

**FINAL REPORT OF THE MIDTERM EVALUATION OF ENHANCING
GENDER-RESPONSIVE SECURITY OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY
DIALOGUE PROJECT IN NIGERIA (PHASE II, 2023-2024)**

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List of Acronyms

AFN	Armed Forces of Nigeria
AU	African Union
COAS	Chief of Army Staff
CSO	Civil society organization
CSP	Community Safety Platforms
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based violence
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GERAAS	Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System
GII	Gender Inequality Index
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
IP	Implementing partner
IPOB	Indigenous People of Biafra
IR	Inception Report
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGA	Local Government Area
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MMA	mixed method approach
MOT	Mixed Observer Team
NAP	National Action Plan
NDC	National Defence College
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NILDS	National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies
NPF	Nigeria Police Force
NSCDC	Nigeria Security and Civil defence Corp
NSCDC	Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps
OECD/DAC	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee
PWAN	Partners West Africa Nigeria
SAP	State Action Plan
SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSR 2 PROJECT	Security Sector Reform 2 Project
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	UN Evaluation Group
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNSDPF	United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework
VAWG	violence against women and girls
WLO	Women Led Organization
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WROs	Women Rights Organizations

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Executive Summary

Background and introduction

The present report is the product of the mid-term evaluation of the “Enhancing Gender-Responsive Security Operations and Community Dialogue Project in Nigeria Phase II (2023-2024)” implemented by UN Women Nigeria from June 1st, 2023, and will end on December 31, 2024 (18 months) with funding support from the Government of Germany. The key inputs to the project include UN Women’s staff time and that of the implementing partners and other stakeholders. Major outcomes from the project include the reformation of security sector legislation and policies to promote gender equality, women’s participation and rights; empowerment of women in their diversity, especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities to voice and assert their rights to protection and have enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner; improvement of coordination mechanisms among key security sector institutions in Nigeria to address the security needs of individuals and communities in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner. These levels of results are expected to contribute to the broad goal of the project which is to ensure that the security sector in Nigeria is accountable and gender responsive.

Methodology

The evaluation applied the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, and coherence. In addition to OECD/DAC criteria, the evaluation took into consideration gender equality and human rights inclusion as separate standalone criteria. The evaluation used a mixed-methods approach involving document review, key informant interviews, focus group discussion, and survey techniques to collect qualitative and quantitative data. Respondents included the project team members, implementing partners (IPs), and project beneficiaries. Respondents for qualitative data collection were purposively selected while the respondents for the survey were stratified into categories (MOT, CSP, WLOs, and security actors) and clustered into categories. Simple random sampling was applied in selecting the respondents from the clusters. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and thematic coding was used to analyze qualitative data. Findings from qualitative and quantitative data analysis were triangulated by the source before concluding. The primary users of the evaluation will include UN Women, the Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs, security sector institutions (in particular the Police, Army, and NSCDC), CSOs, the Government of Germany, and other development partners.

Findings

Relevance

The mid-term evaluation findings reveal that the SSR 2 project largely addressed the rights and needs of the target groups. In the security sector, the SSR 2 project builds the capacity of security actors on gender mainstreaming and UNSCR 1325 as well as supports the review of the Acts establishing the security institutions from a gender perspective. The project objectives were also found to address the needs of government ministries especially the Ministry of Women’s Affairs at the federal and state levels. Operationally, the Federal and State Ministry of Women's Affairs is charged with the responsibilities of implementing the National Action Plan (NAP) and State Action Plan (SAP) respectively on the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000). The SSR 2 project is supporting the review and development of the SAP in Adamawa and Borno states. Also, the project has established legal clinics for free legal services to address security concerns of women and girls, especially SGBV cases in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states. Overall, the mid-term evaluation notes that to a large extent, the SSR 2 Project objectives address the identified rights and needs of the target groups. The evaluation also confirmed that national partners and other beneficiaries were involved in the conceptualization and design process. This is based on the fact that the SSR 2 Project conceptualization and design benefited greatly from the findings of the final evaluation report of the first phase of the project as well as the formulation mission to Adamawa State. The evaluation further confirmed that the SSR 2 project activities and outputs are consistent with the intended impacts and largely aligned with international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of Women, Peace and Security and Rights Advanced under CEDAW, SDGs, UNSCR 1325 and other international commitments

Effectiveness

The SSR 2 project has made significant progress in meeting the set targets at the outcome level. Evidence indicates that all (7) the outcome level indicators have been achieved with the level of achieving ranging from 100 percent to 200 percent. This is quite commendable given that the project still has 6 months left for the implementation of project activities. Key results achieved so far at mid-term include the publication and launching of the Gender Policy of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the development of the draft Bills for the amendment of laws establishing the security institutions as well as the approval for integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions (SSIs) into the curricular of their respective training institutions. Also, achieved at mid-term is the endorsement of strategies to increase women recruitment, retention, promotion, and leadership in SSIs by management of NPF, NSCDC, and Nigerian Navy. The project has also made significant contributions in improving the implementation of gender policies and operational guidelines as well as the reporting of security concerns of women and girls in the target states and communities. Several factors contributed to the achievements recorded including the vast experience of the project team, the design of the SSR 2 project based on the key lessons learnt and recommendations from the final evaluation of the first phase of the SSR 2 project, the participatory approach of the project, the quarterly review meetings by the project team and the technical support and oversight functions provided by the UN Women project team to the IPs among others. Evidence from the quantitative survey reveals that 67 percent of the beneficiaries surveyed noted that they are satisfied with the results achieved by the project. By gender, 72.7 percent and 64.8 percent of women and men respondents respectively noted that they are satisfied with the results achieved by the project.

Efficiency

UN Women demonstrated efficiency in the allocation of and utilization of both human and material resources which contributed to the achievements recorded at mid-term by the project. The project has a total duration of 18 months with a planned budget of USD 2 million. Of these funds, USD 993,443 was budgeted for project implementation activities which represents 49.7 percent of the total budget while USD 511,065 was allocated for personnel which represents 24.4 percent of the total budget of the project. As of June 2024, only 34.3 percent of all allocated budgets for the project activities have been spent which represents a low absorption rate for the project given that the project has only 6 months left before closure. The targets for several of the indicators have been achieved by the project. However, for some of the indicators that are yet to be achieved, the project team must expedite action to implement the remaining activities. This will help to increase the absorption rate of the project which is quite low at mid-term. In addition, the project allocation of 50 percent of the total expenditure on project implementation activities compared to 24.4 percent on personnel is highly commendable by the evaluation. Considering the above finding, it is fair to conclude that the financial resources of the project were strategically allocated to achieve the project outcome. It is pertinent to note that at mid-term, the project has only expended 18 percent of the personnel budget. This is attributed to the fact some of the project staff only came on board this year. These savings should be channeled to other areas, especially in programming for livelihood support for SGBV survivors.

Impact

The mid-term evaluation found that the SSR 2 project is building and consolidating on the achievements of the first phase of the project. Key long-term achievements of the project at mid-term include greater involvement of women in peace and security structures in the communities, reduction of the culture of silence among survivors of SGBV, and enhanced collaboration between the community security platforms and security actors. Overall, the mid-term evaluation confirmed that the project is contributing to significant changes with respect to gender mainstreaming in security institutions and local communities in the target states. Also, the approval of senior management of NPF, NSCDC, and Nigerian Navy for the integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions (SSIs) into the curriculum of their respective training institutions, as well as the endorsement of strategies to increase women recruitment, retention and the capacity-building programmes organized for the security sector actors and members of the MOT, CSP, and the WLOs are all evidence of long term achievements by the project. The mid-term evaluation confirmed that gender equality and women's empowerment are being advanced as a result of this intervention. All the activities of the project are geared towards promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Sustainability

The mid-term evaluation found that the requirements for national ownership were satisfied by the SSR 2 project. During the project design and implementation, relevant organs of the government at the national and state levels were engaged by UN Women. Specifically, stakeholders at both national and state levels provided inputs to project design and implementation. The stakeholders also validated the proposed project strategic initiative. Also, the SSR 2 project was designed to align with the national priorities of the government of Nigeria especially the National Gender Policy (NGP), and supported activities to achieve Priority One (Legislation and policy frameworks) and Five (Gender Equality, Empowerment of Women, and Social Inclusion in the Security Sector) of the NGP (2021-2026). The mid-term evaluation believed that the project to a large extent is receiving support from national and local institutions in Nigeria. The mid-term evaluation notes that the benefits of the project will be sustained to a large extent. One key evidence of the sustainability of the benefits is the approval for the integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions into the curricula of their respective training institutions and the draft Bills for the amendment of laws establishing security institutions when finally passed into law. The MOT and CSP members on their path have shown strong commitment towards the sustainability of the benefits of the project as members of the platforms continued with their activities in the communities for over one year before the beginning of the second phase of the project. These are all indications that the benefits from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time upon project completion. Despite these, the mid-term evaluation notes that the sustainability of the benefits of this project rests more on the full implementation of the gender policies and adherence to the tenets of the revised Acts establishing the security institutions by the security institutions.

Coherence:

The mid-term evaluation findings indicate that the SSR 2 project is coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country's peace and security agenda. The SSR 2 project is coherent with the Supporting Police Reform Processes in Nigeria (SPRPIN) project implemented by the Cleen Foundation, and the Women, Peace Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) project. The project is also coherent with the UNDP's interventions supporting the Presidential Roadmap for Police Reform, 'Advancing Re-form Efforts in the Nigeria Police Force'. The SSR 2 project is also coherent with the activities of other partners such as PWAN, the Center for Legislative Advocacy (CISLAC), and Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), and the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC). The evaluation found that there was coordination among the various project teams to avoid duplication of efforts and strengthen synergy among the various interventions. The mid-term evaluation also found that the SSR 2 project is coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria as the specific objectives of the project aligned with key gender equality international agreements and legal instruments that guide the work within the United Nations system. The SSR 2 project is also found to be coherent with the donor policy especially the third Germany National Action Plan (NAP) (2021-2024) on UNSCR 1325 Priority Area 5. The SSR 2 project is coherent with several international obligations for women's human rights, other human rights conventions, and other international frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women which have been ratified in Nigeria. Prominent among them are the Security Council resolution 1325, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW 1979), the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, African Union Gender Policy, Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) among others.

Gender Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming in SSR 2 Project.

The mid-term evaluation findings indicate that the SSR 2 project largely integrated gender and human rights considerations into the project design and implementation. All objectives, strategies, approaches, and activities are focused on addressing the root causes of gender inequalities in the security sector and at the community level in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. The project has focused on promoting gender equality and human rights considerations. The SSR 2 project first targeted legislators and policymakers to increase their awareness of the importance of addressing gender inequality and marginalization of women's and girls' rights in security sector laws, policies, and institutions. The project also built the capacity of law and policymakers to mainstream gender in security sector laws and policies. The project also focused on increasing awareness of the security concerns and needs of women and girls, including gender-based violence among personnel of target security sector institutions and members of local communities in target states. The SSR 2 project was inclusive and non-discriminatory, with deliberate strategies to engage stakeholders and target beneficiaries at all levels, in line with the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. Thus, both women and men were targeted in the various capacity building activities. Evidence also shows that different categories of stakeholders including women, men, and persons living with disabilities were involved in the implementation of the project. However, as earlier mentioned, only 3 percent of persons with

disability were found to be participating in the project implementation as revealed in the survey. This demonstrates the need to integrate more persons with disability into the project implementation activities.

Lessons Learnt

Lesson 1. Applying lessons learned from previous projects into the design and implementation of the preceding project helps to avoid mistakes, optimize project performance, and ensure continuous improvement.

The design of the SSR 2 project was based on the recommendations from the final evaluation of the project's first phase. This ensured that the good practices and lessons learnt from the first phase were mainstreamed into the SSR 2 project while at the same time avoiding the pitfalls. One recommendation from the final evaluation of the first phase was that UN Women should consider engaging more stakeholders at the conceptualization and design stage of projects to harvest stakeholders' inputs to the project design which is important in getting their buy-in for the project. This was applied in the design of the second phase which promoted ownership of the project by stakeholders. This ultimately contributed to the successes recorded by the SSR 2 project.

Lesson 2: Creating community-level structures to support project implementation is fundamental to the sustainability of project benefits at the community level.

During the first phase of the project, the project team created the MOT, CSP, and WLOs. The capacity of the established CSP, MOT, and WLO was built for the prevention and response to violence against women and girls. At the end of the first phase of the project, these structures continued to carry out their activities in their respective communities without the guidance and support from the project team. This is good evidence of the sustainability of the benefits of the SSR 2 project in the intervention communities.

Lesson 3: A second phase of a development intervention is germane to consolidating the achievements of the first phase for short-term projects.

The first phase of the SSR 2 project was for 21 months during which the gender policies for targeted security institutions were developed. However, there was no time to monitor the implementation of the gender policies as the project ended immediately after the policies were developed. The second phase did not only provide the opportunity to monitor implementation but it also provided an opportunity for the review of the Acts establishing the security institutions from a gender perspective. It also provided an opportunity for the review of SAP in target states. All these contributed to consolidating the gains of the first phase of the project.

Lesson 4: Continuous capacity-building activities for project beneficiaries are a necessity both for promoting ownership, achievement of project objectives, and sustainability of project benefits.

The SSR 2 project from inception has focused on capacity-building for key stakeholders including the security institutions, members of the National Assembly as well as members of community security structures including the MOT, CSP, and WLOs. The capacity-building activities were unique for the different categories of the project beneficiaries. The capacity-building activities for WLOs focused on advocacy and engagement skills with security actors at the community level. The capacity-building programme for security institutions and members of the National Assembly focused on increasing their understanding of gender mainstreaming, UNSCR 1325, and the NAP. The adopted approach of the project in capacity building of beneficiaries will not only contribute to the attainment of project objectives but will also ensure that the knowledge gained remains with the beneficiaries after the close of the project.

Lesson 5: Engaging with relevant top-level management of security institutions, government institutions and sectoral leaders in the intervention communities are important for successful project implementation

The SSR 2 project team deemed it important to first of all engage all relevant top-level security institutions, government institutions such as the Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs as key stakeholders of the project at the beginning of the project. This provided an easy entry point for the implementation of the project in the security institutions and the participation of government Ministries as partners in the implementation of the project. It would have been nearly impossible to access the security institutions at the state level and participation of government Ministries without this level of engagement at the national level.

Lesson 6. Targeting partners with similar mandates and vision is crucial to the sustainability of project benefits at the end of the implementation of project activities

Targeting partners with a shared vision and mandates as IPs in project implementation has been found to have a strong positive influence on the partnership success, satisfaction, and sustainability of benefits. The SSR 2 project engaged PWAN, NILDS and FMWASD as well as NDC as partners in project implementation. These partners share similar vision and mandates with the SSR 2 project which implies that on their other activities, they will continue to implement activities related to the goals and objectives of the SSR 2 project with or without UN Women funding. This has a long-term effect on the sustainability of the project benefits.

Recommendations

The mid-term evaluation identified key recommendations that are critical for UN Women's contribution to security sector reforms and WPS in Nigeria. Recommendations from this mid-term evaluation have been sequenced by their importance, as perceived by the evaluation team. The recommendations are based on the evaluation framework and the analysis that informed findings and conclusions. They will be validated by key stakeholders in an exit workshop carried out at the end of the field mission and also through the review of the evaluation report.

Recommendations with the specification of action and timeframe

Specific Recommendations		Responsibility	Priority
Programmatic recommendations:	Evidence		
1. The project team should expedite action to implement all the planned project activities in order to achieve all set targets and also to increase the budget absorption rate which is currently low.	Findings 12	UN Women & IPs	Immediate
2. There is a need for the project team to consider integrating a livelihood component into the project to target women and girls survivors of SGBV. This is necessary to improve the economic conditions of the SGBV survivors which is one factor that contributes to their vulnerability to SGBV.	Findings 5, Findings 12	UN Women	Immediate
3. The UN Women project team should consider providing support and monitoring the implementation of the gender policies of security institutions and other commitments by the security institutions.	Findings 12	UN Women, security institutions	Immediate
4. The project team should prioritize the provision of technical and logistics support for the passage of the Draft Bills for the amendment of the Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) Act, NPF Act by the National Assembly.	Findings 12	UN Women & NASS	Immediate
5. The project team should consider putting measures in place to support the implementation of SAP when the review is completed for the three states.	Findings 4 & 16	UN Women, Ministry of Women Affairs	Immediate
6. UN Women project team should consider continuing to build the capacity of security actors, NASS, members of the CSP, MOT, and WLOs given the limited time used for the capacity building programme under the SSR 2 project.	Findings 1, 6, 7 & 22	UN Women & IPs	Immediate
7. The UN Women project team should consider engaging more staff to support project implementation in the target states, especially in Adamawa and Yobe states.	Findings 5, 12 & 15	UN Women	Immediate
8. UN women's project team should consider formally handing over the CSP, MOT, and WLOs to the State Ministries of Women Affairs to ensure that the platforms not only remain active but it will ensure that their activities are recognized by the government.	Findings 5	UN Women, Ministry of Women Affairs	Immediate
9. The project team should consider providing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials for members of the CSP, MOT and WLOs to promote their sensitization activities and as well as increase their visibility in the communities.	Findings 5	UN Women	Immediate
10. UN Women should consider sustaining the provision of legal clinics for survivors of SGBV in the target state. This is necessary in order to enforce their rights	Findings 1 & 11	UN Women & PWAN	Immediate
11. UN Women should consider integrating more persons with disability into the project implementation activities such as their involvement as members of the created platforms and the various capacity building under the project.	Findings 30	UN Women & PWAN	Immediate

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women Nigeria Country office) commissioned a mid-term evaluation of an eighteen-month project called “Enhancing Gender-Responsive Security Operations and Community Dialogue (Phase II, 2023-2024)” hereafter referred to as “The SSR 2 Project or the project”. The Government of Germany is funding the SSR 2 Project to the tune of USD 2 Million. The project supports the achievement of UN Women Strategic Note (SN) 2023-2027 Impact 4: Women Peace and Security and is aligned with the Global Strategic Plan (SP) outcome 1. It contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperative Framework (UNSDCF) (2023–2027) Strategic Priority Area 4 which states that by 2027, more inclusive, participatory, transparent, and gender-sensitive governance, justice, and human rights systems will be in place at all levels to promote acceleration in the achievement of 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a peaceful, inclusive, and cohesive society. Further, it is aligned with development priorities at Global, Regional, and National levels specifically SDG 5 and 16; the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) (UNSCR), Regional African Union (AU) Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Conflict Prevention Framework; Women, Peace, and Security Action Plan (2008); and the national goal of promoting women’s rights and gender equality which is central to the development agenda of Nigeria respectively. The SSR 2 Project started on June 1st, 2023, and will end on December 31, 2024 (18 months). This document presents the mid-term evaluation findings.

1.1. THE CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT

The Federal Republic of Nigeria, with an area of 923,769 square kilometres is situated between 3⁰ and 14⁰ East Longitude and 4⁰ and 14⁰ North Latitude. The country is bordered on the West by the Republic of Benin and Niger; on the East by the Republic of Cameroon; on the North by Niger and Chad Republics and the South by the Gulf of Guinea. The country is a multi-ethnic and culturally diverse federation of 36 autonomous states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The country is divided into six geopolitical zones for political and administrative convenience. The country has an estimated population of over 216 million¹. Women and men constituted 49.3 percent and 50.7 percent of the population². The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) which is one of the targeted locations of the project has a total population of 3,564,100 with men and women constituting 52.1 percent and 47.9 percent respectively.³

Another state targeted by the project is Borno State. It has a projected total population of 5,860,200, with men and women constituting 52 percent and 48 percent respectively⁴. The other state targeted by the project is Yobe State. It has a total population of 193,392,500 with women constituting 48.1 percent of the total population⁵. Across the intervention locations, there was no significant difference in the demographic composition of the population gender-wise which calls for immediate and equal consideration of the needs of women and men in all sectors of the economy and decision-making processes.

Economically, between 2000 and 2014, Nigeria’s economy experienced broad-based and sustained growth of over 7 percent annually on average, benefitting from favorable global conditions, and macroeconomic and first-stage structural reforms⁶. From 2015-2022, however, growth rates decreased and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita flattened, driven by monetary and exchange rate policy distortions with the country’s inflation reaching a 24-years high of 31.7 percent in February 2024⁷. The poverty rate is estimated to have reached 38.9 percent in 2023, with an estimated 87 million Nigerians living below the poverty line. In the target states, the poverty rates are as follows: Adamawa (75.4%) Borno⁸, Yobe (72.3%), and the FCT (38.7%)⁹. A significant gap in the poverty statistics is the absence of gender-disaggregated poverty data. Poverty data in Nigeria is typically collected by households and, therefore, does not include poverty estimates for individuals. Although some data is reported by

¹¹ <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary/read/1241422>

² Ibid

³ <https://www.citypopulation.de/php/nigeria-admin.php?adm1id=NGA015>

⁴ <https://bornostate.gov.ng/population/#1593075423798-8d7c04e7-acb0>

⁵ Source: National Population Commission and National Bureau of Statistics Estimates. (Kindly note that estimates are based on population census conducted in 2006 by the National Population Commission)

⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria/overview>

⁷ Ibid

⁸ No poverty data which could not be captured due to security challenges

⁹ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1121438/poverty-headcount-rate-in-nigeria-by-state/>

gender of the head of household, this is unlikely to be directly useful for gender poverty analysis as it likely selects richer female-headed households. For example, according to the 2019 poverty estimates, the poverty rate for female-headed households with less than a primary education was 34.72 percent, compared to 66.17 percent for male-headed households. Also, the Nigerian Living Standards Survey 2018-2019 indicated that female-led households are less likely to suffer poverty. However, this finding has been questioned by stakeholders because of the number of households led by females (which are fewer in number) and the fact that the main determinants of poverty lie outside of only money.¹⁰

1.2. Gender Inequalities in Nigeria

There is widespread evidence of gender inequalities in Nigeria despite ongoing efforts of the government to address them, including the formulation of the Nigeria National Gender Policy in 2006 which has been revised (National Gender Policy 2021-2026) by the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs. The widespread gender inequalities as manifested in Nigeria have been attributed to several factors including patriarchy, imbalance in socio-economic opportunities, cultural and religious factors, and inadequate enabling legal and policy frameworks, among other factors. A review of the Gender Inequality Index (GII) shows that Nigeria ranked 161 out of 193 with a score of 0.68 in 2023.¹¹ The nation has a very low Gender Development Index (GDI) of 0.88 ranking 161 out of 193 in 2022¹².

A gender analysis of sectors in Nigeria reveals gaps between the male and female genders, with females mostly at a disadvantage. For instance, 35 percent of women aged 15-49 have no form of education, as against 22 percent of the men¹³. Evidence also shows that 74 percent of married women aged 15-49 have jobs, as against 99 percent of employed married men¹⁴. Similarly, most employed women earn less than their husbands do. Within the age category of 15-48, 65 percent of women have jobs as against 86 percent of men. The percentage of men employed in the State Civil Service from 2010 to 2015 was higher than that of women for both senior and junior positions. On average the percentage of women employees from 2010 to 2015 was 38.16 percent for both junior and senior positions while it was 68.84 percent for men for both of the subgroups¹⁵. There is also evidence of male dominance regarding household decision-making. Almost two-thirds (66%) of women married do not take part in decisions regarding their own health and major household purchases¹⁶.

The constitution of Nigeria avails equal rights to both men and women in the acquisition and ownership of assets. Despite the constitutional provision, men are over three times as likely to own a house or land as women are. On house ownership, 37 percent of men own a house while 11 percent of women own same. On land ownership, 38 percent of men own land alone or jointly with someone but 12 percent of women achieve the same feat¹⁷. The gender inequality scenario as discussed for Nigeria is not different from the situation in the targeted states. In most cases, the indexes at the state level are worse than those at the national level. For instance, in 2016, Borno and Yobe States had a GII value of 0.908 and 0.881 respectively, indicating higher levels of gender inequality than the national average which stood at 0.635.¹⁸ In 2017, the percentage of women aged 15-24 years who were literate in Borno and the Yobe States were 56.4 and 28.3 percent compared to men 60.3 and 42.7 percent respectively.

1.3. Conflicts and Insecurity Dynamics in Nigeria

Conflict and insecurity have become one of the most significant challenges to development efforts in Nigeria. There are currently four geographies of conflict in Nigeria: The North East, Niger Delta, the Middle Belt, and the urban crucible. In the North East zone of Nigeria, insurgent activities orchestrated by Boko Haram and inter-ethnic/religious conflict among others have resulted in large-scale displacement and various forms of abuses and violations of human rights in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states¹⁹. The conflict in the Northeast has affected nearly

¹⁰ Gender Country Profile Nigeria Gender Action Plan III 2021 – 2024. This report was prepared in collaboration with British Council and written by: Cheluchi Onyemelukwe - Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD)

¹¹ <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/documentation-and-downloads>

¹² <https://hdr.undp.org/gender-development-index#/indices/GDI>

¹³ Gender in Nigeria 2020: An advocacy brochure

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ National Bureau Of Statistics (2018). Nigeria statistical report on Women and Men in 2017

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Computation of Human Development Indices for the UNDP Nigeria Human Development Report - 2016. 2018. Accessed 6 July 2021.

¹⁹ United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (2018-2022)

15 million people and set back an already lagging region by disrupting public services, infrastructure, and economic activity. Across the six states of the Northeast, infrastructure damage has been quantified at US\$9.2 billion, and the accumulated output losses are estimated at US\$8.3 billion.²⁰ Between 2011 and 2022, over 35,000 people were killed in the insurgency, and at least 1.7 million people remain internally displaced, an overwhelming majority of whom are women²¹.

