

## GENDER SITUATION ANALYSIS OF SOME SECTORS IN NIGERIA

### Agriculture and Natural Resources

Women are responsible for 70% of agricultural labour, 50% of animal husbandry related activities and 60% of food processing activities (from 2010 statistics).

Despite this statistics, their contributions are not valued or recognized or reflected in the agricultural policy and planning.

Most women lack access and control over agricultural resources, like land, loans, modern equipments, to cultivate large scale farming, so their agricultural activities are merely subsistence.

### Violence Against Women

The level of violence cases reported in Nigeria, is still very low, compared to the perceived occurrences.

**Below are some of the cases reported:**

Nature of Cases	No.of reports
Denial of inheritance	108
Sexual Assault	55
Physical Assault	176
Divorce	350
Family Conflict	250
Harassment	98
Child Abuse and Neglect	107

Report cases available at WRAPA in Nigeria From Jan 2007- March 2008 .

### Household Economy

The man is the head of the family, so the final decisions on the household rests with him. The woman's ability to decide on how the family's financial resources are utilized, depends to a great extent on how much she contributes to the household economy and her level of education. The woman therefore works longer hours than the man in carrying out both domestic and commercial activities to support the family. Some economic activities carried out by the woman include: Sewing, Knitting, Weaving, Trading, Pottery, Agriculture, Bead Making and food Processing etc.

### Nigerian Workforce

**Average Distribution of the Workforce in Zones by Sex in Sectors**

	EDUCATION.		HEALTH		LABOUR		AGRICULTUR E		HOUSEHOLD		COMMUNICATIO N		JUDICIAR Y	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>NE</b>	945	482	115 7	1046 1	17 7	83	459	60	16 4	109	82	26	87	26
<b>N W</b>	377	76	776	883	23 6	62	731	28	62	66	213	15	88 7	35
<b>NC</b>	141 2	665	711	426	85	42	509	144	88	87	562	80	25 3	72
<b>SW</b>	299	285	-	-	76	89	372	168	85	123	109	53	59	73
<b>SS</b>	95	81	168	179	16 5	63	334	136	84	92	132	75	24	22

SE	880	816	384	871	61	71	463	240	41	70	139	133	96	115
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Source: NWS-NCWD (2009)

## Women in Political and Public Life

Section 42 of the 1999 Constitution guarantees every Nigerian (women and Men), the rights to freedom from discrimination and freedom of association, where by extension includes political association and participation by all on level ground. However, statistics shows that men and women do not have equal access to power as revealed below:

### GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS IN APPOINTIVE AND ELECTIVE POSITIONS IN NIGERIA

Office Type	1999			2003			2006			2007			2011		
FEDERAL															
	No. Avail able	M al e	Fem ale	No. Avail able	M al e	Fem ale	No. Avail able	M al e	Fem ale	No. Avail able	M al e	Fem ale	No. Avail able	M al e	Fem ale
President	1	1	0	1			1			1			1		
Vice President	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Senate	109	106	3	109	106	3	109	102	4	109	100	9	109	102	7
Senate President	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Deputy Senate President	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
House of Representatives	360	348	12	360	338	22	360	339	21	360	335	25	360	334	26
Speaker	1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1	
Deputy Speaker	1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1	
Cabinet Ministers	49	45	4	49	41	8	49	39	10	41		8	41		13
Perm Sec.	40	32	8	40	28	12	40	27	13	39			41		11

Data collected at NASS in Nigeria, 2011

The National Gender Data Bank of the NCWD is currently in the process of gender data gathering that will yield a wider coverage and so reflect a larger picture of gender gaps in Decision Making positions in Nigeria. It is hoped that with such data, the Centre should be able to advocate for the implementation of the promised 35% affirmative action especially as it concerns appointive positions.

