

Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

United Nations Development Programme

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN NIGERIA

Brief Description

This project is designed to empower women and increase their participation and access towards leadership positions within the public and civilian life of Nigeria through innovative advocacy, training, citizen participation and communication. The project will also promote measures that guarantee equal access for women and ensure their full participation within the power structures; develop strategies that will bring about equal politics at the national level and strengthen young women organizations in Nigeria.



United Nations Development Programme

PROJECT NUMBER:

PROJECT TITLE: POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN NIGERIA

EXECUTING AGENCY: UNIFEM

PROJECT SITE: Nigeria

Source Of Fund (SOF):

ESTIMATED START DATE: 1 January 2006

ESTIMATED END DATE: 30 June 2007

Summary of UNDP Input	
UNDP Track:	\$ 100,000
Third-party:	US 175,000
TOTAL:	US\$ 275,000

STRATEGIC AREAS OF SUPPORT: Fostering Democratic Governance in Nigeria.

Approved on behalf of:

National Planning Commission – CEA

Osita Ogburn

Date:

16/3/06

UNDP Resident Representative:

Date: March 03, 2006

I. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Women are the most visible faces in most societies of the world including Nigeria where they form about 50% of the total population. In recognition of this, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which entered into force on 3rd of September 1981, expresses conviction “that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields”. Article 7 of the Convention provides that “State parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

- a. to vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for elections to all publicly elected bodies;
- b. to participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government.

The Beijing Platform of Action went a little further by recommending that at least, 30% of elective/appointive positions be reserved for women as a way of guaranteeing and actualising equal participation of women in public life of any country. The Nigerian Constitution of 1999, in Chapter IV -Fundamental Rights, Section 40, guarantees that, “Every person shall be entitled to assemble freely and associate with other persons, and in particular he may form or belong to any political party, trade union or any other association for the protection of his interests”

As part of a broader strategy to get more women elected during the 2003 elections, civil society organizations, women activists and male supporters mobilized women to advocate with party leadership and to public agencies. Many anticipated significant gains in the number of women to be elected and appointed to public offices. The message was that women should be given the opportunity and encouragement for meaningful participation, as well as party support for women seeking elected office. In the months leading up to the elections, most signs suggested good reason for optimism. An increased number of women aspirants had emerged to contest during the primaries of the major political parties, particularly at the local government level. And most parties had gone on public record as committed to supporting the candidacies of women in response to strong advocacy by civil society, recognition of the importance of the women vote, and for many party officials acknowledgment that women’s contributions were expected and necessary for Nigeria’s political and economic transformation. However, as the party primaries were being concluded in December 2002 and January 2003, there were clear signs that few viable women candidates would emerge from the screening and nomination process.

By mid-December 2002, women’s optimism was to be seriously tested by political realities over which they had little control and limited understanding. Early in the political season, many women discovered that they were ill equipped to play the same political games as men with more resources and stronger political connections. Some were very new to politics, while more experienced women found themselves without party support or a loyal constituency. Out of 835 women that contested the primaries

across the parties, only 304 women representing 37% were successful at the primary level in 2003. Party hierarchies in preference for men later dropped a number of those women who emerged from the party primaries.

At the end of the elections in 2003, available statistics show that 3 women were elected into the Upper legislative house, the senate out of a total of 109, 21 women out of a total of 306 members in the lower house, the House of Representatives, and 23 into the various State Houses of Assembly. Out of 36 Speakers in State Houses of Assembly, there was one woman, which was no improvement on 1999 elections. However, the 2003 elections produced two women deputy governors as against one in 1999. While appointment of women into key federal ministries and positions may be considered great improvement, it is still a far cry from the 30% affirmative action being the least recommended by the Beijing Platform of Action.

Some of the obstacles facing women in effective participation in governance have been attributed to low education, difficulty of combining political careers with traditional role of women in the family, lack of experience in campaigning, public debate and exposure to media, insufficient political education, hence their poor preparation for elections and lack of confidence and support for female candidates by political parties and the electorates including women. Other factors include prevailing concepts of power authority and leadership, which discourage women, lack of adequate finance to fund political activities, the low participation in executive positions of trade unions, political parties and associations, and inability to build up and use less formalized channels like family relations, committee of friends and peer groups for mustering political support.

