FINAL REPORT OF THE MID-TERM EVALUATION OF UN WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION PROJECT IN NIGERIA

UN WOMEN

TABLE OF CONTENT

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATION

APC	All Progressives Congress
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EWAR	Early Warning and Response
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
FWIFT	Forum of Women in Film and Television, Nigeria
GATE	Global Accountability and Tracking of Evaluation Use
GBV	Gender-based violence
GEOB	Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill
GERAAS	Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System
GII	Gender Inequality Index
HoR	House of Representatives
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IP	Implementing Partner
KDI	Kimpact Development Initiative
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGA	Local Government Area
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NGGA	Nigerian Girls Guide Association
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NILDS	National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies
NWTF	Nigerian Women Trust Fund
OECD/DAC	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee
PDP	People's Democratic Party
RBM	Results-Based Management
RHHF	Royal Heritage Health Foundation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHoA	State House of Assembly
ToC	Theory of Change
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	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council resolution
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
VAWE	Violence Against Women in Elections
WARDC	Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center
WILPF	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
WOWICAN	Women's Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria
WPP	Women's Political Participation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

This report is the product of the mid-term evaluation of the ADVANCE WPP (2022-2025) project. The ADVANCE WPP project is being implemented by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) from January 2022 to December 2025 with funding from the Government of Canada, with a broad goal of enhancing women's political participation in Nigeria. The initiation of the project was informed by the dwindling political participation of women in Nigeria despite the range of benefits associated with women's political participation. The project targeted the six States of Borno, Cross Rivers, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Kaduna, Kwara, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The project is being implemented through a combination of coordinated short- and long-term strategies. The short-term strategies seek to support legislative reforms and lift barriers to women's participation in decision-making and engaging male political leaders to champion gender-related issues and support women leaders. In the long term, the project seeks to increase the capacities of women leaders, expand their resources and networks, and institutionalize gender-responsive policies and practices in order to create enabling environments for women leaders. A mid-term evaluation of the project was commissioned by UN Women and was conducted by an independent consultant. The overall objective of the mid-term evaluation is to assess the design of the project, its performance, processes, and progress towards results, as well as identify what has worked, what needs to be improved, and what should be changed. It includes findings, challenges, lessons learned, good practices, conclusions and recommendations that will support future programming and foster organizational learning and accountability.

1.2. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation applied the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and coherence. In addition to the OECD/DAC criteria, the evaluation took into consideration gender equality, human rights and disability inclusion as separate stand-alone criteria. The evaluation used a mixed-methods approach involving document review, interviews, focus groups and survey techniques to collect qualitative and quantitative data. Respondents included the UN Women project team, representatives of the project recipients including young women with limited experience in election campaigns, female parliamentarians, political leaders, media profession-

als, and community leaders. Respondents to the survey were purposefully selected on the basis of accessibility and availability. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics and thematic coding was used to analyse qualitative data. Findings from qualitative and quantitative data analysis were thus triangulated by source before concluding. The primary users of the evaluation will include the UN Women Nigeria Country office and the Federal and State Ministries of Women's Affairs, as well as the donor.

1.3 FINDINGS

1.3.1. Relevance

Findings from this evaluation show that the project strategy is relevant to a large extent, and based on evidence and best practices. The project design is appropriately articulated with goals, outcomes and outputs clearly defined. The objectives of the project effectively addressed the identified rights and needs of the project target groups. The project was found to be locally, nationally and globally relevant, as well as being aligned with national and international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment. The evaluation confirmed that the project activities and outputs are consistent with the intended impacts and effects and, to a large extent, have the potential to address the problems identified. However, the involvement of targeted partners in the conceptualization and design process of the project was rated weak. Most partners interviewed, including the IPs and various categories of beneficiaries targeted by the project, noted that they were only involved in the implementation stage of the project.

1.3.2. Effectiveness

The evaluation found that project implementation is making moderate progress in contributing to increasing women's political participation. Evaluative evidence from document reviews and interviews with project beneficiaries indicates that the project intervention areas are making moderate progress in contributing to increasing women's political participation, especially in the focus States. At the conclusion of the 2023 general elections, a total of 80 women had been elected across the federal and State levels: 4 women in the Senate, compared to 8 in 2019; 16 women in the House of Representatives, compared to 13 in 2019; 54 women in the State Houses of Assembly, compared to 44 in 2019; and 6 female Deputy Governors, compared to 4 in 2019. In addition, 25 women who received programme support through the ADVANCE project were elected to office

following the 2023 elections. These women benefited from coaching and mentoring sessions on how to run effective political campaigns, and their campaign messages and stories were further amplified by the media, increasing their visibility. One target State for the project, Ekiti, which had zero representation at the State Assembly, now leads as the State with the highest representation in the State Parliament, with six women. Similarly, Kwara State, which also had zero representation, now boasts 5 women members. Generally, progress remains moderate at mid-term due to factors relating to the design and award of contracts to implementing partners (IPs), especially the large number of performance indicators (75) and the predominance of pre-election contracts awarded to the IPs. The evaluation found that the established Resource Centres for Women in Politics, managed by the Ministry of Women Affairs in the target States of Cross Rivers, Borno, and the FCT, are grossly under-utilized due to the lack of formally planned programmes of activities for the centres.

1.3.3. Efficiency

Evidence from the review of documents confirmed that the project resources were allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes. In 22 months of the project implementation period (January 2022 to October 2023), the project had utilized 54.1 per cent ($1,630,583.85) of the budget that was initially committed, which indicates a good absorption rate for the project. However, although the project commitment of 78 per cent of the total budget on project implementation activities compared to 20.6 per cent on personnel is highly commendable, the evaluation found that the human resources available for project implementation differed from the planned human resources structure for the project. For instance, there was no senior international expert to support project implementation as planned, and also no Project Officers in the north and south (SB4 level) as planned. Given the geographical scope of the project and the number of activities to be implemented, the evaluation notes that the human resources have not been allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes. On the other hand, the evaluation found that several measures were taken during implementation which ensured that resources were efficiently used. First, the use of project financial resources by the IPs was constantly monitored by the UN Women project team, and the budget allocation to activities was based on the need for work and the scope of work to be done. Also, goods and services were competitively procured, ensuring value for money, and negotiated to ensure savings where possible.

1.3.4. Impact

The evaluation found that there are clear baseline indicators and/or benchmarks for performance measurement and they are being used in tracking progress with project results. The evaluation notes that the extent to which the project will achieve its objectives within the remaining implementation time frame will depend on the ability of the project team to adapt and mitigate identified barriers to project implementation. However, the evaluation found some positive effects produced by the project, particularly at the intermediate outcome level. For instance, there has been an improvement in the percentage of women registered as voters between 2021 and 2023: with a baseline of 47.14 per cent and a target of 50 per cent, over 50 per cent of women registered as voters during the 2023 general election. There has also been an increase in the number of media houses disseminating gender-sensitive election reports, increasing from 1 at baseline to 18 at mid-term of the project.

1.3.5. Sustainability

The evaluation found that the requirements for national ownership were satisfied by the project. This was achieved by working with various organs of government at the national and State levels in capacity-building programmes. The evaluation established that the project is on course and is making progress in strengthening the capacities of national partners, both technical and operational. This will become more evident when all the project activities that focus on strengthening the capacities of the national partners have been implemented, at the end of implementation. The evaluation found evidence of mainstreaming sustainability measures into the project and noted that when implemented effectively as planned, there is every likelihood that benefits such as the Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) law at the federal level and in six States will be sustainable when passed into law.

1.3.6. Coherence

The project demonstrated a high level of coherence with similar interventions for promoting women's political participation in Nigeria. The project fits properly with the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) project on "Expanding Political Participation of Women in Nigeria" as well as the International Republican Institute (IRI) and ElectHER project on the Road Map for Advancing Gender Equity in Nigeria's Political Leadership. Most importantly, a mapping of partner interventions focusing on women's political participation in Nigeria was carried out under the project in 2022. The mapping aims to facilitate collaboration among IPs by underlining the different initiatives being implemented by partners and geographical areas. This to a very large extent has strengthened coordination and synergy building among the partners. The project was found to be coherent internally with UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria as the specific objectives aligned with key international agreements

and legal instruments on gender equality that guide the work within the United Nations system, as well as wider donor policy to a large extent. The evaluation found that the project was able to leverage relevant strategic partnerships with key institutions, including the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) and the Office of the Speaker in the Federal House of Representatives, in addition to other project-based partners such as the IPs. These partnerships are playing critical roles in the achievement of programme results.

Gender and human rights considerations have been integrated throughout the project cycle to a large extent. All objectives, strategies, approaches, and activities of the project are focused on addressing the root causes of the low political participation of women in Nigeria. From the design stage, the project has targeted building the capacity of women who are motivated to become political leaders at ward, State and federal levels, as well as enhancing the capacity of women candidates and voters to participate in election processes. The integration of gender equality and human rights concerns in project design and implementation is rated good by the evaluation.

1.3.8. Disability Inclusion

Evaluative evidence confirmed that persons with disabilities were included in the implementation of the project. This was accomplished through their participation in the various capacity-building activities of the project. The ADVANCE WPP project's goal of tackling the root causes of women's poor participation in politics ensures that the project aligns with the systematic approach of leaving no one behind (LNOB). LNOB requires tracking progress, including improving the availability of disaggregated data and monitoring disparities and inequalities between groups and individuals over time. This was done in the performance measurement framework (PMF) of the project, but there is a need to ensure that tracking is done on a monthly or quarterly basis as stipulated in the PMF.

1.4 LESSONS LEARNED

Lesson 1: The design of a new project based on experience and lessons learned from previous similar Programmes in the same context contributes to the effectiveness of the new programme.

The design of the ADVANCE WPP project was based on the lessons learned from the Mid-Term Review conducted in 2019 on UN Women's current regional project on women's political empowerment, as well as on positive evidence of the influence of affirmative actions as a guaranteed pathway for dramatic improvements in women's political representation.

This ensured that the good practices in the old project were mainstreamed into this project, while at the same time avoiding the pitfalls. This approach to project design is critical to the overall success recorded so far in the project.

Lesson 2: The use of local CSOs as IPs for the implementation of project activities is critical to promoting ownership and sustainability of project benefits.

The ADVANCE WPP project has utilized local IPs in the implementation of project activities. The project engaged the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) to support the passage of the Gender Equal Opportunity Bill (GEOB), and Women Radio to train journalists on gender mainstreaming in reporting. Other CSOs such as WILPF, FIDA, and KDI were also engaged as IPs. This not only promoted a participatory approach to project implementation, but also contributed to promoting local ownership and sustainability of the project benefits in the intervention States.

Lesson 3: Capacity-building activities for project beneficiaries are a necessity for promoting both ownership and sustainability of project benefits.

The ADVANCE WPP project implemented capacity-building activities for relevant stakeholders, including journalists, young women in politics, traditional rulers, and legislators in the intervention States. The capacity-building activities were tailored to the different categories of project beneficiaries. The capacity-building activities for journalists focused on gender mainstreaming in reportage, while that for young women in politics focused on training in transformative leadership and how to leverage the media to amplify their campaign messages and create visibility. The capacity-building approach of the project ensured that the knowledge gained remained with the beneficiaries after the close of the programme.

Lesson 4: Policy-level interventions and institutional strengthening are fundamental strategies for addressing both the underlying causes and symptoms of development problems.

Tackling the underlying causes of a problem rather than focusing on the symptoms is one of the shortest paths to arriving at the solutions. When the root causes are addressed, the symptoms are eradicated. This is particularly important for interventions focusing on women's empowerment like the ADVANCE WPP project. The project implementation strategy was underlined by policy-level interventions, capacity-building, and institutional strengthening to promote women's

political participation. This approach not only addresses the manifestation of the problem but also addresses the underlying causes of the problem, such as the absence of a gender-responsive legal environment to promote women's political participation.

Lesson 5: Incorporating too many indicators in the design of a project can result in over-ambitiousness and affect the project team's ability to achieve the goal of the project.

The ADVANCE WPP project was designed with 35 outcome levels results and had 75 performance indicators overall. While this is over-ambitious, the achievement of some of the indicators, such as the availability of legislators for engagement, and reform of the legal frameworks of political parties, was not within the immediate control of the project team. Going forward, these factors must be taken into consideration in the setting of targets during the design of the project on WPP.

Lesson 6: Targeting IPs with similar mandates and visions is crucial to the sustainability of project benefits at the end of 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 success, satisfaction, and sustainability of benefits of the partnership. The ADVANCE WPP project engaged NILDS, KDI, FIDA, and Women Radio among others as partners in project implementation. These partners share similar vision and mandates with the ADVANCE WPP project, which implies that their other activities will continue to be related to the goals and objectives of the ADVANCE WPP project, with or without UN Women funding. This has a long-term effect on the sustainability of project benefits.

Lesson 7: Targeting women-led organizations as IPs is an important lesson, as evidence shows that women-led organizations are often the first to respond to the needs of their communities at the onset of a crisis.

The project team has deliberately targeted women-led organizations such as Women Radio, FIDA, WILPF, WOWICAN and RHHF to support the implementation of project activities. This is an important lesson for the project, as evidence shows that women- and girl-led organizations (WGLOs) are often the first to respond to the needs of their communities at the onset of a crisis. They provide essential services to women, girls, and other marginalized groups, raise awareness around risks to the rights of women and girls, and demand accountability[1].

Lesson 8: Poor participation of IPs in project design ensures that the learnings and experience of IPs are not incorporated into the project design.

The design of the ADVANCE WPP project was done without inputs from the IPs. Thus, the opportunity to incorporate the learning and experiences of the IPs into the project design to ensure that the project gains from the strength of each partner and creates synergy was lost. The IPs only participated after the signing of the contracts, at the inception meeting with the project team, which was aimed at introducing the ADVANCE WPP project formally to the IPs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations below are derived from the findings under each of the evaluation criteria, as well as the evaluator's specific conclusions and lessons learned from engagement with project stakeholders and beneficiaries. Recognizing the importance of developing recommendations as a significant outcome of the assessment, the evaluator met with stakeholders to solicit input on what worked well and why, and how things could have been done better. With the insights gathered from this method and the contextualization of the responses with the results, conclusions, lessons learned, and evaluation report reviews, the evaluator was able to identify eight recommendations that are critical for UN Women's contribution to ADVANCE WPP in Nigeria. They are given in order of importance, as perceived by the evaluation team. They were 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.

Recommendation 1: UN Women should consider **engaging more stakeholders at the conceptualization and design stage of projects** in order to harvest stakeholders' inputs to the project design; this is important in getting their buy-in for the project (Findings 4 & 10)	**Responsibility:** UN Women **Priority:** Immediate

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1. https://www.unicef.org/documents/partnering-women-and-girl-led-organizations

Recommendation 2: Increase the tempo of implementation of post-election activities across the intervention States by extending the contract of the IPs to implementation of post-election activities: This project was designed based on the electoral cycle approach, which implies that activity implementation will cover pre-election, election, and post-election phases. Since the evaluation found that post-election activities are very limited, it is important to consider increasing the tempo of implementation of post-election activities in order to achieve the project outputs (Findings 10 & 11).

Responsibility: UN Women

Priority: Immediate

Recommendation 3: Ensure that the established Women's Resource Centres are adequately utilized: The project established resource centres in the FCT and Calabar and Borno States, but the evaluation found that they are badly under-utilized due to low awareness of the centres and lack of planned programmes of activities for the centres (Findings 10 & 36).

Responsibility: UN Women

Priority: Immediate

Recommendation 4: Consider making changes to the project activity reporting system: The project team adopted annual reporting of project progress. So far, only one annual report, for 2022, was available while the progress the project may have made in 2023 was not captured due to the annual reporting systems adopted. This evaluation recommends that the project adopt a quarterly reporting system to avoid underreporting project progress (Finding 17).

Responsibility: UN Women

Priority: Immediate

Recommendation 5: Recruitment of staff to support project implementation: The evaluation found that the planned number of staff for project implementation based on the project design had not been recruited at mid-term. UN Women should put measures in place to ensure that all relevant staff are available to support project implementation (Findings 18, 23 & 34).

Responsibility: UN Women

Priority: Immediate

Recommendation 6: Consider awarding a new contract in phase 2 of the project for the airing of radio programmes on WPP. Radio programmes are effective not only in informing people but also in creating awareness regarding many social issues, including WPP. The project team was strategic in engaging Women Radio as IP but it has not leveraged the comparative advantages of radio programmes in informing people and creating awareness. Hence it is recommended that a new contract be awarded for the airing of radio programmes on WPP (Finding 42).

Responsibility: UN Women/ Donor

Priority: Immediate

Recommendation 7: UN Women should consider sustaining the coordination among partners supporting the implementation of activities related to WPP: The evaluation found that the project is coherent with several projects by other partners that are related to WPP. However, the evaluation believes that this should be sustained in order to continuously build synergies with other projects being implemented at the national and State levels (Finding 44).

Responsibility: UN Women

Priority: Immediate

Recommendation 8: Provide better disability inclusion.
Adequate provisions should be made for persons with disabilities (PWDs) such as the provision of braille for blind participants and the provision of interpreters for persons with hearing impairments (Finding 53).

Responsibility: UN Women / IPs

Priority: Immediate

1. INTRODUCTION

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 a forty-eight-month project called "Women's Political Participation (WPP) in Nigeria", hereafter referred to as "The ADVANCE WPP Project" or the project. The project is a recipient of generous funding amounting to USD 6 million from the Government of Canada. The project supports the achievement of UN Women Strategic Note (SN) (2023-2027) Impact 1: Governance and Participation in Public Life for Women, and is aligned with the global Strategic Priority (SP) Outcome 1. It contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2023–2027) Strategic Priority Area 4 and is also aligned with development priorities at global, regional, and national levels, specifically Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5 and 16; regional gender parity commitments of the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Supplementary Act on Equality of Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development; and the national goal of promoting women's rights and gender equality, which is central to the development agenda of Nigeria. Thus, the project supported the Government of Nigeria in promoting the representation of women in politics in Nigeria. The ADVANCE WPP project started on 21 January 2022, and will end on 31 December 2025 (4 years). This report presents the findings of the mid-term evaluation of the project.

1.1. CONTEXT OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION PROJECT IN NIGERIA

The Federal Republic of Nigeria, with an area of 923,769 square kilometres, is situated between 3^0 and 14^0 east longitude and 4^0 and 14^0 north latitude. The country is bordered on the west by the Republics of Benin and Niger; on the east by the Republic of Cameroon; on the north by the Republics of Niger and Chad; and on the south by the Gulf of Guinea. Nigeria oper-

ates a three-tier federal system of government made up of 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), and 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs). The country is divided into six geopolitical zones for political and administrative purposes. It has an estimated population of 206 million.[2] The majority of the population is young, with 45.7 per cent under 15 years and 31.7 per cent between 10 and 24 years, contributing to the high dependency ratio of 98 per cent.[3] Women constitute 49.3 per cent of the population.[4] Across the intervention States of Borno, Cross Rivers, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Kaduna, Kwara, and the FCT, women constitute at least 49 per cent of the population of the States. The demographic scenario of an almost equal proportion of women to men in Nigeria and the targeted States demonstrates the need for equal representation of women in all sectors in Nigeria.

Nigeria has the biggest economy in Africa, valued at US$397 billion.[5,6] Despite this, about 40.09 percent of Nigerians are poor.[7] The poverty rate in urban areas is 18.04 percent compared to 52.1 percent in rural areas.[8,9] Poverty rates in Nigeria show spatial variations across geopolitical zones as follows: North East (71.86 percent), North West (64.84%), North Central (42.7%), South East (42.4%), South-South (21.28%) and South West (12.12%). Sokoto State (87.73%) has the highest poverty rate in Nigeria.[10] In the target States, the poverty rates are as follows: Borno[11] (no data), Cross River (36.3%), Ebonyi (79.8%), Ekiti (28%), Kaduna (43.5%), Kwara (20.4%), and the FCT (38.7%)[12]. There is no data on the gender dimension of poverty from the National Bureau of Statistics. However, evidence from other sources reveals that women in Nigeria were twice as likely as men to live below the poverty line.[13] Further evidence reveals that the number of men living on less than US$ 1.90 per day in Nigeria reached around 44.7 million, while the count was 43.7 million for women in 2022.[14] 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 lower number of households led by females and the fact that the main determinants of poverty are not just financial.[15]

2. National Population Commission – 2020.
3. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/portal-document/N1723922.pdf
4. United Nations Nigeria Common Country Analysis Report 2022
5. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26309VNR_2020_Nigeria_Report.pdf
6. World Economic Forum. (WEF) (2019). World Economic Forum Report.
7. NBS (2019). 2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria: Executive Summary
8. NBS (2019). 2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria: Executive Summary
9. Ibid
10. https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/1092
11. No poverty figure for Borno State as the State was not covered in the assessment due security challenges.
12. https://www.statista.com/statistics/1121438/poverty-headcount-rate-in-nigeria-by-state/
13. Sue Enfield, K4D: Gender Roles and Inequalities in the Nigerian Labour Market (2019)
14. https://www.statista.com/statistics/1287827/number-of-people-living-in-extreme-poverty-in-nigeria-by-gender/
15. Gender Country Profile Nigeria Gender Action Plan III 2021 – 2024. This report was prepared in collaboration with the British Council and written by Cheluchi Onyemelukwe - Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD)

1.1.2. Women's Political Participation in Nigeria

Despite Nigeria's female population of 49.3 per cent of the total population, women's political participation in politics remains alarmingly low. While women have equal rights to vote and contest elections to men, these rights have not translated into enough representation for women in politics in Nigeria. Nigeria returned to democratic rule in 1999 and has conducted seven major general elections (1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015, 2019 and 2023) to date. The 2015 general election brought in the All Progressives Congress (APC) after defeating the incumbent Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The elections were competitive, with a large number of contenders for all seats. In total, there were 91 registered political parties, all of which nominated at least one candidate. There were 73 candidates for the presidency, 1,899 for 109 Senate seats, and 4,680 for the 360 House of Representatives seats. For the State elections, there were 1,046 candidates for the 29 governorships and 14,609 candidates for the 991 State Assembly seats[16] Despite these high numbers in the 2015 election, there was an evident lack of gender and age diversity in the candidates nominated. The proportion of female candidates was less than 12.8 per cent in all the races. Similarly, there was a lack of young people nominated by the parties as only 0.1 percent of APC or PDP candidates were under the age of 30.[17] After the 2015 election, the number of female lawmakers decreased from eight to seven in the Senate, representing 6.4 per cent of the total, and from 18 to 21 in the House of Representatives, 5.0 per cent of the total (Figure 1). Similarly, after the conclusion of the 2019 general election, the proportion of women in elective positions was 6.5 per cent (Figure 1.1), which is well below the 30 per cent of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 35 per cent of the Affirmative Action provided for in the National Gender Policy.

The 2023 general elections were the seventh since the restoration of civilian rule in 1999. Several advocates for enhanced women's political representation approached the 2023 elections with low expectations after the National Assembly rejected much-anticipated laws for women's inclusion in 2022.[18] During the 2023 polls, the number of women candidates at all levels of elections was barely 10 per cent.[19] One woman contested the presidential race among 18 candidates and there was no nominated female running mate. Only 25 of 419 candidates in governorship contests were women, while in the Senate, National Assembly, and State House of Assembly (SHoA) races there were just 8 9, and 10 per cent women candidates respectively.[20] After the conclusion of the 2023 election, less than 5 per cent of all women candidates were elected, among them four senators, down from eight in 2019. The number of women in the House of Representatives (HoR) stands at 16 seats. No governorship post was occupied by a woman. Among 991 SHoA seats, only 54 women were declared elected, a modest increase of three over 2019, but leaving 15 SHoA without any woman member.[21] Currently, Nigeria ranks last for Women in Parliament among sub-Saharan African countries[22] and at 183[23] globally. Thus, Nigeria's record on women's political participation stands at odds with its international commitments and constitutional provisions on equality.

Women's political leadership has been shown to have several societal benefits, such as reduced inequality,[24] increased cooperation across party and ethnic lines,[25] and increased prioritization of social issues, like health, education, parental leave, and pensions.[26] Additionally, women's political participation is particularly influential for women in their communities. Factors such as female voter turnout, female political participation, and public service responsiveness towards women have a positive relationship with the presence of women in decision-making positions across the public and private sectors.[27] According to the 2022 Gender Equality and Governance Index report, countries with higher levels of female representation, such as France, Sweden, South Africa and Rwanda, tend to

16. https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/nigeria_2019_eu_eom_final_report-web.pdf

17. European Union Election Observation MissionNIGERIA2019Final Report available at https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/nigeria_2019_eu_eom_final_report-web.pdf

18. The proposed reforms, entailing constitutional amendments, aimed to create special seats for women in the National Assembly (37 Senate and 74 HoR) and in the SHoAs (3 seats per State or 108 in total) and to provide for affirmative action.for women in political party administration. The draft laws were defeated on 1 March 2022.

19. European Union Election Observation Mission NIGERIA 2023 Final Report

20. Ibid

21. Ibid

22. International IDEA - Women's Political Participation; Africa Barometer (2021)

23. Congressional Research Service: Women in National Governments Around the World; Fact Sheet, 4 April 2022. Also, as per the 2023 UN Women in Politics Survey, Nigeria ranks 151st for women in government ministries (with 10.7 per cent of such posts).

24. World Economic Forum (WEF) (2017). *Global Gender Gap Report*. Available at www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2017.pdf.

25. Markham, Susan (2013). *Women as Agents of Change: Having Voice in Society and Influencing Policy*. Women's Voice, Agency, and Participation Research Series, No. 5. The World Bank.

26. Ibid

27. Burns, Nancy, Schlozman, Kay L. and Verba, Sidney (2001). *The Private Roots of Public Action: Gender, Equality, and Political Participation*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

exhibit family-friendly and diverse policy-making.[28] Women promote fairness, transparency, and impartiality while prioritizing improved service delivery. Additionally, the report revealed a positive correlation between higher levels of gender equality, women's political participation, and better overall governance, with significantly lower levels of corruption.[29]

Despite this range of benefits, Nigeria has the lowest Gender Parity Score in terms of women's appointments in the national parliament (0.08) and ministerial positions (0.12).[30] The poor representation of women has been attributed to several factors, including expensive party tickets and registration forms.[31,32] Other factors are the lack of affirmative action laws to operationalize gender-related policies and the resistance of politicians to awarding quotas to women to level the playing field in politics. Also noted are patriarchy and the social norms, underpinned by religion and culture, which support the view that men are more suited for leadership.[33,34] Insufficient positive role models of women in politics and high levels of patriarchy coupled with limited male champions on gender equality concerns; and inadequate coordination among key partners working to support a reversal of the low representation of women in politics have also been identified as factors. Moreover, the views of grassroots and vulnerable women are barely sought in the development of legislation and policies designed for them or on their behalf. Young women in particular experience a double jeopardy as a result of gender and because young people are equally marginalized in politics. The mass media often present negative and minimizing images of women, contributing to their exclusion from the political sphere. Another major obstacle to the realization of women's political and electoral rights is violence against women (VAW) in elections (VAWE). It comprises several types of violence, including harassment, intimidation, psychological abuse, sexual violence, and physical attacks, directed at women with different roles in the electoral process, such as voters, candidates, party supporters, observers, electoral administrators, or public officials, among others.

In addition, election into office in Nigeria is a three-step process. First, aspirants indicate interest in their local party chapters and nominate themselves. Second, they stand for local or national party primary elections. The method of election into candidacy is decided by individual parties. Finally, candidates stand for office in the general elections. Winners of the general elections are sworn into office.[35] Evidence shows that women suffer high attrition rates throughout the three-step process and face significant and distinct challenges at each step. In general, analyses of electoral outcomes for women candidates often focus on the end of the cycle. Yet, for women candidates, the different phases of the electoral cycle portend specific challenges. Therefore, the challenges identified at the end of the cycle often conflate phase-specific issues, making intervention opportunities difficult to identify.[36]

While Nigeria has ratified most international and regional instruments guaranteeing women's equal rights, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Maputo Protocol, critical challenges remain in the application and domestication of these frameworks, causing Nigerian women to be underrepresented and marginalized from political decision-making processes. The goal of promoting women's political empowerment is critical for Nigeria, which faces limited women's political participation as indicated by the very low Gender Parity Score and the lowest scores on the Women's Political Participation Africa Barometer (2021). Through the ADVANCE WPP project (2022-2025), UN Women is working to support the Government of Nigeria to implement interventions to mainstream gender equality in legislative reform processes and institutional arrangements. These interventions are targeted at spotlighting the achievements of Nigerian women leaders while strengthening their capacities for active political participation and leadership.

1.2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

In partnership with the Government of Canada, UN Women is implementing the ADVANCE: WPP Project (2022-2025), aimed at achieving greater participation of women as political leaders. The project started in 2022 and will end in 2025. The project supports the achievement of UN Women SN 2023-2037 Impact 1: Governance and Participation in Public Life for Wom-

28. https://globalvoices.org/2023/07/24/womens-participation-in-nigerias-politics-moving-backward-a-call-for-action/
29. https://globalvoices.org/2023/07/24/womens-participation-in-nigerias-politics-moving-backward-a-call-for-action/
30. Nigeria Deep dive Report. Getting to the Parity. Nigeria's Journey Towards Closing the Gender Gap *March 2022*
31. Guardian Nigeria 2019. High cost of nomination forms is the reason Nigerian women will remain #2 in Politics https://guardian.ng/features/high-cost-of-nomination-forms-is-the-reason-nigerian-women-will-remain-2-in-politics/
32. Adebowale Olorunmola COST OF POLITICS IN NIGERIA https://www.wfd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Cost-of-Politics-Nigeria.pdf
33. "Nigeria has Few Women in Politics: Here's Why, and What to Do About It"
34. Press articles here, here and here
35. https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/05/09/why-women-haven-t-been-successful-in-nigerian-elections-pub-89707
36. Ibid

en, and is aligned with the Global 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 are 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 SDGs 5 and 16; regional gender parity commitments of the African Union's Agenda 2063, the ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Equality of Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development; and the national goal of promoting women's rights and gender equality, which is central to the development agenda of Nigeria.

UN Women works to make the vision of the SDGs a reality for women and girls, with one of its major priorities being women's leadership and participation. This mandate is aligned with the Government of Canada's priorities as demonstrated in its Feminist International Assistance Policy (2017). To address women's low representation in political leadership and decision-making, UN Women implements interventions to mainstream gender equality in legislative reform processes and institutional arrangements. These interventions are targeted at spotlighting the achievements of Nigerian women leaders while strengthening their capacities for active political participation and leadership. Within this scope, UN Women works with women legislators, young women aspiring to political office, government institutions, including Federal and State Ministries of Women's Affairs, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the National Institute for Democratic and Legislative Studies, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote the representation of women in politics. UN Women also works closely with political parties and media to dismantle harmful stereotypes and party processes that have a negative impact on women's political participation. In collaboration with women mediator groups and the Women's Situation Room, UN Women's interventions also address violence against women in politics. Collectively, these interventions seek to shift public perceptions of women's leadership and portray women leaders positively. In cognizance of past and ongoing interventions in women's political participation, UN Women works to respond to the issues identified to increase WPP.

The ADVANCE WPP project builds on the work of UN Women Nigeria to enhance women's political participation through a combination of coordinated short- and long-term strategies. The short-term strategies seek to support legislative reforms to lift barriers to women's participation in decision-making and engage male political leaders to champion gender-related issues and support women leaders. In the long term, the project will increase the capacities of women leaders, expand their resources and networks, and institutionalize gender-responsive policies and practices to create enabling environments for women leaders. Addressing both the short- and long-term priorities will enhance WPP. The four-year programme (2022-2025) has carefully designed interventions according to the electoral cycle under three priority areas of intervention:

- Legal Frameworks/Policies and Institutional Reform - to influence gender-responsive legislation that will create an enabling environment for women aspiring to political offices.

- Women's Participation and Leadership - through supporting capacity-building training for women candidates to boost their campaign strategies, including training and mentoring young women.