### ACTUAL REPRESENTATION OF NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO CONTESTED FOR 2007 AND 2011 ELECTIONS ACROSS VARIOUS POSITIONS

	SHA	Dep. Gov.	Gov.	House of Reps	Senate	Vice Pres.	President
2007 Female Candidates	407	49	19	115	69	6	1
2011 Female Candidates	497	60	14	222	92	4	1

Source: Independent National Electoral Commission

### **REMARKS:**

The table above compares the number of Female Candidates in 2007 elections to that of 2011 elections and it is based on Statistics from the Independent National Electoral Commission. The data reveals the following:

1. The No. of Female contesting for Senatorial, House of Reps and SHA positions increased in 2011 compared to 2007, probably due to encouragement drawn from successes recorded by **some** of the women who contested and won these positions in 2007 elections.
2. The no. of female candidates vying for Presidency remains the same while for Governorship, the no. decreased - these can be attributed to discouragements due to defeat suffered by all women who contested for these positions during 2007 elections. Nevertheless, the unprecedented violence witnessed across board in all the political parties might have deprived the 2011 elections from witnessing the expected increase in political participation of Nigerian Women in proportion to the numerous awareness/sensitization programmes carried out to encourage women to participate in contesting for elective positions.

### **Percentage Distribution of 2011 Elections Candidates by Gender and Across Elective Positions**

<b>2011 Elections Candidates</b>	<b>Presidents</b>	<b>Vice Presidents</b>	<b>Senate</b>	<b>House of Reps</b>	<b>Governors</b>	<b>Dep. Governors</b>	<b>SHA</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>1 (5%)</b>	<b>4 (20%)</b>	<b>92 (10%)</b>	<b>222 (9%)</b>	<b>14 (4%)</b>	<b>60 (17%)</b>	<b>496 (8%)</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>19 (95%)</b>	<b>16 (80%)</b>	<b>806 (90%)</b>	<b>2217 (91%)</b>	<b>348 (96%)</b>	<b>297 (83%)</b>	<b>5342 (92%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 (100%)</b>	<b>20 (100%)</b>	<b>898 (100%)</b>	<b>2439 (100%)</b>	<b>362 (100%)</b>	<b>357 (100%)</b>	<b>5838 (100%)</b>

*Source: Independent National Electoral Commission*

### **REMARKS:**

The table above displays male dominance in the political terrain as the number of male Political Candidates outnumber their female counterparts by over 60% across all the elective positions considered nationwide revealing the fact that Female politicians will need more support if they will ever equal the number of male in political participation.

The two major challenges to gender mainstreaming in Nigeria identified in this paper are;

- (1) Lack of available data needed to plan and dialogue for gender mainstreaming measures:

It is in recognition of this that the NCWD embarked on the establishment of National Gender Data Bank which is ready to be launched. But has so far suffered lack of funds in terms of populating the Bank with gender disaggregated data. The project is under the management of PRS Department and we plan to establish similar Banks at the State levels next year.

- (2) Another challenge Nigeria faces towards mainstreaming gender is low political will/male bias towards gender and women's issues. Majority of those managing the affairs of the country at Federal, States, LG and Community levels are men. Majority of whom are not gender sensitive. Consequently, most of the government policies and programmes are gender blind, hardly are gender issues integrated or put into considerations.

Further more, where women's only programmes or projects exists in the country, hardly are they treated with the seriousness it deserves both in terms of institutional, management

and financial support. Hence such programmes hardly performs well like Women Development Centres in the 774 local government areas.

Considering the challenges mentioned above, it is desirable that the staff of the NCWD/SMWA/WDC be exposed to regular training and seminars where they would be able to exchange ideas with similar bodies in other countries to share views and learn from their experiences on how they overcome such challenges. The experiences to be learned from the Seminar through lectures, discussions and visits will enable us to use the knowledge and good practices to develop a good strategy that will enable us deal with some of these challenges, and so be able to drive successful gender mainstreaming processes for sustainable development in Nigeria.

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion, I hope that after this training, our desire in this course will be to further strengthen the development and promotion of Women Development Centres in Nigeria.