The victory of Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in the just concluded Liberian elections, as the first female president in Africa, has become a tonic for Nigerian women to aspire to the highest political position in the country. Having identified various obstacles militating against success of women at the polls, several donor agencies have engaged women since the 2003 elections in preparation for successful participation in the 2007 elections. Such interventions have focused on conflict management, alternative dispute resolution, constituency building, political education, democratic development and human rights. They also encompass domestic monitoring and voter education, journalistic training, media rights, labour rights, legal rights activities support the assertion of legal rights in Nigeria, public enlightenment activities to educate the public and raise their awareness about human rights and democratic culture, transparency and accountability and women's rights.

Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) seeks to "Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women". One of the indicators is the "proportion of seats held by women in national parliament". The Nigerian government's quest to deliver the MDGs in 2015 has inspired the creation of an environment conducive for the attainment of gender equality and promotion of non-discrimination in Nigeria. Nigeria has adopted a National Policy on Women in 2000, which articulates gender mainstreaming in relevant sectors. It also supports the formulation of policies in relation to social, economic, and political actions leading to the actualisation of relevant provisions of the federal constitution and some international treaties. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development has been in the forefront of policy development, monitoring and implementation of gender mainstreaming,

including advocating for gender budgeting and improved quality of education for women and girls.

The role of women in the National Political Reform conference was quite instructive. This project will therefore build on such structures and other efforts used during the 2003 elections to advance the participation of women in the forthcoming general elections. There will be focus on strengthening such structures and giving women politicians the needed voice and skills required for active participation in the forthcoming elections.

Objectives:

- To strengthen the capacity of women politicians to negotiate access to the electoral process;
- To develop strategies for increasing women participation in the electoral processes
- To strengthen capacity of civil society organizations to advocate for gender inclusion in the electoral processes

II. STRATEGY

Under the National Governance Programme, gender has been identified as one of the five crosscutting issues for which mainstreaming is needed in a comprehensive action plan. The others are human rights, the environment, disaster management and conflict prevention, management and resolution. To mainstream gender issues in all aspects of governance implies not only developing ways of increasing the participation of women in politics, public policy and government, but also promoting gender sensitivity in public policy formulation and implementation. The two processes are mutually reinforcing, in the sense that the more women participate in politics and hold political office, the more women issues and concerns will be reflected in public policy. Thus, adopting a gender-focused approach to governance for sustainable development and enhancing gender balance and equity in political participation and public office are essential goals of the national governance programme.

The aim of this project is to build a strong societal support for increased women's participation in politics and governance as a matter of social justice and inclusiveness.

A. Capacity Building

1. Strengthening of women politicians

It has been observed that the major constraints against women active participation in the political processes have been traced to lack of capacity. This also includes lack of capacity to negotiate political space. Women need to be empowered politically to formulate and implement an action plan, which will assist them to actualise the minimum 30% affirmative action in political offices by the year 2007. Under the project, the capacity of women will be strengthened to analyze the causes of their low performance in the past elections and to come up with a national action plan that will be negotiated with the various political parties.

This will be realized through organizing a national capacity building workshop for women politicians from the six geopolitical zones of the country to analyse

the obstacles to political empowerment of women and develop a common agenda.

2. Gender-focused NGOs

There will be a workshop for select gender-based NGOs drawn from the six-geopolitical zones of the country. Their capacities will be strengthened to advocate for gender inclusiveness in the political processes. The agenda/action plan to be development will become a tool for continuous advocacy on gender issues. Specifically, the training workshop will focus on campaign strategies, media messaging, among other strategic needs of the civil society groups.

3. Media organizations

This project considers the media as key to projecting women issues particularly as regards the forthcoming elections. A training workshop will be organized for the media – electronic and print to appreciate and understand the role of women in governance. They will also be involved in all the activities of the project particularly those involving the trained women and political parties.

4. Political parties

Political parties have often promised reserving positions for women at elections without ever doing so. Most of the programmes of the existing political parties do not look gender-sensitive. The workshop to be organized for political parties will bring together women representatives of the political parties, elected women at various levels, State arms of the National Council of Women Society, and NGOs active in political empowerment of women. This workshop will provide an avenue to present, share and demand space from the parties.