- Coordination among partners and engagement with key stakeholders - by building on the Working Group on Women's Political Empowerment and engaging communities in advocacy for gender transformation, as well as preventing violence against women in politics.

In terms of implementation, the project is implemented at the national (FCT) and State level (six targeted States) in collaboration with the national government, parliament, electoral Commission, political parties, NGOs, and CSOs. The project has leveraged partnerships between UN Women and the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) to strengthen collaboration and partnership on the Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) Bill and other gender-sensitive reforms, and the priorities of the Ministry of Women Affairs for sustainability. The project intends to achieve three intermediate outcomes and eight immediate outcomes.

Intermediate Outcome 1100:
Improved gender-responsive legal environment, including implementation of accompanying policies by political/democratic institutions at State and federal levels in Nigeria.

Immediate Outcome 1110:
Strengthened capacity of legislators to enact gender-responsive laws at federal and State levels in Nigeria.

Immediate Outcome 1120:
Enhanced capacity of political parties and electoral bodies to develop gender-responsive policies that promote gender balance in political leadership positions at ward, State, and national levels.

Immediate Outcome 1130:
Improved partnership among cross-party women parliamentarians to collaborate on promoting gender issues.

Intermediate Outcome 1200:
Increased women's participation in political processes and leadership in elective and appointive positions at ward, State and federal levels in Nigeria.

Immediate Outcome 1210:
Strengthened capacity of young women who are motivated to become political leaders at ward, State, and federal levels.

Immediate Outcome 1220:
Enhanced capacity and awareness of women candidates and voters to participate in election processes.

Intermediate Outcome 1300:
Enhanced coordination among Women's Political Empowerment (WPE) partners and their engagement with key stakeholder groups in project communities to strengthen collaboration and partnerships for the promotion of women's political leadership.

Immediate Outcome 1310:
Improved ability of WPP implementing and development partners to network and collaborate at State and national levels.

Immediate Outcome 1320:
Increased capacity and awareness of stakeholder groups, including media, community influencers, male allies, and political leaders to create an enabling environment for women's political leadership.

Immediate Outcome 1330:
Strengthened capacity of networks, institutions, electoral bodies, and oversight mechanisms to better prevent and respond to VAWP, SGBV, and other forms of VAWG.

The Programme implementation strategy is underpinned by policy-level interventions (supporting passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill), capacity-building of women mediators and other diverse groups and aspiring women leaders, awareness-raising and engaging male political leaders to champion gender-related issues, and working with political parties to increase support for women leaders (including young women). Based on a set of criteria endorsed by stakeholders, the project is being implemented in seven States: Borno, Kaduna, Ekiti, Kwara, Cross Rivers, Ebonyi, and the FCT. The primary stakeholders of the project are the Government of Canada (donor partner), members of the Programme Steering Committee, Women's networks (AWLN, WOWICAN, FOMWAN), Community influencers & non-traditional allies (COTLA, Forum of Women in Film and Television, Nigeria (FWIFT), HeForShe champions, women's movements (ElectHER, Not too Young to Run, League of Women Voters of Nigeria, Women in Politics Forum), Women Radio, INEC Gender Department, IPAC, NASS, NILDS, Security Sector Institutions, and Platforms to promote peaceful elections: Women Situation Room, Nigeria Women Mediators Network. The specific activities of the stakeholders are shown below:

1. Women's Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN):

Supported direct grassroots mobilization across the six project States including FCT in markets, churches and mosques, and other public gatherings demonstrating to various stakeholders the importance of women's participation as voters and candidates in the 2023 general elections. WOWICAN was included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. The evaluation team organized a face-to-face meeting and group discussions with their representatives.

2. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF):

Supported the launching of Early Warning and Response (EWAR). The centre served as a mechanism for collating pre-election data related to incidents of VAWP. WILPF was included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. The evaluation team organized a face-to-face meeting and group discussions with their representatives.

3. Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC):

Provided support and capacity-building for young women with limited experience in election campaigns to effectively compete alongside other candidates in the 2023 elections. WARDC was included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability. The evaluation team organized a face-to-face meeting and group discussions with their representatives.

4. Royal Heritage Health Foundation (RHHF):

Organized town hall meetings in the target States which provided a platform to engage with community leaders to advocate and mobilize votes for women candidates ahead of the 2023 elections. RHHF representative was included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability. The evaluation team organized a face-to-face meeting and group discussions with their representatives.

5. National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS):

NILDS provided the platform for engaging with National and State legislators for the passage of gender-sensitive legal reforms to increase women's political representation. NILDS was included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. The evaluation team organized a face-to-face meeting and group discussions with their representatives.

6. Nigerian Girls Guide Association (NGGA):

The NGGA conducted several direct community outreach initiatives in religious centres, markets, and schools to create awareness of the voter registration process, and established mobile registration centres in the most frequented areas to support young vulnerable women with no access to the Internet to register as voters. The evaluation team organized a face-to-face meeting and group discussions with their representatives.

7. Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI):

Organized town hall meetings in the target States, which provided a platform to engage with community leaders to advocate and mobilize votes for women candidates ahead of the 2023 elections. KDI was included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. The evaluation team organized a face-to-face meeting and group discussions with their representatives.

8. Ministry of Women Affairs:

Participated in the validation of the Mapping of key stakeholders and initiatives on women's political participation. A representative from the Ministry was included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.

9. International Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA):

FIDA supported the training of security agencies on identifying and responding to incidents of violence against women during 2023 was included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. The evaluation team organized a face-to-face meeting and group discussions with their representatives.

1.3. THEORY OF CHANGE

Based on the review of the project documents, the AD-VANCE WPP project is anchored in a theory of change (ToC). This ToC represents the main hypothesis that this evaluation assessed against the main evaluation questions in the Evaluation Matrix, as follows:

- If legislative reforms are adopted to guarantee increased representation of women in politics and public life; and if political and electoral institutions are supported to adopt and implement policies and practical measures to remove barriers to women's effective participation in politics; and if women aspiring to political office and those elected and appointed to political positions have the capacity to be strongly competitive with their male peers and to drive gender reforms; and if the community of male gender champions is expanded and effectively mobilized to support the agenda and women in politics; and if development partners and organizations implementing programmes to enhance women's participation in politics and decision-making coordinate their interventions effectively to enhance impact; Then a more inclusive and representative political agenda will be fostered because a critical mass of women with political agency will be represented in politics and decision-making. The ToC is based on the following assumptions:

1. The Government of Nigeria is committed to legislative reforms and is willing to mainstream gender in its policies and procedures;

2. Women are willing to strengthen their capacities and be competitive to participate in electoral processes;

3. Support is mobilized to drive the agenda of women in politics; and

4. Stakeholders (government, private sector, civil society, and development partners) are willing to coordinate to maximize the impact of their work.

The analysis of the ToC shows that it 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, without any gap in knowledge. The result statements are not ambiguous, the time frame for the result is reasonable and the assumptions are realistic and unambiguous. Also, the assumption and risks most relevant to whether the change will be realized were clearly stated in the ToC. However, while the ToC was framed within the internationally agreed development goals, norms and instruments which outline the necessary conditions and key actions required for the achievement of gender equality and advancement of women's political participation, there was little or no evidence to show that the ToC was based on knowledge and lessons learned from credible sources, as no reference was specified in the ToC. Furthermore, there is no evidence to show that the ToC was developed on the basis of a collaborative and participatory process involving the perspectives of multiple stakeholders. Ideally, a ToC should be presented in a diagram and embedded in the narrative of the ToC section, but this was not found in the programme document containing the ToC. Overall, however, the ToC is very germane to the goal of the project.

1.3.1. Existing Data Availability

For an effective review of the project document shared by the UN Women ADVANCE WPP team, the evaluator grouped the documents into three categories: reports from implementing partners (IPs), donor annual reports, and the project proposal narrative. The review indicates that the available documents shared by the project team were generally good and provided a clear picture and road map of the project design and implementation in the target States. Reports from IPs were also of good quality. There was no baseline report, although all the indicators in the result framework have baseline indicator values and their respective targets, as well as actual project achievements. One annual report was shared with the evaluation team and the review shows a disaggregation of beneficiaries by sex. A review of the implementing partners' reports also shows that there was disaggregation by sex of the various participants of the training programmes organized by the IPs. The evaluation maintained the disaggregation of data by sex and category of beneficiaries to gain deeper insights into the results of the project on different dimensions.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MID-TERM EVALUATION

2.0. OBJECTIVES OF THE MID-TERM EVALUATION1

The overall objective of the mid-term evaluation is to assess the extent to which the ADVANCE WPP project is achieving intended and/or unintended outcomes and provide an in-depth understanding of why certain intended or unintended outcomes have or have not occurred; analyse the challenges encountered and lessons learned; and document areas for improvement. It considered the processes and nature of interventions to connect them with identified longer-term changes, to determine which elements work well and in which contexts, and which would be worth replicating or scaling up. In addition, it assessed the level of synergy and a multiplying effect between the various activities implemented by this programme, and the extent of synergies and multiplier effects with other partners involved in WPP.

1. The evaluation assessed progress towards the achievement of results as specified in the logical framework of the project and the initial and potential impacts of the project. The evaluation assessed early signs of success or failure to identify the necessary changes to be made to set the programme on- track to achieve its intended results. The mid-term evaluation also reviewed the strategy and risks to sustainability, as well as identifying lessons learned and best practices that could be applied to other ongoing and future programmes. Specifically, the mid-term evaluation will assess:

2. The programme strategy:

- How appropriate was the project design?
- Are there clear baseline indicators and/or benchmarks for performance? How are these being used in project management?
- To what extent is the implementation strategy relevant and does it provide the most effective route towards expected results?
- To what extent does the project address the triple mandate of UN Women?
- To what extent does the project align or not with the systematic approach of leaving no one behind (LNOB)?
- What recommendations can the project adapt to capture LNOB information within the existing performance monitoring framework?

3. Progress towards results:

- To what extent do the log frame indicators track progress towards targets?
- To what extent can the project achieve its objectives within the remaining implementation time frame? What barriers have been identified, and

how can they be mitigated?

- To what extent has the project been successful? What good practices and up-scaling opportunities have been identified?
- To what extent does the overall effectiveness of the project's management and governance structure support implementation? Are responsibilities and reporting lines clear? Is decision-making transparent and undertaken promptly? What recommendations can be made for improvements?
- To what extent has implementation been delayed? What are the causes? How have they been resolved (if at all)? What potential delays could arise in the future and how can they be prevented from occurring?
- To what extent does the project have appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for a timely flow of funds?
- To what extent are monitoring tools currently being used? Do they provide the necessary information? Are they efficient? Are additional tools required? How can they be made more participatory and inclusive?
- To what extent is the financial management of the monitoring and evaluation sufficient, and how are resources allocated to monitoring and evaluation?
- To what extent has the project enabled and/or leveraged strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders at regional and country levels?
- To what extent has the project contributed to advancing the coordination mandate of UN Women on the other thematic areas, both at the global and country levels?
- To what extent do the project and partners meet UN Women reporting requirements (internal and external)?
- To what extent is the internal project communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of outcomes and activities, and investment in the sustainability of the project' results?
- To what extent is the project's external communication effective? Are proper means of communication established or being established to communicate the project's progress and intended impact?
- To what extent are the risks identified in the project risk matrix still valid? Are the risks identified still the most important, and are risk ratings applied appropriately and up to date? If not, explain why.

Specifically, the objectives of the mid-term evaluation are to:

- Analyse the relevance of the project's objectives, strategy, and approach to the implementation of women's political participation at the federal and State levels, and progress towards improving a gender-responsive legal environment, including implementation of accompanying policies at the federal and State levels.

- Assess the effectiveness and efficiency, the measurable impact of the strategies employed by the project towards increasing women's political participation, and the project's contribution towards increasing women's participation in political processes and leadership in elective and appointive positions.

- Assess the connectedness and sustainability of the results and the intervention in increasing women's political participation.

- Assess the extent of progress towards strengthening collaboration and coordination among WPP partners and stakeholders for the promotion of women's political leadership as a result of the mainstream actions undertaken by the project.

- Assess organizational efficiency and coordination mechanisms in progressing towards the achievement of the programme results.

- Determine whether the human rights approach and gender equality principles were integrated into the project.

- Identify lessons learned and strategies for up-scaling best practices and innovations that could be upscaled and replicated by UN Women and its partners.

- Provide actionable recommendations with respect to UN Women's intervention in women's political participation.

- Review the major risk management and mitigation strategies.

2.1 SCOPE OF THE EVALUATION

The evaluation employed a transparent and participatory process involving relevant stakeholders and partners, and covered all aspects of the project implementation and the entire programme period from March 2021 to April 2023. The evaluation applied a combination of portfolio analysis, desk reviews, online and on-site interviews, and surveys with relevant stakeholders, beneficiaries, partners, etc. in the six WPP States of Borno, Cross River, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Kaduna and Kwara and the FCT, and covered the States during the field missions.

2.2 STAKEHOLDERS OF THE EVALUATION

The key stakeholders engaged during the evaluation include the UN Women project team, the Ministry of Women Affairs, the IPs as well as the project beneficiaries. The UN Women project team provided a self-assessment of the project performance, challenges, and lessons learned. They also provided logistical support to the evaluation team by mobilizing the project beneficiaries at the national and State levels. Other stakeholders provided evidence of the relevance, effectiveness, and impact of the project in their respective domains. The implementing partners (IPs), on the one 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's benefits. The project beneficiaries, on the other hand, provided the information needed on the relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the project's benefits in their respective States.

2.3 USERS OF THE EVALUATION

The evaluation findings will be used to strategically plan and manage the next two years of the project.

- Refine implementation and accelerate progress towards impacts.

- Sustain results in coordination with key stakeholders.

- Contribute to increased ownership of and accountability for results.

- Inform the development of future programming interventions to strengthen the results of increasing women's political participation.

They will also inform the implementation of the Government's national priorities and the United Nations Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and refine the strategies for the promotion of women in governance and public life. Ultimately, the results will be publicly available through the Global Accountability and Tracking of Evaluation Use (GATE) system for learning. The main evaluation users include UN Women at the country level, programme staff, and the Government of Canada. In addition, national stakeholders include the Ministry of Women Affairs, the Senate, the House of Assembly, and the House of Parliament, and external key stakeholders include but are not limited to donors, regional actors, and the UN system. The findings will also be useful to the State Governments of Borno, Cross River, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Kaduna, Kwara and the FCT.

3. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

3.0 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

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

The ADVANCE WPP project was evaluated against the Results-Based Management (RBM) - Theory of Change Approach. Information sources and citations from the project and other documents were reviewed and this helped to promote a clear understanding of the project's logic, inputs, and outputs as well as planned and expected outcomes, risks, and underlying assumptions. The notes from the review were used as a basis to develop detailed evaluation questions, guide the development of related methods and protocols, and analyse the broader progress towards outcomes through the aggregation of available evidence on a broader scale and about longer-term results. The analysis matrix was used to list the key evaluation questions, indicators, data sources, and methods of data collection (Annex 1).

3.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA: ELABORATION OF KEY QUESTIONS

The evaluation applied the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, coherence, gender equality, and human rights. This was used as the main analytical framework in line with the UN Women evaluation policy.[37] The evaluation questions that supported the evaluators in the assessment were further expatiated in the Evaluation Matrix and were developed around the thematic evaluation areas (Annex 1).

Throughout the evaluation process, gender and inequality concerns were assessed in line with the UN Women Gender-Responsive Evaluation Policy[38]. All data collected were gender-disaggregated and different needs of women and men targeted by the 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 mid-term evaluation report was further prepared following the UN Women Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS).

The evaluator identified and ensured that all categories of beneficiaries and stakeholders were included in the data-gathering process. The evaluators are cognizant of potential biases that can arise in the selection of methods and avoid that through the inclusion of the full range of appropriate stakeholder groups and a variety of data-collection tools (key informant interview guides, focus group discussion guide, questionnaire). 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 addressed transparency, privacy, and confidentiality issues, including sensitivity to language use during data collection. Relevant critical measures that were taken during data collection include gathering stakeholders in separate groups where they can express themselves freely, visiting stakeholders in their respective institutions and localities, and using appropriate cultural approaches and local languages to facilitate easy access and increased participation.

3.2. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The evaluation relied heavily on both quantitative and qualitative research methods as well as a desk review of secondary documents. Primary and secondary sources of data were utilized to inform the findings of the evaluation. This mix of methods allowed for information to be triangulated and verified. Thus, a mixed method of data collection was used including document analysis, key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), and questionnaire administration. The key informants and focus group members were representatives of the recipients of various project interventions. The information consisted of both individual and institutional responses to the evaluation questions. This 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 project involved the following:

- Include at least one explicit evaluation question about gender equality.
- Report against gender-disaggregated indicators.
- Be based on gender-responsive stakeholder analysis, including human rights roles.
- Include consultation with rights holders; include gender analysis in the description of the 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 the sections dealing with findings; and
- Have at least one conclusion and recommendation that explicitly addresses gender equality.[39]

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37. https://genderevaluation.un.women.org/-/media/files/un%20women/gender%20evaluation/handbook/evaluationhandbook-web-final-0apr2015.pdf?la=en&vs=4246
38. Ibid
39. UNEG (2017)

3.3 SECONDARY DATA COLLECTION

The starting point of the data-collection exercise was a desk review of all relevant documentation on the project. The documents were shared by UN Women Nigeria and were complemented by other sources where necessary. The document reviews were done in line with the key evaluation questions. 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 helped to provide evidence to determine the extent of activity implementation. The desk review was used at inception, during data collection, and at the triangulation stage. Its advantage is that it is inexpensive, and data can be obtained relatively quickly and easily both from the project team and other sources. It was also very useful for the evaluation, given the qualitative nature of the evaluation questions raised in the ToR.

3.4 PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

The main instruments for data collection include key informant interview (KII) guides, focus group discussion guides (FGDs), and a structured questionnaire. Different interview guides were developed for different categories of stakeholders, as well as a structured questionnaire targeting all beneficiaries of the project. The design questionnaire was uploaded into Kobocollect for ease of data collection and analysis. The data collected using the tools from stakeholders includes the relevance of the project to the target States, the effectiveness of the project, and the efficiency of the project in the use of resources. Other questions captured include the impact of the project in the target States as well as the sustainability of the project benefits in the target States. The use of KIIs and FGDs was useful for this evaluation because it is easy to access UN Women management or staff and stakeholders who have been involved in or been affected by the project. This is a rich data-collection approach as it provided the context of the project being evaluated and was suitable for carefully processing complex or sensitive topics. The use of interviews and FGD techniques also helped to increase the depth of data scoping from stakeholders. Additionally, FGDs are preferred because they are useful for obtaining detailed information about personal and group feelings, perceptions, and opinions. Group interactions have the advantage of bringing out nuances of stakeholder dynamics. The administration of the questionnaire helped to generate relevant quantitative data to validate some of the quantitative indicators in the log frame. The use of questionnaires for the mid-term evaluation ensured that the evaluation was also able to generate quantitative data to triangulate the qualitative data from interviews.

3.5 SAMPLING APPROACH

This evaluation sampled all the locations covered by the intervention including Borno, Cross River, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Kaduna, Kwara, and the FCT. This sample represents 100 percent of the target States. This spread provided the needed reliability and generalizability of data. In each State, a representative of every key stakeholder was interviewed based on their participation in the project. KIIs were conducted with sampled key stakeholders as well as beneficiaries. Core members who participated in the project were interviewed as key informants. This was done using a purposive sampling approach guided by the nature and role of their involvement. The evaluation used a census sampling approach for all key participating stakeholder institutions and project IPs at the national and State levels, which allowed the evaluators to study and fully understand the roles played by each institution and the interventions they participated in. Based on the outcome of the stakeholder analysis, purposive sampling was utilized to choose specific individuals depending on their project involvement. This was done with due consideration of gender, role, and the nature of their participation in the project. The project team, stakeholders at the national level, and community leaders were interviewed as key informants, and they were purposively selected guided by the nature of their involvement in the design and implementation of the project. Five FGDs were conducted across the six States and the FCT, made up of participants in the various capacity-building programmes under the project. The evaluation team utilized purposive sampling in selecting individuals for interviews in the institutions, depending on the role they played and their level of involvement in the project. The evaluators also employed purposive sampling for high-level State officials for in-depth interviews and selection of beneficiaries for questionnaire administration. This broad-based strategy allowed the evaluation team to eliminate bias and improve the reliability of the results by triangulating data collected from key informants. Tables 3.1 and 3.2 below show national and State-level disaggregation of data collection.

Table 3.1: National Level Disaggregation of Data Collection

Name of Institution	Location	Method of Data Collection	No. of Participants	Males	Females	Total
National Centre for Women Development	Abuja	KII	1		1	1
National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS	Abuja	KII	3	3	0	3
FIDA	Abuja	KII	1	1	0	1
Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI)	Abuja	KII	2	1	1	2
UN Women Project Team	Abuja	KII	3	2	1	3
Royal Heritage Health Foundation (RHHF)	Kwara	KII	1	-	2	2
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom(WILPF)	Abuja	KII	1	0	1	1
Zamani Foundation	Kaduna	KII	1	0	1	1
Women Radio	Abuja	KII	1	0	1	1
Women's Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN)	Cross River	FGD	6	0	6	6
Total			**21**			

Table 3.2: State-Level Disaggregation of Data Collection

Location	Method of Data Collection			No. of KIIs (Males)	No. of KIIs (Females)	No. of FGDs (Males)	No. of FGDS (Females)
	Questionnaire	KII	FGD				
Kaduna	25	7	1	2	5	0	1
Cross Rivers	25	7	1	2	5	0	1
Borno	25	7	1	2	5	0	1
Ebonyi	25	7	0	2	5	0	0
Kwara	25	7	2	2	5	1	1
Ekiti	25	7	0	2	5		0
Total	**150**	**42**	**5**	**12**	**30**	**1**	**4**

3.6 GENDER AND HUMAN RIGHTS

This evaluation mainstreamed gender and human rights, and this involved the inclusion of women and men, marginalized persons and/or those discriminated against in the evaluation process. This provided significant information on how the intervention was seen from the perspective of different beneficiaries of the intervention, while ensuring that balanced and complete evaluation evidence was generated. Thus, the full range of stakeholder groups (including duty bearers and rights holders) were carefully selected and included for the evaluation to avoid biases such as gender, distance (including the less accessible), power (supporting less powerful interviewees to be able to speak freely by addressing privacy and confidentiality concerns), etc. One method that was used to foster this inclusion was to work with the project team as well as the IPs to discuss the evaluation purpose, focus, and methodology during the inception phase of the evaluation. Particular attention was paid to the inclusion of women and individuals/groups who are marginalized and/or discriminated against. The evaluation team also explored barriers these groups may face in their participation, and strategies were devised to address the barriers. For instance, people

living with disabilities and in remote locations were identified and reached by telephone by the evaluation team to allow them to participate in the evaluation process. Some rights-based and gender-sensitive indicators were also incorporated in the evaluation questions to ensure the evaluation was gender- and human-rights-responsive.

3.7 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF DATA

In this evaluation, the issues of data validity and reliability are crucial due to their implications for the validity of findings. Thus, throughout this evaluation, data management was of vital importance for the validity and reliability of data. To increase the chances of data validity and reliability, the evaluators adopted different tools for targeted stakeholders. More importantly, the evaluation team pre-tested data-collection tools to ensure high validity and reliability. To increase the generalizability of the findings, representative samples were selected from each stakeholder group. Evaluators also used multiple methods of data collection and analysis (triangulation), which allowed for validation across multiple methods and sources. The draft report was further subjected to review by the Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) and a validation workshop with all the key stakeholders. The findings were further examined through engagement with stakeholders at stakeholder workshops and management debriefings. The analysis of information and data ran throughout the various evaluation stages. However, once all the information and data had been collected, a different analytical process was adopted. This involved a systematic organization, comparison, and synthesis of information and data derived through all methods[40]. The evaluation triangulated information obtained from various methods of data collection and sources of information to ensure robust findings. The evaluators made judgments based on the evidence from the findings.

3.8. DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

Quantitative data analysis – Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics to meet the objectives of the evaluation. The quantitative data from the questionnaire were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Relevant tables and columns were developed showing data disaggregated by gender, age, State and disability, to be used in drafting the various sections of the report.

Qualitative data analysis – The evaluator used thematic coding to analyse qualitative data. The codes and themes were determined by the evaluation objectives and criteria. The themes include Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sus-

tainability, as well as cross-cutting issues and disability inclusion. Content analysis 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 also 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 were deemed sufficiently important and operational.

In order to generate quantitative data to provide a source of evidence for triangulation with other sources of evidence for the evaluation, the evaluator conducted a perception survey among the beneficiaries at State level, including the FCT. A total of 150 questionnaires were administered to different categories of respondents (Table 3.1). Respondents were carefully selected from different categories of respondents. About 71.6 per cent of the respondents were females and 45.9 per cent of the respondents were within the age brackets of 30-49 years, while 29.7 per cent were above 50 years of age. Only 24.3 per cent of the respondents were within the age bracket of 18-29 years. Figure 3.1 shows the categories of beneficiaries covered in the perception survey. Categories of beneficiaries with the highest level of participation were women in politics (35.8 per cent), journalists (female 19.5 per cent, male 25.0 per cent), and officials from MDAs (female 13.2 per cent, male 19.0 per cent).

Figure 3.1: Categories of Beneficiaries by Gender

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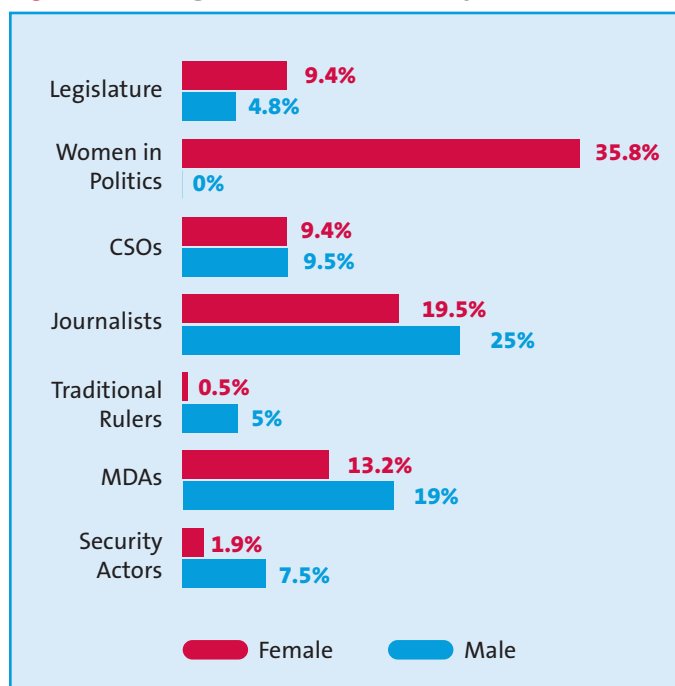
40. How to manage Gender-responsive Evaluation- Evaluation Handbook, p76

The consultant adhered fully to the ethics and principles for research and evaluation. In addition, the consultant also adhered strictly to the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Standards for Evaluation, the UN Women Evaluation Policy as well as the Ethical Guidelines for evaluations in the UN system. Once finalized, the evaluation report will be quality assessed on the basis of the UN Women Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System. Specific safety measures were put in place to promote the safety of both respondents and the evaluation team during data collection. The ethical considerations measures taken during the data-collection exercise included the following:

- Data-collection tools were designed in a way that was culturally appropriate and did 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 could seek support.

- A plan was in place to protect the rights of the respondent, including privacy and confidentiality.

- The evaluation team was trained in collecting sensitive information, and where the topic of the evaluation could touch on violence against women, evaluators had previous experience in this area.

- The evaluators were competent in identifying the complexity of cultural identities and identifying power dynamics between and within different groups, and were cognizant of existing services for GBV survivors and referral processes, as well as the use of language among respondents.

3.10 LIMITATIONS TO THE EVALUATION

The evaluation was faced with several limitations, mostly linked to the wide scope of the intervention and the sparse distribution of the beneficiaries across six States and the FCT. This challenge was addressed by increasing the number of days for data collection. Reaching out to some high-profile stakeholders, especially politicians, also posed some challenges due to their busy schedules and location. Telephone interviews were conducted in this case to ensure their participation at times convenient to them. Overall, these limitations were mitigated and did not compromise the required sample size or quality of findings.

4. FINDINGS

4.0 FINDINGS

This section presents the findings of the evaluation based on the analysis of various data collected. The findings of the evaluation were structured according to the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria, with a focus on key priority questions as defined in the ToR for the evaluation.

4.1 RELEVANCE

The relevance criteria explore the extent to which the objectives of the project are consistent with the evolving needs and priorities of the beneficiaries, partners and stakeholders, and are aligned with the priorities of UN Women.

FINDING 1: The extent to which the implementation strategy is relevant.

Evaluative evidence from document reviews and interviews with the project team reveals that the project implementation strategy is underlined by legislative and policy-level interventions, capacity-building and institutional strengthening, and coordination among partners. This three-pronged approach of the project was structured into short-term and long-term measures. In the short term, the implementation strategy focused on steering the legislative reform processes, including the revision of discriminatory clauses in the Constitution of Nigeria in order to promote women's political participation and decision-making. The strategy also focuses on raising awareness and engaging male political leaders to champion gender-related issues, and also working with political parties to increase support for women leaders (including young women). In the long-term, the implementation strategy is the capacity-building of Nigerian women and young women leaders to increase their capacities and resources, and expand their networks.

The importance of legislative and policy-level interventions in enhancing women's empowerment, including women's political participation, has been emphasized in the literature.[41],[42] The integration of legislative and policy-level intervention as a strategy into the design of the ADVANCE WPP project was not only relevant but also apt as it has the potential to enhance the effectiveness of the project in addressing the deep-rooted socio-cultural and traditional gender norms that limit women's political participation. Capacity-building and training is another important strategy for promoting women's political participation, and this was also integrated into the design of the ADVANCE WPP project. For instance, evidence from the literature reveals that capacity-building and training for men and women parliamentarians can contribute to institutional strengthening and lead to a greater engagement with gender equality in parliamentary work.[43] Training programmes can specifically address the issue of gender equality, raising awareness among men and women parliamentarians and offering them tools to perform their duties effectively while promoting the principle of equality and women's rights in lawmaking and government oversight[44]. Other evidence reveals that capacity-building equipped women to translate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) into legal guarantees of gender equality[45].

Another strategy of the ADVANCE WPP project is coordination and working with multiple stakeholders, like women's organizations, Governments, the UN system and the private sector, to bring more women into government, train women leaders, and boost women's skills to actively participate in elections as candidates and voters. This strategy has also been found to be very effective in promoting women's political participation.[46] However, many beneficiaries that participated in the training programmes and town hall meetings also confirmed that the project is very relevant, as shown in the excerpts below:

> *The programme was very relevant, but they should not rest on their oars. We should continue to talk. It gave us the opportunity to make a voice. Furthermore, men have also realized the need to advocate for women's participation in politics. Women are more encouraged when their men support them.[47]*

Overall, the evaluation found the strategy to be relevant to a large extent and based on evidence and best practices.

FINDING 2: The extent to which the project design is appropriately articulated with goals, outcomes, and outputs clearly defined.

Evaluative evidence from document reviews and key informant interviews with the project team and IPs

41. Rim, Nayoung, 2021, "The Effect of Title IX on Gender Disparity in Graduate Education," Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Vol. 40, No. 2: 521–552.

42. Evans, David, and Fei Yuan, 2022, "What We Learn about Girls' Education from Interventions That Do Not Focus on Girls," The World Bank Economic Review, 36(1), 2022, 244–267.

43. https://aceproject.org/ace-en/topics/ge/ge10/capacity-development-and-training-on-gender

44. https://aceproject.org/ace-en/topics/ge/ge10/capacity-development-and-training-on-gender

45. https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/governance/political-participation-of-women

46. Ibid

47. Excerpt from KII with member of Coalition of Ekiti State Civil Societies

confirmed that the project design is appropriately articulated with goals, outcomes, and outputs clearly defined. The following evaluative evidence validates this finding. First, the project design was informed by valuable lessons learned from the Mid-Term Review conducted in 2019 on UN Women's regional project on women's political empowerment, funded by the Government of Canada. Some of the key lessons learned include the fact that the sudden shutdown of project activities jeopardizes the positive effects expected from the project and secondly, that WPP projects are most effective when project activities are aligned with the electoral cycle. These and some other lessons learned from the evaluation were mainstreamed in the design of the ADVANCE WPP project.