The northcentral and northwest zones of Nigeria face a complex crisis involving long-standing ethnic and religious tensions, often leading to attacks and banditry. Criminal groups carry out kidnappings and thefts along major highways. Over recent years, this crisis has escalated, causing widespread displacement throughout these regions. In Zamfara and Sokoto states, armed attacks have displaced at least 10,000 people and killed at least 92 throughout March and April 2024²². Additionally, many others have been kidnapped in these attacks.²³

In the south-south geopolitical zone, the activities of militants in the Niger Delta region pose a major security threat to the region while communal conflicts involving pastoralists/herdsmen and the indigenous farming populations constitute another security challenge for the region. In the South East zone, the agitations for secession championed by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the region are a major threat to the development of the region. The impact of the violence in Nigeria is strongly gendered. Due to gender norms and stereotypes, women have been targeted by Boko Haram and bandits, sexually violated, and recruited as suicide bombers.

Amid these attacks, women and girls bear the most significant burden of banditry in the region. Sexual violence has skyrocketed with women frequently raped, kidnapped or commodified by families who are forced to exchange their daughters for protection. For instance, at least 30 women and girls were raped indiscriminately across five communities in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State.²⁴ In 2014, the group shocked the world when it abducted 276 girls en masse from a school in rural Chibok.²⁵ According to the 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the ongoing humanitarian crisis in North East Nigeria, driven by the Boko Haram insurgency and the counter-insurgency operations by government and security forces, has left 7.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance²⁶. Women and children, particularly girls, remain the most affected, comprising 83 percent of those in need²⁷.

Another dimension of conflict as it relates to women is Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). The types of violence encompassed by SGBV include sexual violence, physical violence, emotional and psychological violence, child marriage, trafficking, female genital mutilation (FGM), domestic violence and rape²⁸. In Nigeria, 30 percent of girls and women aged between 15 and 49 are reported to have experienced sexual abuse²⁹. Insurgency and protracted conflict, as well as banditry activities in the North West and North Central, have only served to exacerbate the occurrence of SGBV in Nigeria. Nigeria has the largest number of child brides in Africa and one of the highest prevalence rates in the world. Currently, 43 per cent of girls are married before age 18 and 17 percent married before they turn 15. Nigeria accounts for the third-highest number of women and girls who have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), reported at 25 percent prevalence.

1.4. Gender and Security Institutions in Nigeria

Although Nigeria is a signatory to several commitments on women, peace, and security, and, more specifically, a gender-responsive and gender-balanced security sector, evidence shows that women are conspicuously

²⁰ World Bank. (2019). Nigeria Economic Update Fall 2019, Jumpstarting Inclusive Growth: Unlocking the Productive Potential of Nigeria's People and Resource Endowments. Available from: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/32795> [

²¹ <https://gnwp.org/nigeria-localization-2019/>

²² <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/northwest-nigeria-10000-people-displaced-result-conflict-last-two-months-are-urgent-need-humanitarian-assistance-warns-irc>

²³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/northwest-nigeria-10000-people-displaced-result-conflict-last-two-months-are-urgent-need-humanitarian-assistance-warns-irc>

²⁴ <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2022/01/10/banditry-impacts-on-women-children-in-nigeria-needs-policy-response-kidnappings-ssi-education/>

²⁵ <https://politicalscience.yale.edu/publications/women-and-war-boko-haram-wives-weapons-witnesses-african-arguments>

²⁶ Nigeria Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024. <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-humanitarian-needs-overview-2024>

²⁷ Nigeria Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024. <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-humanitarian-needs-overview-2024>

²⁸ [https://nigeria.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-](https://nigeria.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Gender%20Based%20Violence%20in%20Nigeria%20During%20COVID%2019%20Crisis_The%20Shadow%20Pandemic.pdf)

[05/Gender%20Based%20Violence%20in%20Nigeria%20During%20COVID%2019%20Crisis_The%20Shadow%20Pandemic.pdf](https://nigeria.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Gender%20Based%20Violence%20in%20Nigeria%20During%20COVID%2019%20Crisis_The%20Shadow%20Pandemic.pdf)

²⁹ NDHS, 2018

marginalized from the top hierarchy of security institutions in Nigeria. The security sector institutions are major actors engaged by the government to prevent and respond to the security issues in Nigeria. These institutions include the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN), Nigeria Police Force (NPF), and Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC). Evidence from the gender assessment of the security sector in Nigeria reveals that there has never been a female Chief of Army Staff (COAS) since the establishment of the Nigerian Army³⁰.

In the Nigeria Police Force, the total number of the Nigeria Police Force stood at 291,094, 87.6 percent male Police officers and 12.4 percent female Police officers. Within the rank of Senior Police Officers (ASP II to IGP), the population is 18,745, with a sex distribution of 95 percent male officers, and only 5 female senior officers. Currently, the requirements for recruitment, training, and posting in the police discriminate against women thus limiting their potential to serve³¹. The Force Orders (F.O.) No. 430 Sub 81 (Administrative Instruction No. 23) provides amongst other things that “a woman candidate for enlistment in the Police force shall be unmarried”, meanwhile no similar restriction applies to the men, therefore, at recruitment, a vast number of eligible female candidates are already disqualified by their marital status, meanwhile, no such restrictions apply to the male officers.

Also, before a woman in the police can marry, she must have served in the police for three years after which she will apply for permission to marry and the fiancé will be investigated (Section 124, Police Acts) according to Section 87 of the Force Order, “a woman police who wishes to marry is made to first apply in writing to the Commissioner of Police requesting permission to marry and giving the name, address, and occupation of the person she intends to marry, permission will be granted for the marriage, provided that the intended husband is of good character”³². Findings from the gender assessment in the security sector also reveal that institutional policies framed or adopted at the headquarters of these security institutions (federal level) tend to foster and reinforce discriminatory practices at the state level formations, the limited adoption of gender policy at the institutional level and unavailability or inaccessibility of gender statistics³³. However, since the commencement of this project starting from the first phase, there has been some improvement as evidence shows that NPF Regulations has been reviewed and all discriminatory provisions have been expunged but awaiting gazetting by the Ministry of Justice.³⁴

Several empirical evidence³⁵ have demonstrated that countries with greater gender equality in security institutions are more likely to resolve conflicts without violence and are less likely to use military force to resolve international disputes. Conversely, countries with more significant gender gaps are more likely to be involved in inter- and intrastate conflict³⁶. Also, evidence shows that higher levels of gender equality are directly related to increased levels of security and stability. Women’s participation in conflict prevention and resolution can improve outcomes before, during, and after conflict. For example, women’s participation increases the probability of a peace agreement lasting at least two years by 20 percent and a peace agreement lasting fifteen years by 35 percent³⁷. Even though women make up almost half of the Nigerian population, and the benefits associated with their equal participation in peace and security processes, they are largely excluded from conflict management structures and peace-building mechanisms.

Grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN Charter), UN Women assists countries, and the UN system to progress towards gender equality and women empowerment. UN Women works to support the government’s national priorities, which prioritize the empowerment of women and girls and their contribution to all areas of economic, political, and social development. Nigeria is a signatory to several commitments on women, peace and security, and, more specifically, a gender-responsive and gender-balanced security sector. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (2000), domesticated in Nigeria through a National Action Plan, is a key one. In response to these commitments, there have been various policy and programmatic initiatives by security institutions; related ministries, departments and agencies; partners; and civil society organizations. However, progress and implementation have been uneven across and within

³⁰ Report on Gender Assessment of the Security Sector in Nigeria At the Federal and State Levels (Benue and Bauchi)

³¹ Ibid

³² ³² Report on Gender Assessment of the Security Sector in Nigeria At the Federal and State Levels (Benue and Bauchi)

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Excerpt from PWAN

³⁵ <http://gsdrc.org/docs/open/hdq1169.pdf>

³⁶ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/dev4peace/can-gender-equality-prevent-violent-conflict>

³⁷ <https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/IPI-E-pub-Reimagining-Peacemaking-rev.pdf>

security sector institutions³⁸. Against this backdrop, UN Women Nigeria initiated the Enhancing Gender-Responsive Security Operations and Community Dialogue project focusing on the North Esat Region and the FCT.

1.5. Description of the Project

The *Enhancing Gender-Responsive Security Operations and Community Dialogue Project in Nigeria Phase II (2023 -2024)* is designed to consolidate on the successes recorded under Phase 1 by ensuring that security sector legislation, policies, and institutions are reformed to promote gender equality, and women in their diversity, especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities are empowered to voice and assert their rights to protection and have enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner.

The project supports the achievement of UN Women SN 2023-2027 Impact 4: Women Peace and Security and is aligned with the global SP outcome 1. It contributes to the implementation of the UNSDCF (2023–2027) strategic priority area 4 which states that by 2027, more inclusive, participatory, transparent, and gender-sensitive governance, justice, and human rights systems are in place at all levels to promote acceleration in the achievement of 2030 agenda and the SDGs for a peaceful, inclusive, and cohesive society. Further, it is aligned with development priorities at global, regional, and national levels specifically SDG 5 and 16; the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), regional African Union (AU) Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA, the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework; Women, Peace, and Security Action Plan (2008); and the national goal of promoting women’s rights and gender equality which is central to the development agenda of Nigeria respectively. The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

1. Strengthen gender-responsive security sector policy reforms and implementation of gender policies adopted by target security institutions.
2. Support capacity building and institutional strengthening for enhanced gender responsiveness in security institutions.
3. Strengthen collaboration between women affected by conflict and community-based structures (CSPs, MOTs, and WLOs) with security sector institutions and other stakeholders to address security concerns of women and girls in three target states in the Northeast (Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa).

The Governments of the project target states are also being supported to review their State Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security, in line with emerging issues, including strengthening mechanisms to enhance the implementation of the policy documents. Stakeholders at both national and state levels provided inputs to enhance local ownership, achievement of set goals and objectives, replication in other areas, and sustainability of the initiative. The Project Target Areas are Abuja, Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States.

The project intends to achieve 3 outcomes and 7 outputs.

Outcome 1: Security sector legislation, policies, and institutions are reformed to promote gender equality, and women’s participation and rights.
Output 1.1 Legislators and policymakers have increased awareness of the importance of addressing gender inequality and marginalization of women’s and girls’ rights in security sector laws, policies, and institutions
Output 1.2. Enhanced capacity among law and policymakers to mainstream gender in security sector laws and policies.
Output 1.3. The capacity of women in security sector institutions is enhanced to perform leadership roles including strategic decision-making.

³⁸ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/04/news---placing-gender-at-the-center-of-security-sector-reforms-in-nigeria>

Outcome 2: Women in their diversity, especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities are empowered to voice and assert their rights to protection and have enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner.

Output 2.1 Awareness of the security concerns and needs of women and girls, including gender-based violence is increased among personnel of target security sector institutions and members of local communities in target areas.

Output 2.2: Capacities of Women-Led Organizations (WLOs), Women Rights Organizations (WROs), Community Security Platforms (CSPs), and Mixed Observers Teams (MOTs) to identify and address security concerns of women and girls in target areas, and collaboration among them is enhanced.

Outcome 3: Coordination mechanisms among key security sector institutions in Nigeria are improved to address the security needs of individuals and communities in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner.

Output 3.1. Inter-agency collaboration and coordination among security sector institutions for gender responsiveness in operational procedures is enhanced through the Women Peace and Security Reference Group.

Output 3.2. Preventive and response mechanisms in addressing security concerns of women and girls is enhanced through strategic collaborative engagements between the Women Peace and Security Reference Group and community-based structures (WLOs, WROs, CSPs, and MOTs) in target states.

The two-year program (2023-2024) has carefully designed interventions under three priority areas of intervention:

- ✚ Strategic policy development and dialogue,
- ✚ Institutional capacity building and training,
- ✚ Community-security mechanisms and advocacy.

The project strategy is centered on UN Women's partnership with security sector institutions and associated training centers, legislative institutions, and Federal and State Ministries of Women's Affairs to ensure ownership and sustainability of capacity building and policy efforts. Partnerships were forged with the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs which doubles as the custodian of the National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 and the entity responsible for ensuring and supporting gender mainstreaming within Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to lead/co-lead on strategic convening.

National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) and National Defense College (NDC) are responsible for the implementation of outcome 1. Partners West Africa-Nigeria (PWAN) is responsible for implementing outcome 2 while outcome 3 is jointly being implemented by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN). The primary stakeholders of the project are the Government of Germany, security institutions, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, and Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN). The specific activities and roles of the stakeholders are discussed below:

- ✚ National Defence College (NDC). The National Defence College is the apex military training institution for the Nigerian Armed Forces and a Centre of Excellence for peace support operations training at the strategic level in West Africa. It was established in 1992 as the highest military institution for the training of senior military officers in Nigeria. Under the SSR 2 PROJECT, the College was engaged by the project team to conduct the gender audit of the Armed Forces of Nigeria. In Phase II, the College was engaged to support the implementation of activities in Outcome 1 of the project.
- ✚ National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS): The NILDS is a capacity-building agency of the National Assembly that also provides technical services to the legislature and other institutions of democracy in Nigeria. The Governing Council of NILDS is the highest governance organ of the Institute and its principal policy-making arm. In this regard, it sets broad policy for the institute; approves annual work programmes and budgets, and provides support for research, policy analysis, and training programmes.
- ✚ Ministry of Women Affairs: The Nigerian Ministry of Women Affairs is a ministry of the Nigerian government that promotes the development of women with equal rights and corresponding responsibilities. The objectives of the Ministry include stimulating action to promote civic, political, social, and economic participation of women; coordinating and monitoring women's programmes; providing

technical and financial support to women's non-governmental organizations, especially the National Council of Women Societies. The Ministry of Women Affairs is required to review substantive and procedural laws that affect women. The Ministry is the custodian of the National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 as well as the entity responsible for ensuring and supporting gender mainstreaming within the Ministries, Departments, and Agencies. Under the SSR 2 PROJECT, the Ministry of Women's Affairs was provided with the technical capacity to lead the convening of the security sector Reference Group and Co-organized the annual women in security sector fora. In Phase II of the project, they are charged with the responsibility of implementing Outcome 3 with PWAN.

- ✚ Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN). Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to enhancing citizens' participation and improving security governance in Nigeria and West Africa broadly. The organization does this through research, collaborative advocacy, capacity building, dissemination of information, and integrating the implementation of government policies such as United Nations Resolution 1325, Women Peace and Security Second Generation National Action Plan (NAP 2) among others. Under the SSR 2 project, they were engaged as the implementing partner responsible for the implementation of activities under Outcome 3 of the project in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States.

2.0. OBJECTIVES OF THE MID-TERM EVALUATION

The purpose of the mid-term evaluation is to assess the progress, achievements, and challenges of the project in order to enhance implementation in the remaining project duration; inform future related and follow-up programs on security sector reform and WPS more generally; and promote wider organizational learning and accountability. This mid-term review is particularly important and relevant given the context in which the project operates amidst increasing security challenges. Within this context, the project's mid-term review is then expected to assess how the project's implementation has been affected, adjusted accordingly, and formulated recommendations for accelerated implementation and impact under prevailing circumstances.

The evaluation assesses progress toward the achievement of results as specified in the logical framework of the project and the initial and potential impacts of the project. It also assesses early signs of success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made to set the program on- track to achieve its intended results. The midterm evaluation reviewed the strategy and risks to sustainability as well as identified lessons learned and best practices that could be applied to future and other ongoing programs. Specifically, the objectives of the midterm evaluation are to:

- ✚ Analyze the relevance of the project to the local and national level priorities for the implementation of the WPS agenda, and the security sector reform.
- ✚ Assess how the intervention and its results relate and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 5 and 16.
- ✚ Analyze how the project implementation is contributing to gender equality principles and a human rights-based approach.
- ✚ Assess the organizational efficiency and coordination mechanisms in supporting the progress towards the achievement of project objectives.
- ✚ Assess effectiveness and emerging measurable impact of the project implementation on the target groups.
- ✚ Evaluate the extent to which the project has realized synergies between UN Women's three mandates (normative, coordination and operational).
- ✚ Identify and document lessons learned and good practices and analyze challenges and possible weaknesses to inform future work of UN Women and other agencies in the area of security sector reform and WPS programming.
- ✚ Identify strategies for replication and up-scaling of the project's good practices.
- ✚ Identify and validate current and potential innovations in all aspects of the project.
- ✚ Assess the sustainability of the results and the intervention in advancing the WPS agenda through the target groups.
- ✚ Provide actionable recommendations concerning the implementation of the project for the remaining period, and the development of a new/follow-on WPS Programme for the Security Sector.

2.1. Scope of the evaluation

The SSR 2 Project mid-term evaluation focused on the activities of the project between 29th June 2023 and April 2024 and relied on existing background documents for the WPS Programme and other relevant project documents, including results and logical frameworks. The geographic scope of the review includes Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. The evaluation draws on and serves to complement the findings of the final evaluation reports of the WPS Programme in Nigeria (2019-2021) and the Security Sector Project-Phase I (2020 – 2021).

2.2. Stakeholders of the Evaluation

The primary stakeholders of the evaluation include the UN Women project team, the Government of Germany (donor partner), the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs, the State Ministry of Women Affairs (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states), Nigeria Police Force, Armed Forces of Nigeria, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps and their state counterparts. Others are the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, National Defense College and Partners West Africa Nigeria (implementing partners). These key stakeholders were engaged during the mid-term evaluation. UN Women project team provided a self-assessment of the project performance, challenges, and lessons learned. They also provided logistic support to the evaluation team by mobilizing the project beneficiaries at the national and state levels. The government officials as stakeholders are part of the beneficiaries of the project and provided evidence of the relevance of the project, effectiveness, and impact of the project in their respective MDAs.

The implementing partners on the other hand supported the mobilization of the project beneficiaries for interviews while also providing information on the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the project benefits at the community level. The project beneficiaries on the other hand provided the needed information on the relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the project benefits at the community level. Thus, the involvement of all stakeholders ensured that the SSR 2 Project (Phase II) mid-term evaluation is human rights and gender-sensitive, consultative, and with a strong learning component. It ensured the participation of Government MDAs, Security Agencies, Judiciary, Women Groups/Networks, CSOs, and Media, among others, in project target areas.

2.3. Users of the Evaluation

The midterm evaluation findings will be used to:

- ✚ Strategically plan and manage the remaining period of the project.
- ✚ Refine implementation and accelerate progress toward impacts.
- ✚ Sustain results in coordination with key stakeholders.
- ✚ Contribute to increased ownership and accountability of results.
- ✚ Inform the development of future programming interventions to strengthen the results of increasing women's political participation.

The main users of the mid-term evaluation include UN Women Nigeria Country Office and other country offices, the German Foreign Office, key Government of Nigeria Partners: Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, State Ministry of Women Affairs, Nigeria Police Force, Armed Forces of Nigeria, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, Legislators in the National Assembly and State level counterparts in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states, among others, and direct project implementing partners. The detailed review report was shared with the Women, Peace and Security Sector Reference Group as well as development partners and UN agencies engaged in security sector reform. Lastly, a diverse group of women-led organizations, civil society, media, and other community members who are direct and indirect project beneficiaries, will benefit from the findings.

2.4. Theory of Change

Based on the review of the project documents, the SSR 2 Project is anchored on three Theories of Change (ToC) with each outcome having a separate ToC and overall ToC.

Theory of Change: Enhancing Gender-Responsive Security Operations and Community Dialogue Project in Nigeria (Phase II) (2023-2024)

Outcome 1 ToC: Security sector legislation, policies, and institutions are reformed to promote

gender equality, and women's participation and rights.

“If (i) legislators and policymakers have increased awareness of the importance of addressing gender inequality and marginalization of women's and girls' rights in the security sector; if (ii) they have enhanced capacity to mainstream gender in security sector laws and policies, and if (iii) the capacity of women in security sector institutions is enhanced to perform leadership roles including strategic decision-making then security sector reform in Nigeria will promote gender equality and women's rights; because motivation and capacities exist to adopt gender-responsive laws, policies and operational guidelines”.

Outcome 2 ToC: Women in their diversity, especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities are empowered to voice and assert their rights to protection and have enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner.

“If (i) awareness of the security concerns and needs of women and girls, including gender-based violence is increased among personnel of security sector institutions and members of local communities; If (ii) capacities of WLOs, WROs, CSPs, and MOTs to identify and address security concerns of women and girls, and collaboration among them are enhanced; and If (iii) State Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325) in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states are reviewed and mechanisms for implementation strengthened to enhance the protection of women and girls; then Women in their diversity, especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities, are empowered to voice and assert their rights to protection and have enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner because the capacities and enabling environment exist”.

Outcome 3 ToC: Coordination mechanisms among key security sector institutions in Nigeria is improved to address the security needs of individuals and communities in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner.

“If (i) inter-agency collaboration and coordination among security sector institutions for gender responsiveness in operational procedures is enhanced through the Women Peace and Security Reference Group; and if (ii) preventive and response mechanisms in addressing security concerns of women and girls is enhanced through strategic collaborative engagements between the Women Peace and Security Reference Group and community-based structures (WLOs, WROs, CSPs, and MOTs) in target states; then coordination mechanisms among key security sector institutions in Nigeria is improved to address the security needs of individuals and communities in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner because functional national and sub-national coordination mechanisms are in place”.

Overall Project Theory of Change

If, (1): Security sector legislation, policies, and institutions are reformed to promote gender equality, and women's participation and rights; If, (2) Women in their diversity, especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities are empowered to voice and assert their rights to protection and have enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner; and If, (3) Coordination mechanisms among key security sector institutions in Nigeria is improved to address the security needs of individuals and communities in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner; Then, an accountable and gender-responsive security sector will emerge in Nigeria, Because the enabling institutional, policy and legislative frameworks, and capacities are in place to address gender discrimination and other barriers women face to participate in security decision-making, and to assert and realize their rights to protection. The review of the ToC shows that it aligns with the objective of the intervention. The ToC is relevant as it shows a plausible, clear, and logical flow to describe how the project strategy intends to contribute to the desired changes at the outcome and impact level. However, the ToC was not linked to any empirical evidence or sources where the project strategy was validated. Also, the assumptions and risks most relevant to whether the change will be realized were not clearly stated in the ToC. Overall, the ToC remains valid and germane to the goal of the SSR 2 Project in the target states and locations.

3.0. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

3.1. Results-Based Management (RBM) Approach: Theory of Change

The mid-term evaluation of the SSR 2 Project was done using the Results-Based Management (RBM) - Theory of Change Approach. In this approach, all project documents and information from other sources were analysed and the output was used to review the ToC. This review is relevant as it helped to promote a clear understanding of the ToC as well as the project logic, inputs, and outputs as well as planned and expected outcomes, risks, and underlying assumptions. The notes from the review were also useful in developing the relevant evaluation questions, guiding the development of related methods and protocols, and analysing the broader progress toward outcomes. See Annex 1 for the evaluation matrix that lists the key evaluation questions, indicators, data sources, and methods of data collection.

3.2 Evaluation criteria elaboration of key questions

The mid-term evaluation applied the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, coherence and impact. The mid-term evaluation also took into consideration gender equality and human rights, and disability inclusion, as separate standalone criteria. This was used as the main analytical framework following UN Women evaluation guidelines and UNEG Norms and Standards for evaluation and the UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluations in the UN System.³⁹ The evaluation questions that supported the mid-term evaluation are shown in Annex 1. The various key questions were further expatiated in the evaluation matrix (Annex 1) and were developed around the thematic evaluation areas. Throughout the evaluation process, gender and inequality concerns were assessed in line with the UN Women gender-responsive evaluation Policy⁴⁰. All data collected were gender-disaggregated and the different needs of women and men targeted by the SSR 2 Project were considered throughout the evaluation process.

The mid-term evaluation was carried out following UNEG Norms and Standards and UNEG Guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations. The process followed the UN Women Evaluation Policy and the Ethical Guidelines for evaluations in the UN system. The final evaluation report was prepared following the UN Women Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS).

The evaluator identified all categories of beneficiaries and stakeholders through a stakeholder analysis to ensure that no one is left behind in the data-gathering process. The evaluators are cognizant of potential biases that can arise in the selection of methods and avoid them through the inclusion of the full range of appropriate stakeholder groups and a variety of data collection tools. To facilitate more transparent and participatory processes, enabling more equitable gender-balanced contributions by all stakeholders, and to facilitate capacity building of all stakeholders to contribute freely, the evaluators also mainstreamed transparency, privacy, and confidentiality issues, including sensitivity to language use during data collection. The evaluator gathered stakeholders in separate groups where they could express themselves freely. The evaluator also visited stakeholders in their respective institutions and localities and used appropriate cultural approaches and local languages to facilitate easy access and increased participation.