B. Development of advocacy/agenda tools:

The capacity building forum will be used to develop an action plan for political empowerment of women with particular emphasis on increasing the number of women in elective and appointive positions at all levels during the national levels. The action plan will be popularised among the various political parties for their adoption and implementation for the 2007 elections. This becomes an advocacy agenda for the civil society groups whose capacities have been built in the process. Following this also, a media strategy will be developed to continue to project the women agenda.

III. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

INTENDED OUTCOMES: Improved gender equity in elected offices		
OUTCOME INDICATORS: 1. Greater participation of women in active politics through increase in the number of women as candidates. 2. Equal access and full participation of women within the power structures guaranteed.		
APPLICABLE STRATEGIC AREA OF SUPPORT: Gender specific NGOs will provide support to women contesting for elective positions to enhance their chances of successes as well as undertake advocacy with political parties to concede certain percentage of elective offices to women in new governments at all levels.		
PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY: UNDP in collaboration with UNIFEM and other relevant institutions will execute the project as implementing partners.		
PROJECT TITLE AND NUMBER: Political Empowerment of Women.		
DURATION: 18 months January 2006 to June 31, 2007		
INTENDED OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	INPUTS
1. Strategic development action workshop to find out constraints/gaps to women political empowerment organized.	1.1 Organize national workshop for 200 women drawn from 36 states plus FCT to analyze women constraints to full participation in politics. 1.2 Prepare Reports on constraints and a Draft National Action Plan for Political Empowerment of women	(\$32,000)
2. National Action Plan on political empowerment of women implemented.	2.1 Priority capacity building activities identified. 2.2 Capacity building training organized. 2.3 Consultative meeting with political parties	(\$28,000)
3. Capacities of women politicians enhanced towards future elections.	3.1 Design and implement programme of action for sensitising Nigerian women on political empowerment. 3.2 Organize training for women political leaders on lobbying, mobilization, politicking, constituency building, and political speech writing skills.	(\$25,000)
4 Improved capacity of the media to advocate for inclusion of women in national development.	4.1 Design training modules for media executives and political reporters on gender and governance. 4.2 Strengthen media/women politicians' partnership. 4.3 Support the development of advocacy materials for NGOs.	(\$25,000)
5 Increased sensitivity of political parties, legislature and government to	5.1 Organize all political parties fora to sensitize politicians on the need to improve on the number of women elected into political positions. 5.2 Support selected CSOs/ NGOs to lobby parties to initiate concrete and specific policy on conceding	(\$34,000)

improve on the number of women elected and appointed into political positions.	certain percentage of political positions to women at all levels. 5.3 Support selected CSOs/ NGOs to design and implement effective political campaign strategy for women seeking political offices. 5.4 Support selected CSOs/ NGOs to design sustainable resources mobilization strategy for women political office seekers.	
6 Increased coordination and operational support for project	Coordination support for project to ensure efficiency, increased communication Operational support for project to ensure proper communication and provision of support for project	\$ 100,000
7 Capacities of gender based NGOs/CSOs strengthened to advocate for gender inclusiveness in governance.	Survey to identify CSOs/ NGOs that specialize in political empowerment of women. Collate and review proposals and assess capacity gaps. Support capacity building initiative of the selected CSOs/ NGOs. Monitor implementation and evaluate impacts.	(\$31,000)

IV. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

In line with National Execution modalities, NPC and UNDP will assume direct responsibility for the co-ordination of the project. UNIFEM will implement the project. Relevant and gender focused civil society organizations will be selected through a competitive bidding process to implement various elements of the project. The Coalition of women NGOs/CBOs/CSOs under the aegis of Nigeria Council of Women Societies (NCWS) will also be a direct beneficiary. Accordingly, the civil society organizations will follow guidelines for national execution (NEX) in Nigeria based on the accounting, financial reporting and auditing procedures agreed between Government and UNDP and shall be responsible for maintaining records on all implementation actions, including budget records.

For purposes of implementation and coordination of the project into the national governance programme, an advisory committee with representatives from relevant implementation agencies, NPC, UNDP and UNIFEM will serve on the project steering committee. NCWS, and other relevant organizations will work with NPC and UNDP to ensure policy direction, guidance, effective management and implementation of the project through regular meeting (at least once in a quarter). A focal point at UNIFEM will be responsible for all aspects of the day-to-day management of the programme including monitoring and evaluation of the project and will report directly to the advisory committee.