In addition, the ADVANCE WPP project design was also based on the recognition that promoting women's empowerment and political leadership requires action on multiple fronts. Thus, the project design adopted a three-pronged approach including legislative and policy-level intervention, capacity-building for women's participation and leadership, and strengthening coordination among partners and engagement with key stakeholders. In line with this three-pronged approach to the project design, three intermediate outcomes-level statements were developed for the project as follows:

- **Intermediate Outcome 1100:** Improved gender-responsive legal environment, including implementation of accompanying policies by political/democratic institutions at State and federal levels in Nigeria.

- **Intermediate Outcome 1200:** Increased women's participation in political processes and leadership in elective and appointive positions at ward, State, and federal levels in Nigeria.

- **Intermediate Outcome 1300:** Enhanced coordination among Women's Political Empowerment (WPE) partners and their engagement with key stakeholder groups in project communities to strengthen collaboration and partnerships for the promotion of women's political leadership.

The intermediate outcomes are followed by 8 immediate outcomes and 24 outputs which are clearly articulated and defined. A review of the intermediate outcomes, immediate outcomes, and outputs shows a plausible, clear, and logical flow from activities to results. However, there are too many immediate outcomes and outputs, leading to too many indicators to be achieved by the project. This needs to be stream-

lined in order to be more realistic and achievable within the remaining implementation period.

FINDING 3: The extent to which the project objectives address the identified rights and needs of the target groups.

Evaluative evidence from document reviews and key informant interviews confirmed that the project objectives addressed the identified rights and needs of the project target groups, including political parties (APC, APGA, LP, PDP), young women with limited experience in election campaigns, female parliamentarians, political leaders, media professionals, and community leaders. Evidence from the Gender Audit of Political Parties in Nigeria conducted by the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)[48] in 2021 found significant dissonance between the promises of the constitutions and manifestos of the parties and their actual practice. For instance, the audit revealed that the People's Democratic Party (PDP) promised 35 per cent affirmative action for women in party positions and governance. However, in practice, the current PDP National Working Committee is made up of 19 members of which only three are women, constituting just 15.7 per cent[49]. For the All Progressives Congress (APC), the audit found that the aims and objectives of the APC in Article 7 of the APC constitution make no reference to gender. Again, in the NWC of 21 members, only one is a woman. Given this limitation among the major political parties in Nigeria, the ADVANCE WPP project objectives were designed to address these limitations in political parties in Nigeria.

Another target group for the ADVANCE WPP project is young women. Evidence from the CSJ audit reveals that one of the challenges to women's low political participation in Nigeria is the lack of mentorship programmes for women. Mentorship is about receiving guidance, capacity-building and knowledge from experienced individuals and institutions. Mentorship goes beyond political theories to how to address the practical issues and challenges that women face in the field of politics.[50] Unlike men, there are few long-serving and successful women politicians who can serve as mentors and role models for young women to learn from and look up to.[51] The ADVANCE WPP project objectives effectively identified this right and need of young women and put strategies in place to address the need.

48. https://csj-ng.org/gender-audit-of-political-parties-in-nigeria/
49. Ibid
50. Ene Ede, supra.
51. Ibid

The ADVANCE WPP project has also targeted female parliamentarians. Parliaments are key stakeholders in the promotion and achievement of gender equality. Parliamentary oversight processes provide an opportunity to ensure that Governments maintain commitments to gender equality.[52] While women parliamentarians have often assumed responsibility for this oversight, evidence shows limited capacity in gender-sensitive legislation including gender-responsive budgeting.[53] This is a right and need of female parliamentarians which was targeted by the ADVANCE WPP project objectives.

Another key target of the ADVANCE WPP project is media professionals. The media and politics go hand in hand as both institutions depend on each other for their respective functioning. It is noted that modern politics cannot function without the media.[54] Active participation in politics by women cannot be achieved without proper communication. The mass media have the potential to assist in the constant promotion of women's participation in politics by planning and mounting messages and sustainable enlightenment campaigns for general awareness about the leadership qualities of women and their role in sustainable development in Nigeria.[55] Regrettably, evidence shows that the Nigerian media are guilty of misrepresenting women.[56] Most critics view the media as agents working for the reinforcement of female stereotyping and marginalization in society. Also, evidence shows that in all facets of media reportage of the 2015 general elections, female politicians were seriously relegated to the background by newspapers, radio, and television stations.[57] Thus, the ADVANCE WPP project targeted the formalizing of partnerships with media stakeholders to support women's political participation. It also targeted the training of media practitioners to positively portray the image of women candidates.

One of the key barriers to women's effective political participation is political violence. According to a 2019 report by Peace Direct:[58]

"Invariably, Nigerian women are targeted in both the private and public spheres to prevent them from participating in rallies, voting, and/or running as candidates. Despite decreasing incidents of violence and improved transparency measures during elections, violence against women continues to be a significant threat to Nigerian democracy."

Again, the ADVANCE WPP project targeted security sector actors and provided training to equip them with skills to document and respond to incidents of violence targeted at women during the elections. Given the above evidence, the evaluation found that the ADVANCE WPP project objectives were carefully crafted to address the identified rights and needs of the relevant target groups.

FINDING 4: The extent to which the target partners were involved in the conceptualization and design process.

The involvement of targeted partners in the conceptualization and design process of the ADVANCE WPP project (including legislators, young women, community leaders, and security actors at the national and State levels) was rated weak. Most partners interviewed, including the IPs and various categories of beneficiaries targeted by the project, noted that they were only involved in the implementation stage of the project as shown in these excerpts:

My organization was involved when a call was put up by UN Women for CSOs to apply for implementation of some activities under the ADVANCE WPP project and we responded to the call and after the assessment of our proposal, UN Women awarded the grant to us. We were not on board during the design stage.[59]

We were only given the opportunity to implement some activities under the project. Our organization was not called upon at the design stage of the project.[60]

One opportunity for stakeholder involvement in the conceptualization and design process of a project of this nature is during needs assessments, baseline studies, and stakeholder consultation meetings. Findings from the desk review of documents and interviews with stakeholders revealed that no needs as-

52. https://www.iknowpolitics.org/en/discuss/e-discussions/parliamentary-oversight-gender-equality
53. https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/Action-kit-Engaging-parliaments-in-gender-responsive-budgeting-en.pdf
54. Uwakwe, O. (2017). Media writing and reporting: Who, what, when, where, why and how. Enugu, Nigeria: Cecta Nigeria Limited.
55. Ezugwu, C. (2016). Nigerian newspapers coverage of women participation in the 2015 general elections: A content analytical study of Vanguard and Daily Sun Newspapers. An undergraduate research paper submitted to the Department of Mass Communication, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.
56. Patrick, C. E., & Ekpeyong, O. E. (2015). Media (mis)representation of the Nigerian woman as a product of the society. *International Journal of Gender and Women's Studies.* 3(1), 101-106.
57. Olatunji, K. (2018, July 12). Rising calls for more women in politics and governance. The Guardian. Retrieved from https://guardian.ng/features/rising-calls-for-more-women-in-politics-governance/
58. February 2019, Civil Society and Inclusive Peace, Key Insights and Lessons from a Global Consultation Convened on Peace Insight.
59. Excerpt from interview with IP in FCT
60. Excerpt from interview with IP in Kwara State

sessment or baseline studies were conducted for the ADVANCE WPP project. However, partner involvement in the conceptualization and design of the project can be seen in the fact that the project design and conceptualization benefited from lessons learned from the evaluation of the first phase of the WPP project. Overall, the evaluation rated the involvement of partners in the conceptualization and design process as weak.

FINDING 5: The extent to which the intervention is aligned with national and international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of women in politics.

The ADVANCE WPP project was found to be in total alignment with national and international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of women in politics. The foundation of the ADVANCE WPP project is laid on national and international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment. At the national level, the ADVANCE WPP project goal aligns with the broad goal of the revised National Gender Policy (2021-2026), which is to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment concerns into the national development process in order to improve the social, legal, civic, political, economic, and cultural conditions of the people of Nigeria. Also, Section 17 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN) 1999 states that the fundamental objective of the State is founded on the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice; it safeguards against discrimination on account of gender.

At the international level, the ADVANCE WPP project aligns with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)[61] which enshrines the principles of non-discrimination and equal enjoyment of political rights, including the right of women and men to take part in the government of their country. The ADVANCE WPP project also aligns with the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (CPRW), building on the UDHR, which specifically protects the right of women to participate in the government of their country. The project also aligns with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which asserts that every citizen has the equal right to participate in public affairs, vote and be elected through universal and equal suffrage, and have equal access to public services.[62] Similarly, the ADVANCE WPP project aligns with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which recognizes women's equal right to participation in political and public life, including the right to vote in all elections and public referendums and participate in the formulation and implementation of government policy.[63],[64]

Other international agreements relevant to the ADVANCE WPP project include the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), which calls for removing barriers to equal participation of women, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which prioritizes gender equality and mainstreams women's rights. In addition, Sustainable Development Goal 5 to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls," and SDG 16 for "inclusive institutions", align with the ADVANCE WPP project goals. Overall, the mid-term evaluation found that the project aligned with national and international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment to a large extent.

FINDING 6: Consistency of activities and outputs of the project with the intended impacts and effects and how they address the problems identified.

The evaluation confirmed that the ADVANCE WPP project activities and outputs are largely consistent with the intended impacts and effects and with the potential to address the problems identified. The review of documents and interviews with the project team confirmed that all the project activities and outputs were consistent with the intended impacts. The project aims at increasing women's political participation and decision-making. Thus, all the activities and outputs of the project were channeled in this direction. For instance, the activities under Output 1111 target advocacy and knowledge enhancement to advance the adoption of Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) and gender reforms in the Constitution, while Output 1112 targets the development of a legal framework to be adopted by the National Assembly (NASS) to address gender inequalities in legal frameworks. Output 1113, on the other hand, focuses on the training of men and women legislators on gender-responsive budgeting, constituent relations, lawmaking and political advocacy, while Output 1114 focuses on capacity-building for NILDS staff and legislators to institutionalize gender in parliaments and influence the adoption of gender-responsive laws at federal and State levels.

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61. Articles 3, 13, 19, 20, 21
62. Article 25
63. Article 7
64. Article 8

The review of the project outputs also reveals that Output 1121 targets the development of gender-responsive policies, strategies, and implementation for political parties and electoral bodies. Output 1122 targets the development of a training manual and training of parliamentarians on gender-sensitive legislation, including gender-responsive budgeting, while Output 1221 focuses on the training of women aspirants, members of the African Women Leaders' Network (AWLN), and the Nigerian Governors' Wives Forum, on leadership and advocacy skills. Output 1222 focuses on women-focused voter education (including voter registration) campaigns while Output 1223 targets the training of elected female parliamentarians on constituent relations, lawmaking, and political advocacy. There is a total of 24 outputs from the ADVANCE WPP, and they were all found to be consistent with the intended impacts of the project. If all planned activities are implemented, these outputs and activities also have the potential for addressing the problem identified, which is women's low political participation in Nigeria.

FINDING 7: The extent to which human rights are recognized and addressed as priorities through the project and its implementation, to comply with CEDAW and other international commitments.

Evidence from document reviews and interviews with stakeholders demonstrated conscious and systematic integration of human rights and rights principles in all aspects of the project. In 1986, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Right to Development, Article 1 of which states that:

"The right to development is an inalienable human right under which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized."

In 2011, the UN General Assembly also adopted resolution A/RES/66/130 on Women and political participation. The resolution calls on UN Member States to take a variety of measures, including:

- To review the differential impact of their electoral systems on the political participation of women and their representation in elected bodies and to adjust or reform those systems where appropriate.

- To strongly encourage political parties to remove all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against the participation of women, to develop

their capacity to analyse issues from a gender perspective, and to adopt policies, as appropriate, to promote the ability of women to participate fully at all levels of decision-making within those political parties.

Similarly, the 2003 UN General Assembly resolution on Women and political participation (A/RES/58/142) stipulates that Member States should take steps including to: monitor progress in the representation of women; ensure that measures to reconcile family and professional life apply equally to women and men; develop mechanisms and training programmes that encourage women to participate in the electoral process and improve women's capacity to cast informed votes in free and fair elections; promote the participation of young people, especially women, in civil society organizations; and develop programmes to educate and train women and girls in using the media and information and communication technologies. The Beijing Platform for Action reiterates resolution 1990/15 and calls for an increase in women's representation in Strategic Objective G2.[65]

From the design of the ADVANCE WPP project, the project identified rights holders (young women and their specific right to political participation) and duty bearers, including legislators, security actors, and media professionals. Evidence from document reviews and interviews with key stakeholders revealed a deliberate intent on the part of the project to strengthen the capacity of rights holders to enjoy and claim their rights, including their human rights, and duty bearers to meet their obligations, as evidenced by various capacity-building activities targeting young women, security actors and the legislators both at the national and State levels.

The ADVANCE WPP project was designed and implemented with full consideration of human rights as a priority. The three intermediate outcomes of the project complied with UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/66/130 on Women and political participation, the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (CPRW) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which recognizes women's equal right to participation in political and public life, including the right to vote in all elections and public referendums and participate in the formulation and implementation of government policy. The ADVANCE WPP project was also found compliant with SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and SDG 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels).[66] This mid-term

65. https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/global-norms-and-standards
66. UN Women DONOR REPORT Advance: Women's Political Participation in Nigeria 2022

evaluation confirmed that human rights were recognized and addressed as priorities in the project design and implementation to a large extent.

4.2 EFFECTIVENESS

This criterion measures the extent to which the project's objectives were achieved or are expected/likely to be achieved.

FINDING 8: The extent to which the intervention areas assist in increasing women's political participation.

Evaluative evidence from document reviews and interviews with project beneficiaries indicates that the project intervention areas are making moderate progress in contributing to increasing women's political participation especially in the focus States. At the conclusion of the 2023 general elections, a total of 80 women emerged elected across the federal and State levels. There were 4 women elected to the Senate compared to 8 in 2019, 16 women in the House of Representatives compared to 13 in 2019, 54 women in the State Houses of Assembly compared to 44 in 2019, and 6 female Deputy Governors compared to 4 in 2019. In addition, 25 women who received programme support through the ADVANCE project were elected to office following the 2023 elections. These women benefited from coaching and mentoring sessions on how to run effective political campaigns; their campaign messages and stories were further amplified by the media, increasing their visibility. The project focal State Ekiti, which previously had zero representation at the State assembly, now leads as the State with the highest representation in State parliaments with 6 women. Similarly, Kwara State, which also had zero representation, now boasts 5 women.[67] Another area where the ADVANCE WPP project is assisting in increasing women's political participation is voter registration. The ADVANCE WPP project initiative contributed to the registration of 30,611 young women to register as voters. It is worth noting that at the end of the continuous voter registration (CVR) exercise, INEC recorded a total of 12,298,944 new registered voters, of which 6,224,866 were women (50.61%). This is the first time women took the lead in the CVR process, with a slight margin of 1.23 per cent, compared to previous exercises where men had always been in the lead by up to 5.2 per cent.[68] Moreover, many of the project beneficiaries interviewed at State level confirmed that the project activities were contributing to raising their awareness about women's rights to political participation as well as building their capacity in different areas, including transformative leadership, leveraging the media to amplify campaign messages, and strategies for building an effective campaign structure, among others. Evidence from the quantitative survey of project beneficiaries indicates that over 82 per cent of them believed that the project was contributing to promoting women's political participation. By gender, 86.8 per cent of females agreed that the project is advancing women's political participation, compared to 71.2 per cent for male beneficiaries (Figure 4.1). The evaluation team believes that as activity implementation is sustained under the project, other effects of the various intervention areas of the project will continue to become manifest.

Figure 4.1: The extent to which project activities are contributing to promoting political participation by women and youth

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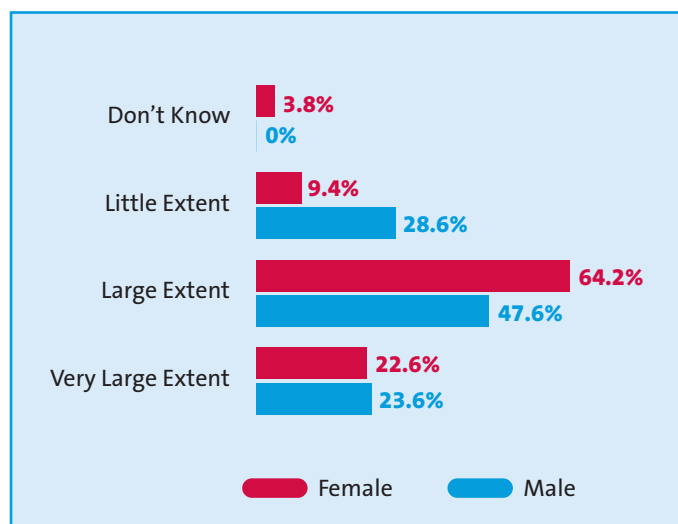
FINDING 9: The extent to which the project has been effective in creating an enabling environment.

An enabling environment is a set of interrelated conditions — such as legal, organizational, fiscal, informational, political, and cultural — that positively impact the capacity of development actors.[69] The evaluation found that from the design stage, the project was meant to address the legal, informational, political and cultural factors that limit women's political participation. Our evidence set from document reviews, interviews and FGDs with project beneficiaries confirmed that the project is on course to create an enabling environment for increasing WPP. One of the intermediate outcomes (Outcome 1320) of the project

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67. Advance WPP project Summary of Progress and Achievements Made in Quarter 1, 2023 (January-March 2023)
68. Ibid
69.   https://www.empowerwomen.org/en/resources/documents/2015/11/creating-an-enabling-environment-for-womens-economic-empowerment?lang=enand

focused on capacity-building and awareness creation among stakeholder groups, including the media, community influencers, male allies and political leaders, to create an enabling environment for women's political leadership. Several outputs and their respective activities, including awareness creation, capacity-building and the establishment of resource centres, address the informational component of an enabling environment. The project contribution to the passage of the GEOB addresses the legal component of the enabling environment. The project also targeted traditional rulers through the organization of town hall meetings, and this addressed the cultural component of an enabling environment. The evaluation found that the project strategy has the potential to create an enabling environment. However, activity implementation needs to be intensified for the project to be effective in achieving this.

FINDING 10: Assessing the success of the project in terms of the progress made towards the achievement of the expected results outputs and outcomes.

Progress on results at outcome and output levels was measured in line with indicators in the results framework. Progress on outcomes and outputs is discussed below.

Intermediate Outcome 1100: Improved gender-responsive legal environment, including implementation of accompanying policies by political/democratic institutions at State and federal levels in Nigeria.

Evidence from **Table 4** indicates that three indicators were used to measure progress on Intermediate Outcome 1100 of the project. The first indicator measures progress in the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) Bill into law at the federal level and in six States. The baseline is 1 while the target is 7. The project has made some progress in Kaduna and Kwara States, as the executive and legislative arms of government in Kaduna and Kwara reviewed and adopted the draft GEOB. They also indicated support and committed to passing the GEOB into law. It is important to report that the project is on course as it has progressed with the drafting process of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill in Kaduna State. In addition, a strategy for the passage of the GEOB has been developed. The strategy was to be used to present the revised GEOB to the Senate for passage after the 2023 general elections.[70] Furthermore, on the second indicator, on the number of gender discriminatory clauses in the revised Constitution of Nigeria, with a baseline of 27 and a target of 15, the project also made progress, as 5 discriminatory clauses were affected but have not been passed. However, the achievement of these two indicators will be better assessed at the end of the implementation period. The last indicator, on the percentage of women voters in the 2023 elections, with a target of 50 per cent, was achieved, as over 50 per cent of women registered as voters during the 2023 general election.

Table 4: Accomplishment of the Project I Ultimate Outcome 1100 Indicators

ULTIMATE OUTCOME	Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target	Indicator Progress to Date
Greater participation, election, and appointment of women in the 2023 electoral cycle and subsequent years, particularly young women in Nigeria	Passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) Bill into law at the federal level and in 6 States (mandating a 30% quota representation of women)	1	7	In progress
	No. of gender discriminatory clauses in the revised Constitution of Nigeria	27	15	In progress
	% of women voters in the 2023 elections	NA	50%	Achieved

70. UN Women DONOR REPORT *Advance: Women's Political Participation in Nigeria 2022*

Table 5 shows that intermediate outcomes 1100, 1200 and 1300 were measured by eleven11 indicators. The first indicator, on the number of major/mainstream political parties adopting and implementing gender-responsive measures for increasing women's representation in politics, with a baseline of 0 and target of 1, was achieved with overall achievement of 18. . The second indicator on for Intermediate Outcome 1100, on the percentage of women awarded political party symbols by major political parties, with a baseline of 12.9 per cent and a target of 30 per cent, recorded 10.2 per cent: this indicates that the project is on course in meeting the set target of 30 per cent. The third indicator, on the percentage of women candidates, including young women, contesting the 2023 elections, with a baseline of 12.9 per cent and a target of 30 per cent, recorded 10.2 per cent achievement against the set target of 30 per cent. This is significant progress, given that the number of political parties was reduced from 93 in 2019 to 18 in 2023, which further shrunk shrinking the space for women to emerge as candidates.

For Intermediate Outcome 1200, Table 5 indicates that four indicators were used to measure progress. The first indicator, on the percentage of women in the National Assembly, with a baseline of 4.7 per cent and a target of 30 per cent, made some progress with a marginal increase of 5 per cent at the end of year one of the project. The second indicator, on the percentage of women in the State legislature, with a baseline of 4.47 per cent and a target of 30 per cent, made slight progress with a marginal increase from 4.43 per cent to 5.44 per cent. Though the six6 ADVANCE target States and the FCT are far short of 30 per cent, they witnessed a significant increase, having increased from 1.82 per cent in 2019 to 10.36 per cent in the 2023 elections. On the third indicator, on the

percentage of women appointed in the Cabinet, with a baseline of 16 per cent and a target of 30 per cent, evidence from Table 5 shows that the project made a modest progress of 18.75 per cent against the set target of 30 per cent at the end of the 2023 general elections. This suggests that the project is on course. The last indicator on Intermediate Outcome 1200 borders uncovers the percentage of women registered as voters between 2021 and 2024, with a baseline of 47.14 per cent and a target of 50 per cent. This was achieved, as over 50 per cent of women registered as voters during the 2023 general election.

Again, for Intermediate Outcome 1300, Table 5 indicates shows that four indicators were used to measure achievement. The first indicator is the number of partners in the Women Political Empowerment (WPEP) working group, with a baseline of 12 and a target of 24. Evidence from Table 5 shows that the indicator was achieved by the project, as 52 working groups were established. The second indicator is the number of advocacy initiatives jointly promoted by partners in the WPP Working Group, community influencers, male allies and political leaders, with a baseline of 2 and a target of 6. This was achieved by the project. The third indicator is the number of media houses disseminating gender-sensitive election reports, with a baseline of 1 and a target of 7. This was also achieved by the project, as the project recorded 18, which or 157 per cent. The last indicator on this Intermediate outcome measures the number of initiatives undertaken by networks, institutions, electoral bodies, and oversight platforms to prevent and respond to violence against women in politics (VAWP), with a baseline and target of 4 and 10 respectively. This recorded 7 against the set target of 10, which suggests the project is on course to meet the set target.

Table 5: Accomplishment of the Project in Intermediate Outcomes 1100-1300

Intermediate Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status
1100: Improved gender-responsive legal environment, including implementation of accompanying policies by political/democratic institutions at State and federal levels in Nigeria.	No. of major/mainstream political parties adopting and implementing gender-responsive measures for increasing women's representation in politics.	0	1	18	Achieved
	% of women awarded political party symbols by major political parties	12.9%	30%	10.2%	In progress
	% of women candidates, including young women, contesting in the 2023 elections	12.9% (2019 data)	30%	0	No

1200: Increased women's participation in political processes and leadership in elective and appointive positions at ward, State and federal levels in Nigeria	% of women in the National Assembly	4.7%	30%	5%	In progress
	% of women in State legislatures	4.47	30%	4.9%	In progress
	% of women appointed in Cabinet	16%	30%	18.5%	In progress
	% of women registered as voters between 2021 and 2024	47.14%	50%	50.61%	Achieved
1300: Enhanced coordination among Women's Political Empowerment (WPEP) partners and their engagement with key stakeholder groups in project communities to strengthen collaboration and partnerships for women's political leadership promotion.	No. of partners in the Women Political Empowerment (WPEP) working group	12	24	52	Achieved
	No. of advocacy initiatives jointly promoted by partners in the WPP Working Group, community influencers, male allies and political leaders	2	6	6	Achieved
	No. of media houses disseminating gender-sensitive election reports	1	7	18	Achieved
	No. of initiatives undertaken by networks, institutions, electoral bodies, and oversight platforms to prevent and respond to violence against women in politics (VAWP)	4	10	7	In progress

Table 6 shows 7 immediate outcomes which were measured by 20 indicators. Evidence shows that the majority of the indicators are on course to achieve the targets. For instance, out of the 20 indicators for immediate outcomes, 5 of the indicators have so far been achieved, while progress is being made on other indicators. A review of the annual reports indicates that the project has implemented some activities towards achieving some of the indicators. For instance, for the indicator on the number of provisions developed and adopted by the NASS to address gender inequalities in legal frameworks (with a focus on the GEOB and the Constitution), the project team developed set a goal of 5 provisions to address discriminatory clauses in 2022 … In May 2023, the 9th Senate passed the GEOB at second reading. The GEOB had 12 provisions to address gender inequalities. Also, on the indicator of the number of political parties supported by UN Women to develop gender-responsive policies, strategies and implementation plans, the project team engaged with 4 major political parties (APC, APGA, in Kaduna State)

to assess their level of gender inclusivity, and conducted a needs assessment of their women's wings to make them more effective in their roles. Some identified needs were the capacity to lobby and advocate for increased women's representation and training in leadership. Women leaders of the four4 identified political parties benefited from capacity-building sessions on leadership, lobbying, and advocacy. However, this has not translated into the development of gender-responsive policies for the political parties.

On the other hand, some factors were identified for the minimal progress observed on some of the indicators. One of the factors was the 2023 election, which made it difficult to engage with the parliament, and also many political parties were also focused on elections. The evaluation found that the project is on course in to achieving achieve the immediate outcome indicators.

Table 6: Accomplishment of the Project in Immediate Outcomes 1110-1330

Immediate Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status
1110 Strengthened capacity of legislators to enact gender-responsive laws at federal and State levels in Nigeria.	No. of provisions developed and adopted by the NASS to address gender inequalities in legal frameworks (with a focus on the GEOB and the Constitution)	0	5	12	Achieved
	No. of recommendations from advocacy and knowledge enhancement meetings held to advance the adoption of the GEOB and gender reforms in the Constitution	12	32	9	In progress
1120 Enhanced capacity of political parties and electoral bodies to develop gender-responsive policies that promote gender balance in political leadership positions at the Ward, State and national levels	No. of political parties supported by UN Women to develop gender-responsive policies, strategies and implementation plans.	0	5	4	In progress
	No. of gender-responsive strategies developed, adopted and implemented by electoral bodies to enhance women's participation in politics	2	8	10	Achieved
1130 Improved partnership among cross-party women parliamentarians to collaborate on promoting gender issues.	A cross-party parliamentary caucus on gender established at the federal level and 6 States	0	7 (10% men; 100% women)	0	No
	No. of experience-sharing meetings convened by women parliamentary caucuses at regional, federal and State levels	0	1	0	No
1210 Strengthened capacity of young women who are motivated to become political leaders at ward, State and federal levels	No. of young women in politics trained through academy programmes	450	1200	340	In progress
	No. of young women in politics who graduate from intergenerational mentorship programmes	250	50	53	Achieved
1220 Enhanced capacity and awareness of women candidates and voters to participate in election processes	No. of women aspirants, members of the African Women Leaders' Network (AWLN), and the Nigerian Governors' Wives Forum trained in leadership and advocacy skills	480	1200	340	In progress
	WPP coordinating working groups established at federal and State levels	1	7	6	Yes
	No. of donors and development partners supporting WPP initiatives of the Coordination Working Group	6	10	6	In progress

320 Increased capacity and awareness of stakeholder groups, including media, community influencers, male allies and political leaders to create an enabling environment for women's political leadership.	No. of political leaders who sign up as HeforShe champions and publicly support women's political leadership and participation.	500	1000	21	In progress
	No. of events led by traditional leaders and community influencers to support women political leaders.	3	10	11	Achieved
	No. of grassroots-level town halls and community conversations organized by CSOs for legislators and women's groups on the benefits of women's political leadership and to solicit contributions to the draft gender-responsive legislations and policies.	0	7	6	Yes
	% of individuals with enhanced awareness, knowledge and skills to promote women's participation and leadership in public life in the target States.	0	80%	51.5%	In progress
	No. of women's organizations and women's networks (at federal and State levels) advancing women's rights and gender equality that receive support for programming and/or institutional strengthening (??? Resource Centres etc???)	3	38	313	In progress
	No. of media houses that commit to gender-sensitive reporting on elections	25	40	74	Achieved
1330 Strengthened capacity of networks, institutions, electoral bodies, and oversight mechanisms to better prevent and respond to VAWP, SGBV and other forms of VAW.	No. of violent incidents targeting/affecting women reported from the Women's Situation Room	4973	3000	240	In progress
	No. of women mediators' networks supported to handle VAWP cases	0	7	17	In progress
	No. of people reached by the project who are actively involved in the prevention, response to, and end of VAWP, SGBV and other forms of VAW (with a focus on supporting the VAPP Act's passage and implementation)	0	140	0	No

Evaluative evidence from **Table 7a** indicates that the project has made progress and is on course towards the attainment of indicators in the outputs 1111-1114. There is a total of 8 indicators for outputs 1111-1114 and the project made progress on three of the indicators, while activities to achieve the other indicators are yet to be implemented at mid- –term. Evidence from **Table 7b** showing the performance of

Table 7a: Accomplishment of Project Outputs 1111-1114

Outputs	Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status
1111 Advocacy and knowledge enhancement meetings were held to advance the adoption of the GEOB and gender reforms in the Constitution	No. of participants in advocacy and knowledge enhancement meetings held to advance the adoption of the GEOB and gender reforms in the Constitution	150	500	260	In progress
1112 Provisions developed and adopted by the National Assembly (NASS) to address gender inequalities in legal frameworks (with focus on the GEOB and the Constitution)	No. of provisions reviewed by the NASS to address gender inequalities in legal frameworks (with a focus on the GEOB and the Constitution)	20	42	17	In progress
	No. of provisions adopted by the NASS to address gender inequalities in legal frameworks (with a focus on the GEOB and the Constitution)	0	20	12	In progress
1113 Men and women legislators trained at the federal level and in targeted States on gender-responsive budgeting, constituent relations, lawmaking and political advocacy	% of men and women legislators at federal level and in targeted States trained in gender-responsive budgeting	0	100%	0	No
	% of men and women legislators at federal level and in targeted States trained in gender-responsive constituent relations, law-making and political advocacy	0	100%	0	No
1114 Capacity-building interventions (technical training, international study tours, and regional lessons sharing retreats) held for NILDS staff	No. of technical trainings organized for NILDS staff and legislators to institutionalize gender in parliaments and influence the adoption of gender-responsive laws at federal and State levels	1	3	0	No
	No. of international study tours organized for NILDS staff and legislators to institutionalize gender in parliaments and influence the adoption of gender-responsive laws at federal and State levels	0	1	0	No
	% of women and men participating in capacity-building interventions (technical trainings, international study tours, and regional lesson-sharing retreats) for NILDS staff and legislators.	4.5% Women	1.2% Men	0	N0

the project in outputs 1121-1132 indicates that there is a total of 8 indicators used in measuring the 4 outputs. Out of these, the project only made progress in one output indicator (the number of gender-responsive strategies developed, adopted, and implemented by electoral bodies to enhance women's participation in politics and prevent VAWP), which has a baseline of 1 and a target of 7 —while the project has so far recorded 12. No progress was made by the project in the remaining seven indicators. In For many of the indicators, it was noted that activity implementation will commence in 2023, while others were noted due to be achieved in the remaining period of project implementation.