3.3. Methodological Approach

The mid-evaluation will serve both formative and summative purposes (i.e. to inform UN Women Nigeria future programming in gender equality and women empowerment in Nigeria as well as determine the extent the SSR 2 Project is making progress toward its planned goals and objectives). Consequently, the evaluation adopted a mixed method approach (MMA) involving the use of quantitative and qualitative research methods. This also involved a desk review of secondary data documents. The data sources include primary and secondary sources. This mix MMA allowed for data triangulation which is critical in making valid inferences from data analyses and conclusions relevant to the objectives of the evaluation. The MMA of data collection includes document analysis, key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), and questionnaire administration. The key informants and focus group discussants were representatives of the recipients of various interventions of the project. The approach ensured that the evaluation is utilization-focused, gender-responsive, and explicitly integrates human rights-based approaches to data management. The gender-responsive evaluation of the SSR 2 Project involved the following:

³⁹ UNEG Ethical Guidelines : http://uneval.org/papersandpubs/documentdetail.jsp?doc_id=102; The UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluation: http://uneval.org/papersandpubs/documentdetail.jsp?doc_id=100

⁴⁰ Ibid

- ✚ Include at least one explicit evaluation question about gender equality;
- ✚ Report against gender-disaggregated indicators such as Gender-, age- and disability status of respondents.
- ✚ Based on gender-responsive stakeholder analysis, including human rights roles;
- ✚ Include consultation with rights holders; Include gender analysis in any description of context;
- ✚ Include an analysis of the extent to which internationally and nationally agreed norms on gender equality are met by an intervention;
- ✚ Include a discussion of gender equality throughout any section dealing with findings; and
- ✚ Have at least one conclusion and recommendation that explicitly addresses gender equality and disability inclusion.⁴¹

3.4 Secondary Data Collection

1. The starting point of the data collection exercise was a desk review of all relevant documentation on the intervention. The project documents have already been shared by UN Women Nigeria. They were reviewed and complemented by other sources where necessary sourced from the internet including the Gender Country Profile Nigeria Gender Action Plan III 2021 – 2024 report, Gender in Nigeria 2020: An advocacy brochure report, National Bureau Of Statistics (2018). Nigeria statistical report on Women and Men in 2017 and NATIONAL GENDER POLICY [2021-2026] and others cited in Annex 5.
2. The document reviews was done in line with the key evaluation questions and the listed indicators. This provided useful background information to the evaluation team in understanding the project and assessing the extent of project activity implementation. The information was also used to verify and validate (triangulate) the data obtained from other tools. The review therefore helps to provide evidence to meet some of the log frame indicators and the evaluation questions. The desk review was used at inception, during data collection, and at the triangulation stage. Its advantage is that it is inexpensive, and data is relatively fast and easy to obtain because of the security sector project's rich literature and reports.

3.5 Primary Data Collection

The main instruments used for data collection include key informant interview guides, focus group discussion guides and a structured questionnaire. The guides were developed to meet relevant questions for each of the stakeholders including the project team, security institutions and ministries, beneficiaries, Women-led organizations, and implementing partners. The data collected using the tools from stakeholders include the relevance of the project to the target states and beneficiaries, the effectiveness of the project as well as the efficiency of the project concerning the use of resources. Others that were captured include the impact of the project as well as the sustainability of the project benefits in the target states.

The use of interviews and FGDs is useful for this evaluation. One of the most important advantages of focus groups is that they offer significant benefits of uncovering profound insights and delivering rich qualitative data. Through focus groups, the evaluator obtained data relating to the beneficiary's emotions, and experiences that may prove to be challenging to capture through survey. It also gives discussant freedom to articulate their opinions, emotions, and viewpoints in their terms, providing nuanced and detailed information that can prove invaluable in helping the evaluation team gain a comprehensive understanding of the project's relevance and impacts. Additionally, FGDs are preferred because they are useful for obtaining detailed information about personal and group feelings, perceptions, and opinions. Also, group interactions have the advantage of bringing out nuances of stakeholder dynamics. The questionnaire administration helped to generate relevant quantitative data to validate some of the quantitative indicators in the log frame.

3.6 Sampling and Data Collection

This evaluation sampled all the locations covered by the intervention including the FCT, Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. At the LGA level, it also covered 10 LGAs in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. This sample represents 100 percent of SSR 2 Project LGAs. This spread provided the needed reliability and generalizability of data. In each LGA, a representative sample of key stakeholders was drawn, and interviewed based on their participation in the SSR 2 Project. KIIs were conducted with these sampled key stakeholders as well as beneficiaries. Core members who participated in the SSR 2 Project such as State Ministries of Women's Affairs, Security institutions (Army, Police, and National Security and Civil Defence Corp, NDC, WLO, MOTs, and CSPs were interviewed as key informants. These stakeholders were selected using a purposive sampling approach,

⁴¹ UNEG (2017)

guided by their nature and roles in the project design and implementation. This was done with due to consideration of gender-balanced, roles, and the nature of participation in the SSR 2 Project. (See Annex 2 for details of key stakeholders who participated in the evaluation at the national level). For the questionnaire administration, the targeted number of beneficiaries is not known. Hence, we adopted the formula for calculating the sample size for an infinite population as follows:

Following the examples of Mason⁴² and Berenson and Levine⁴³, the total population of project participants is not known and thus the degree of variability is not known. Assuming the maximum variability, which is equal to 50 percent ($p = 0.5$) and taking 95 percent confidence level with $\pm 5\%$ precision, the calculation for the required sample size will be as follows:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 p(1-p)}{e^2}$$

Where,

n is the sample size

p is the variability in population of project participants

e is the permitted sampling error

Z is the level of confidence.

$$p = 0.5 \text{ and hence } q = 1 - 0.5 = 0.5; e = 0.07; z = 1.96$$

Thus, n was calculated as 196 which was used as the sample size for the study. Annex 3 shows the States covered during the assessment. The mid-term evaluation employed stratified sampling techniques in the selection of the respondents. This involved the stratification of the respondents along the community security structures, SGBV survivors, and security personnel who participated in capacity building under the project. Lastly, simple random sampling approach was applied in the selection of the final respondents from each of the strata until the required sample size was attained.

3.7. Validity and reliability of data

Throughout this evaluation, data management was given adequate consideration regarding the validity and reliability of data. The evaluators deployed different tools to targeted stakeholders and all tools contained similar wordings for the same question. More importantly, the evaluation team pre-tested data collection tools to ensure high validity and reliability. Representative samples were selected from each stakeholder group to avoid sampling biases. The evaluator also used multiple methods of data collection and analysis (triangulation), which allowed for validation across multiple methods and sources. The collected data were subjected to rigorous cleaning to remove outliers before analysis. The draft report was further subjected to a validation workshop with all key stakeholders where the findings were further examined through engagement with stakeholders at stakeholder workshops and management debriefings.

3.8. Data Analysis and Reporting

The analysis of information and data collected ran throughout the various evaluation stages. However, once all information and data had been collected, a different analytical process was used which involved a systematic organization, comparison, and synthesis of information and data derived across and through all methods⁴⁴. The evaluator triangulated data obtained from various methods of data collection and sources to ensure robust findings. The evaluators made judgments based on the evidence from the findings.

Quantitative Data Analysis – Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentages and charts to meet the objectives of the evaluation. Relevant tables and columns were developed showing disaggregated data by gender, age, state, and disability in drafting the various sections of the report.

⁴² Mason, R.D. (1978): Statistical Techniques in Business and Economics, Irwin Series in Quantitative Analysis for Business and Economics, Richard Irwin Inc.

⁴³ Berenson, M.L and Levine, D.M. (1999): Business Statistics: A First Course, Prentice-Hall Inc.

⁴⁴ How to manage Gender-responsive Evaluation- Evaluation Handbook, p76

Qualitative data analysis –The consultant used thematic coding to analyze qualitative data. The codes and themes were determined by the evaluation objectives and criteria. Examples of the themes used include Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability as well as cross-cutting issues and disability inclusion. The content analysis method was employed in the desk review of all available reports, documents and collected data sets. The evaluation team reviewed all relevant project documents and findings were triangulated and refined based on the comments of key informants and through cross-checking to ensure factual credibility. The findings from the qualitative and quantitative data analysis were triangulated by source and methods to obtain descriptive findings and conclusions relevant to the objectives of the evaluation.

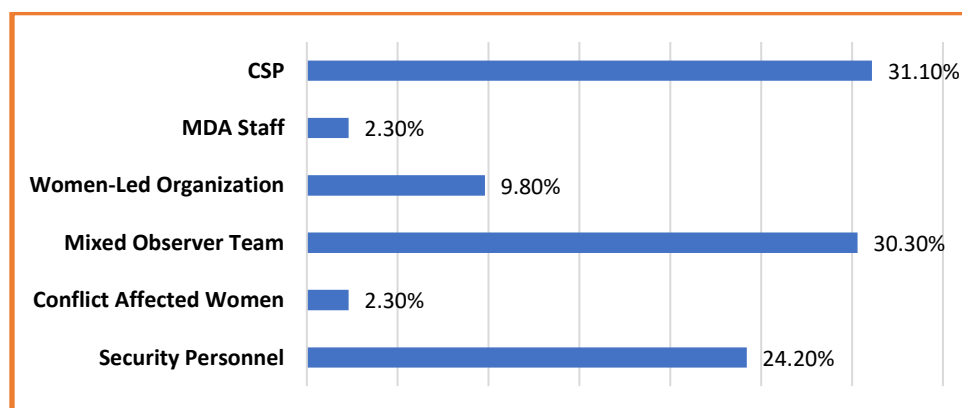
Qualitative data analysis –The evaluation team utilized thematic coding to analyze qualitative data. The codes and themes followed the evaluation objectives and criteria. Examples of the themes include Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability as well as Cross-cutting issues and Disability inclusion. The content analysis method was employed in the desk review of all available reports, documents, and collected data sets. The evaluation team reviewed all relevant project documents and findings were triangulated and refined based on the comments of key informants and through cross-checking to ensure factual credibility. The findings from the qualitative and quantitative data analysis were triangulated by source and methods to obtain descriptive findings and conclusions relevant to the objectives of this evaluation. These were subsequently transformed into normative recommendations to address issues that are deemed sufficiently important and operational.

The following methods for data analysis were used:

- Qualitative Content Analysis: to evaluate patterns across multiple pieces of content of words, phrases or images to identify the frequency and patterns of deeper underlying interpretations.
- Thematic Analysis: examines the patterns of meaning in a data set of interviews or focus group transcripts by grouping them according to similarities/themes to derive the meaning of the content.
- Budget and expenditure analysis: analyze burn rate.
- Descriptive analysis and trend analysis were used for data available on project activities, and completion rates by partners.

A total of 132 questionnaires were retrieved out of the targeted 196 questionnaires which represent 67 percent response rate. The analysis of the quantitative data collected from the questionnaire indicates that 66.7 percent of the respondents were females while the males made up 33.3 percent. The majority (56.1%) of the respondents are within the age bracket of 30-49 years while 28.8 percent are above 50 years of age. In terms of educational attainments, the majority (71.6%) of the respondents had tertiary educational qualifications while 23.5 percent had secondary education. Evidence from Figure 3.1 shows that 31.1 percent of the respondents were members of the CSP while 30.3 percent and 24 percent of the respondents were members of MOT and Security personnel respectively (Figure 3.1). Evidence from the quantitative data analysis also reveals that persons with a disability only make up 3 percent of respondents in the quantitative survey which suggest that only few persons were targeted in the project.

Figure 3.1: Distribution of Respondents by Categories of Participants



3.9. Ethical Considerations

The consultant adhered fully to the ethics and principles for research and evaluation. In addition, the consultant also adhered strictly to the UN Evaluation (Group UNEG) standards for evaluation, UN Women Evaluation policy as well as the ethical Guidelines for evaluations in the UN System. Specific safety considerations were put in place to promote the safety of both the respondents and the evaluation team during data collection. The critical ethical considerations that were mainstreamed during data collection exercise include the following:

- ✚ Data collection tools have been designed in a way that is culturally appropriate and does not create distress for respondents;
- ✚ Data collection visits were organized at the appropriate times and places to minimize risk to respondents;
- ✚ Interviewers provided information on how individuals in situations of risk can seek support;
- ✚ A plan was put in place to protect the rights of the respondent, including privacy and confidentiality;
- ✚ The evaluation team is trained in collecting sensitive information, and where the topic of the evaluation may touch on violence against women, evaluators have previous experience in this area;
- ✚ The evaluators are competent to identify the complexity of cultural identities, identify power dynamics between and within different groups, and will be cognizant of existant services for SGBV survivors and referral processes and the use of language among respondents.

The evaluation team followed the UNEG Ethical Guidelines and Code of Conduct,⁴⁵ as listed below:

- ✚ Respect for dignity and diversity
- ✚ Right to self-determination
- ✚ Right to participate or withdraw at any time
- ✚ Fair representation
- ✚ Alignment with codes for vulnerable groups
- ✚ Redress
- ✚ Confidentiality
- ✚ Avoidance of harm.

3.10. Limitations to the evaluation

Several limitations were observed in the mid-term evaluation and for each limitation, a mitigation strategy was devised.

- ✚ The first limitation of the evaluation is the unpredictable security situation in some of the states, particularly in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. This challenge was addressed by relying on the security architecture of UN Women in the three states.
- ✚ Also, the evaluation is targeting key security institutions in the country. Given the fragile security situation in the country, accessing the security institutions poses some challenges to the evaluation team. However, given that the UN Women team has established a working relationship with the key institution, the evaluation team leverages this existing relationship in accessing the security institutions. Also, most of the high-level stakeholders were difficult to reach for data collection due to their busy schedules. This extends the data collection period beyond the planned period.
- ✚ The spatial coverage of interventions in three states including the FCT is also a major challenge considering the security challenges in assessing the different locations. However, the readily available logistics of UN Women and the IPs in the states ensured that the evaluation covered all locations as required.
- ✚ Also, several of the high-level stakeholders were difficult to reach by the evaluation team due to their busy schedules which consequently extended the data collection period beyond the scheduled time. Overall, all the limitations were mitigated and did not have any significant effect on the data collection and the entire evaluation process.

4.0. EVALUATION FINDINGS

This section of the report presents the findings of the analysis of data collected for the mid-term evaluation. The findings respond to the various evaluation questions raised in the ToR and are organized according to the OECD/DAC's evaluation criteria.

⁴⁵ https://www.unodc.org/documents/evaluation/Guidelines/UNEG_Ethical_Guidelines_for_Evaluation_2020.pdf

4.1. Relevance:

This criteria measures the extent to which the objectives of the project are consistent with the evolving needs and priorities of the beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders. The findings from the evaluation questions raised under this criteria are discussed below:

Findings 1: The extent the project objectives address the identified rights and needs of the target groups (Security Sector Institutions, Women-Led Organizations, and Women Affected by Conflict).

The mid-term evaluation findings reveal that the SSR 2 project to a very large extent addressed the rights and needs of the target groups (Security Sector Institutions, Government MDAs, Women-Led Organizations, and Women Affected by Conflict). Evidence from document reviews and interviews with the project team, IPs, and the direct beneficiaries of the project including Security Sector Institutions, Government MDAs, Women-Led Organizations, and Women Affected by Conflict confirmed the above findings. Evidence shows that before the initiation of the first phase of the project in 2020, women were poorly represented in formal peace and security processes and structures even though women constitute about 50 percent of the country's population⁴⁶.

The security sector institutions are major actors engaged by the government to prevent and respond to the security issues in Nigeria. These institutions include the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN), Nigeria Police Force (NPF), and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). However, there is a huge gender gap in the policies and operational procedures by the institutions, at all levels. Findings from the gender assessment of the security sector in 2020 indicate the absence of a policy framework for gender mainstreaming and the widespread marginalization of women. The SSR 2 Project during the first phase therefore focused on the development of gender policy for the security institutions and capacity building of personnel in the areas of gender mainstreaming and the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) as a way of addressing the identified gaps by the assessment. Thus, the project successfully supported the development and adoption of gender policies by the AFN, NSCDC, and review of gender policy of the NPF. In the second phase, the project continued with the capacity building of security actors and the review of the Acts establishing the security institutions from a gender perspective. To this extent, it was objective to conclude that the SSR 2 Project to a large extent addressed the needs of the security sector institutions in Nigeria.

The project objectives were also found to address the needs of government ministries especially the Ministry of Women's Affairs at the federal and state levels. The broad mandate of the Ministry is to advise the government on gender and Children issues. Issues affecting Persons with Disabilities and the Aged; initiate policy guidelines and lead the process of gender equality and mainstreaming at both the national and international levels⁴⁷. Operationally, the Federal and State Ministry of Women's Affairs is also charged with the responsibilities of implementing NAP and SAP respectively on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) which calls for increased women's participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response. The SSR 2 Project through its gender policies developed for the AFN, NSCDC and the NPF supported the Federal and State Ministry of Women Affairs in promoting women's participation in security operations which is one of the core goals of the NAP. The SSR 2 project also addresses the needs of the State Ministries of Women's Affairs in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe state by supporting the review and development of the SAP. To this extent, it was fair to conclude that the SSR 2 Project addressed the needs of the government MDAs in Nigeria.

Our evidence sets from document reviews and interviews with beneficiaries also indicate that the SSR 2 Project addresses identified rights and needs of Women-Led Organizations and Women Affected by Conflict. Evaluative evidence shows that the impact of violence in Nigeria is strongly gendered while the involvement of women in peace and security decision-making processes and peace negotiations is generally low⁴⁸. The SSR 2 Project targeting of conflict-affected women in North-east Nigeria to address some of their security concerns was therefore considered relevant by the mid-term evaluation. The third objective of the SSR 2 project focuses on

1. ⁴⁶ UN Women 2021: Report on Gender Assessment of the Security Sector in Nigeria At the Federal and State Levels (Benue and Bauchi)

⁴⁷ <https://womenaffairs.gov.ng/index.php/78-featured/105-article-d>

⁴⁸ Report on Gender Assessment of the Security Sector in Nigeria At the Federal and State Levels (Benue and Bauchi)

engendering meaningful engagement and collaboration of conflict-affected women, and women-led organizations with security sector institutions. In this respect, the community security structures such as the MOTs, CSP, and WLOs were integrated into the established Women Peace and Security Reference Group which gives the members of the community structures to directly interface with high-level security actors in the group during the quarterly meetings. This has helped to bridge the gap between the community security structures and security institutions. To this extent, it was fair to conclude that the SSR 2 project addressed the needs of the WLOs and conflict-affected women and girls in the target states.

Also, the project has established legal clinics for free legal services to address security concerns of women and girls, especially SGBV cases in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states. Evidence from interviews with the beneficiaries also shows that the project is addressing the needs of the target groups as shown in the excerpts below:

I will say that this project is relevant to our community needs. Issues of SGBV have been on the rise in our community and nobody has shown any interest in addressing it until UN women came up with this project and established the MOT and CSPs that are not helping to address the issues by assisting the SGBV survivors.⁴⁹

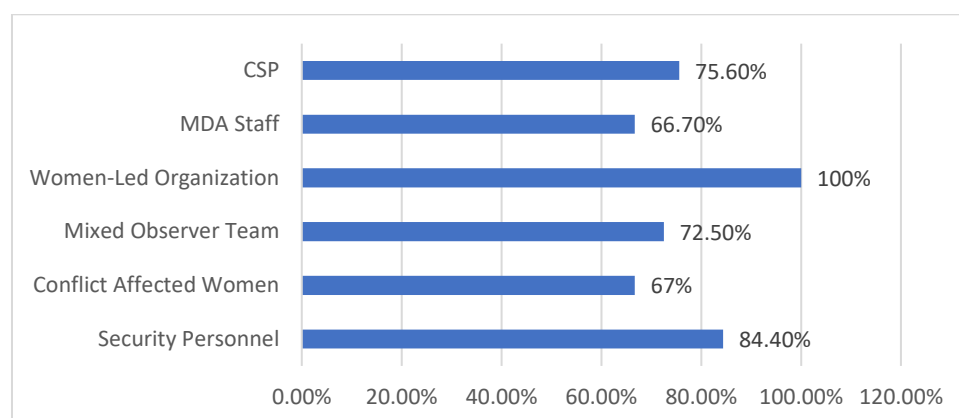
One of our needs which this project has helped us to address is the capacity building on our rights especially issues like women's rights, SGBV, and working with security actors. Women's participation in peace committees at the community level was also a big issue before now but through the project sensitization community leaders, this women's right is being restored.⁵⁰

Evidence from the quantitative survey among the beneficiaries shows the extent the project objectives address the identified rights and needs of the target groups (Security Sector Institutions, Women-Led Organizations, and Women Affected by Conflict) (Figure 4.1). Figure 4.1 indicates that 75.6 percent of members of the CSP agreed that the SSR 2 project objectives addressed their identified rights and needs to a very large extent while 66.6 percent, 100 percent, and 84.4 percent of members of MDA staff, WLOs, and MOT stated that the SSR 2 project objectives addressed their identified rights and needs to a very large extent. A disaggregation of the data by gender shows that 79.5 percent and 78.4 percent of women and men respectively maintained that the SSR 2 project objectives addressed their identified rights and needs to a very large extent.

⁴⁹ Excerpt from FGD with members of MOT in Borno state

⁵⁰ Excerpt from FGD with members of CSP in Yobe state

Figure 4.1: The Extent the Project Objectives Address the Identified Rights and Needs of the Groups



Overall, the mid-term evaluation notes that to a large extent, the SSR 2 Project objectives address the identified rights and needs of the target groups (Security Sector Institutions, Government MDAs, Women-Led Organizations, and Women Affected by Conflict).

Findings 2: The extent national partners were involved in the conceptualization and design process.

Evaluative evidence from document reviews and interviews with national partners and other beneficiaries confirmed that to a large extent, national partners and other beneficiaries were involved in the conceptualization and design process. Several evidence confirmed this finding. First, it is pertinent to note that the SSR 2 Project conceptualization and design benefited greatly from the findings of the final evaluation report of the first phase of the project. The lessons learnt as well as feedback from stakeholders, including partners and beneficiaries in target states served as a valuable guide to UN Women in the design of the second phase of the project. Secondly, UN Women conducted a formulation mission to Adamawa State (the new state added to the project) in December 2022 and engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, including Government MDAs, security agencies, community leaders, and women-led organizations. The stakeholders validated the proposed project design as a strategic initiative to address the security concerns of women and girls in the state.⁵¹ Evidence from interviews with the project stakeholders also supported the above findings:

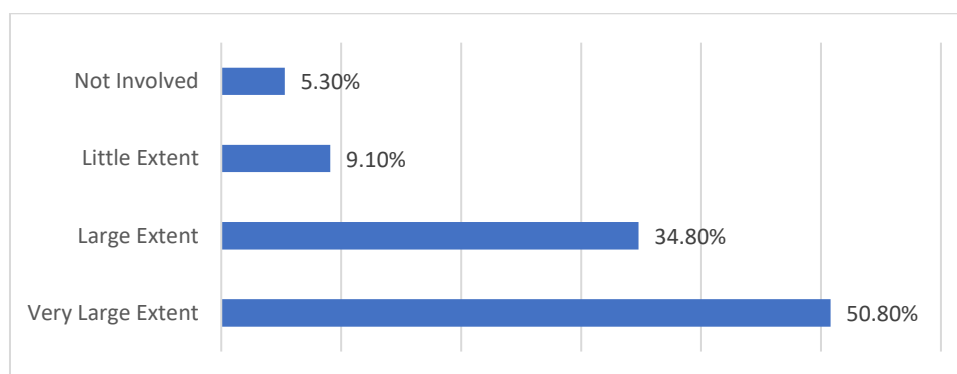
At different stages of this project, I think UN Women has done very well in carrying the stakeholders along in the conceptualization and design of the project. I remember participating in a validation workshop under this project where the project strategy was introduced to all key stakeholders for validation. They have equally done several advocacy visits to my office on this project which I think is very useful for the project. ⁵²

Similarly evidence from the quantitative survey indicates that 85.6 percent of the respondents stated that they were involved in the conceptualization and design of the project (Figure 4.2). A disaggregation of the data by gender shows that 84.1 percent and 88.6 percent of women and men respondents stated that they were involved in the conceptualization and design of the project. Overall, the mid-term evaluation rates the national partner's involvement in the conceptualization and design process as good.

⁵¹ SSR 2 Project Pro Doc

⁵² Excerpt from KII with a high level Security Actor

Figure 4.2: The extent national partners were involved in the design process



Finding 3: Consistency of activities and outputs of the project with the intended impacts, provision of UNSCR 1325 as well as Nigeria’s National Action Plan (NAP).

Our evidence set including document reviews and interviews with various stakeholders confirmed that the SSR 2 project activities and outputs are consistent with the intended impacts and adequately contributed to addressing the problems identified including the absence of enabling, gender-responsive policy environment of key security sector institutions and security concerns of conflict-affected women. The review of project documents and interviews with stakeholders confirmed that all the project activities and outputs were consistent with the intended impacts. The overall impact of the project in phase I was to promote a human security-centric, accountable, and gender-responsive security sector in Nigeria. Accordingly, all the activities and outputs of the project were focused on this broad goal. As previously noted, the SSR 2 project was designed to consolidate on the successes recorded under phase I by ensuring that security sector legislation, policies, and institutions are reformed to promote gender equality, and women in their diversity, especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities are empowered to voice and assert their rights to protection and have enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner. Thus, all the activities to be implemented were focused on achieving this broad goal. For instance, OUTCOME 1 of the SSR 2 project focuses on ensuring that Security sector legislation, policies, and institutions are reformed to promote gender equality, and women’s participation and rights. OUTCOME 2 of the project focused on ensuring that “Women in their diversity, especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities are empowered to voice and assert their rights to protection and have enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner while OUTCOME 3 focuses on ensuring that the coordination mechanisms among key security sector institutions in Nigeria is improved to address the security needs of individuals and communities in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner.

At the output levels, evidence shows that all the Output 1.1 to 1.3, Output 2.1 to 2.3, and output 3.1 to 3.2 were all aligned with the intended impact of the project. For instance, Output 1.1 focused on ensuring that legislators and policymakers have increased awareness of the importance of addressing gender inequality and marginalization of women’s and girls’ rights in security sector laws, policies, and institutions. The key activity under this output includes capacity building, public sensitization, and validation meetings on gender-responsive legislative and policy reforms conducted among the Senate and House of Representatives, Army, Airforce, Navy, Police, and NSCDC. Output 1.2 focused on achieving enhanced capacity among law and policymakers to mainstream gender in security sector laws and policies. The key activities under this output include training of members of the Senate and House of Representatives on UNSCR 1325, gender policies and operationalization. All these activities were found to be consistent with the intended impact of the SSR 2 project which is to promote a human security-centric, accountable, and gender-responsive security sector in Nigeria. Other outputs such as output 2.1-2.3 and 3.1 – 3.2 and their respective activities were also found to be consistent with the intended impacts of the project. These outputs and respective activities also aligned with the problems identified which are gender imbalances in security sector institutions in Nigeria.