V. LEGAL CONTEXT

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Nigeria and the

United Nations Development Programme, signed by both parties on 12 April 1988. The host country executing and implementing agencies shall, for the purpose of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, refer to the Government cooperating Agency described in that Agreement.

The following types of revisions may be made to the project document with the signature of the UNDP Resident Representative only, provided that he is assured that the other signatories of the project document have no objections to the proposed changes:

- (a) Revisions in, or additions to, any of the annexes of the project document;
- (b) Revisions which do not involve significant changes in the immediate objectives, outputs or activities of the project, but are caused by the rearrangement of inputs already agreed to or by cost increases due to inflation; and
- (c) Mandatory annual revisions, which rephrase the delivery of agreed, project inputs or increased expert or other costs due to inflation or take into account agency expenditure flexibility.

VI. PROJECT MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

The Project Management shall submit progress report to the UNDP every six month and the UNDP shall review the report before submission to the Gender Team/BDP. A team comprising members of the Project Advisory Committee and any other person(s) deemed so fit shall monitor the activities of the project on quarterly basis to ensure compliance with set guidelines and where necessary, recommend review and/or realignment of project activities.

There shall be at least two project evaluations. The first will be a mid-term review conducted at the end of the first year of the project to determine whether the project goals and objectives are being met or not. The second evaluation will be conducted at the end of the second year of the project when all activities of the project shall be reviewed. At this stage, the impact and sustainability of the project will be determined and where possible specific alignment/changes can be made to ensure sustainability and maximum impact of the project on the targeted beneficiaries. There must be a final report at the end of the period of the project execution. The draft final report must be submitted at least one month before the end of the period of execution of the project to the UNDP.

VII. WORKPLAN

INTENDED OUTPUT	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	2006				2007			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1. Strategic development action workshop to find out constraints/gaps to women political empowerment organized.	1.1 Prepare aide memoir and organize National workshop/ Project start-up	■							
	1.2 Organize national workshop for 200 women drawn from 36 states plus FCT to analyze women constraints to full participation in politics.		■						
	1.3 Prepare Reports on constraints and a Draft National Action Plan for Political Empowerment of women		■						
2. National Action Plan on political empowerment of women implemented.	2.1 Priority capacity building activities identified.			■					
	2.2 Capacity building training organized			■					
	2.3 Consultative meeting with political parties			■					
3. Capacities of women politicians enhanced towards future elections.	3.1 Design and implement programme of action for sensitising Nigerian women on political empowerment.			■	■	■			
	3.2 Organize training for women political leaders on lobbying, mobilization, politicking, constituency building, and political speech writing skills.			■					
4. Improved capacity of the media to advocate for inclusion of women in national development	4.1 Design training modules for media executives and political reporters on gender and governance.			■	■				
	4.2 Strengthen media/women politicians' partnership.			■	■				
	4.3 Support the development of advocacy materials for NGOs.			■	■				
5. Increased sensitivity of political parties, legislature and government to improve on the number of women elected and appointed into political positions	5.1 Organize all political parties fora to sensitize politicians on the need to improve on the number of women elected and appointed into political positions.			■	■				
	5.2 Support selected CSOs/ NGOs to lobby parties to initiate concrete and specific policy on conceding certain percentage of political positions to women at all levels.			■	■				
	5.3 Support selected CSOs/ NGOs to design and implement effective political campaign strategy for women seeking political offices.			■	■				
	5.4 Support selected CSOs/ NGOs to design sustainable resources mobilization strategy for women political office seekers.			■	■				
6. Capacities of gender based NGOs/CSOs strengthened to advocate for gender inclusiveness in governance.	6.1 Survey to identify CSOs/ NGOs that specialize in political empowerment of women.		■						
	6.2 Collate and review proposals and assess capacity gaps.		■						
	6.3 Support capacity building initiative of the selected CSOs/ NGOs.		■	■					
7. Monitor implementation and evaluate impacts.	7.1 Biannual Reports			■			■		
	7.2 Mid-term review				■				
	7.3 Final evaluation made							■	
	7.4 Final report								■