Table 7b: Accomplishment of the Project Outputs 1121-1132

Outputs	Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status
1121 Gender-responsive policies, strategies, and implementation plans developed by political parties and electoral bodies.	No. of gender-responsive strategies developed, adopted and implemented by electoral bodies to enhance women's participation in politics and prevent VAWP	1	7	12	In progress
	No. of gender-responsive strategies developed, adopted and implemented by political parties to enhance women's participation in politics and prevent VAWP	0	5	0	No
1122 Training manual developed, and parliamentarians trained on gender-sensitive legislation including gender-responsive budgeting	No. of tools and training manuals developed on gender sensitive legislation	1	3	0	No
	No. of tools and training manuals developed on gender-responsive budgeting	0	5	0	No
	No. of training sessions conducted for parliamentarians on gender- sensitive legislation and gender-responsive budgeting	1	10	0	No
1131 Meetings organized at the federal level and in 6 States to establish a cross-party parliamentary caucus on gender.	No. of meetings organized for establishing the cross-party parliamentary caucus on gender	0	7	0	No
	Number of meetings organized for strategizing on the functionality of the caucus	0	14	0	No
1132 Experience-sharing meetings convened by women's parliamentary caucuses at regional, federal, and State levels	Number of participants at experience sharing-meetings convened by women's parliamentary caucuses at the regional level.	0	50	0	No

Evidence from **Table 7c** showing the performance of the project on outputs 1211 to 1311 reveals that 9 indicators were used to measure the 6 outputs. Out of the 9 indicators, 6 have been achieved by the project at mid-term. They include the number of academy programme sessions conducted for young women in politics and the number of intergenerational mentorship programmes organized for young women in politics. Both indicators recorded over 175 per cent achievements. The other is the number of experienced women in politics conducting mentorship programmes for young women, with a baseline of 4 and a target of 6, while the actual achievement at mid-term is 6, therefore recording 100 per cent achievement. Also achieved by the project is the number of wom-en-focused voter education campaigns conducted, with a baseline of 0 and a target of 6, while the actual achievement of the project at mid-term is 12: this represents 200 per cent achievement for the indicator. The target was exceeded because of increased interest by stakeholder groups, including joint efforts by the WPP working groups at the national and State levels.[71] Evidence also shows that the project made significant progress on two key indicators: the number of training sessions conducted for elected female parliamentarians on constituent relations, law-making and political advocacy, and the number of stakeholders' initiatives mapped in the area of supporting women's political participation

Table 7c: Accomplishment of the Project Outputs 1211-1311

Outputs	Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status
1211 Young women political candidates trained through academy programmes across the 6 selected States	No. of academy programme sessions conducted for young women in politics	4	4	7	Achieved
1212 Intergenerational mentorship programmes organized for young women in politics	No. of intergenerational mentorship programmes organized for young women in politics	2	4	7	Achieved
	No. of experienced women in politics conducting mentorship programmes for young women	4	6	6	Achieved
1221 Women aspirants, members of the African Women Leaders' Network (AWLN), and the Nigerian Governors' Wives Forum trained in leadership and advocacy skills.	No. of leadership and advocacy training sessions completed for the African Women Leaders' Network (AWLN), and the Nigerian Governors' Wives Forum	0	4	9	Achieved
	No. of reference tools made available for trained women to use in advocacy for increased women's participation in politics	0	2	1	No
1222 Women-focused voter education (including voter registration) campaigns conducted	No. of women-focused voter education campaigns conducted	0	6	12	Achieved
1223 Elected female parliamentarians trained in constituent relations, lawmaking, and political advocacy	No. of training sessions conducted for elected female parliamentarians on constituent relations, law-making, and political advocacy	0	2	1	In progress

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71. UN Women DONOR REPORT *Advance: Women's Political Participation in Nigeria 2022*

| 1311 Mapping of key stakeholders and initiatives on women's political participation undertaken | Number of partners mapped as stakeholders in the promotion of women's political participation | 0 | 35 | 113 | Achieved |
| | Number of stakeholders' initiatives mapped in the area of supporting women's political participation | 0 | 35 | 16 | In progress |

Table 7d shows the accomplishment of the project outputs 1312-1324, with a total of 5 outputs and 8 indicators. Of the 8 indicators, 5 have been achieved by the project at mid-term. They include the number of retreats convened to establish the WPP coordinating groups at federal and State levels, with a baseline of 0 and a target of 6, and the actual at mid-term being 6. The other is the number of mechanisms established to support the functionality of the WPP working groups as well as the number of participants in grassroots-level town hall and community conversations organized by CSOs for legislators and women's groups (including vulnerable and marginalized women) on the benefits of women's political leadership, with a baseline of 0 and a target of 120: the actual at mid-term is 536. The high level of achievement on this indicator was attributed to the fact that more stakeholders were reached than planned in order to

have a wider impact on mobilizing support for WPP, and this contributed to exceeding the project target. More women indicated interest around issues of WPP, which is why the percentage of women participants was higher.[72] However, two of the indicators have not made any progress: the number of media practitioners trained to positively portray the image of women candidates, and the number of participants at grassroots-level town halls and community conversations organized by CSOs for legislators and women's groups (including vulnerable and marginalized women) to solicit contributions for drafting gender-responsive legislation and policies. Evaluative evidence shows that the activities are yet to be implemented but will be implemented before the end of the project.

Table 7d: Accomplishment of the Project Outputs 1312-1324

Outputs	Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status
1312 A retreat convened to establish the WPP coordinating working groups at federal and State levels	Number of retreats convened to establish the WPP coordinating groups at federal and State levels.	0	6	6	Achieved
	Number of mechanisms established to support the functionality of the WPP working groups	1	7	9	Achieved
1321 HeForShe events promoting women's political leadership organized in 6 target States	Number of HeForShe events held for the promotion of women's political leadership.	10	16	2	In progress
1322. Media practitioners trained to positively portray the image of women candidates	No. of media practitioners trained to positively portray the image of women candidates.	160	400	105	No

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1323 Grassroots-level town halls and community conversations organized by CSOs for legislators and women groups (including vulnerable and marginalized women) on the benefits of women's political leadership and to solicit contributions for drafting gender-responsive legislation and policies	No. of participants to grassroots level town halls and community conversations organized by CSOs for legislators and women groups (including vulnerable and marginalized women) on the benefits of women's political leadership	0	120	536	Achieved
	# No. of participants to grassroots-level town halls and community conversations organized by CSOs for legislators and women groups (including vulnerable and marginalized women) to solicit contributions for drafting gender-responsive legislations and policies	0	120	0	No
1324 Advocacy dialogues between women in politics and Nigeria Chapter of the Council of Traditional Leaders in Africa (COTLA) organized.	# No. of advocacy dialogues organized between women in politics and the Nigeria Chapter of the Council of Traditional Leaders in Africa (COTLA)	0	7	7	Achieved
	# No. of advocacy issues addressed through dialogues between women in politics and COTLA	0	3	3	Achieved

Evaluative evidence from **Table 7e** shows project outputs 1331-1335 with 5 outputs and 6 indicators. Out of the 6 indicators, three 3 were achieved at mid-term by the project. The indicators first indicator borders uncovers the number of trainings conducted for women election officers, observers,, and security officials on the prevention of VAWP, with a baseline of 3 and a target of 10, and: actual achievement at mid-term was 11. Others are include the number of election officers, observers, and security officials trained on the prevention of VAWP, and the number of reports on violence incidents targeting/affecting women reported produced by the Women's Situation Room.

Table 7e: Accomplishment of the Project Outputs 1331-1335

Outputs	Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Status
1331 Women election officers, observers, and security officials trained by the security sector agencies on the prevention of VAWP	Number of trainings conducted for women election officers, observers, and security officials on the prevention of VAWP	3	10	11	Achieved
	Number of election officers, observers, and security officials trained on the prevention of VAWP	0	300	571	Achieved
1332 Reports channeled to the Women's Situation Room on election-related violent incidents targeting/affecting women	Number of reports on violent incidents targeting/affecting women reported produced by the Women's Situation Room	2	5	240	Achieved

1333 Mediation sessions held by the National Women Mediators network on political-related cases affecting women.	Number of mediation sessions held by the National Mediators network	0	7	0	No
	% of mediation cases handled by the National Women Mediators network	0	0	0	No
1334 Technical support provided to existing peace-building architectures to prevent VAWP in hot spot target States.	The number of peace-building architectures supported to prevent VAWP in hot spot target States.	2	5	2	In progress

Generally, progress remains moderate at mid-term due to some factors relating to the modality of design and implementation. In terms of design, the project has three categories of outcomes. These are the ultimate outcomes, intermediate outcomes, and immediate outcomes. This categorization has unnecessarily increased the number of performance indicators for the project. For instance, there are 35 outcome-level indicators for the project. There are also 24 outputs from the project accompanied by 40 performance indicators. Together, there are 75 performance indicators for the project. This is too ambitious, especially when viewed through the lens of the number of indicators so far achieved at the mid-term of the project.

Also, evidence from interviews with the implementing partners (IPs) shows that the contracts given to them for activity implementation were mostly for pre-election activities. Thus, after the 2023 general election, most of the IPs are not implementing any activity apart from the KDI whose contract was extended by another 12 months after the 2023 election. The established Resource Centres for Women in Politics, managed by the Ministry of Women Affairs in the targeted States (Cross Rivers, Borno, and FCT), is grossly under-utilized as there is no formally planned programme of activities for the centres. Under the present circumstance, the evaluation team believes that the ultimate goal of the project may not be achieved at the end of the implementation period unless urgent reprogramming is undertaken by the project team.

FINDING 11: Reasons for the non-achievement of the project outcomes.

The evaluation identified some critical factors that are slowing progress towards the achievement of some of the project outcomes. The first factor touches on the multitude of outcomes and outputs of the project which, from the evaluation perspective, is too ambitious. The implication of this is the high number of indicators (75) required to measure both outcomes and outputs. The high number of indicators also translates into a high number of activities required to be implemented in order to achieve the outcomes and outputs. And, given the pre-election contract given to the IPs, it was impossible to implement the numerous activities necessary to achieve the outcomes and outputs.

In addition, the issuance of mainly pre-election contracts without post-election activities for most of the IPs has hindered the continuous implementation of project activities by the IPs. All the activities implemented between November 2022 and January 2023 were targeted at the 2023 elections. This greatly affected the implementation of project activities after the election and the non-achievement of the project outcomes.

Evaluative evidence also identified the delay by INEC to release the official candidates list. This delayed engagement with female candidates to strengthen their capacity to run for office. This was further compounded by the fact that the candidate list compiled by INEC was not sex-disaggregated. In some instances, men were identified as women and vice versa[73].

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73. UN Women DONOR REPORT *Advance: Women's Political Participation in Nigeria 2022*

Another challenge to the achievement of the project outcome that was identified is insecurity in some parts of the project States, particularly Kaduna and Ebonyi States. One notable incident was the attack by insurgents on the Kaduna-Abuja train services which hindered the initial plan to commence implementation of activities in the State. In addition, the activities of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in Ebonyi State also slowed down the training of candidates, and this was postponed to a later date.[74]

The inability of the UN Women Nigeria Country office to recruit international staff to manage the project is another major challenge, as the project activities could not be effectively overseen due to the limited number of staff. At mid-term, there were no international staff to manage the project according to the project design. The project is currently managed by a national programme officer. Although UN Women tried to address this challenge by bringing on board the regional adviser to backstop for six months, the evaluation team believes this did not effectively address the challenge.

The short duration of implementation activities was also identified as a factor that slowed down the achievement of the project outcomes. According to the record, this project implementation started in March 2022, but available evidence indicates that the main activities started in November 2022 when most of the IPs were engaged and brought on board for activity implementation. This limitation was exacerbated by the short duration (6 months) of the contract issued to the IPs. Similarly, interviews and FGDs with the beneficiaries reveal that the duration of the capacity-building and awareness-creating activities under the project was too short – usually two to three days. Beneficiaries expressed low satisfaction with the short duration of these activities. Consequently, participants noted that most of the capacity-building and awareness-creating activities were rushed. However, many of the beneficiaries surveyed noted that the training and awareness-creation programmes implemented under the project were timely or very timely, as indicated by 95.9 per cent of the beneficiaries. The target beneficiaries noted that the project activities, including training and awareness-raising activities, came at the right time. By gender, 38.1 per cent of the male and 47.2 per cent of female beneficiaries noted that the project activities were very timely while over 50 per cent of the male and female beneficiaries noted that the project activities were timely (Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2: The extent to which the Project Activities were Timely
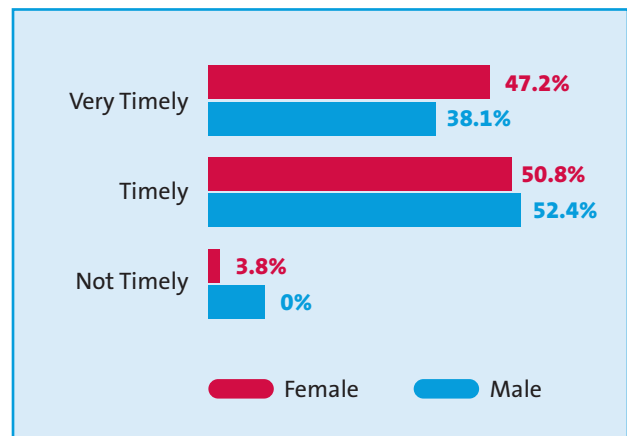
Beyond these, and most critical, is the entrenched burden of sociocultural constraints on women's leadership – the patriarchy and gender discrimination that have remained among the root causes of the low representation of women in decision-making bodies in Nigeria. Tackling these problems or challenges requires strong joint initiatives, resources, time, and long-term investments that an electoral cycle cannot solve.

On the other hand, the evaluation identified some factors that contributed to the achievement recorded by the project so far. One of them is the engagement of IPs whose sole mandate aligns with the objective of the ADVANCE WPP project. For instance, the mission statement of KDI is to "inspire citizen-led democratic development that is anchored on the principles of participation, data-driven advocacy, strong democratic institutions, and public policies".[75] This alignment ensures that the objective of the ADVANCE WPP project is achieved as the IPs pursue their organizational goals. Evidence from document reviews and interviews with implementing partners indicates that funds were readily available for the timely implementation of the project's activities. Implementation of all the project activities requires funding, and nothing would have been achieved without the release of funds from the donor.

FINDING 12: The extent to which the project has been catalytic in addressing some of the barriers to women's political participation, especially those limiting support for women in politics and public life.

As noted in the earlier section, Nigeria has one of the lowest representations of women in political office. Several constraints, barriers, and challenges to wom-

74. UN Women DONOR REPORT *Advance: Women's Political Participation in Nigeria 2022*
75. https://www.kdi.org.ng/who-we-are/

en's full and equal participation with men in Nigeria's politics, governance, and public life have been identified. Some of these challenges have to do with the paucity of actionable laws and policies, while others emanate from wrong interpretations of culture, religion, and custom. In the report published in 2021 titled "Gender Audit of Political Parties in Nigeria", some key constraints to women's political participation were identified. They include:

1. **The Law Conundrum**
2. **Patriarchy**
3. **Religious and Cultural Barriers**
4. **Campaign Finance**
5. **Low Levels of Education**
6. **Political Violence**
7. **Lack of Gender-Disaggregated Data**
8. **Lack of Mentorship Programmes for Women**[76]

In the design of the ADVANCE WPP project, the various challenges identified above were mainstreamed into the project design. Thus, the project attempts to address the law challenge by providing support for the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEOB) both at the national level and in target States. To address the patriarchal, religious and cultural barriers, the project targeted male gender champions and other non-traditional allies such as community leaders, male champions and media practitioners to ensure their buy-in and complement the work of grassroots women's organizations in activities to counter messages entrenching patriarchy and raise awareness on gender equality in politics. In addition, to address the low education challenge, the project has targeted the provision of capacity-building opportunities to empower women to understand how leadership works and how to conduct themselves in order to be candidates and lead electoral campaigns that will be in alignment with the legal framework. The project has also attempted to address violence against women in politics (VAWP). Thus, the project focuses on interventions preventing violence against women and girls. Specifically, one of the immediate outcomes of the project (Immediate Outcome 1330) focuses on strengthening the capacity of networks, institutions, electoral bodies, and oversight mechanisms to better prevent and respond to VAWP, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and other forms of VAW while output 13310 focuses on providing training for women election officers and observers on the prevention of VAWP. On the lack of mentorship programmes for women, the project has also mainstreamed intergenerational mentorship programmes for young women in politics in Nigeria.

Generally, the project design has been very strategic in targeting the key challenges to WPP, especially those limiting support for women in politics and public life. However, this has not translated into addressing the identified barriers to WPP – again, especially those limiting support for women in politics and public life. One piece of evidence of this is the outcome of the 2023 general election where the number of women elected to various elective positions decreased from 6.1 per cent in 2019 to 3.5 per cent in 2023. Overall, the project is on course in addressing some of the barriers to women's political participation. However, there is a need for increased intensity and a more coordinated and strategic implementation of programmes across the intervention States. Figure 4.3 shows the level of satisfaction of beneficiaries with the results achieved so far by the project, and it indicates that over 80 per cent of male and 90 per cent of female beneficiaries are satisfied or very satisfied with the results achieved so far by the project.

Figure 4.3: The extent to which beneficiaries are satisfied with the results
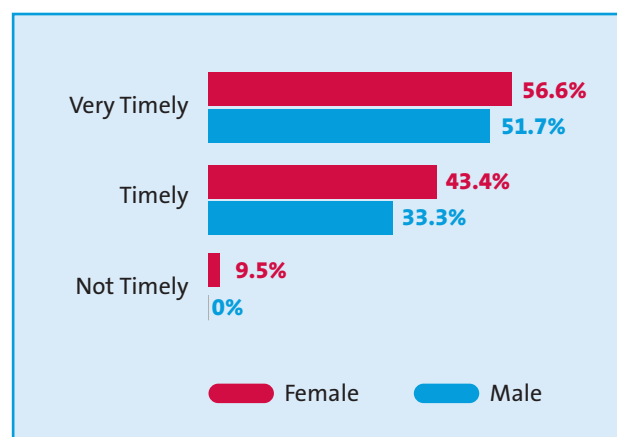
Key informants and FGD participants expressed this satisfaction as shown in the excerpts below:

"I am very satisfied with the training programme as a journalist. Before now I didn't ensure that women's issues are covered in my reporting. After training and based on the knowledge I derived from the facilitators, I ensure that at least 25 per cent of my stories focused on women and it has changed the manner of reporting in my station."[77]

"This training is very relevant to me as a journalist, and I would say I am satisfied with the outcome. In my reporting now, I deliberately look for women's issues to balance them with the men before reporting their lives and it has made a lot of difference."[78]

76. Eze Onyekpere (2021).Gender Audit of Political Parties in Nigeria. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Nigeria Office
77. Excerpt from KII with male journalist beneficiary in Borno State
78. Excerpt from KII with male journalist beneficiary in Cross River State

"I am very satisfied with the training because I have always thought that women cannot compete with men in politicking in Nigeria, but the UN Women's training has opened my eyes that I and other women can do it."[79]

"It has been impactful. I belong to a WhatsApp group (Civil Society Organizations) and people have been discussing issues making reference to the outcome of the programme. It has been effective. In the last local government election about 90 per cent of the Vice-Chairpersons were women. In the coming local government election, we should be having at least 6 women becoming Chairmen. The programme has been an eye opener. Local government."[80]

As noted earlier, many participants of the various capacity-building activities under the project implemented by various IPs noted that the duration of the capacity-building and awareness-creating activities, which usually take place over two to three days, was too short, especially since the activities are not organized on a regular basis. Others have suggested that the training programme should be organized on a residential or in-house basis, to allow participants to fully concentrate on the training and thus improve the overall effectiveness of the training programme.

FINDING 13: Evidence that the project is providing the most effective route towards expected results

Evaluative evidence from interviews and document reviews confirmed that the project provides the most effective route towards the expected results, the key one being to increase women's political participation in Nigeria. This conclusion is based on the approach of some of the best practices adopted in the project design. As mentioned earlier, the project implementation strategy is underlain by policy-level interventions, especially those supporting the passage of the GEOB, capacity-building, and institutional strengthening of key sectors such as the INEC, MDA officials and security institutions. The implementation strategy of the ADVANCE WPP project was grounded in ensuring a conducive policy environment for WPP. The ADVANCE WPP project approach, therefore, focused on supporting the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEOB) both at the national level and in target States. The project approach also provides capacity-building of stakeholders with the aim of increasing

women's political participation. The project approach not only addresses the manifestation of the problem, but also addresses the underlying causes, such as the absence of policy frameworks and poor public perceptions of the role of women in politics.

The project has also targeted relevant stakeholders, including the legislature, security actors, INEC, traditional leaders, political parties, the media, and the CSOs. However, the project has suffered from design challenges including an over-ambitiously large number of indicators to be achieved for the planned four-year period. The evaluation therefore notes that while the project provides the most effective route towards the expected result of increasing women's political participation in Nigeria, the outcome-level results and outputs should be reformulated to be more realistic and achievable within the planned period of implementation.

FINDING 14: The extent to which capacities of relevant stakeholders and target groups have been strengthened.

Evaluative evidence from interviews and quantitative surveys indicates that the project contributed to strengthening the capacities of relevant stakeholders and target groups to a large extent. As noted previously, beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the capacity-building programmes organized under the project. The target group noted that the project contributed to strengthening their capacities. However, they expressed some reservations about the duration of the training programmes. The following excerpts help to buttress this finding.

"This training programme does not come all the time and this particular one is too short. Only two days for a programme like this is too short since the programme does not come all the time. It will be more effective if the programme runs for at least five days."[81]

"This one-day programme is not enough to effect the necessary capacity change. This is supposed to be sustained given the importance of the programme. So much needs to change with respect to women's political participation and this requires a long-time effort and not a day event such as this."[82]

Going forward to the remaining part of the project, it is important to consider extending the duration of the capacity-building and awareness-creating activities

79. Excerpt from FGD with Women politicians in Kaduna State
80. Excerpt from KII with Women politicians in Ekiti State
81. Women FGD participants in Kaduna State
82. Key informant participant in the HeForShe Event Promoting Women's Political Participation in Nigeria

of the project in order to increase the effectiveness of the capacity-building programmes.

FINDING 15: The extent to which UN Women built the capacity of implementing partners to deliver results and set targets.

Implementing partners of development projects generally require support and oversight to execute, manage, and monitor their assigned roles effectively. Capacity-building is needed to fill any identified gaps among the IPs. Capacity development in managing, monitoring, and verifying the activities of IPs is crucial, particularly to ensure the sustainability of the project. However, interviews with the project team and the IPs reveal that UN Women carried out an inception meeting with the IPs after the signing of the contract, which was aimed at introducing the ADVANCE WPP project formally to the IPs. During the meeting, the IPs were introduced to the financial and monitoring report template of UN Women. The evaluation found that no other capacity-building programme was organized for the IPs to strengthen their capacity to deliver results and set targets. Some of the IPs interviewed noted that a capacity-building programme is important for them to understand the implementation modality and the general focus of the project.

FINDING 16: The extent to which the project and partners undertake, and fulfil UN Women reporting requirements (internal and external)

Evidence from interviews with the project team and the IPs and the review of the project documents reveal that all the listed IPs submitted monthly activity reports as well as training reports. However, a review shows that the reports came in different formats. While some of the reports were presented in a template, others were developed as a normal document without any template. The review of the reports reveals that they were detailed and easy to understand. Evidence from interview with the project team reveals that the IP reports fulfil the UN Women reporting requirements (internal and external).

FINDING 17: Whether the project has effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress towards results

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Evaluative evidence from document reviews and interviews with the project team reveals that the project has effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress towards results. The review of the project proposal shows that the project has a performance measurement framework (PMF) which is part of the project proposal indicating the different levels of results, their indicators, baseline, targets, data sources, data-collection methods, the frequency of collection, and responsibility. The monitoring of the ADVANCE WPP project progress towards the achievement of results was rated good. Starting from the project design, issues of monitoring such as tracking of activity and output indicators were mainstreamed. The ADVANCE WPP project had planned for a monthly Activity Progress Report (APR) to be submitted by the IPs. The progress reports focused mostly on project activities (inputs and outputs) and any delays or deviations based on the project's logical framework. All these efforts and mechanisms put in place ensured that progress towards results was effectively monitored.

However, there was no evidence of the use of monitoring data to inform management action and decision-making. It is important to state that since the project started in 2022, there was only one annual report, in 2022, while all the activities implemented in 2023 were only reported in monthly reports from the IPs without an aggregated report to show achievements in the project log frame. This has undoubtedly contributed to underreporting of the project's progress towards results. Going forward, a quarterly aggregated progress report should be prepared to capture all activities and achievements from all the IPs in the log frame to avoid underreporting of project progress towards results.

FINDING 18: Assessing how effectively the project's organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms supported the delivery of the project.

The organizational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanisms put in place by UN Women are supporting the project's delivery to some extent, despite a few challenges. From design, the project was expected to be supported by four fully dedicated staff including local and international staff. The team was expected to be headed by a senior international expert (P4 level) and supported by a senior national Officer C (NOC) level staff member; two Project Officers in the north and south (SB4 level); an international United Nations Volunteer (UNV) with communications experience to facilitate communications events and the production of communications; and a Project Finance Associate who would manage the processes for timely financial disbursements and settlements to ensure that project activities were not delayed. However, due to recruitment challenges, the positions were not filled. This situation limited the available human resources for the implementation of the project. Also missing in the organizational structure was a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) focal person for the project. While it may not be feasible to have a dedicated

M&E officer specifically for the project, it is important to identify that position in the project's organizational framework. These limitations in the number of staff for the project do not effectively support the delivery of project objectives.

FINDING 19: The extent to which the project approaches were innovative for achieving the planned results, and whether any types of innovative good practices have been introduced in the project for the achievement of results.

The evaluation found that several innovative practices were mainstreamed both in the design and implementation of the project. One of the key innovations of the project is the fact that the project design draws largely from the ongoing work of the UN Women Nigeria Country Office and on the lessons learned from the implementation of the regional programme, including the mid-term evaluation report. The lessons learned approach, based on the acquisition and transfer of experiences and ideas from one project to a new project, is one of the elements of efficient project design. The evaluation considers this approach to be innovative as it will ensure that the good practices from the former project are integrated into the ADVANCE WPP project.

In addition, the design of the project adopted the electoral cycle approach, based on recognition of the fact that elections are not isolated events, but interlinked processes. Hence, the implementation activities were divided into phases (pre-election, election, and post-election periods) over the four-year implementation period. However, as stated earlier, many of the IPs have no post-election activities to implement. Apart from NILDS and KDI, all the other IPs have no post-election activities as all their contracted activities were pre-election ones. Despite this, the evaluation considers the approach of basing the design of the project on the electoral cycle to be innovative.

In addition, the project strategy of engaging NILDS to support the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) Bill into law at the federal level and in six States was considered innovative by the evaluation. NILDS is an organ of the National Assembly established by an Act of Parliament. Based on its mandate, NILDS supports the sustenance of dynamic and effective legislation in Nigeria (Federal, State and local levels). Given its mandate and its relationship with the National Assembly and the State Assemblies across the federation, NILDs is the right institution to support the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportuni-

ties Bill. The engagement of NILDS to support the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill was therefore considered innovative by the evaluation.

Furthermore, the project has engaged diverse stakeholders including members of the legislature, security actors, traditional rulers, CSOs, women's networks (AWLN, WOWICAN, FOMWAN), community influencers and non-traditional allies (COTLA, Forum of Women in Film and Television, Nigeria (FWIFT) HeForShe champions), women's movements (ElectHER, Not too Young to Run, Women Radio), Ministries of Women Affairs (federal and State-level) and the INEC Gender Department. This approach ensures that the multi-dimensional causative factors affecting women's political participation are tackled simultaneously on all fronts by multiple stakeholders playing different roles in the process. This approach to the implementation of the ADVANCE WPP project is also considered innovative by the evaluation and should be sustained throughout the life of the project. The engagement of women-led organizations as IPs in the intervention States is also considered innovative by the evaluation, as evidence has shown that their exclusion not only undermines the effectiveness of an intervention, it also impedes the potential for transformative impact.[83] Overall, on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 indicating low innovation and 5 indicating high innovation, the evaluation rated the project 4, suggesting that the evaluation considers the project's approaches and strategies to be innovative to a large extent.

FINDING 20: The extent to which the project has been successful and whether decision-making is transparent and undertaken promptly.

On a scale of 1 to 10, the evaluation rates the successfulness of project 4, based on the fact that several of the indicators have not been achieved and there are few or no post-election activities ongoing, which is not in line with the project design. As noted previously, many of the IPs stated that their activities ended in December 2022. The non-implementation of post-election activities based on the project design constitutes a major setback for the success of the project. On the other hand, evidence shows that project decision-making is transparent and undertaken promptly. Evidence from interviews with the IPs and the project team confirmed that decision-making is transparent, and all project partners are carried along in decision-making regarding project implementation.

83. https://www.unicef.org/documents/partnering-women-and-girl-led-organizations

FINDING 21: Whether project implementation has been delayed, the causes and how they were resolved.

Our evidence set from document reviews and interviews with the project team and IPs confirmed that the project has experienced some delays in the implementation of activities. This was attributed to several factors. One of the main ones was the 2023 general election. This especially affected the implementation of activities related to the engagement of politicians, as many of them were engaged in pre-election activities. For instance, in Kaduna State, the scheduled engagement meeting with legislators by NILDS did not take place due to the legislators' absence. In addition, some of the IPs working with legislators complained that it was difficult to tie the legislators to the project implementation time frame due to their busy schedules, also delaying the implementation of activities. The following excerpt helps to buttress this finding:

> *The general election slowed down the implementation of project activities. Many politicians were not available for any engagement during the period due to preparation for the 2023 election. Also, their schedules are usually very tight, and very difficult to bring all of them together at the same time.[84]*

Another key challenge identified by one of the IPs was the delay in the approval of the work plans. It was noted that there were much to-ing and fro-ing before the work plan was approved by the project team, and this led to delay in the start-up of implementation activities. Also noted were security challenges in road access, especially the Abuja-Kaduna axis, which witnessed terror attacks within the planned period of activity implementation.

Another major challenge was the delay by INEC in releasing the official candidate list, which delayed the engagement of female candidates to strengthen their capacity to run for office. Additionally, the candidate list compiled by INEC was not properly sex-disaggregated: in some instances, men were identified as women and vice versa. UN Women and national partners had to conduct a round of verification to ascertain actual female candidates, which further delayed the training programme for women candidates.[85]

However, many of the IPs interviewed noted that they were able to surmount the challenges by adapting to the changing implementation environment. Some of the IPs (e.g. NILDS) have leveraged their comparative advantage of working with the legislators over the years to ensure that they are available for their en-

gagements, while some security measures were also adapted to ensure safe movement of project team members to Kaduna State during the period.

FINDING 22: The extent to which the project's external communication was effective and whether proper means of communication were established to communicate the project's progress and intended impact.

Evidence from interviews with the project team and IPs confirmed that the project's external communication was effective. The IPs confirmed that the main channel of communication was email, and response and feedback from the UN Women project team was prompt. Evidence shows that all activity progress reports (APRs) by IPs were shared by email with the UN Women project team. In some cases, for urgent clarifications, telephone calls were used by both the UN Women project team and the IPs. The same communication channels were used by the UN Women project team and the IPs in communicating with the external stakeholders.