Also, the review of project documents and interviews with stakeholders confirmed that the activities and outputs of the project, to a large extent, are consistent with the provisions of the UNSCR 1325, the Nigeria's National Action Plan on the Resolution, and the attainment of the NAP's objectives. At the output levels, evidence shows that all the Output 1.1 to 1.3, Output 2.1, 2.3 and output 3.1 to 3.2 were all aligned with the provisions of the UN

SCR 1325. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict.⁵³ All the outputs of the SSR 2 project are geared towards a more gender-responsive security sector operations which is consistent with pillar one of the UNSCR 1325 whose target is to foster increased participation of women in mechanisms for prevention, management, and resolution of conflict. Some of the activities implemented under the SSR 2 project include:

- ✚ Strategic advocacy visits/meetings with heads and decision-makers of the target security institutions to adopt mechanisms for enhanced mainstreaming of gender in policies and operational procedures.
- ✚ Review of Laws of target security institutions from a gender perspective
- ✚ Development of Draft amendment Bills for gender-responsive security legislations.
- ✚ Capacity building of trainers from training academies and institutions of the AFN, NPF and NSCDC to increase their knowledge on gender mainstreaming.
- ✚ Strengthening of capacities of Women-Led Organizations (WLOs), Women Rights Organizations (WROs), Community Security Platforms (CSPs) and Mixed Observers Teams (MOTs) to identify and address security concerns of women and girls in target areas.

Given the above, it is plausible to conclude that the activities and outputs of the project were consistent with the intended impacts, provision of UNSCR 1325 as well as Nigeria's National Action Plan (NAP).

Findings 4: The extent the intervention aligned with international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of Women, Peace and Security, and Rights Advanced under CEDAW, SDGs, UNSCR 1325, and other international commitments

Our evidence set from document reviews and interviews with key stakeholders confirmed the alignment of the intervention with international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of Women, Peace, and Security. Several international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of Women, Peace, and Security including UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 2122 (2013), and sustainable development Goals (SDG) 5,10 and 16 are in conformity with the goals of the intervention. Key relevant obligations that the SSR 2 project is directly aligned with include the UNSCR 1325 (2000) which obliges all member states to engage women in all aspects of peacebuilding, including ensuring women's participation in all levels of decision-making on peace and security issues which is in line with the objectives of the SSR 2 project. In this respect, the SSR 2 project supported the development of gender policies for security institutions to enhance women's participation in security operations in line with UNSCR 1325. Beyond this, the SSR 2 project supported the review of the Laws of target security institutions (Armed Forces, Nigeria Police Force, and NSCDC Acts) from a gender perspective as well as supporting the development and review of the State Action Plan (SAP) on UNSCR 1325 for the three target states. For the right holders, the SSR 2 project contributed to building the capacities of members of MOT, CSP, and WLOs to effectively engage and collaborate with security actors in addressing security issues affecting women and girls at the community level.

Another international agreement relevant to the project includes the UNSCR 2122 (2013) which calls for stronger measures and monitoring mechanisms to allow women to engage in conflict resolution and recovery. The SSR 2 project aligned with UNSCR 2122 as the project contributed to the development of gender policies which is one of the measures to enhance women's engagement in peace and security operations. The SSR 2 project also aligned with SDG 5, 10 and SDG 16 respectively which call for gender equality, reduction of inequalities and the promotion of just peaceful and inclusive societies. The SSR 2 project contributed to the promotion of gender equity through enhancing women's participation in peace and security issues both at the national and state level.

⁵³ <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>

The mid-term evaluation found that the SSR 2 project advanced the rights of women and girls under CEDAW. CEDAW as an international legal instrument requires countries to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in all areas and promotes women's and girls' equal rights. The SSR 2 project supported the review of the Laws of key security institutions to remove discriminatory clauses against women and capacity building on gender mainstreaming for security actors. Thus, one right advanced under CEDAW by the SSR 2 project is the promotion of equal rights among security actors in the security institutions in Nigeria. Overall, the SSR 2 project not only demonstrates strong alignment with several international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment but also supports advancing the rights in the agreements and conventions.

Findings 5: Capacities and skills that should UN Women prioritize and further develop to bring greater coherence and relevance to its interventions.

Evaluative evidence from interviews and desk review confirmed that the SSR 2 project prioritized the development of gender policies for the AFN, NSCDC, and the NPF as well as the revision of extant Acts establishing the AFN, NSCDC, and the NPF. The revision of the Acts is aimed at removing the discriminatory clauses with a view to making the Acts to be more gender-responsive. The SSR 2 project also targets capacity building for the members of the National Assembly on gender mainstreaming and UNSCR 1325 as well as the created platforms such as the MOT, CSP, and WLOs.

However, there is a need for continuous training and retraining of the security sector actors given the continuous transfer of already trained officers from one location to another which is a normal practice among security institutions. This should also be extended to the members of the National Assembly to capture new members in the National Assembly as well as the Committee on Women Affairs in the House. For the MOT, CSP, and WLO members, UN women should prioritize the development of capacities in the area of fundraising and proposal development. This is particularly applicable to the members of the WLOs who are already into fund raising activities. During the FGD session across the intervention states, many members expressed the need for this training as a deliberate strategy to sustain the platform and the benefits of the SSR 2 project in their respective states. While the creation of the MOT, CSP, and WLO structures at the community level is commendable, there is a need to strengthen their activities at the grassroots through information, education, and communication" (IEC) materials such as T-shirts, posters, brochures, flyers which will not only help to increase sensitization activities at the communities but also providing identity and improving the visibility of the structures at the community level.

Also, evidence from the mid-term evaluation reveals the relationship and level of collaboration between the community security structures and the Ministry of Women Affairs at the state level is weak. This needs to be strengthened to enhance the effectiveness of the community security structures in the discharge of their services. One of the approaches to achieving this is to formally link the community based structures with the state ministries of Women Affairs. In terms of capacity, there is no enough personnel especially in the target states to support project implementation. For instance, there is no UN women staff or IP staff in Yobe and Adamawa state. Although there are focal persons from the IP, this is not enough to support project activities. In some of the FGD sessions in the states, some discussants noted that the focal persons only provide logistic support in arranging for monthly meetings but not technical support during the meetings. This is one area that requires action by the project team going forward.

Evidence from the mid-term review also indicates that one factor that contribute to the vulnerability of women and girls to SGBV is their poor economic conditions with many without any income generating activity. According to some of the FGD discussants, this has consistently expose the women to SGBV. Thus, one capacity and skills that the UN Women should prioritize and further develop to bring greater coherence and relevance to its interventions is to introduce a livelihood component into the SSR project to target survivors of SGBV in the intervention states.

Findings 6: Extent the implementing partner(s) possess the comparative advantage in the program's area of work in comparison with other partners in Nigeria.

Evaluative evidence from interviews and document reviews indicated that the project IPs possess a comparative advantage in terms of their institutional mandate in the project's area of work in comparison with other partners in Nigeria. The SSR 2 project identified relevant IPs whose institutional mandates aligned with the project area of work. In this respect, the project engaged NILDS which is the premier parliamentary academic and research institution in Nigeria. The NILDS is an organ of the National Assembly established by an Act of Parliament which gives the institute a comparative advantage of having easy access to the National Assembly. The NILDS was charged with the responsibility of reforming security sector legislation, and policies to promote gender equality, and women's participation and rights which aligns with their mandate and leveraging their relationship with the National Assembly which is a good comparative advantage in the program area of work.

Also, another IP in the implementation of the project activities is PWAN. PWAN is an experienced non-governmental organization (NGOs) dedicated to enhancing citizens' participation and improving security governance in Nigeria. The organization does this through research, collaborative advocacy, capacity building, and integrating the implementation of international agreements and government policies including the United Nations Resolution 1325 and the NAP. PWAN has been engaging with the key stakeholders of the SSR 2 project such as security actors and conflict-affected women in the Northeast. PWAN also participated in the recently concluded UN Women program on WPS as well as the phase 1 of the project and implemented the gender assessment for the security institutions in Nigeria. This has facilitated easy entry into the project areas of work. Given this experience, PWAN was tasked with the responsibility of implementing activities in Outcome 2 which focuses on empowering women in their diversity, especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities to voice and assert their rights to protection and enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner. Again, this also aligns with the institutional mandate and capacities of PWAN which provide the needed comparative advantage over other partners in Nigeria.

As for the NDC, the comparative advantage is based on the fact that the college is the apex military training institution for the Nigerian Armed Forces and a Centre of Excellence for peace support operations training at the strategic level in Nigeria. The NDC has been implementing capacity building for the AFN in the area of gender mainstreaming. The college conducted the gender audit for the AFN and being an arm of the AFN, it facilitated the project's easy access to AFN. On the part of the Ministry of Women Affairs, the key comparative advantage lies in the fact that it is a ministry of the Nigerian government that promotes the development of women with equal rights and corresponding responsibilities. The objectives of the Ministry include stimulating action to promote civic, political, social, and economic participation of women; coordinating and monitoring women's programs; providing technical and financial support to women's non-governmental organizations, especially the National Council of Women Societies. The Ministry of Women Affairs is required to review substantive and procedural laws that affect women and the custodian of the National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 as well as the entity responsible for ensuring and supporting gender mainstreaming within the Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

4.2. Effectiveness

This criteria measures the extent to which the project's objectives were achieved or are expected / likely to be achieved. The following evaluation questions were used to measure the effectiveness of the SSR 2 project.

Findings 7: Assessing progress made by the project towards achievement of the expected outcomes and expected results.

The mid-term evaluation assesses the progress made so far by the project at the outcome level. Evidence shows that the SSR 2 project has made significant progress in meeting the set targets at the outcome level. Evaluative evidence from document review indicates that 6 of the outcome level indicators have been achieved at mid-term with the level of achieving ranging from 100 percent to 200 percent. This is quite commendable given that the project still has three months left for the implementation of project activities. However, it is important to note that 66.7 percent of security personnel noted that there is improved implementation of gender policies and operational guidelines as result of project. Some of the security actors (33.3%) observed that advocacy and capacity building

of senior officers in charge of implementation of gender policies need to be sustained to ensure that all officers are involved in the implementation of the policies.

Table 4.1: Accomplishment of SSR 2 Project Outcome level Results

Result level	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status	% Achieved
OUTCOME 1 Security sector legislation, policies, and institutions are reformed to promote gender equality, and women's participation and rights.	# of gender-responsive security sector legislation and policies supported by lawmakers and decision-makers in target security sector institutions (SSIs)	0	4	4	achieved	100
	# of SSI that officially integrated the Standard Training Manual on Gender into their training curricular	0	2	3	Achieved	150
	Percent (%) of SSI personnel reporting improved implementation of gender policies and operational guidelines as result of project intervention	16.7%	30%	66.7	Achieved	222
OUTCOME 2 Women in their diversity, especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities are empowered to voice and assert their rights to protection and have enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner.	# of collaborative actions successfully undertaken by women and members of the community-based structures (CSP, MOTs, and WLOs) with SSIs and other stakeholders to address security concerns of women and girls in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states.	12	24	48	Achieved	200
	% change in women's perception and confidence in security sector institutions to protect them in the target community.	35.5%	50%	80.1%	Achieved	228
OUTCOME 3 Coordination mechanisms among key security sector institutions in Nigeria is improved to address the security needs of individuals and communities in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner.	# of collaborative actions jointly undertaken by the different SSIs to promote gender-responsive initiatives/operations	12	27	19	In progress	70.4
	# of functional platforms facilitating engagement and collaboration between SSI and grassroots women groups in the target states	6	9	9	Achieved	100

Evaluative evidence from Table 4.2 indicates that Outcome 1 has a total of 9 output-level indicators. Eight of these have been achieved by the project recording over 100 percent achievements, while the project is on course for the remaining one indicator as the level of achievement is 83 percent. While this is quite commendable, the project team needs to put in more effort to ensure the achievement of the remaining indicator within the remaining period of activity implementation.

Table 4.2: Accomplishment of Outputs 1.1-1.3 under Outcome 1

Result level	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status	% Achieved
Output 1.1. Legislators and policymakers have increased awareness of the importance of addressing gender inequality and marginalization of women's and girls' rights in security sector laws, policies, and institution	# of gender-responsive legislative and policy reform strategy meetings conducted between SSI and Women and Security Committees of the national assembly through project support	0	6	7	Achieved	117
	# of strategic advocacy visits/meetings on the need to support gender laws and policies held with law makers and heads of target SSIs supported by the	0	7	10	Achieved	143

	project					
	# of high-ranking personnel of SSI having enhanced awareness of the importance of promoting equality and women's rights.	0	120	100	In progress	83
	# of Committees in the National Assembly demonstrating support for gender-responsive legislative and policy reform.	0	4	7	achieved	175
Output 1.2. Enhanced capacity among law and policy makers to mainstream gender in security sector laws and policies	# of SSI personnel and law makers/ staff of national assembly trained on UNSCR 1325, gender policies and operationalization	0	145	155	Achieved	107
	# of gender policies adopted by target SSIs	2	3	3	Achieved	100
	# of SSI with workplans and M&E framework for the implementation of gender policies.	0	3	3	Achieved	100
Output 1.3 Capacity of women in security sector institutions is enhanced to perform leadership roles including strategic decision-making	# of strategic actions undertaken by UN Women and partners to increase women recruitment, retention and promotion in SSIs	0	6	6	Achieved	100
	# of female personnel in target SSIs trained and mentored on leadership for professional career growth and development in the security sector through project support.	0	0	30	Achieved	100

Evaluative evidence from Table 4.3 reveals that there are 8 output level indicators for Outcome 2. Of these, 5 have so far been achieved recording over 100 percent achievement. The other 2 indicators yet to be achieved have also recorded significant achievement with progress ranging from 33 percent to 75 percent. It is important to state that the indicator on the number of SAP Implementation and Monitoring Committees established and capacity strengthened in target states has not made any progress. This calls for an increase in the tempo of the implementation of activities relating to establishing SAP Implementation and Monitoring Committees in the remaining period of the project.

Table 4.3: Accomplishment of Outputs 2.1-2.3 under Outcome 2

Result level	Indicator	Baseline				
			Target	Actual	Status	% Achieved
Output 2.1 Awareness on the security concerns and needs of women and girls, including gender-based violence is increased among personnel of target security sector institutions and members of local communities in target areas.	# of personnel from MDAs, security and criminal justice institutions with improved knowledge on SGBV and other protection concerns of women and girls	0	120	90	Progress achieved	75
	# Number of security concerns of women and girls (including cases of SGBV, drug abuse, child and forced marriage) reported and /or resolved in target states	12	30	34	Achieved	113
	# of public sanitization initiatives (including media engagements) conducted in target states to highlight security concerns of women and girls and promote their rights	0	15	16	Achieved	107

Output 2.2 Capacities of Women Led Organizations (WLOs), Women Rights Organizations (WROs), Community Security Platforms (CSPs) and Mixed Observers Teams (MOTs) to identify and address security concerns of women and girls in target areas, and collaboration among them are enhanced.	# of functional community-based structures established/strengthened for gender sensitive peace and security actions, including SGBV prevention and response in target states.	6	9	9	Achieved	100
	# of community women and men with improved knowledge on women's rights to protection and other security services	200	400	1040	Achieved	260
	# of WLOs/WROs actively engaged and collaborating with CSPs, MOTs and security institutions in community security	20	30	45	Achieved	150
Output 2.3 State Action Plans (SAPs) on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325) in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states are reviewed and mechanisms for implementation strengthened to enhance the protection of women and girls.	# of SAPs reviewed and updated in target states to integrate emerging peace and security issues	1	3	1	In progress	33
	# of SAP Implementation and Monitoring Committees established and capacity strengthened in target states	0	3	0	No progress	0

Evaluative evidence from Table 4.4 reveals that there are 4 output level indicators for Outcome 3. Of these, only 1 have so far been achieved recording 189 percent achievement. The other 3 indicators yet to be achieved have also recorded significant achievement with progress of over 50 percent.

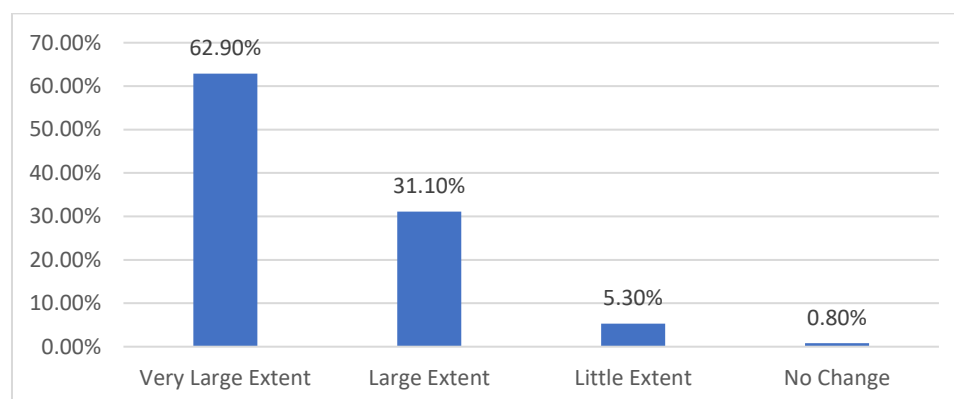
Table 4.4: Accomplishment of Outputs 3.1-3.2 under Outcome 3

Result level	Indicator	Baseline				
			Target	Actual	Status	% Achieved
Output 3.1 Inter-agency collaboration and coordination among security sector institutions for gender responsiveness in operational procedures is enhanced through the Women Peace and Security Reference Group.	# of quarterly planning/review meetings of the Women, Peace and Security Sector Reference Group held.	8	14	11	In progress	78
	# of individuals from target SSIs, CSOs and MDAs participating in the Women, Peace and Security Sector Reference Group meetings	30	35	66	Achieved	189
	# of annual fora of women in the security sector held	3	5	4	In progress	80
Output 3.2 Preventive and response mechanisms in addressing security concerns of women and girls is enhanced through strategic collaborative engagements between the Women Peace and Security Reference Group and community-based structures (WLOs, WROs, CSPs and MOTs) in target states.	# of strategic actions to address the security concerns of women and girls implemented by community-based structures (WLOs, WROs, CSPs and MOT) with support from the Women Peace and Security Reference Group.	0	18	9	In progress	50

Overall the SSR 2 project is on course and making significant progress towards the achievement of the expected outputs and outcomes of the project. Key results achieved so far at mid-term include the publication and launching of the Gender Policy of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), development of the draft Bills for the amendment of the Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) Act, NPF Act and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Act as well as the approval for integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions (SSIs) into the curricular of their respective training institutions. Also, achieved at mid-term is the endorsement of strategies to increase women recruitment, retention, promotion and leadership in SSIs by management of NPF, NSCDC, and

Nigerian Navy. The project has also made significant contributions in improving the implementation of gender policies and operational guidelines as well as the reporting of security concerns of women and girls (including cases of SGBV, drug abuse, child and forced marriage) in the target states and communities. Evidence from the quantitative survey also reveals that over 93 percent of the beneficiaries noted that the project outputs were delivered in a timely manner (Figure 4.3)

Figure 4.3: The Extent the Project Outputs were delivered in timely Manner



Findings 8: Reasons for the achievement or non-achievement of the Expected Outputs and outcomes

Evaluative evidence from the document's review and interviews with the project team identified internal and external factors influencing the achievements recorded so far by the project. The first positive influencing factor is the vast experience of the UN Women project team in the implementation of the WPS-related Programme in Nigeria. Programmes such as the EU-funded Programme on 'Promoting Women's Engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria and the WPS project implemented in Bauchi and Benue state' as well as the first phase of the SSR project provided important experience for the project team in the implementation of the SSR 2 project.

Secondly, the design of the SSR 2 project was based on the key lessons learnt and the recommendations from the final evaluation of the first phase of the SSR 2 project. This ensured that good practices were mainstreamed in the design of the second phase of the project. One of the key recommendations from the final evaluation of the first phase is that UN Women program team should consider working towards the adoption of the content of the Standard Gender Training Manual into the training curriculum of all security training institutions in Nigeria to ensure that newly recruited officers are grounded on gender mainstreaming and the UNSCR 1325. This was integrated into the design of the second phase of the project.

Another major success factor is the participatory approach adopted in the design and implementation of the project. At the design stage, there was wide consultation with all the stakeholders at the national and state level. This provided the opportunity for stakeholders to make their input into the design of the project. One of the key inputs from stakeholders was the suggestion for the introduction of a strategy to support leadership training courses and mentoring for selected women in target security institutions for capacity building and career development which was not in the original design of the project. At the implementation stage, the project is being implemented collaboratively involving multiple stakeholders including the government ministries at the state and national level, CSOs, security sector actors, and IPs. Interviews with the project team and IPs confirmed that issues relating to implementing approaches were discussed collaboratively with the SSR 2 project team. This approach brought diverse perspectives and experiences into the project implementation and therefore contributed to the success recorded by the project.

The quarterly review meetings by the project team and the IPs were also critical to the achievements being recorded by the project. This provided the opportunity to identify critical challenges being experienced in the implementation of project activities as well as mitigation measures. Similarly, the orientation programme organized for the IPs by the project team provided the opportunity for the project team to build the capacity of the IPs on project focus, result-based management, and implementation modality of the project. There was also continuous

monitoring of implementation activities by the project team which ensured that all project activities were implemented as planned. Also, the targeted beneficiaries accepted the SSR 2 project wholeheartedly because they see it as an opportunity to contribute and participate in changing their situation created by the lingering conflict in their communities. Thus, community security structures such as MOT, WLO, and CSP are actively participating in the project activities.

In addition, the technical support and oversight functions provided by the UN Women project team to the IPs is another major success factor. This technical support is necessary for project implementation. The UN Women project team is constantly monitoring the activities of the IPs during the implementation of activities and provides technical support when the need arises. For instance, activity implementation by IPs such as capacity building by the IPs is oversighted by the UN Women project team. Furthermore, the project approach of first engaging with the leadership of the security institutions before the commencement of implementation of project activities provided an entry point and easy access to the security sector institutions. The SSR 2 project conducted high-level advocacy visits to the Chief of Defence Staff, the Inspector General of Police and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, and other heads of security institutions before the commencement of the project. This high-level engagement provided the opportunity for sensitization on the importance of the project and the need for them to adopt and support the implementation of the project. Without this approach, it would have been impossible to gain access to security institutions to implement the project. Relatedly, the project has also strategically selected IPs (PWAN, NILDS, NDC, and Federal Ministry of Women Affairs) that have comparative advantages concerning the focus of the project which made it possible for the project activities to be implemented seamlessly across the target locations.

On the other hand, the mid-term evaluation also identified several factors that are causing delays in the implementation of some of the project activities or negatively affecting the achievement of the intended outputs of the project. Interviews with the project team and the review of documents revealed that security challenges were a major issue affecting the implementation of the project activities. This challenge is mostly being experienced in Borno and Yobe states due to the protracted conflict which has caused movement restrictions to all the targeted LGAs. One corollary of this is that the project team has to travel extra days to access project locations due to restrictions on road travel in Borno and Yobe states. Another major challenge is the change in government personnel responsible for project implementation at the national and state levels. This happens when the capacity of the officials has been built and with the coming of the new personnel who have little knowledge about the project, it creates implementation challenges. One of the effects of this is that the Security Reference Group meeting was supposed to be held every quarter. Due to this challenge, the group has only met once since this year. Despite these challenges, the project team was able to adapt to mitigate the challenges to meet all the objectives set by the project to a large extent as planned.

