 women and girls have been kidnapped by Boko Haram since 2014, and over 100 of them have died in suicide attacks. In the Middle Belt, women have been victims of murder, rape, loss of livelihoods, and other abuses in rising conflicts between herders and agriculturalists over natural resources. In the oil-rich Delta region, conflicts have arisen over inequalities in wealth distribution and negative impacts on the environment. While Nigeria has a long way to go on gender equality, Women for Women International is seeking to create opportunities for change in the lives of the country's most marginalized women.

### Our reach



Total women served (since 2000)



Women served (2016)



Total men reached (since 2002)

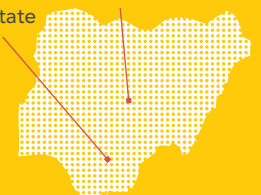


Total Funds Distributed (2016)

### Where we work

Past work in Enugu, Enugu State

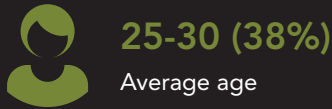
Jos, Plateau State  
Headquarters



# Women for Women International - Nigeria

## Our program in Nigeria

### Participant Profile:



### Vocational skills & Training:



Agriculture/Agribusiness



Animal husbandry



Knitting



Piggery



Petty Trading



Poultry

## Our work

In conflict-affected areas with limited access to services and discriminatory laws and gender norms, women face pervasive insecurity, lack of livelihoods, educational inequalities, threats of sexual violence, and poor health and well-being. Women for Women International seeks to create opportunities for change in the lives of these marginalized women.

Women for Women International has developed a program that offers Nigerian women a constructive, dignified way to regain control of their lives. Our foundational training helps women know and defend their rights, influence decisions at home and in their communities, initiate activities that generate income, and save money for the future, contributing to economic self-sufficiency in their lives and for their families.

## Our program

When supported by her peers and provided with the right resources and opportunities, even the most marginalized woman can develop the confidence and skills to transform her life, her family and her community.

Women for Women International's 12-month training program provides economically and socially marginalized women living in countries affected by war and conflict with the skills and resources to transform their lives. Women meet bi-weekly in groups of 25 to learn, share and support one another. Women for Women International creates a safe and comfortable space for women to learn about essential health practices and nutrition, fundamental human and legal rights, household decision making, and participation in civic affairs and advocacy.

To support women to earn and save money, Women for Women International also offers training sessions in numeracy, business management basics, planning, selling products in the market, bookkeeping, group business and cooperative management. Women receive 40-70 hours of hands-on professional and vocational training in market-oriented livelihoods.

Each program participant also receives a training stipend of \$10 per month. The majority of participants either save this money or use it to cover training-related expenses, contribute to household needs, pay school fees for their children or invest in a small business.

WfWI has introduced Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to women in the program. As another vehicle for financial inclusion, these savings and lending groups enable women to save more and access credit to grow their businesses.

### Local partners:

- Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Plateau State
- International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Enugu & Plateau State
- Human Rights Commission, Enugu & Plateau State Chapters
- Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria (PPFN)
- Mashiah Foundation, Plateau State
- Mwaghavul Microfinance Bank, Plateau State
- Annunciation Specialist Hospital, Enugu State
- Centre for Clinical Care and Clinical Research, Enugu State
- Carosa Memorial Foundation, Enugu State
- Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), Enugu & Plateau State chapters

# Women for Women International - Nigeria

## Increasing Men's Awareness and Changing Behavior

In a study conducted by the American Institutes for Research, the following results were reported:

■ Seventy-one percent of leaders in the treatment group (training participants) were likely to agree with the statement "Women should have equal share of family inheritance as their male counterparts," compared to 51% in the comparison group.

Treatment group **71%**

Comparison group **51%**

■ In terms of behavior change, men in the treatment communities tended to have **lower adherence to traditional norms of masculinity** than men in comparison communities.

■ On the behavioral scale, which ranges from 25 to 100, men in the treatment group obtained an average score of 76.72 points, whereas men in the comparison group obtained an average of 81.89 points, which is statistically significant at 10% ( $p < 0.07$ ).

Treatment group **76.72 pt**

Comparison group **81.89 pt**



Graduates of the men's engagement training program. Photo credit: Francisca Odo

## Building allies: men's engagement program

Since 2002, Women for Women International has engaged men as allies in support of women's rights and women's empowerment. Our Men's Engagement Program began first in Nigeria with advocacy campaigns to address laws and practices related to harmful widowhood practices. Women for Women International expanded its men's engagement program to include training of male leaders and male family members of women participants. To date, Women for Women International-Nigeria has reached 7,000 men.

Since male religious and community leaders have tremendous influence over the attitudes, thinking, and behavior of other men in Nigeria, our program focuses on educating them about the value of women's economic engagement, social protection, and rights. We aim to illustrate how better communication between men and women and men's support for women's advancement improves the overall prosperity of families and communities.

“ Changes that have occurred in my life, which I learnt from the training, is that I now contribute in taking care of household chores. I understood that leaving all the domestic tasks for women will be too stressful and make them wear out; so, I decided to be part of it and reduce the burden on my wife. ”

Graduate of Women for Women Nigeria Men's Engagement Training, 2015

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Photo credit: Bilkissu Mohammed

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6. "The Demographic and Health Surveys Program: Nigeria." USAID. Accessed 5 November 2016. [http://dhsprogram.com/Where-We-Work/Country-Main.cfm?cry\\_id=30&c=Nigeria&Country=Nigeria&cn=&r=1](http://dhsprogram.com/Where-We-Work/Country-Main.cfm?cry_id=30&c=Nigeria&Country=Nigeria&cn=&r=1)
7. Inyang-Etoh Emmanuel C. and Anyikere M. Ekanem, Child-Sex Preference and Factors That Influenced Such Choices among Women in an Obstetric, 2016, [www.oalib.com/paper/pdf/5272813](http://www.oalib.com/paper/pdf/5272813)
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WOMEN *for* WOMEN  
International

## Our vision

We envision a world in which all women determine the course of their lives and reach their full potential.

## Our mission

In countries affected by conflict and war, Women for Women International supports the most marginalized women to earn and save money, improve health and well-being, influence decisions in their homes and communities, and connect to networks for support. By utilizing skills, knowledge, and resources, women are able to create sustainable change for themselves, their families, and their communities.

## Contact us

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