Our evidence set from the UN Women project team and IP interviews also revealed that the main means of communication of the project's progress towards the intended impact is through the APRs from the IPs and the annual donor report. As mentioned previously, only one donor report was available at the time of the mid-term review, for the year 2022. This implies that all other activities implemented in 2023, especially from NILDS, were not reported on. The evaluation considered this to be an ineffective means of communicating project progress towards the intended impact.

4.3 EFFICIENCY

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

FINDING 23: Whether resources (financial, human, technical support, etc.) have been allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes, and measures taken during planning and implementation to ensure that resources are efficiently used.

The review of project documents and interview with the project team confirmed that available resources were allocated strategically to achieve the project out-

84. KII excerpts with IP
85. UN Women DONOR REPORT *Advance: Women's Political Participation in Nigeria 2022*

comes. The project had a total duration of 48 months with a planned budget of six million USD (6,000,000) allocated under three heads in the financial statement. Of these, $3,013,626.89 has so far been received from the donor, which represents 50.2 per cent of the total funding from the donor. Of this, 20.6 per cent ($623,812.41) was allocated to personnel while actual spending so far on personnel is $221,774.01 as of 31 December 2022: 35.6 per cent of the actual budget (Table 4.8). Also, 78 per cent ($2,370,314.48) of the total budget was allocated for programming activities, while actual spending so far on programming is $1,404,753.74 as of 31 December 2022: 59.3 per cent of the actual budget (Table 4.8). In 22 months of the project implementation period (January 2022 to October 2023), the project had utilized 54.1 per cent ($1,630,583.85) of the budget that was initially committed, which indicates a good absorption rate for the project. In addition, the project commitment of 78 per cent of the total budget on project implementation activities compared to 20.6 per cent 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.

Table 4.8: Total Budget Spent in Dollars by Activity

Items	Budget (USD)	% Spent
Technical staff	623,812.41	35.6%
M&E costs	19,500.00	20.8%
Total Programming and other Costs	2,370,314.48	59.3%
Total	**3, 013,626.89**	**54.1**

On human resources, evidence from document reviews and interviews with the project team reveals that in the project design, four fully dedicated staff were planned to support the implementation of the project. This included both local and international staff. The team was expected to be headed by a senior international expert (P4 level), who would facilitate engagement on highly technical and sensitive issues with political parties and the NASS and also support coordination among stakeholders under the leadership of UN Women as per its mandate. The international staff member would be supported by a senior and well-experienced national staff member (NOC level); two Project Officers covering the north and south (SB4 level) who had an in-depth understanding of the local context and networks needed; an international UNV with communications experience to facilitate communications events and the production of communications materials; and a Project Finance Associate who would manage the processes for timely financial disbursements and settlements to ensure that project activities were not delayed. However, the evaluation found that the human resources available for project implementation were different from the planned human resources structure for the project. For instance, there was no senior international expert to support project implementation as planned, and also no Project Officers in the north and south (SB4 level) as planned. Currently, three local staff comprising one local project manager, an associate project manager, and a finance associate are supporting project implementation. Given the geographical scope of the project and the number of activities to be implemented, as stated earlier, the evaluation notes that the human resources have not been allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes.

On the other hand, our evidence set from interviews with the project team indicates that some measures were taken during the planning and implementation phases to ensure that resources were efficiently used. The project team on the part of UN Women was not bloated and was in most cases multitasking, which ensured that not too many financial resources were spent on personnel but on actual project implementation, in compliance with the donor requirements. In addition, the IPs were competitively selected and based on the budget they submitted for activity implementation. This ensured value for money for the ADVANCE WPP project. There was also constant monitoring of how the financial resources were been used by the IPs by the UN Women team through monthly submission of the financial report by the IPs. Furthermore, most of the facilitators of the training programme conducted were drawn locally, which undoubtedly contributed to a reduction in implementation costs while promoting ownership of the project as well as improvement in the local economy. All these measures are good, and it is apt to conclude that the project is on course towards efficient utilization of project resources.

FINDING 24: Assessing the prompt delivery of outputs

Evidence from diverse sources, including interviews with project teams, document reviews, and IPs revealed that the project outputs are being delivered promptly to a limited extent, due to delays in the delivery of some outputs occasioned by several challenges, as discussed in Finding 10. Several outputs of the project have not been delivered. Overall, the project's progress towards the prompt delivery of outputs is slow and needs to be improved in the rest of the project implementation period.

FINDING 25: Assessing how cost-effectively the project and its components were implemented, and if the activities and outputs could have been delivered with fewer resources without reducing their quality and quantity.

According to the findings so far, the ADVANCE WPP project activities are cost-effective. The first evidence of this comes from the high percentage of the total budget allocated to developmental activity compared to other budget lines, as mentioned earlier. Further evidence from document reviews and interviews suggests that goods and services were competitively procured, ensuring value for money, and negotiated to ensure savings where possible. Evidence from Table 4.8 shows that all expenditure is within the approved budget. In addition, evidence from interviews with the finance team confirmed that the budget allocated for the entire duration of the project was adequate, and 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. These include:

- The use of local facilitators for most of the capacity-building activities.
- Evaluative evidence indicates that all goods and services have been competitively procured to ensure value for money.
- The use of local IPs for project implementation
- Regular monitoring of the implementation activities by the UN Women project team.

Overall, the evaluator rated project implementation as efficient, given the measures implemented to limit fraud while ensuring that the project's inputs were efficiently utilized.

FINDING 26: How the project utilized existing local capacities to achieve its outcomes

The evaluation found that the project utilized existing local capacities to implement project activities towards achieving project outcomes. Evaluative evidence from interviews with the project team and IPs proved that the UN Women project utilized existing capacities. Specifically, all the activities under the AD-VANCE WPP project were implemented by local CSOs. For the support for the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, the project team engaged NILDS which has the necessary mandate and experience in working with the National Assembly. Several other local partners with the mandate of promoting women's empowerment were also engaged as IPs of the project. The project further worked closely with duty bearers, including the Ministry of Women Affairs both at the national and State levels. All these are good examples of the utilization of local capacities by the project.

FINDING 27: The extent to which the project's monitoring mechanisms were implemented to effectively measure and inform the management of the project's performance and progress towards targets and the extent to which monitoring data were objectively used to inform management action and decision-making.

The monitoring of the ADVANCE WPP project progress towards the achievement of results was rated fair. Starting from the project design, the issues of monitoring such as tracking of activity and output indicators were mainstreamed. The project had planned for monthly monitoring visits to the operational project sites to ensure that on-the-ground progress and changes fed into operational-level decision-making. Another measure was the use of the Activity Progress Report (APR). The progress reports focused mostly on project activities (inputs and outputs) and any delays or deviations based on the project's logical framework. The UN Women project team also made important contributions in tracking the performance of the project through monitoring visits. All these efforts and mechanisms ensured that progress towards results was effectively monitored.

FINDING 28: The extent to which monitoring tools are currently being used to track project results and whether they provide the necessary information.

Our evidence sets from document reviews and interviews with the project team and IPs revealed that the

main monitoring tool used to track project progress towards results is the use of the APR by the IPs. The APRs were submitted to the UN Women project team on a monthly basis by the IPs and aggregated to develop the annual report. A monitoring tool apart from the APR for the IPs would have been useful, not only to track the activities of the IPs but also to monitor changes in the targeted beneficiaries' behaviours towards women's political participation after the advocacy and sensitization activities were carried out by the IPs. So the APRs from the IPs provided enough information regarding the implementation of activities but not enough on project outcomes.

FINDING 29: The extent to which the financial management of the monitoring and evaluation was sufficient and how resources were allocated to monitoring and evaluation.

Our evidence sets from document reviews and interviews with the project team indicate that $19,500 was allocated for project M&E, representing 0.68 per cent of the total budget, while actual expenditure for project M&E was $4,056, which represents 20.8 per cent of the total allocated sum ($19,500) for M&E as of 31 December 2022. Evidence from interviews with the project team confirmed that the financial management of the M&E was sufficient, and resources were allocated efficiently to monitoring and evaluation activities.

FINDING 30: Changes/interventions the project should have emphasized to capitalize on the opportunities for improving the project delivery.

The evaluation identified several changes/interventions that the project should emphasize to maximize the opportunities presented in the operational context to improve project delivery. The first change relates to the need to engage the IPs to implement post-election activities. This was widely echoed by most stakeholders in the intervention States as this gap has slowed down the tempo of advocacy and awareness-creation activities in the States. It was stressed that advancing women's political participation should not be a pre-election activity alone. In the six States of the intervention and the FCT, the project activities ended in February 2023, before the general election, because of the contract issued to the IPs. Thus, the opportunity to sustain the tempo of advocacy and awareness-creation activities by the IPs in the States after the election was missed.

Similarly, the number of days for the capacity-building activities for duty bearers and rights holders should have been extended up to five days to ensure that the facilitators had enough time to cover all the ground on the various themes covered by the project. This would also have given the participants time to digest the various training activities. Most of the participants of the training programme complained that most of the training programmes were rushed by the facilitators because of the short duration of the training programmes, which mostly lasted for three days. In addition, the intervention ended after the development of gender policies for the security sector institutions.

In addition, the involvement of journalists in the training programmes and the selection of Women Radio as one of the IPs presented a major opportunity that the project should have leveraged to sustain the advocacy and awareness creation on WPP. However, there is no plan for further engagement of the journalists to mainstream gender in their programmes or to track progress on their gender reporting in their various organizations. As for Women Radio, there was no further engagement to air programmes on WPP. Given their comparative advantage in terms of coverage, the engagement of Women Radio for airing programmes on WPP would contribute greatly to achieving the project outcomes. The project should have made financial provisions for the continuous airing of the radio programme on WPP as part of its post-election activities. This would have helped to sustain project activities for a longer period and increase the overall impact and sustainability of the project at the State level.

FINDING 31: The extent to which the internal project communication was regular and effective, and whether there are key stakeholders left out of communication.

Evidence from interviews with the project team confirmed that internal communication was regular and effective, and no key stakeholder was left out of the communication of project activities. This was achieved through monthly project meetings and the sharing of project reports among project teams and other stakeholders of the project. However, in the project design, the plan was to engage an international United Nations Volunteer (UNV) with communications experience to facilitate communication and the production of communications materials. This was not implemented, and this limited the ability of the project team to produce communications materials for the project as planned in the project design.

4.4 IMPACT
The effect of the project on the beneficiaries.

FINDING 32: Whether there are clear baseline indicators and/or benchmarks for per-

formance and how they are being used in project management.

Evaluative evidence from document reviews and interviews with the project team indicates that there are clear baseline indicators and/or benchmarks for performance measurement and they are being used in tracking progress on project results. Evidence from the review of the project PMF indicates that all the project indicators have baseline and targets. Moreover, the review of the 2022 annual report shows that the baseline indicators were used as benchmarks in measuring project performance for the period March 2022 to December 2022.

FINDING 33: The extent to which the log frame indicators track progress towards targets.

The evaluation confirmed that the log frame indicators are adequately being used to track progress towards targets. However, this was only presented in the 2022 annual report and not in the log frame template. As a best practice, log frame indicators would be better presented in a table that clearly shows the indicators, baseline, targets and actual project performance during the period at a glance.

FINDING 34: The extent to which the project will achieve its objectives within the remaining implementation time frame and the barriers to be mitigated.

The evaluation notes that the extent to which the project will achieve its objectives within the remaining implementation time frame will depend on the ability of the project team to adapt and mitigate identified barriers to implementation of the project. It is important to state that the attainment of the project outputs is a prerequisite to achieving the project objectives within the remaining implementation time frame. At the present level, the evaluation notes that to a very large extent, it will be difficult for the project to achieve its objectives within the remaining implementation time frame unless the following barriers are mitigated.

As stated earlier, the design of the project outcomes and its indicators is too ambitious. This calls for a revision of the project outcomes, outputs, and their respective indicators to be more realistic to achieve the project objectives within the remaining implementation time frame. It is also necessary to implement post-election activities as stated in the project design.

The established resource centres in FCT, Calabar, and Borno State need to be made functional through the development and implementation of work plans for the centres. In addition, more personnel need to be brought on board to support project implementation, and the monitoring framework of the project needs to adopt quarterly reporting to ensure that all project activities and achievements are reported accurately and on time. Given the delays experienced in recruitment, it is crucial that a six months no-cost extension is considered. The barriers to women's political participation cannot be addressed by a one-off event like pre-election activities as was done in the case of the ADVANCE WPP project; this requires sustained activities throughout the election cycle. The evaluation believes that these issues are critical to achievement of the ultimate outcome of the project.

FINDING 35: Effects produced, positive and negative, intended or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society).

Evaluative evidence suggests that the project has produced some positive effects particularly, at the intermediate outcome level. For instance, there has been an improvement in the percentage of women registered as voters between 2021 and 2023: the baseline was 47.14 per cent and the target was 50 per cent, but over 50 per cent of women registered as voters during the 2023 general election. In addition, there has been an increase in the number of media houses disseminating gender-sensitive election reports, increasing from 1 at baseline to 18 at mid-term of the project. Many of the key informants who are journalists who participated in the capacity-building on gender-sensitive reporting noted that the capacity-building programmes had influenced their mode of programming and reporting, as gender issues are now mainstreamed in their programmes, as shown in these excerpts:

The capacity-building programme is an eye-opener for me. Before now, there was no deliberate consideration of gender in our programming at our stations. But now there is what I will call balanced gender reporting in our radio station. For instance, in inviting guests to our radio programmes, we ensure that both men and women are given equal opportunity to participate unlike before when we complained that most women were not willing to speak. Now we look for women who can speak with men in our programme.[86]

The capacity-building programme for journalists was good as the management of our station has

86. Excerpts from KII with a Journalist who participated in a capacity-building program on gender-sensitive reporting in Cross River State

established a gender desk reporting officer who ensures that gender issues are considered in all our programmes. The most important thing now is that the station is intentionally searching for women's issues to be reported along with those that have been dominant.[87]

There is also evidence that many of the young women who participated in the capacity-building programmes are beginning to develop an interest in contesting elections. Some of the participants noted that if supported financially, they are ready to compete in the polls with men, as shown in these Excerpts:

The awareness creation on women's political participation has raised my interest in politics generally and I believe is something I can now focus on. All I need is support, especially financial support. Before now, I thought it was a no-go area, but I think my orientation has changed a lot after this programme.[88]

The training sessions on transformative leadership and on how to leverage the media to amplify their campaign messages to create visibility were very relevant and useful for me as a politician. It helped during the last session, and I will say I have already taken that up and I will continue to deploy it all the time. Now, I can relate very well with our party structures based on the training I received from the UN Women project. [89]

It is very impactful. Since the programme was held we have had like 5 to 6 female youth involved in politics through different political parties. Two of them were given tickets to contest while the rest of them were given opportunities to serve in various capacities. It has changed society's orientation about politics which is male dominated. Since the programme was held we have been trying to reach out to the organizers of the programme for follow-up activities and collaboration in stepping-down activities.[90]

Figure 4.4 presents the findings on the beneficiaries' perception of the effects produced by the project. It indicates that the most prominent effects of the project as perceived by the male and female beneficiaries are an increase in political interest among young women to join politics (Female: 64.8%; Male 56.8%) and an increase in women voter registration (Female 94.8%; Male 78.9%).

Figure 4.4: Beneficiaries' Perception of the Effects Produced by the Project
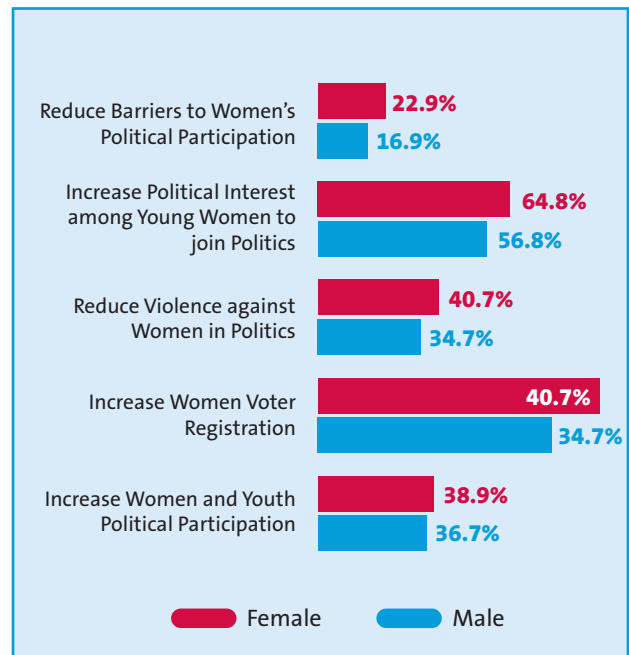
However, it is important to state that the evaluation found no negative effects of the project either from document reviews or interviews of relevant stakeholders. Neither was there evidence of any negative effects of the project on the four cross-cutting issues of gender, human rights, climate, and the environment and corruption.

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.

FINDING 36: Assessment of satisfaction of requirements for national ownership, the 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 evaluation found that the requirements for national ownership were satisfied by the 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 implementation,

87. Excerpts from KII with a Journalist who participated in a capacity-building program on gender-sensitive reporting in FCT
88. KII Excerpt from Women FGD conducted in Kaduna State.
89. KII Excerpt from A Women politician in Kwara State
90. KII Excerpt from A Member of National Youth Council of Nigeria in Ekiti State

key organs of government at the national and State levels were involved. Evidence collected in this evaluation shows that security actors, legislators, and Ministries of Women Affairs at the national level and in the target States were involved in the various capacity-building programmes. The Resource Centres for Women in Politics were established in the Ministry of Women Affairs at the national and State levels. Evidence also shows that key stakeholders drawn from different sectors participated in the project in the target States. These include top government officials, representatives from MDAs, Security Agencies, CSOs, traditional and religious leaders, women's groups/networks, and the media, among others.[91]

In addition, the ADVANCE WPP project was aligned with the national priorities of the government of Nigeria, especially the National Gender Policy (NGP), and supported activities to achieve the fourth objective of the NGP (2021-2026) (ADVANCE women's participation and representation in leadership and governance).[92] The ADVANCE WPP project supported the Nigerian government's efforts in implementing its NGP (2021-2026) by working with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs at the federal and State levels through the establishment of Resource Centres for Women in Politics. The evaluation believes the project is receiving support to a large extent from national and local institutions in Nigeria. This is evident from the project partnership with national and local institutions such as NILDS, NASS, SHoAs, Ministries of Women Affairs at the federal and State levels, as well as numerous local institutions serving as IPs in the target States of the federation.

However, the evaluation found no evidence of leadership commitment of institutions, including government and civil society, to continue to work with the project or replicate it, although they have the technical capacity to do so. This is evident in the non-implementation of post-election activities by the IPs without the funding support of UN Women. On the government side, Resource Centres for Women in Politics established under the ADVANCE WPP project are currently grossly under-utilized by the government ministries in FCT, Cross River, and Borno States.

FINDING 37: Assessing the extent to which the capacities of national partners, both technical and operational, have been strengthened.

The evaluation established that the ADVANCE WPP project is making progress in strengthening the capacities of national partners, both technical and op-

erational. Our evidence set, including document review, confirmed that the project has made progress in achieving some of the indicators in the intermediate outcomes that focused on strengthening the capacities of national partners, both technical and operational. Overall, the evaluation notes that the project has made some progress in strengthening the capacities of national partners. However, some of the intermediate outcomes activities including 1110, 1120 and 1130 need to be completed in the second phase of the project. This finding suggests that in the remaining period of the project, all targeted activities should be implemented.

FINDING 38: The likelihood that the benefits from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period if the project were to cease.

Evidence from document reviews and interviews indicates that right from the design of the project, there was evidence of mainstreaming sustainability measures into the project. For instance, the project was designed to focus on legal and policy reforms, as well as community transformation, which are key strategies for sustainability. The project was also embedded within the priorities of the Ministry of Women Affairs (both at the federal and State levels) to promote government support.

Furthermore, the project has targeted the development of local ownership and capacities as a key strategy for the sustainability of the benefits of the project. In this respect, the project was planned to work with traditional institutions and CSOs to strengthen their capacity and awareness of the importance of women's political participation. In addition, to address the patriarchal influence in the intervention States, traditional and religious institutions were identified and involved in the various town hall meetings organized under the project.

The project design also focused on the needs of the women's movement in Nigeria, which is well institutionalized through the establishment of CSOs. However, as stated earlier, all the activities that will contribute to the immediate benefits of the project need to be implemented in the second phase of the project. The evaluation notes that when implemented effectively as planned, there is every likelihood that the benefits such as the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill at the federal level and in six States will be sustained when passed into law.

91. KII with a member of the Project team
92. NATIONAL GENDER POLICY [2021-2026]

FINDING 39: The extent to which the financial capacities of partners are likely to maintain the benefits from the project, and what might be needed to support partners to maintain these benefits.

Evidence from interviews with the IPs indicates that 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 towards promoting women's political participation, they require continuous funding to implement planned activities in that respect. This finding is supported by the following excerpts from interviews with the IPs:

I will categorically say that we do not have the financial capacity to maintain the benefits of the project going forward at the end of our implementation period. We require funds to implement activities like renting halls for capacity-building programmes, town hall meetings, and other logistics. Even if we manage to do one, we cannot sustain it over time.[93]

Obviously, we do not have the financial strength to sustain it. It is true that we may have funding from other organizations, but it may not be directly related to women's political participation. Given the numerous factors limiting women's political participation, it is important that funds are provided to sustain awareness creation among the key stakeholders and advocacy activities to the legislature and political parties.[94]

With regard to government partners such as the Ministry of Women 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 there on the part of government, the financial capacity to sustain the benefits of the project will largely be available. The capacity of partners, particularly the IPs and the Ministries of Women Affairs, to mobilize funds from various sources should be strengthened so that they can source funds externally. It is also important to consider awarding new grants to the IPs to enable them to implement more post-election activities in order to achieve the project goals as well as consolidate the gains and benefits of the project in the long run.

FINDING 40: Assessing how the project succeeded in promoting replication and/or upscaling of successful practices.

The evaluation found that the project was successful in promoting replication of successful practices. As mentioned earlier, the ADVANCE WPP project was designed on the basis of valuable lessons learned from the Mid-Term Review conducted in 2019 on the UN Women regional project on women's political empowerment, funded by the Government of Canada. Some lessons learned that were included in the design of this project include designing the project activities to align with the electoral cycle. In addition, working with government partners such as the Ministries of Women Affairs and other IPs with similar mandates and focus is a sure way of promoting the replication of the project, since the organizations will continue to implement related activities in the future based on their mandate. Going forward, it is important to strengthen the coordination of partners with mandates for promoting women's political participation in order to sustain the replication and scaling up of successful practices.

4.6. COHERENCE

The extent to which other interventions support or undermine the intervention and vice versa, including aspects of complementarity, harmonization and coordination.

FINDING 41: The extent to which the project addresses the triple mandate of UN Women.

The work of UN Women is based on a triple mandate: a normative mandate to support the formulation of global and regional standards and norms for gender equality; an operational mandate to support UN Member States in implementing these standards; and finally, a mandate to coordinate the UN system's efforts to deliver on its gender equality commitment. Our evidence set from document reviews and interviews with the project team confirms that the ADVANCE WPP project activities contribute to UN Women's normative mandate. The project contributes to the normative roles by working towards the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill at the national and State levels.

Evidence also shows that the ADVANCE WPP project is contributing to addressing the coordination mandate of UN Women through the establishment of coordination working groups on women's political participation in the six States and at the national level to strengthen collaboration among implementation partners in order to maximize information-sharing. However, it is important to consider strengthening the coordination among partners working on women's political partic-

93. Excerpt from KII with IP in FCT
94. Excerpt from KII with IP in Kaduna State

ipation to advocate and lobby for increased women's political participation. The coordination of partners in this regard needs to be sustained and reinforced to ensure that women's voices continue to influence the ongoing political process. Overall, the evaluation notes that the project addresses the UN Women triple mandate to a large extent if all planned activities are implemented and outcome-level results are achieved by the project.

FINDING 42: Capacities and skills the UN should prioritize and further develop to bring greater coherence and relevance to its interventions.

Findings from interviews and the desk review confirmed that the project prioritized capacity strengthening of diverse categories of stakeholders including legislators, young women in politics, networks, electoral bodies, as well as media, community influencers, male allies and political leaders. However, evaluative evidence indicates that this was only implemented as a pre-election activity and therefore needs to be sustained to bring greater impact and relevance to the targeted beneficiaries. As noted previously, it is also important for the project team to provide more capacity strengthening for the IPs to enable them to deliver on their mandate in the project. Some of the IPs interviewed have also called for capacity strengthening in the areas of resource mobilization. This is crucial as it will help in sourcing funds to implement activities for promoting women's political participation outside the UN Women budget. Undoubtedly, radio as one of the foremost mass media has proved to be potent and effective in raising public awareness of the new developments and trends. The engagement of Women Radio as one of the IPs by the project team is commendable but the project team has not leveraged the comparative advantage of radio in awareness creation for advancing WPP. It is important that this is taken into consideration in the second phase of the project to ensure continuous airing of radio programmes on WPP.

FINDING 43: The extent to which the IPs possess a comparative advantage in the project'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 ADVANCE WPP project identified relevant IPs whose institutional mandates align with the project's area of work. In this respect, the project engaged NILDS which is the pre-

mier parliamentary academic and research institution in Nigeria. NILDS is an organ of the National Assembly, established by an Act of Parliament, which gives the institute the comparative advantage of having easy access to the National Assembly. NILDS was engaged by UN Women to support the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill by the National Assembly.

Another key partner of the project is WILPF, whose key mandate is the advancement of freedom, human rights and justice for all without discrimination based on gender or any other grounds. In Nigeria, WILPF is one of the women's networks championing the participation of women in politics and women's empowerment generally. With branches in all the States of the federation, WILPF possesses the comparative advantage of wide coverage in Nigeria, and this was leveraged by the project team in engaging WILPF to support the awareness creation activities on women's political participation.

Another important partner of the project is Women Radio, which is the first Nigerian female-centric radio station designed to inspire and empower women. Apart from having the mandate of women's empowerment, Women Radio also has the comparative advantage of wide coverage, reaching a large number of listeners at the same time. Again, the project leveraged this comparative advantage by engaging Women Radio to build the capacity of journalists on the reportage of women's issues. The project has also partnered with several CSOs whose mandate aligns with the ADVANCE WPP project. These include the Kimpact Development Initiative, the International Federation of Women Lawyers and the Centre for Democracy and Development, among others. Overall, the evaluation believed that the IPs possess comparative advantages in the project's area of work based on the alignment of their mandates with the priority focus of the ADVANCE WPP project and their experience promoting women's empowerment in Nigeria over the years.

FINDING 44: The extent to which the project is coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and political participation in Nigeria.

The review of project documents and interviews with the project team shows that the UN Women ADVANCE WPP project demonstrated a high level of coherence with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and political participation in Nigeria. The project fits well with the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) project on "Expanding Political Participation of Women in Nigeria", which has the support of the Ford Foundation. That project is set

against a background that recognizes inclusiveness as a key indicator of good governance and understands that Nigeria is faced with the challenge of non-inclusiveness in its governance processes, with women being partly or wholly excluded from participation in decision-making processes[95]. The project is also coherent with the International Republican Institute (IRI) and ElectHER project on the Road Map for Advancing Gender Equity in Nigeria's Political Leadership.[96] In addition, the project is coherent with the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) project on women's political empowerment. The IPU has supported the Nigerian National Assembly in the area of gender equality and women's political participation since 2020. Internally, the project is coherent with the UN Women Programme on Women, Peace and Security (WPS); the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, especially the first objective of the project which aims at supporting the passage and enforcement of non-discriminatory legislative and policy frameworks to protect and empower women and girls in Nigeria. However, there is a need to strengthen coordination tin order to build synergy with other projects being implemented at the national and State levels. This will ensure that synergies between the ADVANCE WPP project and other related projects happen by design rather than by chance, as is currently the case with this project.

FINDING 45: The extent to which the project is coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria.

Overall, the ADVANCE WPP project was found to be coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria, as the specific objectives align with key international agreements and legal instruments on gender equality that guide the work within the United Nations system. Following the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) adopted at the Fourth World Conference, the prioritization of women's leadership was outlined in sections G.1 and G.2: "Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making" and "increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership", respectively. Two decades later, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscored the need and urgency to achieve gender parity in leadership through SDG Target 5.5, to ensure "women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life." This is coherent with the overall goal of the ADVANCE WPP project.

At the local level, the project aligns with the United

Nations Sustainable Development Cooperative Framework (UNSDCF) (2023-2027) Outcome 4.2 (More accountable, transparent and gender-responsive, age-friendly and inclusive governance) and Outcome 4.3 (Gender equality and human rights of women, youth, and other marginalized groups including PLWD in Nigeria are enhanced) of UN Women Nigeria Strategic Note (2023-2027); and at the global level, it aligns with UN Women's Strategic Plan 2022-20225 theme 1, which focuses on governance and participation in public life. This is very coherent with the UN Women Nigeria ADVANCE WPP project's objectives.

FINDING 46: The extent to which the project is coherent with wider donor policy

Donors, both individually and collectively, have made numerous commitments to advance gender equality through their official development assistance. For instance, the European Commission (EC) has acknowledged that gender equality is a fundamental human right and is instrumental to achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, gender equality is considered to be one of the key principles of EC development cooperation, with the EC committed to both mainstreaming gender and supporting specific actions for women's empowerment. Furthermore, in the Accra Agenda for Action, donors made a commitment to ensure that their policies address issues of gender equality in a more systematic and coherent way. Moreover, they agreed to ensure that development policies and programmes are designed and implemented in ways consistent with their agreed international commitments on gender equality, human rights, disability and environmental sustainability. This is overtly coherent with the ADVANCE WPP project objective.

Specifically, evidence from the review of documents confirmed that the project was coherent with wider donor policy. The project aligned with Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (2017) which places gender equality at the centre of overseas development assistance investments. The primary objective of this policy is to contribute to global efforts to eradicate poverty around the world by addressing inequality. Specifically, it ensures that women and girls are empowered to reach their full potential so they can earn their livelihoods, which will benefit families as well as the economic growth of their communities and countries. The project is also coherent with the German Federal Equality Strategy (Gleichstellungsstrategie) which sets out nine goals including bringing more women into economic leadership positions (goal 5) and establishing equal participation in democracy (goal 6).[97] The objectives of the UN Women

95. https://placng.org/i/about-women-in-politics/
96. https://guardian.ng/guardian-woman/electher-partners-iri-to-increase-female-political-leadership/
97. https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/countries/germany?language_content_entity=e

ADVANCE WPP project reflect all these donor priorities. To this extent, it is plausible to conclude that the project is coherent with wider donor policy to a large extent.

FINDING 47: The extent to which the project enabled and/or leveraged strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders at regional and country levels.

The evaluation found that the project was able to leverage relevant strategic partnerships to a large extent. However, this has happened mostly at the country level. As noted earlier, the project team has engaged several IPs at the country level to support the implementation of various project activities in the intervention States. Evidence from document reviews and interviews of diverse stakeholders points to the fact that the project team has enabled both project-based and strategic partners in the implementation of project activities. The project has partnered with key institutions including the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) and the Office of the Speaker in the Federal House of Representatives in addition to other project-based partners. These partnerships are playing critical roles in the achievement of programme results. The project team has also partnered with the Governments of Nigeria at various levels. At the federal and State levels, the project has partnered with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs in the establishment of resource centres. From the evaluator's point of view, the project team needs to strengthen the partnership with IPs at the State level by allowing the partners to have more input into the project design and take the lead in project implementation. This is even more important given that the development world is tending towards localization. Some of the partners interviewed observed that UN Women always takes the lead in project design while partners only provide support to implementation activities.

FINDING 48: The extent to which 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.

Evaluative evidence confirmed that the ADVANCE WPP 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. Prominent among them 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, and the 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 in education, health and employment.