Findings 9: The extent the beneficiaries are satisfied with the results

Our evidence set from interviews and survey with the project beneficiaries revealed that the beneficiaries to a very large extent are satisfied with the results achieved by the project so far. Evidence from the quantitative survey reveals that 67 percent of the beneficiaries surveyed noted that they are satisfied with the results achieved by the project. By gender, 72.7 percent and 64.8 percent of women and men respondents respectively noted that they are satisfied with the results achieved by the project. Some of the participants of the training program noted the training program was very useful to them and they are highly satisfied with it as shown in these excerpts:

I participated in the capacity-building workshops for trainers of various training academies of the SSIs, conducted by UN Women, NDC, and NILDS. This was an eye-opener for me and I want to thank UN Women and NDC for the opportunity.⁵⁴

The 3-days capacity building training on SGBV and protection for women and girls conducted by PWAN in my state was very useful. My capacities as an MOT member in SGBV prevention and response, Strategic Advocacy, Communication Skills, stakeholder engagement, Work Planning, M&E and Reporting, Early Warning, and Early Response were enhanced and it has improved my work in my community.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Excerpt from Key informant in the security sector

⁵⁵ Excerpt from FGD Session with Members of MOT in Borno state

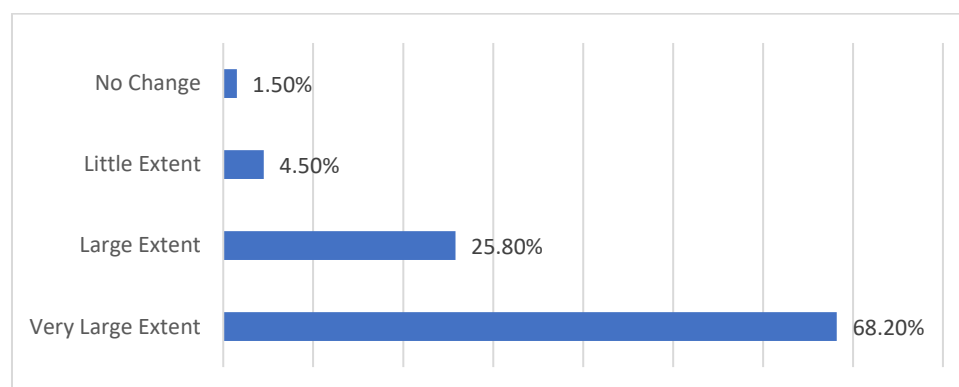
I am very satisfied with the training program. I had never heard of He for She before and it was during the training program that I heard the word for the first time. It has influenced the way I look at things, especially on issues relating to women.⁵⁶

Findings 10: The extent the capacities of relevant duty-bearers and rights-holders have been strengthened

The mid-term evaluation found that the capacities of relevant duty bearers and rights holders are being strengthened to a large extent as confirmed by right holders and duty bearers. With respect to duty bearers, the SSR 2 project conducted capacity building training for trainers of various training academies of the SSIs which was facilitated by UN Women, NDC and NILDS.⁵⁷ The capacity and coordination mechanism among members of security officers' wives' networks and associations were also enhanced for strategic advocacy and support for gender responsiveness in policies and operations in the security sector institution of Nigeria. There was also capacity-building training on SGBV and protection for women and girls conducted by PWAN in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states targeting members from CSP, the State Ministry of Justice, the State Emergency Management Agency and the State Ministry of Women Affairs. Others were security and criminal justice actors from the NPF, NSCDC, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, and National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons. This multi-stakeholder approach enhanced synergy among participants and a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

Another training was conducted based on the outcome of a need assessment for the MOTs, CSPs, and WLOs in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states. Findings from the assessment informed the development of a training manual for capacity building of the platforms.⁵⁸ Findings from the quantitative survey of beneficiaries indicates that 94 percent of the rights-holders maintained that the project has strengthened their capacities of community based structures for gender sensitive peace and security actions including SGBV preventions and response in the target states (Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4: The extent the project Contributed to Strengthening Capacities of Community based Structures



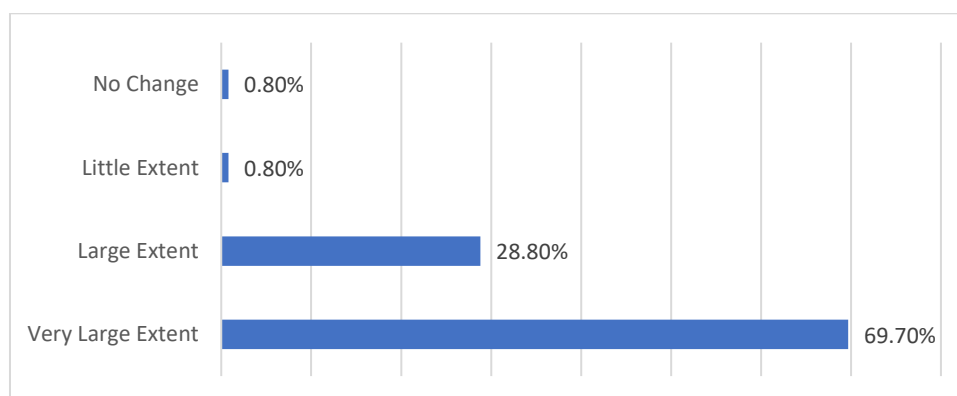
Also, evidence from the quantitative survey (Figure 4.5) reveals 98.5 percent of the beneficiaries noted that the capacities of relevant duty-bearers and rights-holders were strengthened by the SSR 2 project. Also, over 91.9 percent of training participants were satisfied with the training they received. Interviews with the participants reveal that they are gradually applying the knowledge from the program. For instance, members of the MOT are now engaging with security actors at the community level in addressing SGBV challenges in their respective communities.

⁵⁶ Excerpt from KII with Security personnel in FCT

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⁵⁸ Enhancing Gender-Responsive Security Operations and Community Dialogue Project in Nigeria (Phase II) Interim Narrative Report. Report Number 2

Figure 4.5: The extent the capacities of relevant duty-bearers and rights-holders were strengthened



Findings 11: Extent the project's approaches and strategies were innovative for achieving provisions of UNSCR 1325 and GEWE

The evaluation found that several innovative practices were mainstreamed in the project's design and implementation. The first innovative practice in the project design is the project strategy of bridging the gap between the community-based structures in the three target states and the Women, Peace, and Security Sector Reference Group. This approach promoted joint planning meetings and actions that foster collaborative actions between security agencies and community-based actors at both state and national levels. This is commendable as it has ensured easy access of community-based structures such as the CSP and MOT to security actors in their respective states. Some of the MOT and CSP members who participated in the FGD sessions commended UN women for this approach and its benefits as shown in the excerpts below:

The meeting with the Women, Peace, and Security Sector Reference Group held in March 2024 was an eye-opener and a great opportunity for me as a member of MOT. It allowed me to establish relationships with different security actors in the group. Now we can easily reach out to them for assistance in handling any case when the need arises.⁵⁹

Before now, the community security structures and security actors in the state worked independently and access to them to support us was a little bit difficult. But since the joint meeting started, I can say we are working very closely with the security actors as we can easily reach out to them for assistance.⁶⁰

Another crucial innovation adopted towards achieving provisions of UNSCR 1325 and GEWE is the drafting of the Bills to amend laws of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, Nigeria Police Force, and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps from a gender perspective. This is critical given that the project has earlier in the first phase developed gender policies for Armed Forces of Nigeria, Nigeria Police Force, and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps. While laws are legally binding rules established by government authorities, policies are guidelines or principles adopted by organizations or institutions to achieve certain goals. Thus, laws can be seen as a stronger instruments for achieving the provisions of UNSCR 1325 and GEWE. The amendment of these laws by the SSR 2 project is therefore considered as innovative by the project.

The targeting of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states out of the 36 states of the federation was also considered a good practice by the evaluation. Evidence shows that both states have experienced sustained conflict over the last decade defying all efforts from government and other peace-building actors in the state. Evidence also shows that the impact of the conflict is strongly gendered as women have been targeted by Boko Haram, sexually violated, and recruited as suicide bombers. The targeting of these three two states by the program, therefore, provided an opportunity to address SGBV and other gender-based issues affecting women and girls in the states.

⁵⁹ Excerpt from FGD with MOT members in Borno State

⁶⁰ Excerpt from FGD with CSP members in Yola

Furthermore, the provision of legal Clinics to address security concerns of women and girls SGBV survivors in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states is another innovative practice of the project. PWAN established functional Legal Clinics to address security concerns of women and girls, especially SGBV in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states. This clinic was integrated with physical and media awareness campaigns, provide safe spaces for women and girls to access free legal services in their communities, particularly concerning women's rights and social justice. Some of the SGBV survivors in the target states noted the legal clinic was very helpful to them. The following excerpt helps to buttress this finding.

“I think if there is anything that I appreciated in this project, it was the legal aid provided. They were so helpful and the service was great. I appreciated it so much, especially at the time when I had issues with my husband. They really supported me”⁶¹

“I want to thank PWAN for the support they provided through the legal clinic. Through this clinic, we were able to resolve a lot of women's concerns without any trouble. I just hope this legal clinic will continue to function after this project ends.”⁶²

The project design builds upon the results and lessons learned from the evaluation of the first phase of the project as earlier stated. The integration of key lessons into the project design was considered a commendable practice by the evaluation. These lessons played a crucial role in ensuring the effective implementation and successful delivery of the project outcome and outputs by the project team. In addition, the project implementation strategy underlined by policy-level and legal reform interventions, capacity building, and institutional strengthening of national institutions in the security sectors as well as democratic structures was innovative and good practice. The project approach not only promoted government buy-in but also strengthened the institutional capacity of the security sector and policymakers on gender mainstreaming and understanding of the UNSCR 1325. Furthermore, the project team has targeted partners with a shared vision and mandates like the goal of promoting a “human-centric security sector in Nigeria that is accountable and gender-responsive” as partners in project implementation. This approach has been found to have a strong positive influence on the sustainability of project benefits⁶³. Overall, on a scale of 1-5 with 1 indicating low innovation and 5 indicating high innovation, the evaluation rated the project 4 suggesting that the evaluation considers the project approaches and strategies as largely innovative.

4.3. Efficiency

This criteria measures how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) were converted to results.

Findings 12: Whether resources (financial, human, technical support, etc.) have been allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes

The review of project documents and interview with the project team confirmed that available resources were allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes. The project has a total duration of 18 months with a planned budget of USD 2 million (Table 4.1). Of these funds, USD 993,443 was budgeted for project implementation activities which represents 49.7 percent of the total budget while USD 511,065 was budgeted for personnel which represents 24.4 percent of the total budget of the project (Table 4.1). As of June 2024, only 34.3 percent of all allocated budgets for the project activities have been spent which represents a low absorption rate for the project given that the project has only 6 months left before closure. As noted from interviews with the project team, the types of activities implemented informed the allocation of resources. For instance, activities relating to capacity building and awareness raising of legislators, security institutions, and security concerns of and needs of women and girls which require intense advocacy and awareness were strategically allocated USD 566,402 which is the highest allocation among the outputs of the project. As noted previously, the targets for several of the indicators have been achieved by the project. However, for some of the indicators that are yet to be achieved, it is crucial that the project team expedite action to implement the remaining activities. This will help to increase the absorption rate of the project which is quite low at mid-term. In addition, the project budget of over 50 percent of the total

⁶¹ Excerpt from KII with Conflict affected women in Borno state

⁶² Excerpt from KII with a member of CSP in Yola

⁶³ Mr. Amir Gulzar and Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Saif (2012). Shared Vision And Partnership Success. International Journal of Economics and Management Sciences, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2012, pp. 07-12

expenditure on project implementation activities compared to 24.4 percent on personnel is highly commendable by the evaluation. Considering the above finding, it is fair to conclude that the financial resources of the project were strategically allocated to achieve the project outcome. It is pertinent to note that at mid-term, the project has only expended 18 percent of the personnel budget. This is attributed to the fact some of the project staff only came on board this year. This savings should be channelled to other areas especially in programming for livelihood support for SGBV survivors.

4.1: Total Budget Spent by Sector

CATEGORIES	PROJECT TOTAL	Overall Expenses	Overall delivery of the Total budget (%)
1. Staff and other personnel	511,065	92,094.23	18
2. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	267,500	65,987.83	24.7
3. Programs	993,443	498,738.69	50.2
4. Visibility, Media and Branding, Monitoring and Evaluation	149,056	29,963.16	20.1
Sub-Total	1,921,064	686,783.91	35.8
8. Indirect Support Costs (must be 7%)	174,432.53	-	-
TOTAL	2,095,495.63	686,783.91	34.3

Findings 13: Measures taken during planning and implementation to ensure that resources are efficiently used

Our evidence set from document reviews and interviews with the project team confirmed that several measures were put in place to ensure that resources were efficiently utilized during the implementation of the project activities. Starting from the design of the project, the project team was strategic in narrowing the scope of the project to 3 Outcomes and 7 Outputs in line with the available resources. This approach ensures optimum utilization of available resources. Similarly, the SSR 2 project team was not overloaded and was in most cases multi-tasking which ensured that too many financial resources were not spent on personnel but on actual project implementation in compliance with the donor requirements. Also, from design, the project targeted IPs (NDC, NILDS, PWAN) with capacity and experience relevant to the project outcomes and outputs. This also promoted efficient utilization of available resources of the project. Also, the implementing partners were competitively selected based on the budget they submitted for activity implementation. This ensured that their budget was in line with available resources.

There was also constant monitoring of how the financial resources were been used by the IPs by the UN Women project team through monthly meetings and the quarterly submission of the financial report by the IP. Evidence also shows that the budget allocation for each activity was based on the scope of work to be done. Thus, for outcomes requiring plenty activities to be implemented, larger resources were allocated by the project team. As earlier stated, activities relating to capacity building and awareness raising of legislators, security institutions, and security concerns of women and girls and their needs which require intense advocacy activities were strategically allocated USD 566,402 which is the highest allocation among the outputs of the project due to the numerous activities that will be done to ensure its effective completion within the implementation period.

Another measure taken to ensure efficient utilization of available resources is the use of local facilitators. Evidence shows that most of the facilitators of the training program conducted were drawn from within the country which undoubtedly contributed to a reduction in implementation cost while promoting ownership of the project as well as improvement in the local economy. In addition, some of the activities are directly implemented by the UN Women project especially activities relating to the engagement of high-level stakeholders such as members of the NASS and senior security officers. This also contributes to cost reduction and efficiency of resource use. Other internal operational procedures of UN Women such as the approval of field missions by the Country Representative also act as a check for unnecessary expenditure on travel which in the long run improves resource use efficiency. Given the progress made so far in the achievement of the targets at mid-term, it is plausible to

conclude that the project objectives are being achieved economically by the intervention while project inputs are being efficiently utilized by the project team.

Evidence also shows that the project outputs are being delivered on time given the level of progress already made in the achievement of the project targets despite some drawbacks such as the nationwide protests and accessibility of high-level stakeholders from the National Assembly. Evidence from interviews with stakeholders and FGDs with beneficiaries revealed that the project outputs are being delivered promptly to a large extent. As noted previously, the project has made significant progress at mid-term in meeting its set targets which is an indication of prompt delivery of outputs. Evidence from FGDs and KII also confirmed that the outputs are being delivered promptly as shown in the excerpts below.

At the beginning of the project during the inception meeting with PWAN, they told us all the training programs that we are going to have during the course of project implementation. I can say that they have followed that plan to the letter without any deviation. This has really helped to strengthen the capacities of WLOs in Borno state.⁶⁴

I will say that the project is delivering its outputs as planned. The training programs and monthly coordination meetings with the community security structures are going on smoothly as planned. However, I wish we could have more training regularly. This is actually what is needed to sustain our capacities in providing services to our communities.⁶⁵

The various training programs were good and promptly delivered by the project team. I feel that more training programs should be organized for members of MOT, CSP, and WLOs before the program ends. We need the training more than anything else.⁶⁶

Overall, the mid-term evaluation believed that the project outputs were being delivered as planned.

Findings 14: Assessing whether the project and its components were cost-effective and whether activities and outputs could have been delivered with fewer resources without comprising project quality.

Our evidence set from document reviews and interviews with the project team including the IPs confirmed that the project and its components were cost-effective. Evaluative evidence from interviews with the project team reveals that all goods and services were competitively procured to ensure value for money and were negotiated to ensure cost-effectiveness. There is also evidence that the project converted the available inputs into results, as revealed by the number of outputs already achieved by the project at mid-term. As previously mentioned, actual expenditures were reasonable, well within the approved budget, and in conformity with the UN financial management regulations. Also, several measures were put in place to limit fraud while ensuring that the project's inputs were efficiently utilized to conduct project activities and achieve the project's intended results. Some of the measures include:

- The use of local facilitators for most of the capacity-building activities.
- The use of local implementing partners for project implementation
- Regular joint monitoring of implementation activities by the project team.
- Tracking of progress on implementation and expenditure in the organization's Results Management System and ERP system.
- Capacity assessment of potential partners including the verification of their systems/practices relating to disbursement of funds and procurement, as well as a background check of the partners' financial management track record.

Overall, the evaluator rated project implementation as cost-effective given the adopted measures to ensure cost effectiveness while ensuring that the project's inputs were efficiently utilized.

⁶⁴ Excerpt from FGD with WLO in Borno state

⁶⁵ Excerpt from FGD with CSP Discussants in Adamawa State.

⁶⁶ Excerpt from FGD with MOT discussants in Borno state

Findings 15: Assessing whether the project's organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms effectively supported delivery.

Evidence shows that the SSR 2 project has a simple management structure. The senior management team of the UN Women's Country Office in Nigeria based in Abuja leads the overall guidance of the implementation of the project activities. Below the senior management is the programme specialist who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the project at the country office in Abuja, including co-ordination of policy-level interventions, capacity building and technical support to security institutions, and undertaking frequent travels to the target states for monitoring and technical support to other team members, and implementing partners and beneficiaries. Another lower structure of the project is the Project/Finance Associate who provides financial and operational support. The project also has a Programme Officer/Field Implementation, M&E Officer, and Driver/Office who are deployed to the Maiduguri sub-office of UN Women in Borno State to oversee and provide direct support to project implementation in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states and the constituent Local Government Areas (LGAs) in each of these states. Thus, structurally, the project is organized at two levels. The first level is at the Country Office in Abuja which provides the overall coordination of project implementation. The second level is at the state level in Borno state with UN Women Staff that support project implementation activities in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states.

Interviews with the project team and the IPs confirmed that this organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms put in place by UN Women are effectively supporting the project's delivery. A Programme management meeting is organized every month to review progress toward project objectives and help to ensure successful project management. However, some of the partners complained about the bureaucratic nature of the structure which sometimes caused delays in the implementation of project activities especially on issues relating to the procurement of goods and services during the implementation of activities. Overall, the evaluation rated the project's organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms as effective and significantly supporting the delivery of project objectives.

Findings 16: Assessing how the project utilizes existing local capacities of right-bearers and duty-holders to achieve its outcomes.

The mid-term evaluation rates the project utilization of local capacities of right-bearers and duty-holders as good. Our evidence sets from document reviews and interviews with the project team, IPs, and beneficiaries confirmed this. Firstly, to achieve its outcomes, the project started with the engagement of local IPs including PWAN, NDC, and NILDS in the implementation of the project activities. Also, the project has engaged local experts in the mid-term evaluation of the project as well as the review and development of the second-generation SAP in Borno and Adamawa states. However, while the project support for the review and development of SAP for Borno and Adamawa state is lauded by the mid-term evaluation, it is also important that the project team should consider how to support the states in the implementation of the plan as requested by some of the stakeholders in the target states. Similarly, in creating the various platforms such as the MOT, CST, and WLO the project team had looked inward by identifying and integrating women and men from the targeted states who already have some level of capacities in gender mainstreaming acquired from previous projects on issues relating to SGBV and other security concerns affecting women.

On the other hand, the mid-term evaluation found evidence of the utilization of local capacities of duty holders in achieving project outcomes. The project is working closely with duty bearers, including the Ministry of Women Affairs at the national and state levels. All the coordination meetings in states are being led and chaired by the Ministry and in some cases, assumed the secretariat functions. All these are good pieces of evidence that support the finding that the project is utilizing local capacities to achieve its outcomes.

Findings 17: The extent the project's monitoring mechanisms in place are effective for measuring and informing management of project performance and progress and the extent monitoring data were used for management action and decision-making.

Evaluative evidence from the data collected indicates that the monitoring mechanisms in place for the project are good. Starting from the project design, the issues of monitoring such as tracking of activity and output indicators were mainstreamed. At the design stage, UN Women develops monitoring plans and guidelines for project team

members and partners to enhance effectiveness. The plans include specific monitoring tools, set targets, and performance indicators for the project. Moreover, the M&E Specialist for the Country office provides technical support and guidance on monitoring, evaluation, and reporting while the monitoring and evaluation officer at the intervention states provides effective monitoring functions at the state level. Another monitoring measure was the development of monitoring tools for the Security Sector Reference Group (SSRG) to track their activities every quarter. At the community level, PWAN also regularly held monthly meetings with the three platforms created by the project and during these meetings, progress by each of the group is documented and shared with UN Women. Another measure is the use of the Activity Progress Report (APR). The progress reports focused mostly on project activities (inputs and outputs) against the expected outcomes by the IPs. All these mechanisms put in place are effective and ensure that progress towards results is effectively monitored.

The mid-term evaluation also found evidence of the use of monitoring data for management decision-making. One good piece of evidence is the integration of lessons learned from the first phase of the project in the design of the second phase of the project. For instance, the final evaluation of the first phase of the project has recommended that UN Women Programme team work towards the adoption of the content of the Standard Gender Training Manual into the training curriculum of all security training institutions in Nigeria to ensure that newly recruited officers are grounded on gender mainstreaming and the UNSCR 1325. This was incorporated into the second phase of the project under output 1.2 and has been achieved with the formal approval of management and decision-makers in NSCDC and the Nigerian Navy for the integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions (SSIs) into the curricula of their respective training institutions. Also through monitoring, it was observed that the IPs reporting was not based on RBM. The reports only show descriptions of activities without showing the actual achievements. This was promptly corrected by the project management.

4.4. Impact

This criteria measures the positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by the project directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. While the mid-term evaluation may not exhaustively assess the project's impact, however, it will address the following questions with the results and evidence that is available to date.

Findings 18: Extent the changes that have occurred as a result of the project can be identified and measured.

At mid-term, the evaluation found that the SSR 2 project is building and consolidating on the achievements of the first phase of the project. Evidence from the interviews of beneficiaries and review of project documents shows one of the main changes in the intervention states is the greater involvement of women in peace and security structures in the communities. During the FGD sessions with beneficiaries in the target states, several discussants noted that women are now more involved in peace and security structures in their communities since the commencement of this project in their communities. The following excerpt help to support this finding.

The project is supporting the course of women in the communities. In Numan LGA for instance, a woman was appointed into the traditional ruler's council for the first time in the community.⁶⁷ In Jere LGA, a woman was also elected a chairperson of the Jere LGA.⁶⁸

The AFN is showing more commitment to gender mainstreaming since this project started. Women are now given more consideration in emerging opportunities in the forces. Recently 4 women were nominated for training outside the country by the AFN which has never happened before in the force.⁶⁹

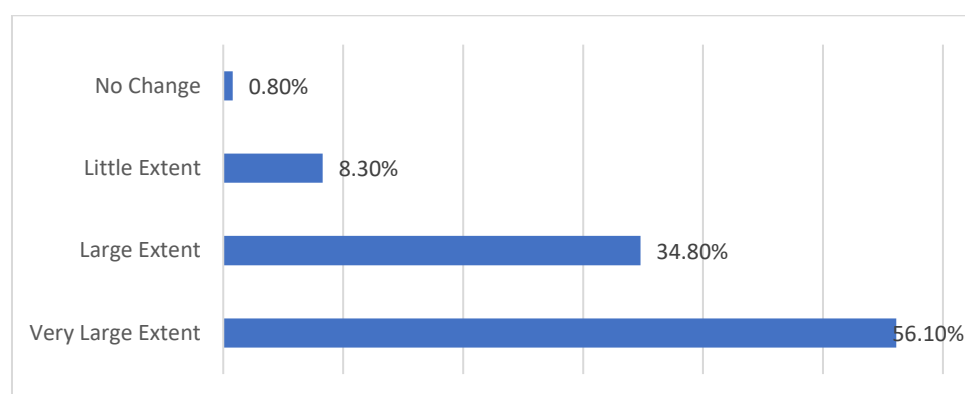
Evidence from the quantitative survey also shows over 90.9 percent of the surveyed beneficiaries indicated that the project contributed to increasing women participation in peace and security process to a large extent (Figure 4.6).

⁶⁷ Excerpt from FGD with CSP groups in Yola

⁶⁸ Excerpt from FGD with CSP groups in Borno

⁶⁹ Excerpt from KII with AFN Personnel in Abuja

Figure 4.6: The Extent the Project is contributing to increasing Women Participation in security process



Also, emerging impact level changes at the community level include the reduction of the culture of silence among survivors of SGBV as a result of the activities of the MOT and CSP at the community level. The following excerpt from FGD among MOT and CSP members helps to support the above findings:

The culture of silence by survivors of SGBV is being broken down by the project. There is now an increase in the reporting of rape and other SGBV cases. This is due to the advocacy activities of MOT and CSP members in various communities.⁷⁰

Women survivors of SGBV are coming out to report cases without any fear of discrimination and stigmatization by community members. The advocacy activities of MOT and CSP are making a lot of changes in our communities especially for women. I want this to be sustained in my community.⁷¹

Evidence from document reviews indicates that a total of 34 cases related to the security concerns of women and girls (Borno 14 cases, Adamawa 8 cases and Yobe 12 cases) were reported. These cases include early marriage of girls, neglect of minors, trafficking of minors, spousal abandonment, domestic violence, suicide attempts, viral diseases such as HIV, and drug abuse. The community-based structures promptly made referrals and ensured continuous follow-up on each case, demonstrating their commitment to addressing critical issues within their communities.⁷² Also, evidence from the quantitative survey among the beneficiaries also reveals that over 90 percent of the beneficiaries confirmed that there has been an increase in the reporting of security concerns among women and girls in the target states since the project started.

Another noticeable change that has occurred due to the project that can be identified is the enhanced collaboration between the community security platforms and security actors. Since the project started, many MOTs and CSP members across the intervention states have noted that they can easily relate to security actors. They observed that allowing the MOTs and CSP members to participate in the quarterly meeting of the Security Sector Reference Group enables them to establish cordial and working relationships with the security actors. The following excerpts help to support this finding.

Since I started attending the quarterly meeting of the Security Sector Reference Group, working with security personnel has become so easy. Also, some of them are members of the group (CSP) and we normally hold meetings every month where we review our activities and plan for the following month. It is a good idea to bring security actors and other professionals to join the MOT and CSP.⁷³

Furthermore, the quantitative survey examined the perception of the beneficiaries in the target state on the trust in the security institutions to protect their communities before and after the project started. Findings reveal that before the project started, only 35.3 percent of the beneficiaries believed that the security institutions can protect their communities. However, since the project started, over 80 percent of the surveyed project beneficiaries maintained they believe that the security institutions can protect their communities. Also, over 70 percent of the beneficiaries also maintained that they have had successful

⁷⁰ Excerpt from FGD with CSP groups in Borno state

⁷¹ Excerpt from KII with Community Leader in Numan LGA, Adamawa state

⁷² SSR 2 Project second Interim Donor Report January to June 2024

⁷³ Excerpt from FGD with MOT members in Borno state

collaborations with security institutions in addressing security concerns of women and girls in the target states. Overall, the mid-term evaluation confirmed that the project is contributing to significant changes with respect to gender mainstreaming in security institutions and local communities in the target states. However, at mid-term, there is no evidence of unintended effects by the project at the intervention states and communities.

Finding 19: Assessing existing evidence that the project has delivered longer-term results as compared to other projects from processes through to benefits.

Consolidating on the achievements of the first phase of the project including the development of gender policy for the AFN, NSCDC, and the NPF, the SSR 2 project has contributed to the drafting of the Bills for the amendment of the Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) Act, NPF Act and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Act. The mid-term evaluation identified this as a major long-term result delivered by the project. However, the project team should double their sensitization and advocacy efforts with the law makers to ensure the passage of the draft Bills for the amendment of the Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) Act, NPF Act by the National Assembly.

Also, the approval of senior management of NPF, NSCDC, and Nigerian Navy for the integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions (SSIs) into the curriculum of their respective training institutions, as well as the endorsement of strategies to increase women recruitment, retention, promotion and leadership in SSIs are also considered as another long term result achieved by the project. However, the UN Women project team should put measures in place to monitor the implementation of the security sector gender policies as well as these commitments as a way of ensuring the sustainability of the benefits of this project. Another long-term result delivered by the project is the various capacity-building programmes organized for the security sector actors as well as the members of the MOT, CSP, and the WLOs.

Evidence from interviews with the platform members confirmed that the knowledge acquired is already being applied especially in advocacy and awareness creation on SGBV as well as engagement with security actors at the community level. Another key evidence of longer-term results delivered by the project compared to other projects is the created WLOs. The WLOs have similar priority focus to the SSR 2 project. The targeting of this group by the project coupled with the capacity building carried out for the group will ensure that the WLOs will continue to run with the vision and aspirations of the SSR 2 project even after the end of the project.

Also, the inter-agency collaboration and coordination among security sector institutions for gender responsiveness in operational procedures and community dialogue which was enhanced through this project is another evidence of the long-term result achieved by the project. Similarly, the partnership between national SSIs and community-based structures (CSP and MOTs) in the three target states established under the project, leading to the adoption and implementation of action plans to address the security concerns of women and girls in the states is also considered a significant long-term result achieved by the project. Overall, the SSR 2 project is making significant progress in the delivery of long-term results from processes through to benefits

Findings 20: The extent gender equality and women's empowerment were advanced as a result of this intervention.

The mid-term evaluation confirmed that gender equality and women's empowerment is being advanced as a result of this intervention. All the activities of the project are geared towards promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Outcome 1 of the project focused on reformation of security sector legislation, policies, and institutions. Under this outcome, the project has contributed to the development of the draft Bills for the amendment of the Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) Act, NPF Act and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). Also, the approval of integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions (SSIs) into the curricular of security sector training institutions, and the endorsement of strategies to increase women recruitment, retention, promotion and leadership in SSIs by management of NPF, NSCDC, and Nigerian Navy. All these are geared towards the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment. As noted previously, these efforts are beginning to yield fruitful results as emerging evidence shows that women are getting more involved security operations as evident in the recent international security training opportunities granted to women security personnel by the AFN headquarters. The following excerpt from a security personnel key informant also support the above findings:

In Lagos state, there are over 60 female police officers that are Divisional Police Officers (DPOs). This has never happened until the development of the gender policy. The senior ranking police officers are also becoming more receptive to the female officers and giving them more opportunities for growth just like the men. Also, the Police Force secretary was given to woman even though she is now retired but it has never happened before this project started.⁷⁴

Similarly, outcome 2 of the SSR 2 project focuses on empowering women especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities to voice and assert their rights to protection and have enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner. Evidence from the FGD with project beneficiaries across the intervention communities indicates that there is now increase reporting of SGBV cases by survivors and the collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner has also improved across the communities as earlier mentioned. As earlier stated, the project result is also advancing women's leadership position in decision-making in the intervention communities as evident in the appointment of a member of the MOT in Gujba into the traditional council for the first time in the community. These are critical evidence to show that the project is advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the intervention communities.

4.5. Sustainability

The likelihood of a continuation of benefits for women from a development intervention after the intervention is completed or the probability of continued long-term benefits.

Findings 21: Assessment of requirements of national ownership satisfaction, extent of project support by national/local institutions, leadership commitment and technical capacity of institutions, including Government and Civil Society to continue to work with the project or replicate it.

The mid-term evaluation found that the requirements for national ownership were satisfied by the SSR 2 project. The project design recognized that governments at national and state levels more readily assume ownership when initiatives are built on participation, consultations, and government visions, strategies, and frameworks. Thus, during project design and implementation, relevant organs of the government at the national and state levels were engaged by UN Women. Specifically, stakeholders at both national and state levels provided inputs to enhance ownership. The project team engaged with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs at the national level and other MDAs, Legislators at the National Assembly, and Security Institutions (including AFN, NPF and NSCDC). At the state level, the State Ministry of Women Affairs and other key MDAs, Traditional and Religious Leaders, CSOs, PWAN, CSPs, MOTs and WLOs, were also engaged. Also, the project team conducted a formulation mission to Adamawa State and engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, including Government MDAs, security agencies, community leaders and women led organizations. The stakeholders validated the proposed project strategic initiative to address security concerns of women and girls in the states.⁷⁵

Another strategy adopted by the project team in meeting the requirements of national ownership is by ensuring stakeholder's validation of project's relevance, proposed strategies and partnership, and selected LGAs for intervention. This undoubtedly contributed to stakeholder's buy in and a sense of ownership of the project among stakeholders.

Also, the SSR 2 project was design to align with the national priorities of the government of Nigeria especially the National Gender Policy (NGP), and supported activities to achieve Priority One (Legislation and policy frameworks) and Five (Gender Equality, Empowerment of Women, and Social Inclusion in the Security Sector) of the NGP (2021-2026)⁷⁶. The SSR 2 project supported the Nigerian government's efforts in implementing the NGP (2021-2026) by supporting legislative reforms and promoting Gender Equality, Empowerment of Women, and Social Inclusion in the Security Sector which aligns with the Priority One and Five of the NGP (2021-2026) respectively. The mid-term evaluation believed that the project to a large extent is receiving support from national and local institutions in Nigeria. This is evident from the project partnership with national and local institutions

⁷⁴ Excerpt from KII with Security personnel in FCT

⁷⁵ Enhancing Gender-Responsive Security Operations and Community Dialogue Project in Nigeria (Phase II) Interim Narrative Report. Report Number 1

⁷⁶NATIONAL GENDER POLICY [2021-2026], <https://www.wrapanigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/FINAL-NGP-COPY-AS-PRINTED.pdf>

such as NDC, NILDS, NASS, States HoA, and Ministries of Women Affairs at the federal and state levels and the numerous local institutions serving as IPs in the target states of the federation.

Beyond this, the mid-term evaluation found evidence of leadership commitment of institutions, especially Government institution like the National Assembly. For instance, the Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representative and other key Legislators made commitment to support the passage of the draft Bills for the amendment of the Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) Act, NPF Act as well as to promote peace, gender equality and women empowerment by virtue of their tripartite functions of law making, oversight and representation. There was also commitment from the Chief of Defence Staff, Inspector General of Police and the Commandant General of NSCDC to support increase in women recruitment, retention, promotion and leadership in security in the AFN, NPF and NSCDC, respectively. The SSR 2 project has established a solid governance structure for the project such as the Women Peace Security Sector Reference Group to ensure national ownership and sustainability. This structure has contributed to democratize decision-making and facilitate the flow of information, dialogue, better coordination, and stronger ownership of the project among security sector institutions in Nigeria. The evaluation concluded that the likelihood of lasting national ownership rests with the Ministry of Women Affairs (who have a gender equality mandate) at the National and state level as well as the security institutions full implementation of gender policies and laws establishing the institutions.

Findings 22: Assessing the extent the capacities of national partners, both technical and operational have been strengthened.

The mid-term evaluation established that the SSR 2 project is on course to strengthening the capacities of national partner's technical and operational. Our evidence set including document review and interviews with stakeholders at the national level confirmed that Outcome level results relating to capacity building of national partners have been achieved by the project at mid-term. The project provided capacity building for 90 personnel of government MDAs, security and criminal justice institutions in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states to strengthen their knowledge on SGBV, conflict prevention and resolution. The project also contributed in enhancing the capacities of the management and staff of NSCDC on strategies to prevent and respond to violence and harassment in the workplace. The project also targeted legislators and staff of the National Assembly and Senior Defense and Security Officials for capacity building on gender-responsive budgeting. Many of the participants in the training programmes maintained that they were useful and contributed to strengthening their knowledge of gender mainstreaming in their respective operations. However, they stressed the need for the training programmes to be sustained while other staff that have not participated in the training programmes should be considered. The mid-term evaluation believed that the project is making significant progress in strengthening the capacities of national partners and should be sustained going forward. However, it is important to conduct pre-and post-tests to evaluate participants' knowledge, attitudes, and skills before and after the training. This will help in getting feedback on participants' level of knowledge retention, and any challenges or gaps in the training as well as their satisfaction with the training.

Findings 23: The extent relevant national stakeholders and actors were included in project implementation and policy advocacy.

The extent relevant national stakeholders and actors were included in project implementation and policy advocacy was rated good by the evaluation. Relevant stakeholders and partners including the Ministry of at the national and state levels, NDC, NILDS and PWAN are playing important roles in the implementation of the SSR 2 project activities. At the national level, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs is supporting the implementation of activities under Outcome 3 of the project in conjunction with PWAN. Under the SSR 2 project, the Ministry of Women Affairs is providing the technical capacity to convene the Security Sector Reference Group and Co-organized the annual Women in Security Sector fora played important roles in the coordination of implementation activities and Co-chaired the Reference Group. The NDC facilitated the gender audit of the AFN as well as facilitated the various capacity building programme targeted at the security institutions. National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) the supported the review of the legal frameworks for target security sector institutions (AFN, NPF and NSCDC Acts), identified gender gaps and provided recommendations aimed at making these laws gender responsive. The is also providing strategic advocacy visits and meetings with legislators in the 10th National Assembly, soliciting their support for the amendment of the security sector laws (AFN, NPF and NSCDC Acts) to be gender sensitive. Overall, the mid-term evaluation notes that the SSR 2 project is engaging

relevant national stakeholders in the implementation project activities to a large extent.

Findings 24: The likelihood that the benefits from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time upon project completion.

Our evidence set from document review and interviews with the project beneficiaries indicates that the benefits of the project will be sustained to a large extent. One key evidence of the sustainability of the benefits is the approval for the integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions into the curricula of their respective training institutions. This approach adopted by training institutions of security institutions will ensure that newly recruited officers have the opportunity to be trained on gender issues at the point of recruitment. This without doubt will contribute to the sustainability of the benefits of the SSR 2 project in the long-term. Another evidence of project sustainability relates to the various capacity-building programmes that targeted different stakeholders including duty bearers and right holders. The project enhanced the GEWE knowledge and capacity of national and state-level stakeholders, especially members of the security institutions, MOT, CSP, and WLOs. Since this knowledge will remain with the people, it implies that the beneficiaries will continue to apply the knowledge in their various activities at their respective institutions and communities thereby contributing to the sustainability of results.

Another key evidence that the benefits from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time upon project completion is the draft Bills for the amendment of the Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) Act, NPF Act and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Act. Given the commitment from the leadership of the National Assembly to pass the bill when presented, it will contribute to the sustainability of the project benefits since the new law will guide the operations of the security institutions. In addition, the SSR 2 project promoted national ownership through wide consultations with security institutions and alignment of the SSR 2 project objectives with national priorities of the government at state and national levels. The establishment of SSRG, CSP, MOT and WLOs platforms at the state level also promoted ownership of the project. This approach of promoting ownership of the project by duty bearers and right holders enhanced the likelihood of the benefits from the project being sustained for a reasonably long period beyond the end of the project. Another sustainability element of the project relates to the selection of NILDS, PWAN and WLOs by the SSR 2 project as implementing partners. The WLOs and PWAN have similar vision with the SSR 2 project goal and objectives especially in the areas of supporting conflict affected women, SGBV and other gender-based issues. The implication of this is that PWAN and WLOs will continue to run with the vision since it is their chosen mandate and thereby contributing to the sustainability of the project benefits.

The MOT and CSP members on their path have shown strong commitment towards the sustainability of the benefits of the project. Evaluative evidence shows that at the end of the first phase of the project, members of the two platforms continued with their activities in the communities for over one year before the beginning of the second phase of the project. And in some states like Borno, the WLOs and MOT have gone ahead towards formalizing the platform with the registration of the platform with the Nigerian Network of NGOs. This is an indication that the benefits from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time upon project completion by the platforms. In spite of these, the mid-term evaluation notes that the sustainability of the benefits of this project rest more on the full implementation of the gender policies and adherence to the tenets of the revised Acts establishing the security institutions.

Finding 25: The extent to which the financial capacities of partners are likely going to maintain the benefits of the Project.

Evidence from interviews with the IPs indicates the IPs do not have the financial capacities to maintain the benefits from the project going forward without further support from UN Women. Although the IP's institutional mandate is geared toward promoting women's political participation, but they require continuous funding to implement planned activities. This finding is supported by the following excerpts from interviews with the IPs.

Our activities are solely based on funding from our partners. Without this funding streams, it will be difficult to implement any activity. For this project, we have had long term relationship with UN Women and I believe they will continue to fund our activities

to maintain the benefits of the project.⁷⁷

We do not have the financial power to sustain the benefits of this project without sustain funding from donors. This is a non-profit organization and there is no way get fund to implement project activities except from organizations such as UN Women. I think the only way we can continuously work for this project is when funding is available which we do have at the moment.⁷⁸

On the part of government partners such as the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the evaluation could not assess the financial capacities of the government to maintain the benefits of the project but the evaluation notes that when the political will is available on the part of the government the financial capacity to sustain the benefits of the project will be available to a large extent. The partner's capacity to mobilize funds from various sources particularly the IPs and the Ministries of Women Affairs should be strengthened such that they can source funds externally.

4.6. Coherence:

The extent to what other interventions support or undermine the intervention and vice-versa, including aspects of complementarity, harmonization and co-ordination.

Findings 26: The extent the SSR 2 Project is coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country's peace and security agenda.

Our evidence set from document reviews and interview with the project team indicates that the SSR 2 project is coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country's peace and security agenda. The SSR 2 project is coherent with the Supporting Police Reform Processes in Nigeria (SPRPIN) project implemented by Cleen Foundation, as well as the Women, Peace Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) project which focus on ending violence against women and advance human rights and gender equality in peace and security contexts. The project is also coherent with the UNDP's interventions supporting the Presidential Roadmap for Police Reform, 'Advancing Re-form Efforts in the Nigeria Police Force' implemented by CLEEN Foundation, and GIZ's Programme to Build and Strengthen Police Structures in Nigeria, which focuses on building forensic expertise within the police and improving collaboration between actors within the criminal justice chain⁷⁹. The SSR 2 project is also coherent with the activities of other partners such as PWAN, the Center for Legislative Advocacy (CISLAC), and Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), and the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC).

Evidence from interviews with the project team also confirmed that they reached out to these partners for consensus building to avoid duplication of efforts and strengthening synergy among the various interventions. The mid-term evaluation notes that the SSR 2 project is coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country's peace and security agenda to a large extent.

The SSR 2 project also aligns with the UNDP Country Programme Document pillar three which focuses on Governance, Peace, and Security as well as the Strategic Priority Four (Governance, Peace, Security, Access to Justice and Rule of Law) of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperative Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 which provides the overall framework for the United Nations system for project implementation in Nigeria.

Findings 27: The extent the SSR 2 Project is coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria

Our evidence set from document review and interview with the project team reveals that the SSR 2 project is coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria as the specific objectives of the project aligned with key gender equality international agreements and legal instruments which guide the work within the

⁷⁷ Excerpt from KII with IP in Abuja

⁷⁸ Excerpt from KII with IP in ABuja

⁷⁹ Project proposal narrative- enhancing gender-responsive security operations and community dialogue project in Nigeria Phase II

United Nations system. The project is designed in line with UN Women's tripartite mandate of normative, operational programming and coordination for gender equality and women empowerment. Thus, the SSR 2 project is coherent with UN Women Programme on Women, Peace, and Security in Nigeria – Phase II (2021-2024): The project has an overall objective of realizing a more peaceful and gender-equal society by creating an enabling environment for the implementation of WPS commitments through strengthening policy frameworks, capacity, coordination, and oversight of federal and state entities and increasing the meaningful participation of women to deliver on UNSCR 1325 commitments for conflict prevention and sustainable peace. The SSR 2 project aligns with the UN Women's Strategic Plan (2022-2025) thematic area 4 which focuses on Women, peace and security, humanitarian action, and disaster risk reduction which is very coherent with UN Women Nigeria SSR 2 PROJECT specific objectives. The UN Women also provide technical support to other United Nations agencies in Nigeria on gender mainstreaming strategies. As earlier stated, the SSR 2 project objective is coherent with the UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) pillar three which focuses on Governance, Peace, and Security as well as the Strategic Priority Four (Governance, Peace, Security, Access to Justice and Rule of Law) of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperative Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 which provides the overall framework for the United Nations system for project implementation in Nigeria. Overall, the mid-term evaluation believed that the SSR 2 Project is coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria to a large extent.

Finding 28: The extent to which the SSR 2 Project coherent with wider donor policy

The SSR 2 project is funded by the Government of Germany as earlier mentioned. The review of project documents and interviews with the project team confirmed that the SSR 2 project is coherent with the third Germany National Action Plan (NAP) (2021-2024) on UNSCR 1325 especially Priority Area 5 (Strengthening the Women, Peace and Security agenda).⁸⁰ The project is also coherent with the German Guidelines for Feminist Foreign Policy: a foreign policy for all which recognises that societies are more peaceful and prosperous when everyone can play an equal part in political, social and economic life.⁸¹ The German Government regards the implementation of Resolution 1325 as a cross-cutting theme, which needs to be considered in all its decisions, activities and projects in the realm of foreign, security and development policy.⁸² Overall, the mid-term review confirmed that the SSR 2 project is coherent with wider donor policy.

Finding 29: The extent the SSR 2 Project is coherent with international obligations for women's human rights, other human rights conventions and other international frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Evaluative evidence from document reviews and interviews with the project team confirmed that the SSR 2 project is coherent with several international obligations for women's human rights, other human rights conventions, and other international frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women which have been ratified in Nigeria. Prominent among them is the Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Others are the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW 1979), the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, the African Union Gender Policy, Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) among others. For instance, the CEDAW convention provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life including the right to vote and to stand for election as well as education, health, and employment. One of the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action was the recognition that wars and armed conflict destroy families and societies and leave women and girls particularly vulnerable. Also, the Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective on Multidimensional Peace Support Operations (2000) called for a gender perspective to be adopted in peace support operations. With respect to security sector reform, the SSR 2 project aligned with the UN Security

⁸⁰ <http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/index.php/germany/>

⁸¹ <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/ffp-guidelines/2585074>

⁸² Ibid

Council resolution 2553 (2020) 2151 (2014), and the 2012 Integrated Technical Guidance Note on Security Sector⁸³.

4.7. Gender Equality and Human Rights:

Findings 30: The extent to which gender and human rights considerations have been integrated into the project design and implementation

The mid-term review findings indicate that the SSR 2 project largely integrated gender and human rights considerations into the project design and implementation. Our evidence set from document reviews and interviews with relevant project stakeholders confirmed that all objectives, strategies, approaches, and activities are focused on addressing the root causes of gender inequalities in the security sector and at the community level in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. From the design, the project has focused on promoting gender equality and human rights considerations. Thus, the SSR 2 project first targeted legislators and policymakers to increase their awareness of the importance of addressing gender inequality and marginalization of women's and girls' rights in security sector laws, policies, and institutions. The project also built the capacity of law and policymakers to mainstream gender in security sector laws and policies. The project also focused on increasing awareness of the security concerns and needs of women and girls, including gender-based violence among personnel of target security sector institutions and members of local communities in target states. At the same time, the capacities of Women-Led Organizations (WLOs) Community Security Platforms (CSPs) and Mixed Observers Teams (MOTs) were strengthened to identify and address security concerns of women and girls in target areas. The project has also supported the review of the Laws of Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN), Nigeria Police Force (NPF), and Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) from a gender perspective. All these activities of the project ensured that gender is integrated into the design and implementation of the project.

The SSR 2 project was inclusive and non-discriminatory, with deliberate strategies to engage stakeholders and target beneficiaries at all levels, in line with the principle of 'leaving no one behind. Thus, both women and men were targeted in the various capacity building. Evidence also shows that different categories of stakeholders including women, men, and persons living with disabilities were involved in the implementation of the project. For instance, all the members of the WLOs are women and play active roles in the engagement of security actors, particularly concerning girls' and women's security concerns at the community level. Also, the members of the CSP and MOT are made up of both men and women which further demonstrates the gender inclusivity and integration of human rights into the project design and implementation. The MOT carried out community sensitization on prevailing security concerns of girls and women, including SGBV, and harmful and discriminatory cultural practices against women and girls, among others. This is in addition to providing referrals for trauma healing counseling and access to justice to girls and women at the community level. However, as earlier mentioned, only 3 percent of persons with disability were found to be participating in the project implementation as reveal in the survey. This demonstrates the need to integrate more persons with disability into the project implementation activities.

5.0. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusion

The overarching conclusion of this mid-term evaluation is that the SSR 2 project is consolidating on the achievement of the first phase of the project and is on track to achieving the stated goals and objectives of the SSR 2 project. The findings above provide the basis for the overall conclusions and emerging recommendations resulting from this mid-term evaluation. Building on the above findings, these conclusions aim to provide UN Women and its partners with actionable suggestions and recommendations to support its ability to deliver on its WPS response mandate, with specific reference to increasing women's participation in peace and security processes. The specific conclusions are given below:

Conclusion 1: (Based on Findings 1-2 on Relevance)

The involvement of national partners and other stakeholders in the conceptualization and design of the project is crucial to the proper alignment of the project objectives to national priorities and to the beneficiary's needs. The SSR 2 project objectives were adjudged to be relevant, aligned to the national priorities, and addressed the identified rights and needs of the target groups.

⁸³ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/security-sector-reform>

The SSR 2 Project to a very large extent addressed the rights and needs of the target groups. The project successfully contributed to addressing the needs and priorities of security institutions and women affected by the conflicts in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. Key needs addressed include the development of the draft Bills for the amendment of the Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) Act, NPF Act, and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Act as well as the approval for integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions (SSIs) into the curricular of their respective training institutions, as well as the endorsement of strategies to increase women recruitment, retention, promotion and leadership in SSIs by management of NPF, NSCDC, and Nigerian Navy. The SSR 2 Project targeting of conflict-affected women in North-east Nigeria to address some of their security concerns as well as engendering meaningful engagement and collaboration of conflict-affected women with security sector institutions was apt.

Conclusion 2: (Based on Findings 3-4 on Relevance)

Project activity's consistency with the intended impact are crucial measures that ensure that the project objectives effectively address the identified problem to be addressed. The SSR 2 project activities and outputs are consistent with the intended impacts and adequately contributed to addressing problems identified including the absence of an enabling, gender-responsive policy environment for security sector institutions and security concerns of conflict-affected women to a large extent. The SSR 2 project intervention was also found to be in total alignment with national and international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of WPS.

The mid-term evaluation confirmed that the SSR 2 project activities and outputs are consistent with the intended impacts and adequately contributed to addressing the problems identified including the absence of an enabling, gender-responsive policy environment of key security sector institutions and security concerns of conflict-affected women. The SSR 2 project was designed to consolidate the successes recorded under phase I by ensuring that security sector legislation, policies, and institutions are reformed to promote gender equality, and women in their diversity, especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities are empowered to voice and assert their rights to protection and have enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner. Thus, all the activities to be implemented focused on consolidating the gains of the project's first phase. OUTCOME 1 of the SSR 2 project focuses on ensuring that Security sector legislation, policies, and institutions are reformed to promote gender equality, and women's participation and rights while OUTCOME 2 of the project focused on ensuring that "Women in their diversity, especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities are empowered to voice and assert their rights to protection. OUTCOME 3 focuses on ensuring that the coordination mechanisms among key security sector institutions in Nigeria is improved to address the security needs of individuals and communities in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner. All the outcome-level, activities are consistent with the intended impact of the SSR 2 project which is to promote a human security-centric, accountable, and gender-responsive security sector in Nigeria. At the output levels, evidence also shows that the outputs and respective activities also aligned with the problems identified which are gender imbalances in security sector institutions in Nigeria.

Conclusion 3: (Based on Findings 5 -6 on Relevance)

Sustained capacity building of key stakeholders on gender mainstreaming and UNSCR 1325, and strengthening the collaboration between the community security structures and the Ministry of Women Affairs are vital for achieving the long-term result of promoting a human security-centric, accountable, and gender-responsive security sector in Nigeria.

The mid-term evaluation notes that the SSR 2 project should prioritize sustaining the capacity building for security institutions, members of the National Assembly and MOT, CSP, and WLOs on gender mainstreaming and UNSCR 1325. The continuous training and retraining of these stakeholders is vital for achieving the long-term result of promoting a human security-centric, accountable, and gender-responsive security sector in Nigeria. Also, evidence from the mid-term evaluation reveals that the relationship and level of collaboration between the community security structures and the Ministry of Women Affairs at the state level is weak. This needs to be strengthened to enhance the effectiveness of the community security structures in the discharge of their services. In terms of capacity, there is not enough personnel especially in the target state to support project implementation. This is one capacity that requires action by the project team going forward.

Conclusion 4: (Based on Findings 7 -9 on Effectiveness)

Project effectiveness is critical as it measures how the project achieves its stated objectives. The mid-term evaluation of the SSR 2 project shows that the SSR 2 project has made significant progress in meeting the set targets at the outcome and output levels as the majority of the outcome and output level indicators have been achieved at mid-term. The mid-term evaluation identified success factors of the project and key stakeholders are satisfied with the result achieved so far by the project.

Evidence shows that the SSR 2 project has made significant progress in meeting the set targets at the outcome level. All the outcome-level indicators have been achieved. At the output level, there are a total of 21 indicators, and out of this, 11 indicators have been achieved at the mid-term. The other indicators yet to be achieved have also made significant progress at mid-term. Key results achieved so far at mid-term include the publication and launching of the Gender Policy of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), development of the draft Bills for the amendment of the Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) Act, NPF Act and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Act as well as the approval for integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions (SSIs) into the curricular of their respective training institutions, as well as the endorsement of strategies to increase women recruitment, retention, promotion and leadership in SSIs by management of NPF, NSCDC, and Nigerian Navy. The project has also made significant contributions in improving the implementation of gender policies and operational guidelines as well as the reporting of security concerns of women and girls (including cases of SGBV, drug abuse, child and forced marriage) in the target states. Success factors of the project include the vast experience of the UN Women project team, and the design of the SSR 2 project based on the key lessons learnt from the final evaluation of the first phase of the SSR 2 project among other factors.

Conclusion 5: (Based on Findings 10-11 on Effectiveness)

The mid-term evaluation found that the capacities of relevant duty bearers and rights holders are being strengthened to a large extent. The evaluation also found that several innovative practices were mainstreamed both in the design and implementation of the project for achieving provisions of UNSCR 1325 and GEWE

The mid-term evaluation found that the capacities of relevant duty bearers and rights holders are being strengthened to a large extent as confirmed by right holders and duty bearers. The SSR 2 project conducted capacity-building training for trainers of various training academies of the SSIs. The capacity and coordination mechanism among members of security officers' wives' networks and associations were enhanced. There was also capacity-building on SGBV and protection for women and girls targeting members of CSP, MOTs, CSPs, and WLOs which contributed to enriching the content of training manual for the structures. In order to enhance operationalization of the gender policies adopted by the AFN (2021), NSCDC (2021) and NPF (2023), the project also built the capacity of senior officers of security institutions. The evaluation found that several innovative practices were incorporated in the project's design and implementation. The first innovative practice in the project design is the project strategy of bridging the gap between the community-based structures and the Women, Peace, and Security Sector Reference Group. This approach promoted joint planning meetings and actions that foster collaborative actions between security agencies and community-based actors. The review and drafting of the Bills to amend laws of the security institutions from a gender perspective is considered innovative by the evaluation. Furthermore, the provision of legal Clinics to address security concerns of women and girls, especially SGBV established in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states is another innovative practice of the project. Also, the project design builds upon the results and lessons learned from the evaluation of the first phase of the project as earlier stated. The integration of key lessons into the project design was considered a commendable practice by the evaluation. In addition, the project implementation strategy underlined by policy-level and legal reform interventions, capacity building, and institutional strengthening of national institutions in the security sectors as well as democratic structures was innovative and good practice. The project team has targeted partners with a shared vision and mandates like the goal of promoting a "human-centric security sector in Nigeria that is accountable and gender-responsive" as partners in project implementation. This approach has been found to have a strong positive influence on the sustainability of project benefits. Overall, on a scale of 1-5 with 1 indicating low innovation and 5 indicating high innovation, the evaluation rated the project 4 suggesting that the evaluation considers the project approaches and strategies as largely innovative.

Conclusion 6: (Based on Findings 12-13 on Efficiency)

The project resources were allocated strategically and efficiently utilized to achieve the project outcomes. The mid-term evaluation found that the project outputs were delivered promptly to a large extent. The project team was strategic by putting in measures to ensure efficient utilization of project resources.

The evaluation confirmed that available resources were allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes. The project has a total duration of 18 months with a planned budget of USD 2 million. Of these funds, USD 993,443 was budgeted for project implementation activities which represents 49.7 percent of the total budget. In comparison, USD 511,065 was budgeted for personnel which represents 25.6 percent of the total budget of the project. As of June 2024, only 34.3 percent of all allocated budgets for the project activities have been spent which represents a low absorption rate for the project given that the project has only 6 months left before closure. The targets for several of the indicators have been achieved by the project at mid-term. However, for some of the indicators that are yet to be achieved, the project team must expedite action to implement the remaining activities. This will help to increase the absorption rate of the project which is quite low at mid-term. In addition, the project allocation of over 50 percent of the total budget on project implementation activities compared to 25.6 percent on personnel is highly commendable by the evaluation. Several measures were put in place to ensure that resources were efficiently utilized during the implementation of the project activities. First, the project team was strategic in narrowing the scope of the project to 3 Outcomes and 7 Outputs in line with the available resources. Also, the SSR 2 project team was not overloaded and was in most cases multi-tasking which ensured that too many financial resources were not spent on personnel but on actual project implementation in compliance with the donor requirements. There was also constant monitoring of how the financial resources were been used by the IPs by the UN Women project team through monthly meetings and the quarterly submission of the financial report by the IP. Also, the project team has utilized local facilitators for the training program conducted which undoubtedly contributed to a reduction in implementation cost while promoting ownership of the project as well as improvement in the local economy. Considering the above finding, it is fair to conclude that the financial resources of the project were strategically allocated to achieve the project outcome.

Conclusion 7: (Based on Findings 14-15 on Efficiency)

The mid-term evaluation established that the project and its components were cost-effective and the project's organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms is effectively supporting the delivery of project outputs.

The mid-term evaluation found that the project and its components were cost-effective as all goods and services were competitively procured to ensure value for money and were negotiated to ensure cost-effectiveness. Also, actual expenditures were reasonable, well within the approved budget, and in conformity with the UN financial management regulations. Also, several measures were put in place to limit fraud while ensuring that the project's inputs were efficiently utilized to conduct project activities and achieve the project's intended results. Some of the measures include the use of local facilitators and IPs, joint monitoring of implementation activities by the project team, and tracking of progress on implementation and expenditure in the organization's Results Management System and ERP system. The mid-term evaluation also found that the organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms put in place by UN Women are effectively supporting the project's delivery. The SSR 2 project has a simple management structure. The senior management team of the UN Women's Country Office in Nigeria based in Abuja leads the overall guidance of the implementation of the project activities. The project also has another team deployed to the Maiduguri sub-office of UN Women in Borno State to oversee and provide direct support to project implementation in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states and the constituent Local Government Areas (LGAs) in each of these states. Overall, the evaluation rated the project's organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms as effective and significantly supporting the delivery of project objectives.

Conclusion 8: (Based on Findings 16-17 on Efficiency)

The SSR 2 project to a large extent utilized existing capacities of right holders and duty holders in achieving the outcomes. Several partners were engaged to support the implementation of the project and all these were drawn locally. The project's monitoring mechanisms in place were effective for measuring and informing management of project performance and progress. It provided monitoring data for management action and decision-making.

The mid-term evaluation found that the SSR 2 project to a large extent utilized the existing capacities of right holders and duty holders in achieving the outcomes. The project team engaged several IPs to support the implementation of the project and all these were drawn locally. The project also utilized local capacities in the created security platforms such as the MOT, CST, and WLOs. The main value added by this approach is that it increases local ownership of the project while the experience gained will remain within the local communities and institutions. The mid-term evaluation also found that the monitoring mechanisms in place for the project are good. The project team develops monitoring plans and guidelines to enhance monitoring effectiveness. The plans include monitoring tools, set targets, and performance indicators for the project. Another monitoring measure was the development of monitoring tools for the Security Sector Reference Group (SSRG) to track their activities every quarter. At the community level, PWAN also regularly held monthly meetings with the three platforms created to review the progress and challenges in each of the groups. Another measure is the use of the Activity Progress Report (APR). All these mechanisms put in place are effective and ensure that progress towards results is effectively monitored.

Conclusion 9: (Based on Findings 18-19 on Impact)

The mid-term evaluation found evidence to show that the SSR 2 project is building and consolidating on the achievements of the first phase of the project. Key changes that have occurred as a result of the project include greater involvement of women in peace and security structures in the communities, reduction of the culture of silence among survivors of SGBV as a result of the activities of the MOT and CSP at the community level and enhanced collaboration between the community security platforms and security actors.

At mid-term, the evaluation found that the SSR 2 project is building and consolidating on the achievements of the first phase of the project. One of the **key** changes that have occurred as a result of the project is the greater involvement of women in peace and security structures in the communities. Also, emerging impact level changes at the community level include the reduction of the culture of silence among survivors of SGBV as a result of the activities of the MOT and CSP at the community level. Another noticeable change that has occurred due to the project that can be identified is the enhanced collaboration between the community security platforms and security actors. Since the project started, many MOTs and CSP members across the intervention states have noted that they can easily relate to security actors. Also, the approval of senior management of NPF, NSCDC, and Nigerian Navy for the integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions (SSIs) into the curriculum of their respective training institutions, as well as the endorsement of strategies to increase women recruitment, retention, promotion and leadership in SSIs are also considered as another long term result achieved by the project. This will ensure that newly recruited officers have the opportunity to be trained on gender issues at the point of recruitment. Another long-term result delivered by the project is the various capacity-building programmes organized for the security sector actors as well as the members of the MOT, CSP, and the WLOs. Overall, the mid-term evaluation confirmed that the project is contributing to significant changes with respect to gender mainstreaming in security institutions and local communities in the target states.

Conclusion 10: (Based on Findings 20 on Impact)

The mid-term evaluation confirmed that gender equality and women's empowerment is being advanced as a result of this intervention. All the activities of the project are geared towards promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

The mid-term evaluation confirmed that gender equality and women's empowerment is being advanced as a result of this intervention. All the activities of the project are geared towards promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Under Outcome 1, the project has contributed to the development of the draft Bills for the amendment of the Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) Act, NPF Act, and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). Also, the approval of integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions (SSIs) into the curriculum of security sector training institutions, and the endorsement of strategies to increase women recruitment, retention, promotion, and leadership in SSIs by management of NPF, NSCDC, and Nigerian Navy. All these are geared towards the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment. These efforts are beginning to yield fruitful results as emerging evidence shows that women are getting more involved in security operations. Similarly, outcome 2 of the SSR 2 project focuses on empowering women especially those in conflict-affected grassroots communities to voice and assert their rights to protection and have enhanced collaboration with security institutions to address community security needs in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner. All

the activities under these outcomes are advancing women's leadership positions in decision-making in the intervention communities.

Conclusion 10: (Based on Findings 21-22 on Sustainability)

The evaluation found ample evidence indicating that the requirements for national ownership were satisfied by the SSR 2 project. The project design recognized that governments at national and state levels more readily assume ownership when initiatives are built on participation, consultations, and government visions, strategies, and frameworks. Thus, during project design and implementation, relevant organs of the government at the national and state levels were engaged by UN Women. The finding also shows that the SSR 2 project made important contributions in the strengthening of capacities of national partners, duty bearers and right holders both at the national level and the targeted states.

The mid-term evaluation found that the requirements for national ownership were satisfied by the SSR 2 project. The project team engaged relevant stakeholders at both national and state levels and provided inputs to project design which promoted ownership. The project team engaged with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs at the national level and other MDAs, Legislators at the National Assembly, and Security Institutions. At the state level, the State Ministry of Women Affairs and other key MDAs, Traditional and Religious Leaders, CSOs, PWAN, CSPs, MOTs and WLOs, were also engaged. Also, the SSR 2 project was designed to align with the national priorities of the government of Nigeria especially the National Gender Policy (NGP). The mid-term evaluation believed that the project to a large extent is receiving support from national and local institutions in Nigeria. This is evident from the project partnership with national and local institutions such as NDC, NILDS, NASS, States HoA, and Ministries of Women Affairs at the federal and state levels. Beyond this, the mid-term evaluation found evidence of leadership commitment of institutions, especially Government institutions like the National Assembly, the Chief of Defence Staff, the Inspector General of Police and the Commandant General of NSCDC. The mid-term evaluation established that the SSR 2 project is on course to strengthen the capacities of national partners' technical and operational.

Conclusion 11: (Based on Findings 23-25 on Sustainability)

There are pieces of evidence to show that the benefits of the project will be sustained to a large extent. The targeting of national and local ownership, development of gender policies as well as various capacity building programmes contributes to project sustainability of benefits.

The mid-term evaluation found evidence to show that the benefits of the project will be sustained to a large extent. One key evidence of the sustainability of the benefits is the approval for the integration of the Standard Gender Manual for security sector institutions into the curricula of their respective training institutions. Another evidence of project sustainability relates to the various capacity-building programmes that targeted different stakeholders including duty bearers and right holders. The project enhanced the GEWE knowledge and capacity of national and state-level stakeholders, especially members of the security institutions, MOT, CSP, and WLOs. Since this knowledge will remain with the people, it implies that the beneficiaries will continue to apply the knowledge in their various activities at their respective institutions and communities thereby contributing to the sustainability of results. Another key evidence is the draft Bills for the amendment of the Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) Act, NPF Act and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Act when it is finally passed into law. The MOT and CSP members on their path have shown strong commitment towards the sustainability of the benefits of the project. Evaluative evidence shows that at the end of the first phase of the project, members of the two platforms continued with their activities in the communities for over one year before the beginning of the second phase of the project. This is an indication that the benefits from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time upon project completion by the platforms. In spite of these, the mid-term evaluation notes that the sustainability of the benefits of this project rest more on the full implementation of the gender policies and adherence to the tenets of the yet to be passed revised Acts establishing the security institutions.

Conclusion 12: (Based on Findings 26-28 on Coherence)

The mid-term evaluation found that the SSR 2 Project is coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country's peace and security agenda. The project was found to be coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria as well as the wider donor policy.

Evaluative evidence indicates that the SSR 2 project is coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country's peace and security agenda. The SSR 2 project is coherent with the Supporting Police Reform Processes in Nigeria (SPRPIN) project implemented by Cleen Foundation, as well as the Women, Peace Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) project which focuses on ending violence against women. The project is also coherent with the UNDP's interventions supporting the Presidential Roadmap for Police Reform, 'Advancing Re-form Efforts in the Nigeria Police Force' implemented by CLEEN Foundation, and GIZ's Programme to Build and Strengthen Police Structures in Nigeria, which focuses on building forensic expertise within the police and improving collaboration between actors within the criminal justice chain⁸⁴. The SSR 2 project is also coherent with the activities of other partners such as PWAN, the Center for Legislative Advocacy (CISLAC), and Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), and the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC). The SSR 2 project also aligns with the UNDP Country Programme Document pillar three which focuses on Governance, Peace, and Security as well as the Strategic Priority Four (Governance, Peace, Security, Access to Justice and Rule of Law) of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperative Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 which provides the overall framework for the United Nations system for project implementation in Nigeria. The SSR 2 project is coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria as the specific objectives of the project aligned with key gender equality international agreements and legal instruments that guide the work within the United Nations system. The project is designed in line with UN Women's tripartite mandate of normative, operational programming and coordination for gender equality and women empowerment and also aligns with the third Germany National Action Plan (NAP) (2021-2024) on UNSCR 1325 especially Priority Area 5 (Strengthening the Women, Peace and Security agenda).

Conclusion 13: (Based on Findings 29 on Coherence)

The SSR 2 Project is found to be coherent with international obligations for women's human rights, other human rights conventions and other international frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The mid-term evaluation confirmed that the SSR 2 project is coherent with several international obligations for women's human rights, other human rights conventions, and other international frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women which have been ratified in Nigeria. Prominent among them is the Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building. Others are the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW 1979), Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, African Union Gender Policy, Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) among others. For instance, the CEDAW convention provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life including the right to vote and to stand for election as well as education, health, and employment. One of the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action was the recognition that wars and armed conflict destroy families and societies and leave women and girls particularly vulnerable. With respect to security sector reform, the SSR 2 project aligned with the UN Security Council resolution 2553 (2020) 2151 (2014), and the 2012 Integrated Technical Guidance Note on Security Sector⁸⁵.

Gender Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming in SSR 2 project

Conclusion 13: (Based on Findings 30 and 39 on Gender Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming)

Gender and human rights considerations were integrated into the project design and implementation. All objectives, strategies, approaches, and activities are focused on addressing the root causes of gender inequalities in the security sector and at the community level. From the design, the project has focused on promoting gender equality and human rights considerations. Thus, the SSR 2 project first targeted legislators and policymakers to increase their awareness of the importance of addressing gender inequality and marginalization of women's and girls' rights in security sector laws, policies, and institutions. The project also built the capacity of law and policymakers to mainstream gender in security sector laws and policies. The project also focused on increasing awareness of the security concerns and needs of women and girls, including gender-based violence among personnel of target security sector institutions and members of local communities in target states. The SSR 2 project

⁸⁴ project proposal narrative- enhancing gender-responsive security operations and community dialogue project in Nigeria Phase II

⁸⁵ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/security-sector-reform>

was inclusive and non-discriminatory, with deliberate strategies to engage stakeholders and target beneficiaries at all levels, in line with the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. However, as earlier mentioned, only 3 percent of persons with disability were found to be participating in the project implementation as revealed in the survey. This demonstrates the need to integrate more persons with disability into the project implementation activities.

5.2. Lessons Learnt

Lesson 1: Applying lessons learned from previous projects into the design and implementation of the preceding project helps to avoid mistakes, optimize project performance, and ensure continuous improvement.

The design of the SSR 2 project was based on the recommendations from the final evaluation of the project's first phase. This ensured that the good practices and lessons learnt from the first phase were mainstreamed into the SSR 2 project while at the same time avoiding the pitfalls. One recommendation from the final evaluation of the first phase was that UN Women should consider engaging more stakeholders at the conceptualization and design stage of projects to harvest stakeholders' inputs to the project design which is important in getting their buy-in for the project. This was applied in the design of the second phase which promoted ownership of the project by stakeholders. This ultimately contributed to the successes recorded by the SSR 2 project.

Lesson 2: Creating community-level structures to support project implementation is fundamental to the sustainability of project benefits at the community level.

During the first phase of the project, the project team created the MOT, CSP, and WLOs. The capacity of the established CSP, MOT, and WLO was built for the prevention and response to violence against women and girls. At the end of the first phase of the project, these structures continued to carry out their activities in their respective communities without the guidance and support from the project team. This is good evidence of the sustainability of the benefits of the SSR 2 project in the intervention communities.

Lesson 3: A second phase of a development intervention is germane to consolidating the achievements of the first phase for short-term projects.

The first phase of the SSR 2 project was for 21 months during which the gender policies for targeted security institutions were developed. However, there was no time to monitor the implementation of the gender policies as the project ended immediately after the policies were developed. The second phase did not only provide the opportunity to monitor implementation but it also provided an opportunity for the review of the Acts establishing the security institutions from a gender perspective. It also provided an opportunity for the review of SAP in target states. All these contributed to consolidating the gains of the first phase of the project.

Lesson 4: Continuous capacity-building activities for project beneficiaries are a necessity both for promoting ownership, achievement of project objectives, and sustainability of project benefits.

The SSR 2 project from inception has focused on capacity-building for key stakeholders including the security institutions, members of the National Assembly as well as members of community security structures including the MOT, CSP, and WLOs. The capacity-building activities were unique for the different categories of the project beneficiaries. The capacity-building activities for WLOs focused on advocacy and engagement skills with security actors at the community level. The capacity-building programme for security institutions and members of the National Assembly focused on increasing their understanding of gender mainstreaming, UNSCR 1325, and the NAP. The adopted approach of the project in capacity building of beneficiaries will not only contribute to the attainment of project objectives but will also ensure that the knowledge gained remains with the beneficiaries after the close of the project.

Lesson 5: Engaging with relevant top-level management of security institutions, government institutions, and sectoral leaders in the intervention communities is important for successful project implementation

The SSR 2 project team deemed it important to first engage all relevant top-level security institutions, and government institutions such as the Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs as key stakeholders of the project at the beginning of the project. This provided an easy entry point for the implementation of the project in the security institutions and the participation of government Ministries as partners in the implementation of the project. It would have been nearly impossible to access the security institutions at the state level and participation of government Ministries without this level of engagement at the national level.

Lesson 6. Targeting partners with similar mandates and visions is crucial to the sustainability of project benefits at the end of the implementation of project activities

Targeting partners with a shared vision and mandates as IPs in project implementation has been found to have a strong positive influence on the partnership success, satisfaction, and sustainability of benefits. The SSR 2 project engaged PWAN, NILDS, and FMWASD as well as NDC as partners in project implementation. These partners share similar vision and mandates with the SSR 2 project which implies that in their other activities, they will continue to implement activities related to the goals and objectives of the SSR 2 project with or without UN Women funding. This has a long-term effect on the sustainability of the project benefits.

5.3. Recommendations

The mid-term evaluation identified key recommendations that are critical for UN Women's contribution to security sector reforms and WPS in Nigeria. Recommendations from this mid-term evaluation have been sequenced by their importance, as perceived by the evaluation team. The recommendations are based on the evaluation framework and the analysis that informed findings and conclusions. They will be validated by key stakeholders in an exit workshop carried out at the end of the field mission and also through the review of the evaluation report.

Recommendations with the specification of action and timeframe

Specific Recommendations	Evidence	Responsibility	Priority
Programmatic recommendations:			
1. The project team should expedite action to implement all the planned project activities in order to achieve all set targets and also to increase the budget absorption rate which is currently low.	Findings 12	UN Women & IPs	Immediate
2. There is a need for the project team to consider integrating a livelihood component into the project to target women and girls survivors of SGBV. This is necessary to improve the economic conditions of the SGBV survivors which is one factor that contributes to their vulnerability to SGBV.	Findings 5, Findings 12	UN Women	Immediate
3. The UN Women project team should consider providing support and monitoring the implementation of the gender policies of security institutions and other commitments by the security institutions.	Findings 12	UN Women, security institutions	Immediate
4. The project team should prioritize the provision of technical and logistics support for the passage of the Draft Bills for the amendment of the Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) Act, NPF Act by the National Assembly.	Findings 12	UN Women & NASS	Immediate
5. The project team should consider putting measures in place to support the implementation of SAP when the review is completed for the three states.	Findings 4 & 16	UN Women, Ministry of Women Affairs	Immediate
6. UN Women project team should consider continuing to build the capacity of security actors, NASS, members of the CSP, MOT, and WLOs given the limited time used for the capacity building programme under the SSR 2 project.	Findings 1, 6, 7 & 22	UN Women & IPs	Immediate
7. The UN Women project team should consider engaging more staff to support project implementation in the target states, especially in Adamawa and Yobe states.	Findings 5, 12 & 15	UN Women	Immediate
8. UN women's project team should consider formally handing over the CSP, MOT, and WLOs to the State Ministries of Women Affairs to ensure that the platforms not only remain active but it will ensure that their activities are recognized by the government.	Findings 5	UN Women, Ministry of Women Affairs	Immediate
9. The project team should consider providing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials for members of the CSP, MOT and WLOs to promote their sensitization	Findings 5	UN Women	Immediate

activities and as well as increase their visibility in the communities.			
10. UN Women should consider sustaining the provision of legal clinics for survivors of SGBV in the target state. This is necessary in order to enforce their rights	Findings 1 & 11	UN Women &PWAN	Immediate
11. UN Women should consider integrating more persons with disability into the project implementation activities such as their involvement as members of the created platforms and the various capacity building under the project.	Findings 30	UN Women &PWAN	Immediate

Annex 1: Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria	Key question(s)	Indicators for measuring progress	Collection Method(s)	Data Source	Assumptions
Relevance	Do the project objectives address identified rights and needs of the target groups (Security Sector Institutions, Government MDAs, Women-Led Organizations, and Women Affected by Conflict)?	Evidence that the project objectives address identified rights and needs of the target groups (Security Sector Institutions, Government MDAs, Women-Led Organizations, Women Affected by Conflict	-Document Analysis -KIIs and FGDs with project beneficiaries -Questionnaire administration	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts, survey data	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data
	To what extent were national partners involved in the conceptualization and design process?	Evidence that national partners were involved in the conceptualization and design process.	-Document Analysis -KIIs with project team and IPs -KIIs with National partners	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data.
	Are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with the intended impacts and effects? Do they address the problems identified?	Evidence that the project activities and outputs of the project are consistent with the intended impacts and effects	-Document Analysis -KIIs with the project team and IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data
	Are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with the provision of UNSCR 1325 and Nigeria's National Action Plan on the Resolution and the attainment of its objectives?	Evidence that the project activities and outputs of the project are consistent with the provision of UNSCR 1325 and Nigeria's National Action Plan on the Resolution and the attainment of its objectives	-Document Analysis -KIIs with the project team and IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data
	To what extent is the intervention aligned with national and international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of Women, Peace and Security?	Evidence that the intervention is aligned with national and international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of Women, Peace and Security?	-Document Analysis -KIIs with project team and IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data
	What rights does the project advance under CEDAW, SDGs, UNSCR 1325 and other international commitments?	Evidence of rights advanced by the project under CEDAW, SDGs, UNSCR 1325 and other international commitments?	-Document Analysis -KIIs with project team and IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data.
	What capacities and skills should UN Women prioritize and further develop to bring greater coherence and relevance to its interventions?	Evidence of capacities and skills that UN Women should prioritize and further develop to bring greater coherence and relevance to its interventions	-Document Analysis -KIIs with project team and IPs - KIIs and FGDs with project beneficiaries	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data

	To what extent did the implementing partner(s) possess the comparative advantage in the programme's area of work in comparison with other partners in Nigeria?	Evidence that the implementing partner(s) possess the comparative advantage in the programme's area of work in comparison with other partners in Nigeria	-Document Analysis -KIIs with project team and IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data
Effectiveness	What has been the progress made towards the achievement of the expected outcomes and expected results? What are the results achieved?	-Evidence of progress made towards the achievement of the expected outcomes and expected results. -No. of indicators already met by the project	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project beneficiaries -Questionnaire survey with beneficiaries	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts and Survey data	All IPs, government partners, project teams, and beneficiaries are ready and willing to provide needed data
	What are the reasons for the achievement or non-achievement?	Evidence of reasons for the achievement or non-achievement of the project objectives	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project beneficiaries	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams, and beneficiaries are ready and willing to provide needed data
	To what extent have beneficiaries been satisfied with the results?	Evidence that the beneficiaries have been satisfied with the results	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project beneficiaries -Questionnaire survey with beneficiaries	Project team IPs, beneficiaries	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	Does the project have effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress toward results?	Evidence of the existence of effective monitoring mechanisms of project activities in place to measure progress toward results	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams, and beneficiaries are ready and willing to provide needed data
	Has the project's organizational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the delivery of the project?	Evidence that the project's organizational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the delivery of the project	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team --KII with IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts from IPs	All project documents and monitoring tools are shared with the evaluation team
	To what extent are the project's approaches and strategies innovative for achieving provisions of UNSCR 1325? What -if any- types of innovative good practices have been introduced in the project for the achievement of GEWE results?	Evidence that the project approaches are innovative for achieving the planned results	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team --KII with IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts from IPs	All project documents and monitoring tools are shared with the evaluation team
Efficiency	Have resources (financial, human, technical support, etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes?	Evidence that resources (financial, human, technical support, etc.) have been allocated strategically to achieve the Programme outcomes	-Document reviews -KIIs with the Project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	What measures have been taken during planning and implementation to ensure that resources are efficiently used?	Evidence that measures have been taken during planning and implementation to ensure that resources are efficiently used	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data

	Have the outputs been delivered in a timely manner?	Evidence that the outputs have been delivered in a timely manner	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
		Evidence of cost-effectiveness of the program and its components	Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	Were the project and its components cost-effectively implemented? Could the activities and outputs have been delivered with fewer resources without reducing their quality and quantity? What are the key successes and recommendations for improvement?	Evidence that the project and its components were cost-effectively implemented	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
		Evidence that the activities and outputs have been delivered with fewer resources without reducing their quality and quantity			
	How did the project utilize existing local capacities of to achieve its outcomes?	Evidence that the project utilize existing local capacities of to achieve its outcomes	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	Has the project's organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms effectively supported delivery? What are the recommendations for improvement?	Evidence that the project's organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms effectively supported delivery.	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	To what extent was the monitoring data objectively used for management action and decision-making?	Evidence that data from monitoring was used for management action and decision making	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
Impact	To what extent can the changes that have occurred as a result of the project be identified and measured?	Availability of baseline indicators and/or benchmarks for performance measurements	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team	Project team	All relevant project documents are available and will be shared with the evaluation team
	What were the unintended effects, if any, of the intervention?	Evidence of unintended effects of the intervention	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project beneficiaries -Questionnaire survey with beneficiaries	Project team IPs, beneficiaries	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	What evidence exists that the project has delivered longer-term results as compared to other projects from processes through to benefits?	Evidence that the project has delivered longer-term results as compared to other projects from processes through to benefits	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with IPs -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project beneficiaries	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts	All IPs, the project team and beneficiaries are ready and willing to provide the needed data

	To what extent were gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of the intervention?	Evidence that gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of the intervention	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project beneficiaries -Questionnaire survey with beneficiaries	Project team IPs, beneficiaries	All IPs, the project team and beneficiaries are ready and willing to provide the needed data
Sustainability	Were requirements of national ownership satisfied? Was the project supported by national/local institutions?	Evidence that requirements of national ownership satisfied	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
	Do these institutions, including Government and Civil Society, demonstrate leadership commitment and technical capacity to continue to work with the Project or replicate it?	Evidence that institutions, including Government and Civil Society, demonstrate leadership commitment and technical capacity to continue to work with the Project or replicate it	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with IP	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
	What capacities of national partners, both technical and operational, have been strengthened?	Evidence of capacities of national partners, both technical and operational that have been strengthened.	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with IP	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
	What is the likelihood that the benefits from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time if the project were to cease?	Evidence that the likelihood of the benefits from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time if the project were to cease	-Document Analysis -KIIs and FGDs with project beneficiaries -Questionnaire administration	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts, survey data	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data
	To what extent are the financial capacities of partners likely going to maintain the benefits from the project? What might be needed to support partners to maintain these benefits?	Evidence that the financial capacities of partners are likely going to maintain the benefits from the project	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with IP	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
	To what extent is the project coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country?	Evidence that the project is coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team and IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data.
	To what extent is the project coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria?	Evidence that the project is coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team and IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data.
	To what extent is the project coherent with wider donor policy?	Evidence that the project is coherent with wider donor policy	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and donors	Project team and Donor	The project team and donor partner are ready and willing to provide the needed data.

	To what extent is the project coherent with international obligations for women's human rights, other human rights conventions, and other international frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women?	Evidence that the project is coherent with international obligations for women's human rights, other human rights conventions, and other international frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team and IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data.
	Has the project-built synergies with other programmes being implemented at the country level with the United Nations and the Government of Nigeria	Evidence that the project has built synergies with other programmes being implemented at the country level with the United Nations and the Government of Nigeria	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team and IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data.
Gender Equality and Human Rights	To what extent have gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation?	Evidence that gender and human rights, considerations have been integrated into the project design and implementation.	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project beneficiaries	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts	All IPs government partners, project teams, and beneficiaries are ready and willing to provide needed data
	How has attention to/ integration of gender equality and human rights concerns advance the area of work?	Evidence that the / integration of gender equality and human rights concerns advance the area of work	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams, are ready and willing to provide needed data
Disability Inclusion	What portion of beneficiaries were persons with disabilities?	% of project beneficiaries that are persons with disabilities	Document reviews -KIIs with the project team	Project documents, KII from project team and IPs Transcripts	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data.
	How has the program contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities?	Evidence that the program contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with project beneficiaries	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams, are ready and willing to provide needed data

Annex 2: National level Disaggregation of Data Collection by Stakeholders

Data Collection at the National level						
Name of Institution	Location	Method of Data Collection	No. of KIIs	Females	Male	Total
UN Women Abuja Country Office	Abuja	KII	5	3	2	5
Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN)	Abuja	KII	4	4	0	4
National Defence College	Abuja	KII	1	1	0	1
Federal Ministry of Women Affairs:	Abuja	KII	1	1	0	1
National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies	Abuja	KII	1	1	0	1
Women Peace and Security Reference Group	Abuja	KII	3	3	0	3
NPF, AFN, NSCDC beneficiaries	Abuja	KII	3	0	3	3
Total			18	13	5	18

Annex 3: State level Disaggregation of Data Collection

Data Collection at the State level								
Name of Institution	Location	Method of Data Collection			No. of KIIs	Females	Male	Total
		KII	FGD	Survey				
Security Institutions beneficiaries	FCT	4	0	10	4	3	1	4
State Ministries of Women Affairs	Adamawa, Borno and Yobe	4	0	0	4	3	1	4
Community security Platforms (CSPs)	Adamawa, Borno and Yobe	10	6	70	10	7	3	10
Mixed Observer Teams (MOT)	Adamawa, Borno and Yobe	10	6	30	10	7	3	10
Women-led organisations (WLOs)	Adamawa, Borno and Yobe	5	2	20	5	5	0	5
Target beneficiaries on the security concerns and community Leaders	Adamawa, Borno and Yobe	2	0	2	2	2	0	2
Total		35	8	132	35	27	8	35

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE OF THE ENHANCING GENDER-RESPONSIVE SECURITY OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUE PROJECT IN NIGERIA (PHASE II)

Annex 4: Tools Used

<p>Introduction: This survey tool assesses the impact of the SSR 2 project on the beneficiaries in Adamawa, Borno Yobe States and FCT. The goal of the mid-term evaluation is to investigate the stakeholder perceptions about the contribution of the SSR Project towards providing an enabling, gender-responsive policy environment of key security sector institutions, enhancing the capacity of security sector personnel for gender-responsive operations and promoting meaningful engagement and collaboration of affected women, and women's organizations with security sector institutions and personnel in community security. Your information and response to the survey will be held in confidence.</p>
SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF RESPONDENTS
1. Gender of the Respondents (a) Male (b) Female
2. State of the Respondents (a) Adamawa (b) Borno (c) Yobe (d) FCT
3. Age of respondents
4. Educational qualification of respondents (a) No formal education (b) Primary (c) Secondary (d) Tertiary
5. Category of Respondents (a) Security personnel (b) Conflict-affected Women (c) Mixed observer group member (c) Women-led organization (d) MDA staff (e) Community security dialogue platform member
SECTION B: RELEVANCE OF THE SSR 2 project IN NIGERIA
6. To what extent were you involved in the design of the SSR project in Nigeria? (a) Very large extent (b) Large extent (c) Little extent (d) Not involved at the design stage
7. To what extent do you agree or disagree to this statement that the SSR project was relevant to the priority needs of the targeted security institutions, women-led organizations and conflict-affected women? (a) Strongly Agreed (b) Agreed (c) Strongly Disagreed (d) Disagreed
8. How relevant was the training you received from the SSR project in Nigeria? (a) Very relevant (b) Relevant (c) Not relevant (d) Don't know
SECTION C: EFFECTIVENESS
9. To what extent has the SSR project contributed to increasing women's participation in peace and security processes? (a) Large extent (b) Little extent (c) No change at the moment
10. Have women and men achieved more equal participation in peace and security processes since this programme started? (a) Yes (b) No
11. Do you agree that women have important roles to play in peace and security in your state? (a) Yes (b) No
12. How would you rate the effectiveness of the SSR project as a mechanism for improving women's participation in peace and security in your state? (a) Very effective (b) Effective (c) ineffective (d) Don't know
SECTION D: SUSTAINABILITY
13 To what extent are the benefits of the project likely to be sustained when the programme ends (a) Large extent (b) Little extent (c) It cannot be sustained (d) Don't know
14. Are there plans to sustain the benefits of the project at your institution or community level (a) Yes (b) No
SECTION E: IMPACT
15. What are the changes produced by the programme? (a) providing enabling, gender-responsive policy environment of key security sector institutions (b) enhancing the capacity of security sector personnel for gender-responsive operations (c) Promoted meaningful engagement and collaboration of affected women, and women's organizations with security sector institutions and personnel in community security (d) None of the above (e) Don't know (Tick all that applies)
16. To what extent can the changes achieved be attributed to the activities of the SSR 2 PROJECT in Nigeria (a) very large extent (b) Large extent (c) Little extent (d) don't know
17. To what extent were the outputs of the project delivered in a timely manner? (a) very large extent (b) Large extent (c) Little extent (d) don't know
18. To what extent have your will you say your capacities have been strengthened by this project due to the trainings your have received? (a) very large extent (b) Large extent (c) Little extent (d) don't know
19. Were there any unintended effects of the project at the institutional or community level? (a) Yes (b) No

Key Informant Interview Guide For Implementing Partner

Relevance: *The extent to which the objectives of the project are consistent with the evolving needs and priorities of the beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders.*

1. To what extent did the project objectives address identified rights and needs of the target groups (Security Sector Institutions, Government MDAs, Women-Led Organizations, Women Affected by Conflict)?
2. Are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with the intended impacts and effects? Do they address the problems identified?
3. What capacities and skills should UN Women prioritize and further develop to bring greater coherence and relevance to its interventions?
4. To what extent did the implementing partner(s) possess the comparative advantage in the programme's area of work in comparison with other partners in Nigeria?

Effectiveness: *The extent to which the project's objectives were achieved or are expected / likely to be achieved.*

5. What has been the progress made towards achievement of the expected outcomes and expected results? What are the results achieved?
6. What are the reasons for the achievement or non-achievement?
7. To what extent have beneficiaries been satisfied with the results?
8. What extent have the capacities of relevant duty-bearers and rights-holders been strengthened?
9. Does the project have effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress toward results?
10. Has the project's organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the delivery of the project?
11. To what extent are the project's approaches and strategies innovative?

Efficiency: *A measure of how economically resources / inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) were converted to results.*

12. Have resources (financial, human, technical support, etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes?
13. What measures have been taken during planning and implementation to ensure that resources are efficiently used?
14. Have the outputs been delivered on time?
15. Is the project and its components cost-effective? Could the activities and outputs have been delivered with fewer resources without reducing their quality and quantity?
16. Has the project's organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms effectively supported delivery? What are the recommendations for improvement?
17. How does the project utilize existing local capacities of right-bearers and duty-holders to achieve its outcomes?
18. To what extent are the project's monitoring mechanisms in place effective for measuring and informing management of project performance and progress towards targets? To what extent was the monitoring data objectively used for management action and decision-making?

Impact: Positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by the Programme, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. (The evaluation will not be able to fully assess the project's impact, however, it will address the following questions with the results and evidence that is available to date.)

19. To what extent can the changes that have occurred as a result of the project be identified and measured?
20. What were the unintended effects, if any, of the intervention?
21. What evidence exists that the project has delivered longer-term results as compared to other projects from processes through to benefits?
22. To what extent were gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of this intervention?

Sustainability: The likelihood of a continuation of benefits for women from a development intervention after the intervention is completed or the probability of continued long-term benefits.

23. Are requirements of national ownership satisfied? Is the project supported by national/local institutions? Do these institutions, including government and civil society, demonstrate leadership commitment and technical capacity to continue to work with the project or replicate it?
24. What capacity of national partners, both technical and operational, has been strengthened?
25. To what extent are relevant national stakeholders and actors included in project implementation and policy advocacy?
26. What is the likelihood that the benefits from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time upon project completion?
27. Do partners have the financial capacity to maintain the benefits from the project?

Gender Equality and Human Rights:

- i. To what extent has gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation?
- ii. How has the attention to/ integration of gender equality and human rights concerns advanced the project?

Disability Inclusion

- i. Were persons with disability included in the design and implementation of the project?
- ii. What was the portion of beneficiaries with disabilities were involved?
- iii. What were the barriers faced by persons with disabilities and how were they addressed?

FGD GUIDE FOR MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY SECURITY DIALOGUE PLATFORMS AND MIXED OBSERVER TEAMS

Relevance: The extent to which the objectives of the project are consistent with the evolving needs and priorities of the beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders.

- i. Do the project objectives address identified rights and needs of the target groups (Government MDAs, Security Sector Institutions, Women-Led Organizations, Women Affected by Conflict)?
- ii. To what extent were you involved in conceptualization and design process of the SSR 2 PROJECT?
- iii. To what extent will you say the project activities are relevant to you and your community?

Effectiveness: The extent to which the project's objectives were achieved or are expected / likely to be achieved.

- i. What are the achievement of the project in your community?
- ii. What are the reasons for the achievement or non-achievement?
- iii. To what extent are you satisfied with the project and results achieved?

Efficiency: A measure of how economically resources / inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) were converted to results.

- i. Have the outputs been delivered in a timely manner?
 - ii. What were (if any) key opportunities and/or challenges in the operational context of the Programme?
 - iii. What changes/interventions would have been emphasized to capitalize on the opportunities for improving the project delivery?
 - iv. What future considerations should be made to address any emerging challenges?
- i. What will you say are the main achievements of the project?
 - ii. What were the unintended effects, if any, of the intervention?
 - iii. To what extent was gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of this intervention?

Sustainability: The likelihood of a continuation of benefits for women from a development intervention after the intervention is completed or the probability of continued long-term benefits.

- i. What is the likelihood that the benefits from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time upon project completion?
- ii. What capacity of national partners, both technical and operational, has been strengthened?
- iii. To what extent are relevant national stakeholders and actors included in project implementation and policy advocacy?
- iv. Do partners have the financial capacity to maintain the benefits from the project?

Gender Equality and Human Rights:

- iv. To what extent has gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation?
- v. How has the attention to/ integration of gender equality and human rights concerns advanced the project?

vi. Disability Inclusion

- iv. Were persons with disability included in the design and implementation of the project?
- v. What was the portion of beneficiaries with disabilities were involved?
- vi. What were the barriers faced by persons with disabilities and how were they addressed?

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR SSR 2 PROJECT BENEFICIARIES IN THE SECURITY INSTITUTIONS.

Relevance: The extent to which the objectives of the project are consistent with the evolving needs and priorities of the beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders.

- iv. How relevant is the activities of the SSR 2 PROJECT to your organization?
- v. Do the project objectives address identified rights and needs of Security Sector Institutions in Nigeria?

Effectiveness: The extent to which the project's objectives were achieved or are expected / likely to be achieved.

- iv. What has been the progress made towards achievement of the expected outcomes and expected results? What are the results achieved?
- v. What are the reasons for the achievement or non-achievement?
- vi. To what extent have beneficiaries been satisfied with the results? To what extent have capacities of relevant duty-bearers and rights-holders been strengthened?

Efficiency: A measure of how economically resources / inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) were converted to results.

- v. Have the outputs been delivered in a timely manner?
- vi. How does the Programme utilize existing local capacities of right-bearers and duty-holders to achieve its outcomes?
- vii. What were (if any) key opportunities and/or challenges in the operational context of the Programme?
- viii. What changes/interventions would have been emphasized to capitalize on the opportunities for improving the project delivery?
- ix. What future considerations should be made to address any emerging challenges?

Impact: Positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by the Programme, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. (The evaluation will not be able to fully assess the project's impact, however, it will address the following questions with the results and evidence that is available to date.)

- iv. What will you say are the main achievements of the project?
- v. What were the unintended effects, if any, of the intervention?
- vi. To what extent was gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of this intervention?

Sustainability: The likelihood of a continuation of benefits for women from a development intervention after the intervention is completed or the probability of continued long-term benefits.

- v. What is the likelihood that the benefits from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time upon project completion?
- vi.

<i>Gender Equality and Human Rights:</i>
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| vii. To what extent has gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation? |
| viii. How has the attention to/ integration of gender equality and human rights concerns advanced the project? |

<i>Disability Inclusion</i>

- | |
|---|
| vii. Were persons with disability included in the design and implementation of the project? |
| viii. What was the portion of beneficiaries with disabilities were involved? |
| ix. What were the barriers faced by persons with disabilities and how were they addressed? |

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR UN WOMEN SSR 2 PROJECT PROGRAMME TEAM

Relevance: The extent to which the objectives of the project are consistent with the evolving needs and priorities of the beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders.

- ✚ Do the project objectives address identified rights and needs of the target groups (Security Sector Institutions, Government MDAs, Women-Led Organizations, Women Affected by Conflict)?
- ✚ To what extent were national partners involved in conceptualization and design process?
- ✚ Are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with the intended impacts and effects? Do they address the problems identified?
- ✚ Are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with the provision of UNSCR 1325 and Nigeria's National Action Plan on the Resolution and the attainment of its objectives?
- ✚ To what extent is the intervention aligned with international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of Women, Peace and Security?
- ✚ What rights does the project advance under CEDAW, SDGs, UNSCR 1325 and other international commitments?
- ✚ What capacities and skills should UN Women prioritize and further develop to bring greater coherence and relevance to its interventions?
- ✚ To what extent did the implementing partner(s) possess the comparative advantage in the programme's area of work in comparison with other partners in Nigeria?

Effectiveness: The extent to which the project's objectives were achieved or are expected / likely to be achieved.

- ✚ What has been the progress made towards achievement of the expected outcomes and expected results? What are the results achieved?
- ✚ What are the reasons for the achievement or non-achievement?
- ✚ To what extent have beneficiaries been satisfied with the results?
- ✚ To what extent have the capacities of relevant duty-bearers and rights-holders been strengthened?
- ✚ Does the project have effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress toward results?
- ✚ Has the project's organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the delivery of the project?
- ✚ To what extent are the project's approaches and strategies innovative for achieving provisions of UNSCR 1325? What - if any- types of innovative good practices have been introduced in the project for the achievement of GEWE results?

Efficiency: A measure of how economically resources/ inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) were converted to results.

- ✚ Have resources (financial, human, technical support, etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes?
- ✚ What measures have been taken during planning and implementation to ensure that resources are efficiently used?
- ✚ Have the outputs been delivered on time?
- ✚ Is the project and its components cost-effective? Could the activities and outputs have been delivered with fewer resources without reducing their quality and quantity?
- ✚ Has the project's organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms effectively supported delivery? What are the recommendations for improvement?
- ✚ How does the project utilize existing local capacities of right-bearers and duty-holders to achieve its outcomes?
- ✚ To what extent are the project's monitoring mechanisms in place effective for measuring and informing management of project performance and progress towards targets? To what extent was the monitoring data objectively used for management action and decision-making?

Impact: Positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by the project directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. (The review will not be able to fully assess the project's impact, however, it will address the following questions with the results and evidence that is available to date.)

- ✚ To what extent can the changes that have occurred as a result of the project be identified and measured?
- ✚ What were the unintended effects, if any, of the intervention?
- ✚ What evidence exists that the project has delivered longer-term results as compared to other projects from processes through to benefits?
- ✚ To what extent were gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of this intervention?

Sustainability: The likelihood of a continuation of benefits for women from a development intervention after the intervention is completed or the probability of continued long-term benefits.

- ✚ Are requirements of national ownership satisfied? Is the project supported by national/local institutions? Do these institutions, including government and civil society, demonstrate leadership commitment and technical capacity to continue to work with the project or replicate it?
- ✚ What capacity of national partners, both technical and operational, has been strengthened?
- ✚ To what extent are relevant national stakeholders and actors included in project implementation and policy advocacy?
- ✚ What is the likelihood that the benefits from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time upon project completion?
- ✚ Do partners have the financial capacity to maintain the benefits from the project?

Coherence: The extent to what other interventions support or undermine the intervention and vice-versa, including aspects of complementarity, harmonization and co-ordination.

- ✚ To what extent is the SSR project coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country's peace and security agenda?
- ✚ To what extent is the SSR project coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria?
- ✚ To what extent is the SSR project coherent with wider donor policy?
- ✚ To what extent is the SSR project coherent with international obligations for women's human rights, other human rights conventions and other international frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women?
- ✚ Has the project-built synergies with other programmes being implemented at the country level with the United Nations and the Government of Nigeria

Gender Equality and Human Rights:

- ✚ To what extent has gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation?
- ✚ How has the attention to/ integration of gender equality and human rights concerns advanced the project?

Annex 5: Annex 3: List of Documents Reviewed

1. Berenson, M.L and Levine, D.M. (1999): Business Statistics: A First Course, Prentice-Hall Inc.
2. Enhancing Gender-Responsive Security Operations and Community Dialogue Project in Nigeria (Phase II) Interim Narrative Report. Report Number 1
3. Gender Country Profile Nigeria Gender Action Plan III 2021 – 2024. This report was prepared in collaboration with British Council and written by: Cheluchi Onyemelukwe - Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD)
4. Gender in Nigeria 2020: An advocacy brochure
5. <http://1325naps.peacewomen.org/index.php/germany/>
6. <http://gsdrc.org/docs/open/hdq1169.pdf>
7. <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/04/news---placing-gender-at-the-center-of-security-sector-reforms-in-nigeria>
8. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2022/01/10/banditry-impacts-on-women-children-in-nigeria-needs-policy-response-kidnappings-ssi-education/>
9. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/dev4peace/can-gender-equality-prevent-violent-conflict>
10. <https://bornostate.gov.ng/population/#1593075423798-8d7c04e7-acb0>
11. <https://gnwp.org/nigeria-localization-2019/>
12. <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/documentation-and-downloads>
13. <https://hdr.undp.org/gender-development-index#/indicies/GDI>
14. <https://new-york-un.diplo.de/un-en/whatwedo/women-conflict-prevention/2181366>
15. https://nigeria.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Gender%20Based%20Violence%20in%20Nigeria%20During%20COVID%2019%20Crisis_The%20Shadow%20Pandemic.pdf
16. <https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary/read/1241422>
17. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/security-sector-reform>
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19. <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/northwest-nigeria-10000-people-displaced-result-conflict-last-two-months-are-urgent-need-humanitarian-assistance-warns-irc>
20. <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/northwest-nigeria-10000-people-displaced-result-conflict-last-two-months-are-urgent-need-humanitarian-assistance-warns-irc>
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22. <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>
23. <https://www.citypopulation.de/php/nigeria-admin.php?adm1id=NGA015>
24. <https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/IPI-E-pub-Reimagining-Peacemaking-rev.pdf>
25. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1121438/poverty-headcount-rate-in-nigeria-by-state/>
26. https://www.unodc.org/documents/evaluation/Guidelines/UNEG_Ethical_Guidelines_for_Evaluation_2020.pdf
27. Mason, R.D. (1978): Statistical Techniques in Business and Economics, Irwin Series in Quantitative Analysis for Business and Economics, Richard Irwin Inc.
28. Mr. Amir Gulzar and Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Saif (2012). Shared Vision And Partnership Success. International Journal of Economics and Management Sciences, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2012, pp. 07-12
29. National Bureau Of Statistics (2018). Nigeria statistical report on Women and Men in 2017
30. NATIONAL GENDER POLICY [2021-2026], <https://www.wrapanigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/FINAL-NGP-COPY-AS-PRINTED.pdf>
31. National Population Commission and National Bureau of Statistics Estimates. (Kindly note that estimates are based on population census conducted in 2006 by the National Population Commission) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria/overview>
32. Nigeria Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024. <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-humanitarian-needs-overview-2024>
33. Nigeria Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024. <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-humanitarian-needs-overview-2024>
34. Project proposal narrative- enhancing gender-responsive security operations and community dialogue project in Nigeria Phase II
35. UN Women 2021: Report on Gender Assessment of the Security Sector in Nigeria At the Federal and State Levels (Benue and Bauchi)
36. UNEG Ethical Guidelines : http://uneval.org/papersandpubs/documentdetail.jsp?doc_id=102; The UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluation: http://uneval.org/papersandpubs/documentdetail.jsp?doc_id=100
37. United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (2018-2022)

38. World Bank. (2019). Nigeria Economic Update Fall 2019, Jumpstarting Inclusive Growth: Unlocking the Productive Potential of Nigeria's People and Resource Endowments. Available from: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/32795> [