The UN Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 calls on Governments, political parties, trade unions, and professional and other representative groups to adopt a 30 percent minimum proportion of women in leadership positions, with a view to achieving equal representation. The 2003 UN General Assembly resolution on women's political participation (A/RES/58/142) stipulates that Member States should take steps, including steps to: monitor progress in the representation of women; ensure that measures to reconcile family and professional life apply equally to women and men; develop mechanisms and training programmes that encourage women to participate in the electoral process and improve women's capacity to cast informed votes in free and fair elections; promote the participation of young people, especially women, in civil society organizations; and develop programmes to educate and train women and girls in using the media and information and communication technologies. The 2011 UN General Assembly resolution on women's political participation (A/RES/66/130) stresses the critical importance of women's political participation in all contexts and calls on UN Member States to take a variety of measures, including:

- To review the differential impact of their electoral systems on the political participation of women and their representation in elected bodies and to adjust or reform those systems where appropriate.

- To strongly encourage political parties to remove all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against the participation of women, to develop their capacity to analyse issues from a gender perspective, and to adopt policies, as appropriate, to promote the ability of women to participate fully at all levels of decision-making within those political parties.

Overall, it is plausible to conclude that the ADVANCE WPP project is aligned with the commitments of the various international conventions.

FINDING 49: The extent to which the project contributed to advancing UN Women's coordination mandate on the other thematic areas, both at global and country levels.

Within the UN system, UN Women is mandated to lead, promote, and coordinate efforts to advance the full realization of women's rights and opportunities. The UN General Assembly has called on all parts of the UN system to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women within their mandates and ensure that commitments on paper lead to progress on the ground. Towards these ends, UN Women is mandated to help strengthen effective UN action on the global, regional, and national levels. With this in mind, the ADVANCE WPP project was designed to leverage the coordination role of UN Women to ensure complementarities between the project and other actors, including UN partner agencies, other donor partners, and international and national non-governmental organizations. This was aptly demonstrated in the project design. In the implementation of the project, the project team has been integrating the coordinating role through the mapping of partners' interventions in WPP and the establishment of six working groups on WPP in the project's focal States to enhance collaboration among partners and stakeholders in order to advance WPP. Overall, the evaluation rates the project's contribution to advancing the UN Women's coordination mandate as good.

4.7 GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

FINDING 50: The extent to which gender and human rights considerations were integrated into the project design and implementation.

Evaluative evidence from FGDs and KIIs with beneficiaries confirmed that gender and human rights considerations were integrated into the project design and implementation. All the objectives, strategies, approaches, and activities of the project are focused on addressing the root causes of women's low political participation in Nigeria. From the design stage, the project has targeted building the capacity of women who are motivated to become political leaders at ward, State and federal levels, as well as enhancing the capacity and awareness of women candidates and voters to participate in election processes. The project also focused on strengthening the capacity of legislators to enact gender-responsive laws at federal and State levels in Nigeria, as well as the capacity of political parties and electoral bodies to develop gen-

der-responsive policies that promote gender balance in political leadership positions at ward, State, and national levels.

Evidence also shows that the project design and implementation were 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". The project was conceived and formulated to support national priorities on commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in response to women's poor political participation in Nigeria. Evidence also shows that different categories of stakeholders, including women, men, boys and girls, as well as people living with disabilities, were involved in the implementation of the project. The involvement of people with disabilities in the project further demonstrates that gender and human rights were integrated into the project design and implementation to a large extent.

FINDING 51: Whether attention to / integration of gender equality and human rights concerns advance the area of work.

The evaluation found that the integration of gender equality and human rights concerns is advancing the area of work to a little extent, due to the fact that many of the planned project activities have not been implemented. This has limited the project's integration of gender equality and human rights concerns to advance the area of work. However, some of the beneficiaries of the capacity-building programmes such as the women journalists have noted that the project influenced their mode of programming and reporting, as gender issues are now mainstreamed in their programmes, as stated earlier. Other young women who participated in the training and awareness-raising activities also noted that the project has contributed to raising their awareness of the need for their participation in politics.

FINDING 52: Assessing the main value added of the project in changing the quality of life of women and girls.

The evaluation found that the project is on course in changing the quality of life of women and girls. However, much needs to be done to achieve this going forward. There is a need for the inclusion of post-election activities in the overall project design in order to engage the IPs to implement activities in the remaining period of the life of the project.

4.8 DISABILITY INCLUSION

FINDING 53: Assessing the proportion of beneficiaries that were persons with disabilities.

Evaluative evidence confirmed that persons with disabilities (PWDs) were included in the implementation of the project. This was accomplished through their participation in the various capacity-building activities of the project. The evaluator found that the IPs ensured that PWDs were included in project activities by liaising with their associations, requesting representation as the need arose. The issue was further verified by the IP Team and key partners who confirmed that PWDs were adequately represented. During field missions to States covered by the intervention, persons with disabilities were also included as stakeholders for data collection by the evaluator. However, the number of participants was limited, as noted by one of the key informants.

> *Persons with a disability were included in some of the programme activities but the number is few compared to other categories of persons invited for the programme.[98]*

However, evidence from interviews with PWDs who participated in the various programmes reveals that the disability characteristics of the PWDs were not mainstreamed in the planning and organization of training programmes and town hall meetings. The following excerpt helps to buttress this finding:

> *Next time you want to organize the programme, there should be an interpreter for PWD, especially the Deaf. Again, when inviting PWD provision should be made for their assistant who will guide and aid their movement, especially the blind and the cripple. There is a need to sensitive more PWD.[99]*

FINDING 54: The extent to which the project aligns with the systematic approach of leaving no one behind (LNOB), and recommendations to be adopted to capture LNOB information within the existing performance monitoring framework.

Evidence from document reviews and interviews with the project team confirmed that the project aligns with the systematic approach of LNOB to a large extent. The United Nations approach to LNOB not only entails reaching the poorest of the poor but also seeks to combat discrimination and rising inequalities within and between countries, and their root causes. This is grounded in the United Nations normative standards, including the principles of equality and non-discrimination that are foundational principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law, and national legal systems across the world.[100] The ADVANCE WPP project's goal of tackling the root causes of women's poor participation in politics ensures that the project aligns with the systematic approach of leaving no one behind. LNOB requires tracking progress, including improving the availability of disaggregated data, and monitoring disparities and inequalities between groups and individuals over time. This was done in the PMF of the project but there is the need to ensure that tracking is done on a monthly or quarterly basis as stipulated in the PMF.

FINDING 55: Assessing how the project contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities.

Evidence from interviews and a review of the project documents indicates that the project activities did not contribute to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities, as that is not the focus of the project. The mid-term evaluation finding only reveals that the project was deliberate in including people with disabilities in the various capacity-building programmes organized under the project by the different IPs. Some of the IPs interviewed also confirmed the fact that persons with disabilities were only engaged to participate in the training programmes. In addition, interviews with some of the participants who are living with disabilities revealed that the training has increased their awareness and interest in women's political participation, but this has not translated into an improvement in their quality of life. The evaluator found that the project contributed to meeting the needs of PWDs as far as the project outputs and the achievement of results were concerned. The capacity-strengthening activities adopted both physical and virtual approaches in order to maximize inclusivity for women with disabilities and ensure that no one is left behind.

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98. Excerpt from KII with Person with Disability in Borno State
99. Excerpt from KII with Person with Disability in Ekiti State
100. https://unsdg.un.org/download/5578/685

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSION

The overarching conclusion of the mid-term evaluation is that the ADVANCE WPP project is on course to meet its planned objective of increasing women's political participation in Nigeria. The objectives of the project are consistent with the evolving needs and priorities of the beneficiaries, partners and stakeholders, and are aligned with the priorities of UN Women. The project also aligned with national and international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of women in politics. However, many of the expected outcomes of the project have not been achieved at mid-term due to several challenges relating to delays in the implementation of activities, security issues in some target States, the pre-election-related nature of the contracts awarded to IPs, and the ambitious nature of project targets, among other issues. The expected outcomes of this project can only be achieved if the project team takes certain critical steps in the remaining implementation period of the project. The findings above provide the basis for the overall conclusions and emerging recommendations resulting from the mid-term evaluation. Building on the above findings, these conclusions aim to provide UN Women with actionable suggestions and recommendations to support its ability to deliver on its WPP response mandate, with specific reference to women's leadership and participation. The specific conclusions are given below:

> **Relevance of project implementation strategy, appropriateness of the articulated goals, outcomes, and outputs, and extent to which the project objectives address the identified rights and needs of the target groups.**

CONCLUSION 1: (Based on Findings 1–3 on Relevance)

The project implementation strategy which is underpinned by legislative and policy-level interventions, capacity-building and institutional strengthening, and coordination among partners, remains relevant and goals, outcomes and outputs are well articulated and address the rights and needs of the target groups but are clearly ambitious.

The three-pronged approach of the project, including legislative and policy-level interventions, capacity-building and institutional strengthening, and coordination among partners was found to be relevant to a large extent and based on evidence and best practices. The project design was informed by valuable lessons learned from the Mid-Term Review conducted in 2019 on UN Women's regional project on women's political empowerment. The project result levels were

tied to 3 intermediate outcomes-level statements, 8 immediate outcomes, and 24 outputs. Evidence shows that the intermediate outcomes, immediate outcomes, and outputs are plausible, clear, and logically flow from activities to results, and also address the rights and needs of the target groups. However, there are too many immediate outcomes and outputs, leading to too many indicators to be achieved by the project. This needs to be streamlined to be more realistic and achievable within the remaining implementation period.

CONCLUSION 2: (Based on Findings 4–6 on Relevance)

The ADVANCE WPP project is aligned with national and international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment, addresses human rights, and activities and outputs of the project are consistent with the intended impacts and problems identified

The project was found to be in total alignment with national and international agreements and conventions on gender equality and women's empowerment. At the national level, the project goal aligns with the broad goal of the revised National Gender Policy (2021-2026) and Section 17 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN). At the international level, it aligns with the UDHR, CPRW, ICCPR, CEDAW, BPfA and SDG 16. The evaluation confirmed that the ADVANCE WPP project activities and outputs are consistent with the intended impacts and effects, and have the potential to address the problems identified to a large extent; and the evidence shows a conscious and systematic integration of human rights and rights principles in all aspects of the project.

> **Effectiveness of the project in terms of the progress made towards the achievement of the expected results.**

CONCLUSION 3: (Based on Findings 7–10 on Effectiveness)

The ADVANCE WPP project is making slow progress towards meeting the expected outcomes, as many of the planned activities have not been implemented and many of the targeted outputs have not been achieved. The project strategy has the potential to create an enabling environment if all targeted outputs of the project are achieved.

The project is making slow progress in contributing to increasing women's political participation. One area where the ADVANCE WPP project is assisting in increasing women's political participation is in voter

registration, where more women than men registered for the 2023 election. The evaluation believes that as activity implementation is sustained under the project, other effects of the various intervention areas of the project will continue to become manifest. The evaluation found that the project strategy has the potential to create an enabling environment for increasing women's political participation, given the three-pronged approach of project implementation. Generally, progress towards the expected outcome remains slow at mid-term due to several factors related to the design and the implementation modality. The evaluation identified some critical factors responsible for the non-achievement of some of the project outcomes including the multitude of outcomes and outputs for the project, which from the evaluation perspective is too ambitious, the wide scope of the project covering six States and FCT, the issuing of mainly pre-election contracts without post-election activities for most of the IPs, delay by INEC in releasing the official candidate list, insecurity in some parts of the project States, and the challenges of recruiting international staff to manage the project.

CONCLUSION 4: (Based on Findings 11–14 on Effectiveness)

The project has been catalytic in addressing some of the barriers to women's political participation by targeting the key challenges to women's political participation in the project design. Project beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the results achieved.

In the design of the ADVANCE WPP project, the various challenges militating against women's political participation were mainstreamed into the project design. Thus, the project attempts to address the law challenge by providing support for the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEOB), which addresses the low education challenge through the provision of capacity-building opportunities to empower women to understand how leadership works and how to conduct themselves to be candidates, as well as lead electoral campaigns that will be in alignment with the legal framework. The project has also attempted to address VAWP. Thus, the project focuses on interventions to prevent violence against women and girls. Generally, the project design was very strategic in targeting the key challenges to women's political participation. Thus, the project has been catalytic in addressing some of the barriers to WPP. The evaluation found that the project approach not only addresses the manifestation of the problem but also addresses the underlying causes of the problem, such as the absence of policy frameworks and poor public perceptions of the role of women in politics. The majority (97.3%) of beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the results achieved by the project in the area of capacity-building and awareness creation.

CONCLUSION 5: (Based on Findings 15–19 on Effectiveness)

The mid-term evaluation findings reveal that the capacity-building of the IPs by the project team was limited to inception meetings with the IPs. The monitoring of the ADVANCE WPP project's progress towards the achievement of results was rated good. The evaluation found several innovative practices that were mainstreamed in the project design and implementation.

The evaluation found that no other capacity-building programme was organized for the IPs to strengthen their capacity to deliver results and set targets. The project has effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress towards results. The monitoring of the ADVANCE WPP project progress towards the achievement of results was rated good. The ADVANCE WPP project had planned for a monthly Activity Progress Report (APR) to be submitted by the IPs. These progress reports focused mostly on project activities (inputs and outputs) and any delays or deviations based on the project's logical framework. All these efforts and mechanisms put in place ensured that progress towards results was effectively monitored. The organizational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanisms put in place by UN Women are to some extent supporting the project's delivery, despite the challenges. However, due to recruitment challenges, the positions of an international senior management expert, two Project Officers in the north and south, and an international United Nations Volunteer (UNV) were not filled. These limitations in the number of staff for the project do not effectively support the delivery of project objectives. The evaluation found several innovative practices including that the project designs draw largely from the ongoing work of UN Women Nigeria, the electoral cycle approach adopted, the project strategy of engaging NILDS to support the passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, and the engagement of a variety of stakeholders in the project implementation.

CONCLUSION 6: (Based on Findings 20–22 on Effectiveness)

The evaluation found that the project is successful to a moderate extent and decision-making is transparent and timely. The project has experienced some delays in implementation and the project team is adapting to address barriers. The project's external communication is effective.

On a scale of 1-10, the evaluation rates the successfulness of the project as 4, based on the fact that several of the indicators have not been achieved. On the other hand, evidence shows that project decision-making is transparent and undertaken in a timely manner. The project has experienced some delays including the 2023 general election, delay in the approval of the work plans, security challenges in road access, especially the Abuja-Kaduna axis, and delay by INEC in releasing the official candidate list. The project team and IPs are adapting to address the challenges. The evaluation confirmed that the project's external communication was effective, and the main channel of communication was email. Progress towards the intended impact was communicated through the annual donor report. There was only one donor report at the time of the mid-term review, for the year 2022. This implies that all other activities implemented in 2023, especially from NILDS, were not reported. The evaluation considered this to be an ineffective means of communicating project progress towards the intended impact.

The efficiency of the project in terms of resource allocation and measures taken to ensure that resources are efficiently used

CONCLUSION 7: (Based on Findings 23–25 on Efficiency)

The project resources were allocated strategically and were efficiently utilized to achieve the Programme outcomes.

The ADVANCE WPP project demonstrates efficiency in the allocation of and utilization of both human and material resources. The project commitment of 78 per cent of the total budget on project implementation activities compared to 20.6 per cent on personnel is highly commended by the evaluation. However, the evaluation notes that the human resources have not been allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes, as many staff required for effective implementation of the project were not in place at mid-term due to recruitment challenges. Several outputs of the project have not been delivered. Overall, the project's progress towards prompt delivery of outputs is slow and needs to be improved in the remaining implementation period of the project.

CONCLUSION 8: (Based on Findings 26–30 on Efficiency)

The project utilization of local capacities was rated good, while the monitoring of project progress to-

wards the achievement of results was rated fair due to the annual reporting system adopted for the project.

The utilization of local capacities was rated good by the evaluation. The project utilized existing local capacities to implement project activities towards achieving project outcomes. Specifically, all the activities under the ADVANCE WPP project were implemented by local CSOs. The monitoring of the ADVANCE WPP project progress towards the achievement of results was rated fair. One major shortcoming in the monitoring systems is the use of an annual reporting system for tracking the annual performance of the project. Not all of the project activities for the year 2023 have been captured, as the 2023 annual report is not out. A quarterly reporting system would have helped in solving this problem. The evaluation identified several changes that the project should make to maximize the opportunities presented in the operational context in order to improve project delivery, including the need to engage more IPs to implement post-election activities and further engagement of Women Radio to air more programmes on women's political participation on a sustainable basis.

The impact produced, positive and negative, intended or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society)

CONCLUSION 9: (Based on Findings 32–35 on Impact)

The evaluation confirmed that there are clear baseline indicators that are adequately being used to track progress towards targets. The evaluation notes that to a very large extent, it will be difficult for the project to achieve its objectives within the remaining implementation time frame unless the barriers are mitigated.

The evaluation found that there are clear baseline indicators that are being used as benchmarks in measuring project performance. However, this was only presented in the 2022 annual report and not in the log frame template. As a best practice, log frame indicators would be better presented in a table clearly showing the indicators, baseline, targets, and actual project performance during the period at a glance. The evaluation notes that the extent to which the project will achieve its objectives within the remaining implementation time frame will depend on the ability of the project team to adapt and mitigate identified barriers to project implementation. Our evidence shows that at mid-term, out of 24 project outputs, only 7 outputs have been achieved, representing only 29.2 per cent. At the present level, the evaluation notes

that to a very large extent, it will be difficult for the project to achieve its objectives within the remaining implementation time frame unless the barriers are mitigated. However, evidence suggests that the project has produced some positive effects, particularly at the intermediate outcome level including an improvement in the percentage of women registered as voters between 2021 and 2023 and an increase in the number of media houses disseminating gender-sensitive election reports.

CONCLUSION 10: (Based on Findings 36–40 on Sustainability)

The evaluation found that the requirements for national ownership were satisfied by the project. Key organs of government at the national and State levels were involved and were aligned with the national priorities of the Government of Nigeria. The project has not made significant progress in strengthening the capacities of national partners, either technical or operational.

The evaluation found that the requirements for national ownership were satisfied by the 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 implementation, key organs of government at the national and State levels were involved. The project was aligned with the national priorities of the Government of Nigeria, especially the National Gender Policy (NGP). However, the evaluation found no evidence of leadership commitment from institutions, including the government and civil society, to continue to work with the project or replicate it, although they have the technical capacity to replicate the project. The evaluation established that the project has not made significant progress in strengthening the capacities of national partners, either technical or operational, due to the non-implementation of the relevant activities to strengthen the capacities of national partners. The evaluation found evidence of mainstreaming of sustainability measures into the project, including the focus of the project on legal and policy reforms and the priorities of the Ministry of Women Affairs (both at the federal and State levels) to promote government support.

CONCLUSION 11: (Based on Findings 41–49 on Coherence)

The evaluation notes that the project addresses UN Women's triple mandate to a large extent if all planned activities are implemented and outcome-level results are achieved by the project. The project has prioritized capacity strengthening of diverse categories of stakeholders. However, capacity strengthening was mostly implemented as a post-election activity. The evaluation found that the project IPs possess a comparative advantage in terms of their institutional mandate.

The project activities contribute to UN Women's normative mandate. Overall, the evaluation notes that the project will address the UN Women triple mandate to a large extent if all planned activities are implemented and outcome-level results are achieved by the project. The project prioritized capacity strengthening of diverse categories of stakeholders. However, this was only implemented as a post-election activity. Also, the evaluation found 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 project demonstrated a high level of coherence with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and political participation in Nigeria. The project fits well with the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) project on Expanding Political Participation of Women in Nigeria, the International Republican Institute (IRI) and the ElectHER project on the Road Map for Advancing Gender Equity in Nigeria's Political Leadership and the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) project on women's political empowerment. The project was found to be coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria, as the specific objectives aligned with key gender equality international agreements and legal instruments that guide the work within the United Nations system. It was also found to be coherent with wider donor policy, especially Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (2017), which places gender equality at the centre of overseas development assistance investments.

Gender Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming in WPP Programme

CONCLUSION 12: (Based on Findings 50–52 on Gender Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming)

The project's involvement of all categories of stakeholders, including men and women, as well as people living with a disability in the various capacity-building programmes demonstrates that gender and human rights were integrated into the project design and implementation to a large extent.

The integration of gender and human rights into programmes implies that all programmes of development cooperation, policies, and technical assistance should further the realization of human rights

as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other international human rights instruments. Secondly, human rights standards contained in, and principles derived from, the UDHR and other international human rights instruments guide all development cooperation and programming in all sectors and all phases of the programming process. Lastly, development cooperation contributes to the development of the capacities of duty bearers to meet their obligations and/or rights holders to claim their rights. Gender and human rights considerations were integrated into the ADVANCE WPP project design and implementation. The project was gender focused. The project's involvement of both men and women journalists, traditional leaders, and people living with a disability in the various capacity-building programmes demonstrates that gender and human rights were integrated into the project design and implementation to a large extent.

5.2 LESSONS LEARNED

LESSON 1. The design of new projects based on experience and lessons learned from previous similar programmes in the same context contributes to the effectiveness of the new project.

The design of the ADVANCE WPP project was based on the lessons learned from the Mid-Term Review conducted in 2019 on UN Women's current regional project on women's political empowerment as well as positive evidence of the influence of affirmative actions as a guaranteed pathway for dramatic improvements in women's political representation. This ensured that the good practices in the earlier project were mainstreamed into the ADVANCE WPP project while at the same time avoiding the pitfalls. This approach to project design was critical to the overall success recorded so far in the project.

LESSON 2: The use of local CSOs as IPs for the implementation of project activities is critical to promoting ownership and sustainability of project benefits.

The ADVANCE WPP project has utilized local IPs in the implementation of project activities. The project engaged NILDS to support the passage of the GEOB and Women Radio to train journalist on gender mainstreaming in reporting. Other CSOs such as WILPF, FIDA, and KDI were also engaged as implementing partners. This not only promoted a participatory approach to project implementation, it contributed to promoting local ownership and sustainability of the project benefits in the intervention States.

LESSON 3: Capacity-building activities for project beneficiaries are a necessity both for promoting ownership and sustainability of project benefits.

The ADVANCE WPP project is implementing capacity-building activities for relevant stakeholders including journalists, young women in politics, traditional rulers and legislators in the intervention States. The capacity-building activities were tailored to the different categories of the project beneficiaries. The capacity-building activities for journalists focused on gender mainstreaming in reportage while that for young women in politics focused on training on transformative leadership and how to leverage the media to amplify their campaign messages and create visibility. The capacity-building approach of the project ensured that the knowledge gained remains with the beneficiaries after the close of the programme.

LESSON 4. Policy-level interventions and institutional strengthening are fundamental strategies for addressing both the underlying causes and symptoms of development problems.

Tackling the underlying causes of a problem rather than focusing on the symptoms is one of the shortest paths to arriving at the solutions. When the root causes are addressed, the symptoms are eradicated. This is particularly important for interventions focusing on women's empowerment like the ADVANCE WPP project. The project implementation strategy was underpinned by policy-level interventions, capacity-building, and institutional strengthening to promote women's political participation. This approach not only addresses the manifestation of the problem but also the underlying causes of the problem such as the absence of a gender-responsive legal environment to promote WPP.

LESSON 5: Incorporating too many indicators in the design of a project can result in over-ambitiousness and affect the project team's ability to achieve the goal of the project.

The ADVANCE WPP project was designed with 35 outcome levels and had 75 performance indicators overall. While this is over-ambitious, the achievement of some of the indicators, such as the availability of legislators for engagement, and reform of the legal frameworks of political parties, was not within the immediate control of the project team. Going forward, these factors must be taken into consideration in the setting of targets during the design of the project on WPP.

LESSON 6. Targeting IPs with similar mandates and visions is crucial to the sustainability of project benefits at the end of 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 success, satisfaction, and sustainability of benefits of the partnership. The ADVANCE WPP project engaged NILDS, KDI, FIDA, and Women Radio among others as partners in project implementation. These partners share similar visions and mandates with the ADVANCE WPP project, which implies that in their other activities, they will continue to implement activities related to the goals and objectives of the ADVANCE WPP project with or without UN Women funding. This has a long-term effect on the sustainability of project benefits.

LESSON 7. Targeting women-led organizations as IPs is an important lesson as evidence shows that Women-led organizations are often the first to respond to the needs of their communities at the onset of a crisis.

The project team has deliberately targeted women-led organizations such as Women Radio, FIDA, WILPF, WOWICAN and RHHF to support the implementation of project activities. This is an important lesson for the project as evidence shows that Women- and girl-led organizations (WGLOs) are often the first to respond to the needs of their communities at the onset of a crisis. They provide essential services to women, girls, and other marginalized groups, raise awareness around risks to the rights of women and girls, and demand accountability[101].

LESSON 8. Poor participation of IPs in project design ensures that the learnings and experience of IPs are not incorporated into the project design.

The design of the ADVANCE WPP project was done without inputs from the IPs. Thus, the opportunity to incorporate the learning and experiences of the IPs into the project design to ensure that the project gains from the strength of each partner and creates synergy was lost. The IPs only participated after the signing of the contracts, at the inception meeting with the project team, which was aimed at introducing the ADVANCE WPP project formally to the IPs.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations below are derived from the findings under each of the evaluation criteria, as well as the evaluator's specific conclusions and lessons learned from engagement with project stakeholders and beneficiaries. Recognizing the importance of developing recommendations as a significant outcome of the assessment, the evaluator met with stakeholders to solicit input on what worked well and why, and how things could have been done better. With the insights gathered from this method and the contextualization of the responses with the results, conclusions, lessons learned, and evaluation report reviews, the evaluator was able to identify eight recommendations that are critical for UN Women's contribution to ADVANCE WPP in Nigeria. They are given in order of importance, as perceived by the evaluation team. They were 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.

Recommendation 1: UN Women should consider **engaging more stakeholders at the conceptualization and design stage of projects** in order to harvest stakeholders' inputs to the project design; this is important in getting their buy-in for the project (Findings 4 & 10)

Responsibility:
UN Women

Priority:
Immediate

101. https://www.unicef.org/documents/partnering-women-and-girl-led-organizations

Recommendation 2: Increase the tempo of implementation of post-election activities across the intervention States by extending the contract of the IPs to implementation of post-election activities: This project was designed based on the electoral cycle approach, which implies that activity implementation will cover pre-election, election, and post-election phases. Since the evaluation found that post-election activities are very limited, it is important to consider increasing the tempo of implementation of post-election activities in order to achieve the project outputs (Findings 10 & 11).

Responsibility:
UN Women

Priority:
Immediate

Recommendation 3: Ensure that the established Women's Resource Centres are adequately utilized: The project established resource centres in the FCT and Calabar and Borno States, but the evaluation found that they are badly under-utilized due to low awareness of the centres and lack of planned programmes of activities for the centres (Findings 10 & 36).

Responsibility:
UN Women

Priority:
Immediate

Recommendation 4: Consider making changes to the project activity reporting system: The project team adopted annual reporting of project progress. So far, only one annual report, for 2022, was available while the progress the project may have made in 2023 was not captured due to the annual reporting systems adopted. This evaluation recommends that the project adopt a quarterly reporting system to avoid under-reporting project progress (Finding 17).

Responsibility:
UN Women

Priority:
Immediate

Recommendation 5: Recruitment of staff to support project implementation: The evaluation found that the planned number of staff for project implementation based on the project design had not been recruited at mid-term. UN Women should put measures in place to ensure that all relevant staff are available to support project implementation (Findings 18, 23 & 34).

Responsibility:
UN Women

Priority:
Immediate

Recommendation 6: Consider awarding a new contract in phase 2 of the project for the airing of radio programmes on WPP. Radio programmes are effective not only in informing people but also in creating awareness regarding many social issues, including WPP. The project team was strategic in engaging Women Radio as IP but it has not leveraged the comparative advantages of radio programmes in informing people and creating awareness. Hence it is recommended that a new contract be awarded for the airing of radio programmes on WPP (Finding 42).

Responsibility:
UN Women/ Donor

Priority:
Immediate

Recommendation 7: UN Women should consider sustaining the coordination among partners supporting the implementation of activities related to WPP: The evaluation found that the project is coherent with several projects by other partners that are related to WPP. However, the evaluation believes that this should be sustained in order to continuously build synergies with other projects being implemented at the national and State levels (Finding 44).

Responsibility:
UN Women

Priority:
Immediate

Recommendation 8: Provide better disability inclusion.
Adequate provisions should be made for persons with disabilities (PWDs) such as the provision of braille for blind participants and the provision of interpreters for persons with hearing impairments (Finding 53).

Responsibility:
UN Women / IPs

Priority:
Immediate

ANNEX

ANNEX 1: EVALUATION MATRIX

EVALUATION CRITERIA 1 - RELEVANCE

Indicators for measuring progress	Collection Method(s)	Data Source	Assumptions
Key question 1: To what extent is the implementation strategy relevant?			
Evidence that the implementation strategy is relevant to attaining the objective of the project and to the project beneficiaries	- 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
Evidence of involvement of target State partners in the conceptualization and design process	- KIIs with State partners	KII transcripts	All State partners are ready and willing to provide needed data
Key question 2: To what extent was the project design appropriately articulated? Is the definition of goal, outcomes, and outputs clearly articulated? Is the theory of change still valid?			
Evidence that the project design is appropriately articulated	- 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
Evidence that the definitions of goals, outcomes and outputs are clearly articulated.			
Evidence that the theory of change is still valid			
Key question 3: To what extent have the project objectives addressed the identified rights and needs of the target groups?			
Evidence that the project objectives addressed the identified rights and needs of the target groups	- 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
Key question 4: To what extent has the project been catalytic in addressing some of the barriers to women's political participation, especially those limiting support for women in politics and public life?			
Evidence that the project has been catalytic in addressing some of the barriers to women's political participation, especially those limiting support for women in politics and public life.	- 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
Key question 5: To what extent were target partners involved in the conceptualization and design process?			
Evidence of involvement of target State partners in the conceptualization and design process	- KIIs with State partners	KII transcripts	All State partners are ready and willing to provide needed data
Key question 6: 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 in politics?			

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 in politics	- 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

Key question 7: Are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with the intended impacts and effects? Do they address the problems identified?

Evidence that all the activities and outputs of the project are consistent with the intended impacts and effects.	- 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
Evidence that all the activities and outputs of the project address the problems identified			

Key question 8: To what extent are the risks identified in the project risk matrix still valid? Are the risks still the most important and are risk ratings applied appropriately and up to date? If not, explain why. Provide an updated risk matrix.

Evidence that the risks identified in the project risk matrix are still valid	- 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

Key question 9: To what extent are human rights recognized and addressed as priorities through the project and its implementation to comply with CEDAW and other international commitments?

Evidence that human rights are recognized and addressed as priorities through the project and its implementation to comply with CEDAW 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

EVALUATION CRITERIA 2 - EFFECTIVENESS

Indicators for measuring progress	Collection Method(s)	Data Source	Assumptions
Key question 10: To what extent did the intervention areas assist in increasing women's political participation?			
Evidence that the intervention areas assist in increasing women's political participation	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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
Key question 11: To what extent has the project been effective in creating an enabling environment?			
Evidence that the project has been effective in creating an enabling environment	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with Community leaders - FGDs 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

Key question 12: How successful was the project in terms of the progress made towards the achievement of the expected results outputs and outcomes? What are the results achieved			
Evidence that the project was successful in terms of the progress made towards the achievement of the expected results, outputs and outcomes	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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

Key question 13: 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 - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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

Key question 14: 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 - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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

Key question 15: To what extent have the capacities of relevant stakeholders and target groups been strengthened?			
Evidence that the capacities of relevant stakeholders and target groups have been strengthened	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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

Key question 16: To what extent did UN Women build the capacity of implementing partners to deliver results and set targets?			
Evidence that UN Women build the capacity of implementing partners to deliver results and set targets	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts from IPs	All IPs, government partners, and project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data

Key question 17: To what extent do the project and partners undertake and fulfil UN Women reporting requirements (internal and external)?			
Evidence that the project and partners undertake and fulfil UN Women reporting requirements (internal and external)	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts from IPs	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data

Key question 18: Does the project have effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress towards results?			
Evidence of effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress towards results	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts from IPs	All project documents and monitoring tools are shared with the evaluation team

Key question 19: Have 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 have effectively supported the delivery of the project	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts from IPs	All project documents and monitoring tools are shared with the evaluation team

Key question 20: To what extent are the project approaches innovative for achieving the planned results?

Evidence that the project approaches are innovative for achieving the planned results	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts from IPs	All project documents and monitoring tools are shared with the evaluation team

Key question 21: What - if any - types of innovative good practices have been introduced in the project for the achievement of results?

Evidence that the project approaches are innovative for achieving the planned results	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts from IPs	All project documents and monitoring tools are shared with the evaluation team

Key question 22: To what extent has the project been successful?

Evidence that the project has been successful	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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

Key question 23: Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner?

Evidence that the decision-making is transparent and undertaken in a timely manner	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts from IPs	All project documents and monitoring tools are shared with the evaluation team

Key question 24: To what extent has implementation been delayed? What are the causes? How have they been resolved (if at all)? What potential delays could arise in the future and how can they be prevented from occurring?

Evidence that there was delay in the implementation of the project activities.	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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

Key question 25: To what extent is the project's external communication effective? Are proper means of communication established or being established to communicate the project's progress and intended impact?

Evidence that the project's external communication is effective.	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts from IPs	All project documents and monitoring tools are shared with the evaluation team

EVALUATION CRITERIA 3 - EFFICIENCY

Indicators for measuring progress	Collection Method(s)	Data Source	Assumptions
Key question 26: 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 project 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
Key question 27: 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
Key question 28: 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 programme 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
Key question 29: 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			
Key question 30: How did the project utilize existing local capacities to achieve its outcomes?			
Evidence that the project utilized 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
Key question 31: To what extent were the project's monitoring mechanisms in place implemented to effectively measure and inform the management of the project's performance and progress towards targets? To what extent were monitoring data objectively used to inform management action and decision-making?			
Availability of annual reports Availability of completed project result frameworks Availability of monitoring reports from IPs	- 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 monitoring data was used data for management action and decision-making			

Key question 32: To what extent are monitoring tools currently being used? Do they provide the necessary information? Are they efficient? Are additional tools required? How can they be made more participatory and inclusive?

- No. of monitoring reports on programme performance from the beginning of implementation to the end - Availability of performance indicator tracking table	- 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

Key question 33: To what extent is the financial management of the monitoring and evaluation sufficient and how are resources allocated to monitoring and evaluation?

Evidence that the financial management of the monitoring and evaluation is sufficient	- 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

Key question 34: To what extent does the project have appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for a timely flow of funds?

Evidence that the project has appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for a timely flow of funds	- 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

Key question 35: To what extent were follow-up actions taken to address challenges, obstacles and risks associated with the project, and what has been done to mitigate these in order to reach planned outcomes?

Evidence that there were follow-up actions taken to address challenges, obstacles and risks associated with the project	- 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

Key question 36: What (if any) were key opportunities and/or challenges and future considerations in the operational context of the project? What future considerations should be made to address any emerging challenges?

Evidence of key opportunities and/or challenges and future considerations in the operational context of the project	- 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

Key question 37: What changes/interventions should have been emphasized to capitalize on the opportunities for improving the project delivery?

Evidence of the changes that the interventions should have emphasized to capitalize on the opportunities for improving the project 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

Key question 38: To what extent is the internal project communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of outcomes and activities and their investment in the sustainability of the project results?

- Evidence that the internal project communication is regular and effective - Evidence that some key stakeholders are left out of communication	- 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

EVALUATION CRITERIA 4 - IMPACT

Indicators for measuring progress	Collection Method(s)	Data Source	Assumptions
Key question 39: Are there clear baseline indicators and/or benchmarks for performance? How are these being used in the project's management?			
Availability of baseline indicators and/or benchmarks for performance measurement	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team	Project team	All relevant project documents are available and will be shared with the evaluation team
Key question 40: To what extent do the log frame indicators track progress towards targets?			
Evidence that the log frame indicators track progress towards targets	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team	Project team	All relevant project documents are available and will be shared with the evaluation team
Key question 41: To what extent can the project achieve its objectives within the remaining implementation time frame? What barriers have been identified and how can they be mitigated?			
Evidence that the project can achieve its objectives within the remaining implementation time frame	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with IPs - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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
Key question 42: What are the effects produced, positive and negative, intended or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society)?			
Evidence of the effects produced, positive and negative, intended or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society) by the project	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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
Key question 43: Have there been any negative effects of the project on the four cross-cutting issues: gender, human rights, climate, and the environment and corruption?			
Evidence of any negative effects of the project on the four cross-cutting issues: gender, human rights, climate, and the environment and corruption	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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
Key question 44: 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 - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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

EVALUATION CRITERIA 5 - SUSTAINABILITY

Indicators for measuring progress	Collection Method(s)	Data Source	Assumptions
Key question 45: Were requirements of national ownership satisfied? Was the project supported by national/local institutions?			
Evidence that requirements of national ownership were satisfied	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners	Project documents, KII transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
Key question 46: 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 - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
Key question 47: 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 - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
Key question 48: 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
Key question 49: To what extent are the financial capacities of partners likely 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 to maintain the benefits from the project	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
Key question 50: How successful was the project in promoting replication and/or upscaling of successful practices?			
Evidence that the project was successful in promoting replication and/or upscaling of successful practices	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
Key question 51: Which innovations have been identified (if any) and how can they be replicated?			
Evidence of innovations that were identified (if any) and replicated	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with IPs	Project documents, KII transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data

EVALUATION CRITERIA 6 - COHERENCE

Indicators for measuring progress	Collection Method(s)	Data Source	Assumptions
Key question 52: To what extent does the project address UN Women's triple mandate?			
Evidence that the project addresses UN Women's triple mandate	-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
Key question 53: 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 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
Key question 54: To what extent did the implementing partners possess the comparative advantage in the project's area of work in comparison with other partners in Nigeria?			
Evidence that the implementing partners possess a comparative advantage in the project's area of work in comparison with other partners 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.
Key question 55: To what extent is the project coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country, internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria, wider donor policy, 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 similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country, internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria, wider donor policy, 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.
Key question 56: 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.
Key question 57: 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.

Key question 58: To what extent has the project enabled and/or leveraged strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders at regional and country levels?			
Evidence that the project has enabled and/or leveraged strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders at regional and country levels	-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.
Key question 59: 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.
Key question 60: To what extent has the project contributed to advancing UN Women's coordination mandate on the other thematic areas, both at global and country levels?			
Evidence that the project has contributed to advancing UN Women's coordination mandate on the other thematic areas, both at global and country levels	-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.

EVALUATION CRITERIA 7 - GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Indicators for measuring progress	Collection Method(s)	Data Source	Assumptions
Key question 61: 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 - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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
Key question 62: How has attention to/ integration of gender equality and human rights concerns advanced the area of work?			
Evidence that attention to / integration of gender equality and human rights concerns have advanced the area of work	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners	Project documents, KII transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
Key question 63: What was the main value added of the project in changing the quality of life of women and girls?			
Evidence that the project added value in changing the quality of life of women and girls	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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

EVALUATION CRITERIA 6 - DISABILITY INCLUSION

Indicators for measuring progress	Collection Method(s)	Data Source	Assumptions
Key question 64: 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 transcripts from project team and IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data.
Key question 65: To what extent does the project align or not with the systematic approach of leaving no one behind (LNOB)? What recommendations can the project adopt to capture LNOB information within the existing performance monitoring framework?			
Evidence that the project aligns or not with the systematic approach of leaving no one behind (LNOB)	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team	Project documents, KII transcripts from project team and IPs	
Key question 66: How has the project contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities?			
Evidence that the project has contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities	- Document reviews - KIIs with the project team - KIIs with government partners - KIIs with community leaders - FGDs 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

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

UN Women Project Team
- Beatrice Eyong
- Lansana Wonneh
- Chidinma May Ottah
- Cyuma Mbayiha
- Osalobo Osahenjie
- Chundung Ashley Dauda
- Abiola Solarin Adewunmmi

NILDS
- Dr Lohna Bonkat
- Dr Gani Ejalonibu
- Mrs Rahila Habu
- Dr Leo Igbanoi

Ministry of Women Affairs
- Blessing Oboh (Principal)
  Assistant Director /Project Coordinator MBNCWD

- Dalika Bathnna
  FCT Project Officer, MBNCWD

- Morrison Udobong
  IT Specialist, MBNCWD

- Evang. Alice Egbe (Principal)
  Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs, Cross River

- Agnes M. Idaka
  C.R.S Project Officer I, Ministry of Women Affairs, Cross River

- Theresa E. Okon
  C.R.S Project Officer II, Ministry of Women Affairs, Cross River

- Alh. Hamza Mohammed (Principal)
  Ag. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs, Borno

- Saleh Dika Bamanga
  Borno State Project Officer I, Ministry of Women Affairs, Borno

- Aisha Musa Gwoma
  Borno State Project Officer II, Ministry of Women Affairs, Borno

Women Radio
- Ruth Obozeghie Onoshiorena
- Abidat Lawal
- Punarimam Fehintola
- Maryam Ahmadu Suka
- Ojo Sola Olusegun
- Amina Nasiru

- Maryam Ahmadu Suka
- Ojo Sola Olusegun
- Amina Nasiru
- Ugochukwu J Onwe
- Patrick Mark
- Atiku Galadima
- Zainab Yetunde Adam
- Abbamasta Abbakaka
- Ahmed Mari
- Jesse Tafida
- Maryam Saidu Asi
- Yaqoub Popoola
- Rotimi Ojomoyela
- Lois Agada
- Saliu Olatunji
- Aderibigbe Adeola
- Abiodun Nejo
- Babajide Agbeyo
- Ayodeji Ogunsakin
- Idowu Ariwodola. N
- Oni Femi Emmanuel

Kimpact Development Initiative
Organisation
- Women in Politics Forum
- HSJPI
- Bankole Gbensola Promise
- Hon. Mrs Yemisi Afolabi
- Goldheart Foundation
- Blessing Omotunde
- Woman fest and National coalition on Affirmative Action.
- Stakeholder in Kwara State
- Kwara State House of Assembly Representing: Ajikobi/Alanamu constituency Ilorin Northwest.
- Kwara State market woman leader
- Women leader JONAPWD Kwara
- Me Africa Advocacy Group (MAAG) -
- Rescue Women for Peace and Development -
- HitFM Calabar

ANNEX 3: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference

UN WOMEN
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

NATIONAL CONSULTANT – Women's Political Participation – Mid-Term EVALUATION

Location: Abuja, Nigeria
Title: Evaluation Consultant
Project: Midterm evaluation for the UN Women/Government of Canada ADVANCE WPP
Application Deadline: TBD
Starting Dates: 15 May 2023
End Date:
Type of Contract: Individual contract
Post Level: SSA National
Languages Required: English
Expected Duration: 45 working days
Section/Unit: Evaluation

Background

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works towards the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; empowerment of women; and achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. UN Women supports the strengthening of women's voice, agency, and leadership across sectors to advance their rights, provide space for their meaningful participation, and contribute to tangible differences in their lives.

UN Women, under the overarching SN 2023-2027, focuses on four programmatic areas, namely, governance and public life, women's economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls, and WPS, as well as humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction. UN Women's work supports the Government's national priorities which encompass the empowerment of women and girls, and their contribution to all areas of economic, political and social development.

While Nigeria has ratified most international and regional instruments guaranteeing women's equal rights, the government could further domesticate these instruments to promote women's political participation. There has been limited political and public support for introducing gender progressive legislation and affirmative action principles to redress gender inequalities in politics in Nigeria.

UN Women, placing women's rights at the centre of all its efforts, leads and coordinates the United Nations system efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action. It provides strong and coherent leadership in support of Member States' priorities and efforts to build effective partnerships with civil society and other relevant actors. Further, in line with the UN General Assembly resolution on women's political participation, UN Women promotes awareness and recognition of the importance of women's participation in the political process at the State and national levels. It further addresses and counters the barriers faced by women in accessing and participating in politics and decision-making. UN Women works to promote representation of women in politics, and positively portray women leaders.

Description of the Project

In partnership with the Government of Canada, UN Women is implementing the **"ADVANCE: WPP project (2022-2024)"** aimed at achieving greater participation of women as political leaders. The project started in March 2022 and will end in 2025 (evaluation year) with around 6M USD budget.

The project supports the achievement of UN Women SN 2023-2037 Impact 1: **Governance and Participation in Public Life for Women and is aligned with 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; regional gender parity commitments of the African Union's agenda 2063, the ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Equality of Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development; and the national goal of promoting women's rights and gender equality which is central to the development agenda of Nigeria respectively.

UN Women works to make the vision of the SDGs a reality for women and girls, with one of its major priorities being women's leadership and participation. This mandate is aligned with the Government of Canada's priorities as demonstrated in its Feminist International Assistance Policy (2017). To address women's low representation in political leadership and decision-making, UN Women implements interventions to mainstream gender equality in legislative reform processes and institutional arrangements. These interventions are targeted at spotlighting the achievements of Nigerian women leaders while strengthening their capacities for active political participation and leadership. Within this scope, UN Women works with women legislators, young women aspiring for political office, government institutions, including Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the National Institute for Democratic and Legislative Studies, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote representation of women in politics. UN Women also works closely with political parties and media to dismantle harmful stereotypes and party processes that have a negative impact on women's political participation. In collaboration with women mediator groups and the Women's Situation Room, UN Women's interventions further address violence against women in politics. Collectively, these interventions seek to shift public perception of women's leadership and positively portray women leaders.

In cognizance of past and ongoing interventions in women's political participation, UN Women works to respond to the issues identified to increase women's political participation.

The ADVANCE WPP project builds on the work of UN Women Nigeria to enhance women's political participation through a combination of coordinated short- and long-term strategies. The short-term strategies seek to support legislative reforms and lift barriers towards women's participation in decision-making and engaging male political leaders to champion gender-related issues and increase support for women leaders. In the long term, the project will increase the capacities of women leaders, expand their resources and networks, and institutionalize gender-responsive policies and practices to create enabling environments for women leaders. Addressing both the short- and long-term priorities will enhance women's political participation. The three-year program   (2022-2024) has carefully designed interventions according to the electoral cycle under three priority areas of intervention:

1. **Legal Frameworks/Policies and Institutional Reform** - with a view to influence gender-responsive legislation that will create an enabling environment for women aspiring for political offices.
2. **Women's Participation and Leadership** - through supporting capacity-building trainings for women candidates to boost their campaign strategies, including training and mentoring young women.
3. **Coordination among partners and engagement with key stakeholders** - by building on the Working Group on Women's Political Empowerment and engaging communities on advocacy for gender transformation as well as preventing violence among women in politics.

The project theory of change assumes that:

If legislative reforms are adopted to guarantee increased representation of women in politics and public life; and *if* political and electoral institutions are supported to adopt and implement policies and practical measures to remove barriers to women's effective participation in politics; and *if* women aspiring to political office and those elected and appointed to political positions have the capacity to be strongly competitive with their male peers and to drive gender reforms; and *if* the community of male gender champions is expanded and effectively mobilized to support the agenda and women in politics; and *if* development partners and organizations implementing programmes to enhance women's participation in politics and decision-making coordinate their interventions effectively to enhance impact;

Then a more inclusive and representative political agenda will be fostered because a critical mass of women with political agency will be represented in politics and decision-making.

The theory of change is based on the following assumptions:

- Government of Nigeria is committed to legislative reforms and is willing to mainstream gender in their policies and procedures.
- Women are willing to strengthen their capacities and be competitive to participate in electoral processes.
- Support is mobilized to drive the agenda of women in politics; and
- Stakeholders (government, private sector, civil society, and development partners) are willing to coordinate to maximize the impact of their work.

In terms of implementation, the project is implemented at the national and State level (6 targeted States) in collaboration with the national government, parliament, electoral Commission, political parties, NGOs, and CSOs. The project leveraged partnerships between UN Women and NILDS to strengthen collaboration and partnership on the GEO bill and other gender-sensitive reforms, and the priorities of the Ministry of Women Affairs for sustainability. The project intends to achieve 3 intermediate outcomes and 8 immediate outcomes.

- *Intermediate Outcome 1100:* Improved gender-responsive legal environment, including implementation of accompanying policies by political/democratic institutions at State and federal levels in Nigeria.

- *Immediate Outcome 1110:* Strengthened capacity of legislators to enact gender-responsive laws at federal and State levels in Nigeria.

- *Immediate Outcome 1120:* Enhanced capacity of political parties and electoral bodies to develop gender-responsive policies that promote gender balance in political leadership positions at ward, State, and national levels.

- *Immediate Outcome 1130:* Improved partnership among cross-party women parliamentarians to collaborate on promoting gender issues.

- *Intermediate Outcome 1200:* Increased women's participation in political processes and leadership in elective and appointive positions at ward, State and federal levels in Nigeria

- *Immediate Outcome 1210:* Strengthened capacity of young women who are motivated to become political leaders at ward, State, and federal levels.

- *Immediate Outcome 1220:* Enhanced capacity and awareness of women candidates and voters to participate in election processes.

- *Intermediate Outcome 1300:* Enhanced coordination among Women's Political Empowerment (WPE) partners and their engagement with key stakeholder groups in project communities to strengthen collaboration and partnerships for the promotion of women's political leadership.

- *Immediate Outcome 1310:* Improved ability of WPP implementing and development partners to network and collaborate at State and national levels.

- **Immediate Outcome 1320:** Increased capacity and awareness of stakeholder groups, including media, community influencers, male allies, and political leaders to create an enabling environment for women's political leadership.

- *Immediate Outcome 1330:* Strengthened capacity of networks, institutions, electoral bodies, and oversight mechanisms to better prevent and respond to VAWP, SGBV, and other forms of VAWG

Purpose (and Use of the Evaluation)

This evaluation is a key component of the project design and presents an opportunity to access the design of the project, its performance, processes, and progress towards results. The evaluation will generate substantial evidence for informed future interventions and best practices. It will identify what has worked, what needs to be improved, and what should be changed including findings, challenges, lessons learned, good practices, conclusions, and recommendations that will support future programming and foster organizational learning and accountability. It will employ relevant evaluation criteria including those of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, human rights and gender equality, and connectedness and sustainability.

The evaluation findings will be used to:

- Strategically plan and manage the next 2 years of the project
- Refine implementation and accelerate progress towards 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.

It will further inform the implementation of the Government National priorities, the United Nations Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and refine the strategies towards the promotion of women in governance and public life. Ultimately, the results will be publicly available through the Global Accountability and Tracking of Evaluation Use (GATE) system for learning.

Targeted users of the evaluation

The main evaluation users include UN Women at the country level, programme staff as well as the Government of Canada. Further, national stakeholders such as the Ministry of Women Affairs, the Senate, the House of Assembly, the House of Parliament, and key stakeholders include but are not limited to donors, regional actors, and the UN system.

Objectives of the Evaluation

The overall objective of the mid-term evaluation is to assess the extent to which the ADVANCE WPP project has achieved the intended and/or unintended outcomes and provide an in-depth understanding of why certain intended or unintended outcomes have or have not occurred, analyse the challenges encountered, lessons learned, and document areas for improvements. It will consider the processes and nature of interventions to connect them with identified longer-term changes, to determine which elements work well and in which contexts, and which would be worth replicating or scaling up. In addition, it will assess the level of synergy and multiplying effect between the various activities implemented by this programme and the extent of synergies and multiplier effects with other partners involved in women's political participation. The evaluation will assess progress towards the achievement of results as specified in the logical framework of the project and the initial and potential impacts of the project. The evaluation will assess early signs of success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made to set the programme on track to achieve its intended results. The mid-term evaluation will review the strategy and risks to sustainability as well as identify lessons learned and best practices which could be applied to future and other ongoing programmes.

The evaluation will be guided by the standard OECD/DAC evaluation criteria[102] as well as the UN Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS) criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, coherence/connectedness, gender equality, and human rights.

Specifically, the objectives of the mid-term evaluation are to:

- Analyse the relevance of the project's objectives, strategy, and approach in the implementation of women's political participation at the federal and State levels, and progress towards improving gender-responsiveness of the legal environment, including implementation of accompanying policies at the federal and State levels.

- Assess the effectiveness and efficiency measurable impact of the strategies employed by the project towards increasing women's political participation and the project's contribution towards increasing women's participation in political processes and leadership in elective and appointive positions.

- Assess the connectedness and sustainability of the results and the intervention in increasing women's political participation.

- Assess the extent of progress towards strengthening collaboration and coordination among WPP partners and stakeholders for the promotion of women's political leadership as a result of the mainstream actions undertaken by the project.

- Assess organizational efficiency and coordination mechanisms in progressing towards the achievement of the programme results.

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102. http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm

- Determine whether the human rights approach and gender equality principles were integrated in the project.
- Identify lessons learned and strategies for upscaling best practices and innovations and that could be upscaled and replicated by UN Women and its partners.
- Provide actionable recommendations with respect to UN Women's intervention in women's political participation.
- Review the major risk management and mitigation strategies.

Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation will employ a transparent and participatory process involving relevant stakeholders and partners and will cover all aspects of the project implementation and the entire programme period from March 2022 to April 2023. It will apply a combination of portfolio analysis, desk reviews, online and on-site interviews, and surveys with relevant stakeholders, beneficiaries, partners, etc. in the 6 WPP States of Borno, Cross River, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Kaduna and Kwara and the FCT and will include field missions to these States.

Time frame considered:	May 15, 2023 – September 30, 2023
Geographical coverage:	Borno, Cross River, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Kaduna and Kwara and the FCT
Programmatic field:	Women Political Participation
Supervision of the evaluation:	WPP Programme Coordinator

Evaluation Design (Process and Methods)

The evaluation process is divided into six phases:

Preparation phase: gathering and analysing programme data, conceptualizing the evaluation approach, internal consultations on the approach, preparing the ToR, establishment of the evaluation steering committee and stakeholders mapping.

Conduct phase: includes the inception report, stakeholder workshop, data collection and analysis. Consultations between the Evaluation Consultant and the UN Women, desk review, finalization of stakeholder mapping, inception meetings, review of the project logic, analysis of information relevant to the initiative, finalization of evaluation methodology and preparation and validation of inception report. Data collection also occurs including in-depth desk research, review of the programme documents and monitoring frameworks, in-depth online and in-person interviews as necessary, staff and partner survey/s, and on-site data collection. Debrief sessions with the key stakeholders will be organized to present preliminary findings and build ownership of the findings with programme counterparts. This will help create a sense of the evaluation team's preliminary findings ahead of the draft reporting phase.

Reporting phase: presentation of preliminary findings, draft, and final evaluation report.

Use and follow-up includes management response, dissemination of the report and follow-up to implementation of the management response. Once the evaluation is completed, UN Women is responsible for the development of a Management Response to evaluation recommendations

The Consultant is responsible for phases 2, and 3, with the support of UN Women, while phases 1 and 4 are the responsibility of UN Women after the final approval of the evaluation report.

In addition, UN Women employs a UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) reporting, and the Consultant will take into consideration that evaluations in UN Women are annually assessed against the UN-SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicator and its related scorecard. In line with the above-mentioned, the evaluation report will be subjected to UN-SWAP quality scoring and must demonstrate evidence of gender integration in the evaluation process and report. The methodology should clearly focus on highlighting gender issues in the implementation of the program. This is one of the elements by which this evaluation report will be scrutinized by a team of external evaluators, using the UN-SWAP criteria. The evaluation performance indicator [UN-SWAP EPI Technical Guidance and Scorecard] is used to appreciate the extent to which the evaluation report satisfies the following criteria:

- GEWE is integrated in the evaluation scope of analysis and evaluation indicators are designed in a way that ensures GEWE related data will be collected.
- GEWE is integrated in evaluation criteria and evaluation questions are included that specifically address how GEWE has been integrated into the design, planning, implementation of the intervention and the results achieved.
- A gender-responsive methodology, methods and tools, and data analysis techniques are selected.
- Evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations reflect a gender analysis.

Methodology

The evaluation methodology will be a mixed-method quantitative and qualitative analytical approach that will account for the complexity of gender relations and ensure participatory and inclusive processes that are culturally appropriate. Participatory and gender-sensitive methods will support active participation of women and girls, men and boys benefiting from the project interventions. The Evaluation Consultant is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach ensuring close engagement with the UN Women Governance & Women's Political Participation Team, Project Steering committees, the UN Women Offices, UN Women HQ and Regional Adviser, and other key stakeholders.

The Evaluation Consultant will review all relevant sources of information (listed below) and any other materials considered useful for this evidence-based review. The evaluation will consider the strategic context, the overarching theory of change, project logic framework, country strategic note, and how results brought together under the ToC have been delivered efficiently and are likely to be sustained or not. It will use a theory-based approach and contribution analysis methodology, and the Consultant is expected to undertake a broader examination of the programme Theory of Change (ToC) and results chain to gain an understanding of the conditions that affect results; identify those strategies that are effective; collect information that helped adaptation or lack thereof; and should the desired results not materialize, ascertain whether this was because of programme design, implementation or external factors beyond the control of the programme.

The evaluation report should describe the mid-term review approach taken and the rationale for the approach, making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses of the methods and approach of the review.

List of documents to be reviewed by the Evaluation Consultant include but are not limited to:

- ADVANCE Project document
- Annual Reports including Progress of Indicators matrix
- Quarterly monitoring from Result Management System (RMS)
- Annual Work Plans including
- Mission reports (where applicable)
- UN Women Programme and operational manual
- UN Women Strategic Plan

The detailed methodology for the evaluation will be validated by UN Women at the inception phase of the evaluation The consultant will undertake the following tasks, duties and responsibilities:

- **Design evaluation methodology:** The Consultant will develop and submit a detailed methodology for the evaluation including desk review, analytical work, data-collection techniques, key activities and time frame for the assignment, in close cooperation with the UN Women office in Nigeria.

- **Desk review:** The Consultant will review relevant documents, including but not limited to project documents, work plan, quarterly and annual reports, programme monitoring reports, and any other technical reports, etc.

- **Key informant interviews:** The Evaluation Consultant will conduct a stakeholder mapping at the onset to identify key informant respondents. The Consultant will carry out key informant interviews with key informants. The interviews will be organized in a semi-structured format to include for instance. Focused group discussions, individual interviews, surveys, and/or participatory exercises with the community or individuals. The information from this assessment will be used as refine project implementation.

- **Field visits:** Conduct field missions to target States and consultation meetings with project key stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries, including relevant government institutions, CSOs, women's groups/networks, and the donor, among others to review the project in line with the set objectives of the mid-term evaluation. During field visit, the Consultant will conduct out interviews with the community, making sure that the perspective of the most vulnerable group is included in the consultation.
- **Report:** Develop and submit a mid-term evaluation report of the project, with relevant recommendations based on the interpretation of the evaluation findings and key lessons identified.

The Evaluation Consultant will take measures to ensure data quality, reliability and validity of data-collection tools and methods and their responsiveness to gender equality and human rights; for example, the limitations of the sample (representativeness) should be Stated clearly, and the data should be triangulated (cross-checked against other sources) to help ensure robust results.

Evaluation Consultant is solely responsible for data collection, transcripts or other data analyses and processing work. Usage of online platforms and surveys as a complimentary and additional methodology is highly recommended. The evaluation team is expected to manage those platforms and to provide data analyses as defined in the Inception report.

The Evaluation Consultant should detail a plan on how protection of subjects and respect for confidentiality will be guaranteed. In addition, the Evaluation Consultant should develop a sampling frame (area and population represented, rationale for selection, mechanics of selection, limitations of the sample) and specify how it will address the diversity of stakeholders in the intervention

The evaluation should be conducted in accordance with UN Women evaluation Policy, evaluation Chapter of the Programme and Operations Manual (POM), the Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS) evaluation report quality checklist, the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan Evaluation Performance Indicators (UN-SWAP EP) and UN Women Evaluation handbook. All the documents will be provided by UN Women at the onset of the evaluation.

The evaluation will be based on gender and human rights principles, and adhere to the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards, Ethical Code of Conduct, and UN Women Evaluation Policy and guidelines.

Stakeholder Participation

During the inception phase, the Evaluation Consultant is expected to describe how the process will be gender-sensitive, consultative, and apply inclusive and participatory processes as reflected in the UN Women's guidelines for gender-responsive evaluations and the UNEG Evaluation Handbook. Throughout the evaluation process, the Consultant will ensure the participation of relevant State government institutions, women-led organizations, and communities representing various groups of women from project target areas. The Consultant is expected to validate findings through engagement with stakeholders at workshops, debriefings or other forms of engagement. The Consultant is expected to ensure participation of stakeholders at all stages, with a specific emphasis on women in politics, parliamentarians and other key stakeholders. The evaluator is encouraged to further analyse stakeholders according to their characteristics and provide a mapping of relationships and power dynamics as part of the evaluation. The Evaluation Consultant should also specify ethical safeguards that will be employed and validate findings through engagement with stakeholders at stakeholder workshops, debriefings or other forms of engagement.

Evaluation Criteria and Questions

The evaluation will apply the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and coherence. The evaluation will also take into consideration gender equality and human rights. The evaluation should be guided by but not limited to the evaluation questions listed below as UN Women could raise any other relevant issues that may emerge during the inception phase. In general, the evaluation will seek to answer the following key questions:

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

- *To what extent is the implementation strategy relevant?*

- *To what extent was the project design appropriately articulated? Is the definition of goal, outcomes and outputs clearly articulated? Is the theory of change still valid?*

- *To what extent have the project objectives addressed identified rights and needs of the target groups?*

- *To what extent has the project been catalytic in addressing some of the barriers to women's political participation, especially those limiting support for women in politics and public life?*

- *To what extent were target partners involved in the conceptualization and design process?*

- *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 in politics?*

- *Are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with the intended impacts and effects? Do they address the problems identified?*

- *To what extent are the risks identified in the project risk matrix still valid? Are the risks still the most important and are risk ratings applied appropriate and up to date? If not, explain why. Provide an updated risk matrix.*

- *To what extent are human rights recognized and addressed as priorities through the project and its implementation to comply with CEDAW and other international commitments?*

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

- *To what extent did the intervention areas assist in increasing women's political participation?*

- *To what extent has the project been effective in creating an enabling environment?*

- *How successful was the project in terms of the progress made towards achievement of the expected results outputs and outcomes? 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?*

- *Does it provide the most effective route towards expected results?*

- *To what extent have the capacities of relevant stakeholders and target groups been strengthened?*

- *To what extent did UN Women build the capacity of implementing partners to deliver results and set targets?*

- *To what extent do the project and partners undertake and fulfil UN Women reporting requirements (internal and external)?*

- *Does the project have effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress towards results?*

- *Have the project's organizational structure, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the delivery of the project?*

- *To what extent are the project approaches innovative for achieving the planned results? What – if any – types of innovative good practices have been introduced in the project for the achievement of results?*

- *To what extent has the project been successful?*

- *Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner?*

- *To what extent has implementation been delayed? What are the causes? How have they been resolved (if at all)? What potential delays could arise in the future and how can they be prevented from occurring?*

- *To what extent is the project's external communication effective? Are proper means of communication established or being established to communicate the project's progress and intended impact?*

Efficiency: A measure of how economical 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 in a timely manner?*

- *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?*

- *How did the project utilize existing local capacities to achieve its outcomes?*

- *To what extent were the project's monitoring mechanisms implemented to effectively measure and inform the management of the project's performance and progress towards targets? To what extent were monitoring data objectively used to inform management action and decision-making?*

- *To what extent are monitoring tools currently being used? Do they provide the necessary information? Are they efficient? Are additional tools required? How can they be made more participatory and inclusive?*

- *To what extent is the financial management of the monitoring and evaluation sufficient and how are resources allocated to monitoring and evaluation?*

- *To what extent does the project have appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for a timely flow of funds?*

- *To what extent were follow-up actions taken to address challenges, obstacles and risks associated with the project, and what has been done to mitigate these in order to reach planned outcomes?*

- *What (if any) were key opportunities and/or challenges and future considerations in the operational context of the project? What future considerations should be made to address any emerging challenges?*

- *What changes/interventions could have been emphasized to capitalize on the opportunities for improving the project delivery?*

- *To what extent is the internal project communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of outcomes, and activities for and investment in the sustainability of the project results?*

Impact: The effect of the project

- *Are there clear baseline indicators and/or benchmarks for performance? How are these being used in the project's management?*

- *To what extent do the log frame indicators track progress towards targets?*

- *To what extent can the project achieve its objectives within the remaining implementation time frame? What barriers have been identified and how can they be mitigated?*

- *What are the effects produced, positive and negative, intended or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society)?*

- *Have there been any negative effects of the project on the four cross-cutting issues: gender, human rights, climate, and the environment and corruption?*

- *To what extent were gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of the 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.

- *Were requirements of national ownership satisfied? Was 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 capacities of national partners, both technical and operational, have been strengthened?*

- *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?*

- *To what extent are the financial capacities of partners likely to maintain the benefits from the project? What might be needed to support partners to maintain these benefits?*

- *How successful was the project in promoting replication and/or upscaling of successful practices?*

- *Which innovations have been identified (if any) and how can they be replicated?*

Coherence: The extent to which other interventions support or undermine the intervention and vice versa, including aspects of complementarity, harmonization and coordination.

- *To what extent does the project address UN Women's triple mandate?*

- *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 partners possess the comparative advantage in the project's area of work in comparison with other partners in Nigeria?*
- *To what extent is the project coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country, internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria, wider donor policy, with international obligations for women's human rights, other human rights conventions and other international frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women?*
- *To what extent is the project coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria?*
- *To what extent is the project coherent with wider donor policy?*
- *To what extent has the project enabled and/or leveraged strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders at regional and country levels?*
- *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?*
- *To what extent has the project contributed to advancing UN Women's coordination mandate on the other thematic areas, both at global and country levels?*

Gender Equality and Human Rights

- *To what extent have gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation?*
- *How has attention to/ integration of gender equality and human rights concerns advanced the area of work?*
- *What was the main value added of the project in changing the quality of life of women and girls?*

Disability Inclusion

- *What portion of beneficiaries were persons with disabilities?*
- *To what extent does the project align or not with the systematic approach of leaving no one behind (LNOB)? What recommendations can the project adopt to capture LNOB information within the existing performance monitoring framework?*
- *How has the programme contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities?*

Based on these findings, what are the recommendations for possible new projects after the completion of the current project? This should include necessary follow-on interventions identified, components that requires continued investments, new entry points identified, and level of engagement (State/federal, policy/operational).

The questions above are a suggestions and could be changed during the inception phase in consultation with UN Women. It is expected that the evaluation team will develop an Evaluation Matrix, which will relate to the above questions, the areas they refer to, the criteria for evaluating them, the indicators and the means of verification. The questions will be revised during the inception phase. It is expected that the Evaluation Consultant will develop an Evaluation Matrix, which will relate to the above questions (and refine them as needed), the areas they refer to, the criteria for evaluating them, the indicators and the means for verification as a tool for the evaluation. The final Evaluation Matrix will be approved by UN Women along the final methodology/inception report.

Considering the mandate to incorporate Human Rights and Gender Equality in all UN work, and the UN Women Evaluation Policy, which promotes the integration of women's rights and gender equality principles into evaluation, these dimensions will require special attention for this evaluation and hence will be considered under each evaluation criteria.

Time Frame

The estimated duration of this consultancy is 45 working days. The evaluation process is expected to be conducted according to the time frame below.

S/N	Deliverables	Estimated number of days	Indicative Deadline	Responsible Party
1	**Desk review and inception meeting -** The Evaluation Consultant will attend a virtual inception meeting where orientation on programme objectives will be offered, as well as on progress made. At this stage of the evaluation, the evaluator will have the chance to speak with UN Women and selected stakeholder representatives. Key project documents will be shared for review.	5 working days	15 May 2023	Evaluation consultant
2	**Draft Inception Report -** The Evaluation Consultant will submit the draft inception report. The inception report should capture relevant information such as proposed methods; proposed sources of data; and data collection procedures. The inception report should also include an Evaluation Matrix, proposed schedule of tasks and activities and deliverables, and should also contain background information[103].	5 working days	25 May 2023	Evaluation Consultant
3	**Final Inception Report -** The final inception report will take cognizance of feedback from UN Women and stakeholders	5 working days	15 June 2023	Evaluation Consultant
4	**Data collection (in Abuja and in the 6 States) -** Data collection will include both in-person, face-to-face, and/or virtual (telephone, video conferencing) interviews.	10 working days	25 June 2023	Evaluation Consultant
5	**Analysis and presentation of preliminary findings -** A briefing and report with preliminary findings and PowerPoint presentation of preliminary findings, presented to the reference group.	5 working days	10 July 2023	Evaluation Consultant

6	**Interim Evaluation Report** - The report structure should follow UNEG evaluation reporting guidance and the GERAAS quality standards. UN Women will review the report as part of quality assurance and will share it with the reference group for their feedback. The Consultant will include evidence-based conclusions and consider the findings. Recommendations (not more than 10) should be succinct suggestions for critical interventions that are specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant. A recommendation table should be included in the report's executive summary. The report should be structured as follows:
	
	- Table of contents
	- List of abbreviations and acronyms
	- Executive summary
	- Background and project description
	- Purpose of the evaluation
	- Evaluation objectives and scope
	- Evaluation methodology and limitations
	- Evaluation findings: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, and Gender and human rights
	- Conclusions and key strategic findings
	- Recommendations (corrective actions for ongoing or future work, not more than 10);
	- Lessons learned
	- Proposed management response and dissemination strategy
	- Annexes:
	  - Terms of reference-
	  - List of documents consulted
	  - Data-collection instruments
	  - Lists of institutions interviewed, consulted, and sites visited (without direct reference to individuals)
	  - Evaluation tools developed and used (Evaluation Matrix, questionnaires, interview guides, etc.)
	  - Summary matrix of findings, evidence, and recommendations
	  - Evaluation brief
	  - Any further information the independent Consultant deems appropriate
		5 working days	20 July 2023	Evaluation Consultant, UN Women Evaluation Manager, Evaluation Reference Group and Evaluation Technical Committee,

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103. UN Women guidance on inception reports is available.

7	PowerPoint presentation of the interim report. A presentation of the interim report should be done at a validation workshop facilitated by the Evaluation Consultant	5 working days	25 July 2023	Evaluation Consultant
8	Final evaluation report The final report will be submitted in both hard and soft copies. The evaluation report will be considered "final" when the Evaluation Manager confirms that it is complete and satisfactory and has taken into account all comments received from the Management and Technical Group in reference to suggestions for improvement. The final evaluation report should follow UNEG evaluation reporting guidance and be submitted in both hard and soft copies	5 working days	30 July 2023	Evaluation Consultant
9	Dissemination of report With recommendations from the evaluation team, UN Women will develop a dissemination and utilization plan following the finalization of the evaluation report.		5 August	UN Women
10	Management response		30 August	UN Women

Expected Deliverables

The Consultant is responsible for the following deliverables:

Inception Report: The Consultant will present a refined scope and a detailed outline of the evaluation design and methodology, stakeholder mapping and stakeholder selection for data collection, a sampling strategy for more in-depth analysis of various aspects of the performance of the project as well as a strategy for collecting, analysing and aggregating different sources of data. The report will include an Evaluation Matrix, a finalization of the schedule for field visits and stakeholder interviews, and a detailed work plan.

Presentation of preliminary findings: A PowerPoint presentation detailing the emerging findings of the evaluation will be shared with the Evaluation Steering Committee for feedback. The revised presentation will be delivered to the reference groups for comment and validation. The Consultant will incorporate the feedback received into the draft report.

Draft evaluation report: the first draft report includes background, methodology, limitations, findings, conclusions, lessons learned, and recommendations sections.

Final evaluation report: The final report will include a concise Executive Summary and annexes detailing the methodological approach/analytical products developed during the course of the evaluation and a synthesis of findings from each field site visited.

All completed tools and datasets making up the different lines of evidence should be made available to the Regional Evaluation Specialists upon request (including field notes, transcribed highlights from interviews and focus group discussions, and details from quantitative analysis).

Evaluation communication products: A PowerPoint presentation of the final key evaluation findings and recommendations, and a 2-pager/infographics on the key findings, lessons learned, and recommendations.

All products such as inception, draft, and final reports will be validated by UN Women. The Consultant will maintain an audit trail of the comments received and provide a response on how the comments were addressed in the final inception report. The final evaluation report will be approved by the Evaluation Steering Committee.

Payment to the Consultant will be subject to the approval of deliverables by the Evaluation Management Group in line with conformity with GERAAS evaluation guidelines. Upon receipt of the deliverables and prior to the payment of instalments, the deliverables and related reports and documents will be reviewed and approved by UN Women. UN Women will approve the deliverables when it considers that the deliverables meet quality standards for approval. The period of review is one week after receipt.

Deliverables	% Corresponding payment
Final inception report - A detailed inception report, including a work plan that will respond to the ToR with clear links between the proposed evaluation approach and evaluation questions.	20%
Preliminary findings - A briefing and report with preliminary findings and a PowerPoint Presentation of preliminary findings presented to UN Women and stakeholders	0
Interim report - Report following the UNEG guidelines and GERAAS quality standards	30%
PowerPoint presentation of the interim report - Validation of the interim report following the completion of the data-collection process	0
Approved final evaluation report - PowerPoint of key findings and recommendations, a succinct user-friendly learning document that captures key evaluation messages and can act as a stand-alone summary of the evaluation report for broader dissemination, and an approved evaluation report. Submitted in both hard and soft copies.	50%

The Consultant cannot have participated in the programme preparation, formulation, and/or implementation and should not have a conflict of interest with programme-related activities.

Management of Evaluation

The ultimate responsibility for this evaluation rests with UN Women. The Project Coordinator will be responsible for liaising with the Evaluation Consultant to provide all relevant documents and set up stakeholder interviews in addition to planning the field missions in the six States of the project. The evaluation will be managed by UN Women Nigeria in consultation with the Evaluation Management Group. The Evaluation Management Group will provide quality assurance based on UNEG standards and norms, UN-SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicators, and GERAAS meta-evaluation criteria.

The UN Women technical team will review the feedback, provide recommendations, and share them with the Consultant, who is expected to use them to finalize the inception/ final report. To ensure transparency and credibility of the process in line with the UNEG norms and standards, a rationale should be provided for any recommendations that the team does not take into account when finalizing the report.

The final responsibility for this evaluation rests with UN Women. The evaluation is managed by the Programme Coordinator in close collaboration with UN Women Nigeria Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist in consultation with the Evaluation Technical Committee (ETC), the Evaluation Management Group (EMG), and external consultants.

The Evaluation Technical Committee and Evaluation Management Group will be established to participate in the evaluation process and ensure the quality of the evaluation report, based on UNEG norms and standards, the UN-SWAP evaluation performance indicators, and GERAAS meta-evaluation criteria.

GERAAS

To improve the quality of this evaluation, the Evaluation Technical Committee and the Evaluation Management Group will be asked by the UN Women Nigeria M&E Specialist to provide the following:
    I.   Feedback on the draft inception and evaluation report.
    II.   Recommendations on how to improve the quality of the final inception/evaluation report.

The Evaluation Manager will review the comments and recommendations of the Evaluation Technical Committee and the Management Group and share them with the Evaluation Consultant, who should use them to finalize the Inception/Evaluation Report.

The Evaluation Technical Committee (ETC) is composed of the UN Women Evaluation Manager, UN Women Regional Evaluation Specialist, and UN Women Regional Evaluation Analyst. The Technical Evaluation Committee will be chaired by the UN Women Nigeria Evaluation Manager who will approve the deliverables after approval by the

Technical Committee and in consultation with the UN Women Regional Evaluation Specialist, in accordance with the UN Women Evaluation Policy.

The ETC provides oversight, makes key decisions, and ensures the quality of the evaluation process and deliverables. Specific responsibilities will include providing oversight of the evaluation methodology, reviewing draft reports, ensuring the quality of deliverables, participating in meetings as key informants, managing the evaluation by requesting updates on the status of the implementation of the evaluation work plan, approving deliverables, organizing meetings with key stakeholders, and identifying strategic opportunities for sharing and learning. Substantial input from the ETC is expected throughout the evaluation process.

The Evaluation Management Group (EMG) is an integral part of the Evaluation Technical Committee and is established to facilitate the participation of relevant stakeholders in the evaluation process, with a view to increasing the likelihood that the evaluation results will be used, improving quality, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and avoiding any real conflict of interest.

The EMG will be composed of individuals from key government ministries (National Centre for Women Development), representatives of UN implementing agencies (UNDP), civil society and the donor. The EMG will be involved throughout the evaluation process and will review the draft inception report and the evaluation report.
The Evaluation Management Group will be chaired by the Evaluation Manager. The Consultant shall incorporate the comments of the Evaluation Reference Group into the final report. To ensure transparency of the process in accordance with UNEG norms and standards, any recommendations omitted by the evaluation team must be justified.

The evaluation is managed by the UN Women Nigeria Evaluation Manager in consultation with the Evaluation Technical Committee, the Evaluation Management Group, and external consultants according to the following matrix.

Management Structure and Responsibilities		
	Partner	**Responsibilities**
Evaluation Technical Committee	UN Women Nigeria Evaluation Manager, UNW-WCA Regional Evaluation Specialist	Finalizes the TOR; contracts and manages the evaluation team; ensures deadlines and milestones are met; supports data-collection activities; consolidates and solicits feedback that will feed into the key deliverables; provides the following lists: key informants in HQ, regional offices and country offices, subgrantees; provides key programme documents, and lists of locations for site visits; accountable for its robustness; meticulously reviews all deliverables based on their role in the evaluation, provides substantive comments and approves the context of the joint programme; ensures the quality and independence of the evaluation are in alignment with UNEG standards and principles; ensures evaluation questions, findings and recommendations are in alignment with the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria; endorses the evaluation dissemination process; contributes to the management response; provides logistical support for the mission; provides logistical support for the presentation of the inception report and the final report; participates in meetings on: progress updates on the work plan, preliminary findings briefing, key informant interview, and final report presentation

Evaluation Management Group	Representatives from: - Government line ministries - Joint Programme Steering Committee - Academic - Programme participants - Development partners Donors - UNCT - Civil society - UN Women	Plays a key role based on their expertise, providing their perspective as an external individual on the way the programme has rolled out; shares views on the feasibility of the recommendations; makes recommendations on the dissemination of the findings of the evaluation; makes recommendations on the implementation of the management response; and participates in meetings as a key informant interviewee.
External consultants	Independent national and international consultant	Carries out the external evaluation; prepares evaluation reports, including the inception report, work plan, biweekly progress updates, preliminary results briefing, and final report, and holds a dissemination presentation. The independent consultant(s) will report to the Evaluation Manager in Nigeria

XIII. Evaluation Team Composition, Skills, and Experience

Competencies

- Core Values and Guiding Principles
- Demonstrates integrity by modelling UN Women values and ethical standards.
- Demonstrates a commitment to UN Women's mission and vision.
- Able to work effectively within a team.
- Displays cultural and gender sensitivity and adaptability.
- Able to multi-task and juggle competing demands.
- Can assess and prioritize work needs quickly.
- Able to relate to external partners, including other international organizations and agencies, NGOs, grassroots community groups, etc.

Functional Competencies

- Sound expertise in gender equality and women's empowerment, including on women's participation in public life.
- Relevant expertise in women's political participation programming/evaluation.
- Broad knowledge of evaluation methodologies and tools. Good communication skills.
- Fluent in Microsoft Word, Excel, e-mail, web-based applications, and databases.
- Demonstrated leadership and personal examples of promoting knowledge management and a professional learning environment.
- Outstanding networking, team building, organizational and communication skills.
- Capacity to work with diverse partners including governments, donors, and civil society.
- Ability to work effectively and harmoniously with people from varied cultures and professional backgrounds.
- Ability to produce well-written documents demonstrating excellent interpersonal communication skills.

Required Skills and Experience

Education:

- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in Gender Studies, Education-related fields, Political Science, Sociology, International Relations, or relevant field, and/or equivalent practical experience.

Experience:

- A minimum of 10 years of relevant work experience in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as in projects/programme evaluations.
- Substantive knowledge of and experience in women's participation in public life and women's leadership generally.
- Experience in working and communicating in a multicultural environment.
- Demonstrated capacity to draft and produce well-written, clear reports for effective understanding.
- Experience with UN organizations and programmes, including those related to women's empowerment, gender mainstreaming and gender equality is an asset.

Language:

- Fluency in oral and written English is required.

I. Ethical Code of Conduct

The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Ethical Guidelines and Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN system are available at: http://www.uneval.org/document/detail/100; Norms for evaluation in the UN system: http://unevaluation.org/document/detail/21 and UNEG Standards for evaluation (updated 2016): http://unevaluation.org/document/detail/1914

II. Application Submission Process

Please submit the following to demonstrate your interest and qualifications:

Price proposal (All-inclusive daily fee)

Interested individuals are kindly requested to submit an all-inclusive daily consultancy fee
The applicable cost for travel, accommodation, and transport from home to the six States of the project: Borno, Cross River, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Kaduna, and Kwara (the most economical route) should be included in the financial offer.

Personal CV and/or P11

Interested individuals must submit their applications online through the UNDP Online Recruitment System. Applicants are encouraged to fill and sign a P11 Form and submit it on the online application, although regular CVs are also acceptable. The P11 Form can be obtained at http://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/employment.

Application Evaluation Process

Individual consultants will be evaluated based on the Cumulative Analysis methodology [weighted scoring method], where the award of the contract will be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

a) Responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
b) Having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

The following criteria will be used in the Technical Evaluation:

– Relevant work experience in the field of women's participation in public life in Nigeria
– Relevant expertise in evaluation.
– Demonstrated leadership and personal examples of producing relevant reports.

UN Women applies fair and transparent selection processes that will take into account both the technical qualification of consultants as well as their price proposals. The contract will be awarded to the candidate obtaining the highest combined technical and financial scores.

I. Annexes

Key Evaluation Guidance Documents:

1. [Guidance on the UN Women Global Evaluation Report Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS)](#)
2. [UNEG Standards for Evaluation](#)
3. [UN Women Evaluation Policy](#)
4. [UN Women Evaluation Handbook: How to Manage Gender-Responsive Evaluation](#)
5. [UN Women Evaluation Consultants Agreement Form](#)
6. [UNEG Ethical Guidelines and Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN system](#)
7. [UNEG Norms for Evaluations:](#)
8. [UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations](#)
9. [Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations](#)
10. [UNEG Handbook for Conductive Evaluations of Normative Work in the UN System](#)
11. [Global Gender Gap Report](#)
12. [World Bank – Gender Equality Data and Statistics](#)
13. [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Social Institutions and Gender Index](#)
14. [Listing of UN reports, databases and archives relating to gender equality and women's rights](#)

I. Annexes

ANNEX 4: TOOLS

ADVANCE WPP PROJECT MID-TERM EVALUATION BENEFICIARIES' QUESTIONNAIRE

1.0. INTRODUCTION

This survey tool assesses the impact of the ADVANCE WPP project from the beneficiary's perspective. This instrument solicits information to assess the perceptions of beneficiaries on the relevance, effectiveness and impact of the project. Your information and response to the survey will be held in confidence.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF RESPONDENTS

1. Gender of the Respondents (a) Male (b) Female
2. Age of Respondents (a) 18 – 29 Years (b) 30 – 49 Years and (c) 50 and above.
3. Educational qualification of Respondents (a) No formal education (b) Primary (c) Secondary (d) Tertiary

SECTION B : RELEVANCE, EFFECTIVENESS, AND IMPACT OF THE ADVANCE WPP PROJECT

1. How relevant was the ADVANCE WPP project to the priority needs of the beneficiaries? (a) Very Relevant (b) Relevant (c) Not relevant

2. To what extent did the project activities contribute to promoting women and youth political participation in Nigeria? (a) Very Large extent (b) Large Extent (c) Little extent (d) No change (e) Don't know

3. To what extent did the project activities contribute to strengthening the capacity of young women who are motivated to become political leaders at ward, State and federal levels? (a) Very Large extent (b) Large Extent (c) Little extent (d) No change (e) Don't know

4. To what extent did the project activities contribute to enhancing the capacity and awareness of women candidates and voters to participate in election processes? (a) Very Large extent (b) Large Extent (c) Little extent (d) No change (e) Don't know

5. How would you rate the effectiveness of the project as a mechanism for improving women's political participation in Nigeria (a) Very Effective (b) Effective (c) Not effective (d) Don't know

6. To what extent are the benefits of the project likely to be sustained when the project ends? (a) Very Large extent (b) Large Extent (c) Little extent (d) No change (e) Don't know

7. What are the changes produced by the project? (a) Increase women and youth political participation (b) Increase women's voter registration (c) Reduce Violence Against Women in Politics (d) Increase political interest among more young women to join politics (e) Reduce barriers to women's political participation (Tick all that applies)

8. How satisfied are you with the ADVANCE WPP project with respect to its contributions to increasing women's participation in politics (a) Very Satisfied (b) Satisfied (c) Not satisfied (d) Don't Know

9. To what extent were the training programmes delivered in a timely manner? (a) very Timely (b) Timely (c) Not Timely (d) Don't know

10. How will you describe the duration of the training program conducted under the ADVANCE WPP project? (a) Very adequate (b) Adequate (c) Not Adequate (d) Don't know

End of questionnaire. Thank you.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Relevance:

- To what extent is the implementation strategy relevant?
- To what extent was the project design appropriately articulated? Is the definition of goal, outcomes and outputs clearly articulated? Is the theory of change still valid?
- To what extent have the project objectives addressed identified rights and needs of the target groups?
- To what extent has the project been catalytic in addressing some of the barriers to women's political participation, especially those limiting support for women in politics and public life?
- To what extent were target partners involved in the conceptualization and design process?
- 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 in politics?
- Are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with the intended impacts and effects? Do they address the problems identified?
- To what extent are human rights recognized and addressed as priorities through the project and its implementation to comply with CEDAW and other international commitments?

Effectiveness:

- To what extent did the intervention areas assist in increasing women's political participation?
- To what extent has the project been effective in creating an enabling environment?
- How successful was the project in terms of the progress made towards achievement of the expected results outputs and outcomes? 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?
- Does it provide the most effective route towards expected results?
- To what extent have the capacities of relevant stakeholders and target groups been strengthened?
- To what extent did UN Women build the capacity of implementing partners to deliver results and set targets?
- Does the project have effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress towards results?
- To what extent has the project been successful?
- Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner?
- To what extent has implementation been delayed? What are the causes? How have they been resolved (if at all)? What potential delays could arise in the future and how can they be prevented from occurring?
- To what extent is the project's external communication effective? Are proper means of communication established or being established to communicate the project's progress and intended impact?
- How satisfied are you with the project?

Efficiency:

- 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 in a timely manner?
- 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?
- How did the project utilize existing local capacities to achieve its outcomes?
- To what extent were the project's monitoring mechanisms implemented to effectively measure and inform the management of the project's performance and progress towards targets? To what extent were monitoring data objectively used to inform management action and decision-making?
- To what extent does the project have appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for a timely flow of funds?
- To what extent were follow-up actions taken to address challenges, obstacles and risks associated with the Project, and what has been done to mitigate these in order to reach planned outcomes.

- What (if any) were key opportunities and/or challenges and future considerations in the operational context of the project? What future considerations should be made to address any emerging challenges?
- What changes/interventions could have been emphasized to capitalize on the opportunities for improving the project delivery?
- To what extent is the internal project communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of outcomes, and activities for and investment in the sustainability of the project results?

Impact:
- What are the effects produced, positive and negative, intended or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society)?
- Have there been any negative effects of the project on the four cross-cutting issues: gender, human rights, climate, and the environment and corruption?
- To what extent were gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of the intervention?
- In what areas do you think the project can be improved?

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.*
- What capacities of national partners, both technical and operational, have been strengthened?
- 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?
- To what extent are the financial capacities of partners likely to maintain the benefits from the project? What might be needed to support partners to maintain these benefits?

Coherence:
- 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 partners possess the comparative advantage in the project's area of work in comparison with other partners in Nigeria?
- To what extent has the project enabled and/or leveraged strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders at regional and country levels?

Gender Equality and Human Rights
- To what extent have gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation?
- How has attention to/ integration of gender equality and human rights concerns advance the area of work?
- What was the main value added of the project in changing the quality of life of women and girls?

Disability Inclusion
- How has the program contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities?

Key Informant Interview Guide: Community Leaders and other Key Informants

Relevance:
- To what extent have the project objectives addressed identified rights and needs of the target groups?
- To what extent has the project been catalytic in addressing some of the barriers to women's political participation, especially those limiting support for women in politics and public life?

Effectiveness:
- To what extent did the intervention areas assist in increasing women's political participation?
- To what extent has the project been effective in creating an enabling environment?
- How satisfied are you with the project?

Impact:

- What are the effects produced, positive and negative, intended or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society)?
- Have there been any negative effects of the project on the four cross-cutting issues: gender, human rights, climate, and the environment and corruption?
- To what extent were gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of the intervention?

Sustainability:
- 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?

Gender Equality and Human Rights
- To what extent have gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation?

Disability Inclusion
- What portion of beneficiaries were persons with disabilities?
- How has the program contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities?

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

Relevance:
- To what extent was the project design appropriately articulated? Is the definition of goal, outcomes and outputs clearly articulated? Is the theory of change still valid?
- To what extent have the project objectives addressed your needs with respect to women's political participation?
- Were you involved in the design of the project?

Effectiveness:
- To what extent did the intervention areas assist in increasing women's political participation?
- Are you satisfied with the results achieved by the project?
- To what extent has the project built your capacity with respect women's political participation?

Efficiency: *A measure of how economical resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) were converted to results.*
- What changes would you suggest should be made in the way the training programme was organized?

Impact: *The effect of the project*
- What are the effects produced, positive and negative, intended or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society)?
- Have there been any negative effects of the project?

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.*
- 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?

Coherence:
- What capacities and skills should UN Women prioritize and further develop to bring greater coherence and relevance to its interventions?

Gender Equality and Human Rights
- What was the main value added of the project in changing the quality of life of women and girls?
- How has the programme contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities?

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS (CSOs) AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERS.

Relevance:

- To what extent have the project objectives addressed identified rights and needs of the target groups?
- To what extent has the project been catalytic in addressing some of the barriers to women's political participation, especially those limiting support for women in politics and public life?

Effectiveness:

- To what extent did the intervention areas assist in increasing women's political participation?
- To what extent has the project been effective in creating an enabling environment?
- To what extent have the capacities of relevant stakeholders and target groups been strengthened?
- To what extent did UN Women build the capacity of implementing partners to deliver results and set targets?

Impact:

- What are the effects produced, positive and negative, intended or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society)?
- Have there been any negative effects of the project on the four cross-cutting issues: gender, human rights, climate, and the environment and corruption?
- To what extent were gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of the intervention?
- In what areas do you think the project can be improved?

Sustainability:

- 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?

Gender Equality and Human Rights

- To what extent have gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation?

Disability Inclusion

- How has the programme contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities?

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR UN WOMEN WPP PROGRAMME TEAM

Relevance:

- To what extent is the implementation strategy relevant?
- To what extent was the project design appropriately articulated? Is the definition of goal, outcomes and outputs clearly articulated? Is the theory of change still valid?
- To what extent have the project objectives addressed identified rights and needs of the target groups?
- To what extent has the project been catalytic in addressing some of the barriers to women's political participation, especially those limiting support for women in politics and public life?
- To what extent were target partners involved in the conceptualization and design process?
- 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 in politics?
- Are the activities and outputs of the project consistent with the intended impacts and effects? Do they address the problems identified?
- To what extent are the risks identified in the project risk matrix still valid? Are the risks still the most important and are risk ratings applied appropriate and up to date? If not, explain why. Provide an updated risk matrix.
- To what extent are human rights recognized and addressed as priorities through the project and its implementation to comply with CEDAW and other international commitments?

Effectiveness:

- To what extent did the intervention areas assist in increasing women's political participation?
- To what extent has the project been effective in creating an enabling environment?
- How successful was the project in terms of the progress made towards achievement of the expected results outputs and outcomes? 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?
- Does it provide the most effective route towards expected results?
- To what extent have the capacities of relevant stakeholders and target groups been strengthened?
- To what extent did UN Women build the capacity of implementing partners to deliver results and set targets?
- To what extent do the project and partners undertake and fulfil UN Women reporting requirements (internal and external)?
- Does the project have effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress towards 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 approaches innovative for achieving the planned results? What - if any - types of innovative good practices have been introduced in the project for the achievement of results?
- To what extent has the project been successful?
- Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner?
- To what extent has implementation been delayed? What are the causes? How have they been resolved (if at all)? What potential delays could arise in the future and how can they be prevented from occurring?
- To what extent is the project's external communication effective? Are proper means of communication established or being established to communicate the project progress and intended impact?

Efficiency:

- 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 in a timely manner?
- 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?
- How did the project utilize existing local capacities to achieve its outcomes?
- To what extent were the project's monitoring mechanisms implemented to effectively measure and inform the management of the project's performance and progress towards targets? To what extent were monitoring data objectively used to inform management action and decision-making?
- To what extent are monitoring tools currently being used? Do they provide the necessary information? Are they efficient? Are additional tools required? How can they be made more participatory and inclusive?
- To what extent is the financial management of the monitoring and evaluation sufficient, and how are resources allocated to monitoring and evaluation?
- To what extent does the project have appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for a timely flow of funds?
- To what extent were follow-up actions taken address challenges, obstacles and risks associated with the Project, and what has been done to mitigate these in order to reach planned outcomes?
- What (if any) were key opportunities and/or challenges and future considerations in the operational context of the project? What future considerations should be made to address any emerging challenges?
- What changes/interventions could have been emphasized to capitalize on the opportunities for improving the project delivery?
- To what extent is the internal project communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of outcomes, and activities for and investment in the sustainability of the project results?

Impact:

- Are there clear baseline indicators and/or benchmarks for performance? How are these being used in project's management?
- To what extent do the log frame indicators track progress towards targets?
- To what extent can the project achieve its objectives within the remaining implementation time frame? What barriers have been identified and how can they be mitigated?
- What are the effects produced, positive and negative, intended or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society)?
- Have there been any negative effects of the project on the four cross-cutting issues: gender, human rights, climate, and the environment and corruption?
- To what extent were gender equality and women's empowerment advanced as a result of the intervention?

Sustainability:

- Were requirements of national ownership satisfied? Was 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 capacities of national partners, both technical and operational, have been strengthened?
- 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?
- To what extent are the financial capacities of partners likely to maintain the benefits from the project? What might be needed to support partners to maintain these benefits?
- How successful was the project in promoting replication and/or upscaling of successful practices?
- Which innovations have been identified (if any) and how can they be replicated?

Coherence:

- To what extent does the project address UN Women's triple mandate?
- 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 partners possess the comparative advantage in the project's area of work in comparison with other partners in Nigeria?
- To what extent is the project coherent with similar interventions implemented for promoting women's protection and participation in the country, internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria, wider donor policy, with international obligations for women's human rights, other human rights conventions and other international frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women?
- To what extent is the project coherent internally in UN Women and within the UN System in Nigeria?
- To what extent is the project coherent with wider donor policy?
- To what extent has the project enabled and/or leveraged strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders at regional and country levels?
- 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?
- To what extent has the project contributed to advancing UN Women's coordination mandate on the other thematic areas, both at global and country levels?

Gender Equality and Human Rights:

- To what extent have gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation?
- How has attention to/ integration of gender equality and human rights concerns advance the area of work?
- What was the main value added of the project in changing the quality of life of women and girls?

Disability Inclusion:

- What portion of beneficiaries were persons with disabilities?
- To what extent does the project align or not with the systematic approach of leaving no one behind (LNOB)? What recommendations can the project adopt to capture LNOB information within the existing performance monitoring framework?
- How has the programme contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities?