

**SECTION FIVE: NATIONAL GENDER SENSITIVITY TRACKING  
PROGRAMME  
(GEN – TRACK NIGERIA)**

## **NATIONAL GENDER SENSITIVITY TRACKING PROGRAMME**

### **(GEN-TRACK NIGERIA)**

#### **5.1 INTRODUCTION:**

Having successfully captured existing gender data in Nigeria as a starting point of the next step is to assemble the data in a National Gender Data Bank. The format shall not only be able to showcase the data to users, but should also be able to generate inferences based on updates. Hence, the proposed Gen-Track Nigeria.

#### **5.2 THE GEN-TRACK CONCEPT**

The Gen-Track is the latest concept of mainstreaming Gender issues and concerns into development activities of nations through adequate evaluation and tracking of core development indicators versus male and female status. It involves digitizing the numerical data into specially designed computer programmes, such that any update on the digitized data can be automatically interpreted by a special digital programme designed based on certain clear and critical indicators of Gender growth.

### **GEN-TRACK ON MDG 1: ERADICATION OF EXTREME POVERTY**

#### **Measures to Safeguard Women's Rights to Own and Acquire Movable and Immovable Property**

The Nigerian Land Regulatory System is fraught with controversies. In recognition of this anomaly, the fifth item on the Federal Government Development Plan in the 7- Point Agenda, focuses on Land Reforms. The Land Reform agenda seeks to "review the existing land laws to ensure equitable use of the nation's land assets for socio-economic development". The Federal Government is convinced that effective land reform will improve and boost wealth creation initiatives in the country.

In addition to the Land reform agenda, some states already put in place laws that protect women's property rights. They include:

- Anambra State Gender and Equal Opportunities Commission Law 2007;
- Imo State Gender and Equal Opportunities Commission Law 2007;
- Lagos State Administration of Estates (Small Payments) Law 2006. This law allows spouses (among other beneficiaries) the grant of full letters of administration without payment of estate duty where the other spouse dies intestate leaving small estate.

#### **Access to credit**

Wide gender gaps still persist in access to most forms of credit in Nigeria. The Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (2006) survey revealed that access to credit for males (54%) was higher

than for females (45.7%) generally. Disparities observed in different forms of credit revealed worse figures than the general situation.

**Table 5.1: Access to Credit Facility by Gender**

<b>Types of Credit</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Micro Credit	72.1	27.9
Grants	72.0	28.0
Cooperatives	65.3	34.7
Esusu	44.3	55.7
Bank Loans	78.1	21.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>45.7</b>

*Source: NBS/Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ), 2006.*

Despite the gender gap in favour of men as shown in Table 5.1 above, women aged 15-29 years fared better than their male counterparts and women of other age groups in access to some forms of credit.

**Table 5.2: Access to Credit Facilities by Age and Gender**

<b>Types of Credit</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>15 – 29 years</b>	<b>30-44 years</b>	<b>45-59 years</b>	<b>60+ years</b>
Micro Credit	Female	51.0	28.8	13.1	11.1
	Male	49.0	71.2	86.9	88.9
Grants	Female	67.7	15.8	27.0	18.1
	Male	32.3	84.2	73.0	81.9
Cooperatives	Female	48.0	35.6	35.0	18.3
	Male	52.0	64.4	65.0	81.7
Esusu	Female	65.1	56.4	54.1	41.1
	Male	34.9	43.6	45.9	58.9
Bank Loans	Female	44.6	20.2	20.1	12.5
	Male	55.4	79.8	79.9	87.5

*Source: NBS/CWIQ, 2006.*

Poor access to credit and other wealth creation facilities has informed the design and implementation of programmes by government, civil society organizations and other development partners. For instance, the number of registered micro finance institutions has

increased from 160 in 2001 to over 700 in 2008 (Nkamnebe, 2008). One of the objectives of Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) is to improve the socio-economic conditions of women, especially those in the rural areas through the provision of loan assistance, skills acquisition, reproductive health care service, adult literacy and girl child education.

## **GEN-TRACK ON MDG 2: ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL EDUCATION**

### **Status of Nigerian Children**

Nigeria is not in a direct war situation, however, pockets of crisis driven by either religious or ethnic concerns as well as agitations for self determination do occur randomly across the country. Notable groups involved in such crisis are the Egbesu Boys in the Niger Delta, the O'odua People's Congress (OPC) and the Eso faction of the Yoruba ethnic group, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) and Bakassi boys in the East and Boko Haram in the Northern part of the country. All these and other similar groups are alleged to constantly recruit young people under the age of 18 years and under 16 years in some cases.

Deep social and economic crisis that has engulfed the country over the years has contributed to the collapse of Islamic educational institutions across the Northern part of the country. As a result, many young boys otherwise known as *Almajirai*, the majority of whom are children of the traditional Koranic institutions, resort to begging and hawking for survival. They wander about towns and this facilitates their recruitment into antisocial activities including use for religious and political crisis. Below are some of the initiatives designed to address this problem:

The Federal government and other development partners have taken diverse steps towards the withdrawal of young people from violent groups. In this regard, some initiatives worth noting include the commencement of commenced a process for the integration of certain basic elements of Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme into the Qur'anic school system as part of a comprehensive proramme for tackling the Almajirai phenomenon;

- This strategy for Accelerated Access to basic education for the Almajirai has three main components: Integrating Quranic School Project, Islamiyya Basic Education Project, and Model Qur'anic School Projects;
- In 2008, in addition to previous financial commitments, the sum of N6m was disbursed to each of the following states to support Qur'anic integration activities - Zamfara, Kano, Adamawa, Borno, Bauchi, Kwara, Yobe, Gombe, Jigawa, Sokoto, Kebbi, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Niger and Katsina;
- A Bill for an act to "provide for the Establishment of the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Destitution in Nigeria and for other Connected Purposes" is before the House of Senate. The Bill is partly designed to address the Almajirai phenomenon;
- In May 2009, the Federal Government offered amnesty to militant youth in the Niger Delta Region and this is beginning to yield positive result as young people are renouncing violence through the process;

- The legal environment for the protection of children is constructive. As at date most of the States of the federation where existing militant groups are prominent have passed the Child's Rights Law which prohibits the use of children as soldiers.

### **Gender Disparity in Enrolment and Completion of Primary Education**

The Mid-Point Assessment of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria 2000-2007, infers that generally, the net enrolment ratio in primary education has consistently increased over the years. From about 8 in every 10 eligible children in 2004, it increased to 9 in 2007 as a result of the implementation of UBE programme and other strategic initiatives. As shown in Table 8, the overall national primary school enrolment figure for females which was 45.03% in 2006 fell to 42.54% in 2007 while that of the males increased from 54.97% to 57.46%.

In spite of progress made, the UBE access is still a problem. According to the Federal Ministry of Education (2007) an estimated 3.6 million children of primary school age and 7.2 million of junior secondary school age, are still not enrolled in school.

**Table 5.3: Trends of National Enrolment in primary schools 2006 - 2007**

	<b>Male %</b>	<b>Females %</b>
<b>2006</b>	54.97	45.03
<b>2007</b>	57.46	42.54

*Source: Federal Ministry of Education, 2008*

Table 5.4 below shows primary six completion rate for males which experienced a decline in 2007 compared to the figures in 2006. Contrary is the case with female completion rate which increased during the same period.

**Table 5.4: Number of Pupils Completing Primary six by Gender 2006 - 2007**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Gender/%</b>			
	<b>Male</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>2006</b>	1,556,801	55.49	1,248,821	45.51
<b>2007</b>	1,593,702	53.02	1,412,369	47.98

*Source: (1) Federal Ministry of Education/UBE*

**Table 5.5: Ratio of girls to boys attending primary education and ratio of boys to girls attending secondary education, Nigeria 2007**

		Primary School Net Attendance Ratio (NAR) girls	Primary School Net Attendance Ratio (NAR) Boys	Gender parity index (GPI) for primary school NAR	Secondary school Net Attendance Ratio (NAR) girls	Secondary school Net Attendance Ratio (NAR)	Gender parity index (GPI) for secondary school NAR
Area sector	Rural	53.7	58.6	0.92	41.7	44.6	0.94
	Urban	77.5	79.7	0.97	67.2	66.5	1.01
Geo-political zones	North Central	80.4	81.8	0.98	55.5	61.4	0.90
	North East	30.4	31.6	0.96	30.7	28.6	1.08
	North West	41.8	51.5	0.81	23.8	35.2	0.68
	South East	91.1	91.7	0.99	70.2	68.8	1.02
	South South	92.2	92.8	0.99	73.3	71.2	1.03
	South West	92.2	93.4	0.99	74.0	75.6	0.98

Source: NBS, Multiple Indicators Clusters Survey (MICS), 2007

### **Enrolment and Completion of Secondary Education**

The transition rate from primary to secondary education is lower for the females than for the males. There is a wide disparity in terms of figures of male (3,720,951) enrolment in secondary education and female (2,914,321) figures. Although there was an increase in male enrolment in the year 2007, there was a decrease in female enrolment from the figures recorded in 2006.

**Table 5.6: Primary school completion rate and transition rate to secondary education, Nigeria 2007**

		Net Primary School Completion Rate girls	Number of Children of primary school completion age	Transition rate to secondary education	Number of children who were in the last grade of primary school the previous year
Sex	Male	37.7	1,933	93.9	1,190
	Female	33.1	1,874	91.4	971
Area sector	Rural	30.7	2,789	91.0	1,338
	Urban	48.5	1,018	95.8	822
Geopolitical zones	North Central	40.3	525	91.9	407
	North East	20.7	886	95.5	303
	North West	17.6	991	84.4	264
	South East	49.1	350	92.5	302
	South South	61.7	529	94.0	478
	South West	53.7	526	96.0	407

Source: NBS, MICS, 2007

### **Legal and policy measures to ensure the education of girls and literacy of women in Nigeria**

The legal environment for promoting improved access to education for girls and women has progressed. Laws (i.e. the Child Rights Act and the Compulsory, Free, Universal Basic Education and Other Related Matters (UBE)) that had been passed previously at the national level have been adopted at State levels in the pursuit of this objective. As at the time of this assessment, 23 out of the 36 states of the federation have adopted the Child Rights Act, showing an increase of 14 states from 2003.

Furthermore, the Federal Government of Nigeria has in place policies that reiterate the right of every Nigerian child to education with particular emphasis on the girl child. They include:

- National Gender Policy, 2006 and its Strategic Implementation Framework and Plan, 2008;
- Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) Policy, 2007 that integrates interventions from the various sectors to promote an integrated holistic approach to the development of the child in its very earliest years through the provision of adequate

health care, nutrition, access to safe water and sanitation, early learning, psycho-social stimulation and protection;

- National Policy on Gender in Basic Education 2007;
- National Child Policy of 2007 and its Strategic Plan of Action/Implementation framework 2007/2008;
- Situation Assessment and Analysis on Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Nigeria, 2008.

### Literacy of Women and Rural Areas Situation

The literacy level of women in Nigeria has witnessed a remarkable increase as shown in table 5.6 below, women in the urban areas fared better (77.2%) than women in the rural areas (45.4%). The steady rise in women's literacy level can be linked to the proliferation of various continuing education and vocational centres at both state and local government levels across the country. The activities of the Women Development Centres (WDCs) as well as the contributions of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have contributed immensely. These centres provide opportunities for young girl school drop outs. In a bid to further strengthen and standardize the programmes and activities of the WDCs, guidelines for the activation of the non functional WDCs as well as improving the capacity of existing ones have been developed and disseminated by the National Centre for Women Development.

**Table 5.7: Percentage of women aged 15 – 24 years that are literate, Nigeria, 2007**

		Percentage literate	Percentage not known	Number of women aged 15 – 24 years
Area Sector	Rural	45.4	1.3	5,613
	Urban	77.2	0.6	2,905
Geographical Zones	North Central	55.6	0.9	1,035
	North East	39.3	0.3	2,077
	North West	21.2	3.8	1,807
	South East	87.5	0.0	970
	South South	81.0	0.2	1,472
	South West	84.6	0.6	1,157

Source: NBS, MICS, 2007

### Improving access to Nomadic Education

In accelerating the provision of basic education for all children of school age and in a bid to address the challenges of non-formal education curriculum for girls, children without access to school and school dropouts (particularly those from Koranic schools where girls account for 60 percent of all dropouts), the National Commission for Nomadic Education (NCNE) has continued to train the existing teachers in nomadic schools on the peculiarities and expectations



of the nomadic education curricular. These efforts have contributed to an increase in the number of nomadic schools enrollment, particularly among girls, and enhanced opportunities for non-formal and nomadic education.

**Table 5.8: National Summary of Nomadic School Statistics, 2006 - 2007**

	2003	2004	2005	2006**	2007*
Total Schools	1,818	1,981	2,034	2,294	2,526
Total Enrolment	303,518	362,645	371,573	408,705	432,411
Total Male Enrolment	175,962	211,931	222,061	240,131	255,494
Total Female Enrolment	127,556	151,622	153,489	168,574	176,917
Total Teachers	6,305	6,861	6,918	7,711	8,665
Total Male Teachers	5,170	5,626	5,742	5,112	6,122
Total Female Teachers	1,135	1,235	1,176	2,599	2,543
Total Class Rooms	7,629	8,148	8,741	3,614	4,713
Total Pupil Ratio	01:48	01:52	01:54	1:53	1:50

Sources: (1) Federal Ministry of Education (2) National Council for Nomadic Education

Note: \*\* = Revised \* = Provisional

Although male enrolment is higher than that of females there has been a consistent increase in female enrolment over the years. Table 5.8 shows the increasing trend in female enrolment in nomadic schools between 2003 and 2007.

### Percentage of Women Teachers in Primary and Secondary Schools

According to data available in 2006 there were less female teachers in primary schools nationwide than male teachers at the primary education level. The 2007 data presents an increase in the number of female teachers and a marginal decrease in the number of male teachers which results in more female teachers at primary education level. Available data also show that women outnumber men in colleges of education. Given that most primary school teachers are graduates of colleges of education nationwide this might explain the higher number of female primary school teachers.

**Table 5.9: Distribution of Primary Schools Teachers by Gender, 2006 - 2007**

Year	Male	Female
2006	303,568	300,952
2007	302,324	313,010

Source: (1) Federal Ministry of Education/UBE, Universal Basic Education, Commission

Contrary to the data on distribution of primary school teachers, as shown in Table 5.9 below, there is a wide gap between the number of female teachers (65,325) and male teachers (113,683)

in secondary schools. A possible explanation for this is the fact that there are more male graduates of education at the university level than females.

**Table 5.10: Secondary School Teacher in Nigeria by Gender, 2006- 2007**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No of Male</b>	<b>No. of Female</b>
<b>2006</b>	102,854	49,385
<b>2007</b>	113,683	65,325

*Source: Federal Ministry of Education/UBE (What is the Ministry doing about this?)*

## **Progress so far**

- The policy environment has been very supportive of the progress made so far. This includes the comprehensive educational reform in 2006 (including education sector analysis and 10-year education sector plan);
- The Ministry of Education has put in place an education reform agenda which provides for numerous means of ensuring access to education for the girl child as well as availability of teachers, amongst other things;
- Following the initial report, the education sector has experienced a liberalization process which has led to a steady increase in the number of licensed private primary, secondary and tertiary institution;
- The Girls Education Project (GEP), a joint government effort supported by UNICEF and the Department for International Development (DFID) has achieved major milestones in girls' enrolment and is now being scaled up;
- Launch of State Chapters of the Nigerian Girl's Education Initiative in the Northern States of Nigeria;
- The 10 Year Federal Education Plan (2006 – 2015), promotes a strategy for effective service delivery in the Ministry of Education. It also assists gender budgeting by providing an expenditure framework to guide budgeting and plan implementation thereby serving as a reference point for action within the education system;
- The government has commenced a process for the integration of certain basic elements of the UBE programme into the Quranic school system without interfering with their existing arrangements. This was done on account of the threat posed to the overall attainment of the objectives of UBE, Education For All (EFA) and MDG by the failure of the over 7 million Quranic schools pupils to access basic education services;
- There has been a steady increase in government budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Education in the last five years which has contributed to an increase in access to education at all levels;
- Some States of the federation have scholarship funds for girls to encourage girl child attendance and enrolment in school.

## **Gaps identified**

It was gathered that in the course of this exercise, the education sector faces some serious challenges that are currently being addressed as a matter of urgency. The critical ones include:

- Poor Infrastructure
- High turn over of inspectorate officers
- Weak political will or commitment especially at local government level
- Inadequate resources
- Inadequate information for planning and implementation purposes
- Geographical disparity in access, fuelled by poverty, cultural differences, religious differences and social attitudes
- Inequitable opportunities for all which is caused by inequitable treatment of males and females

## **GEN-TRACK ON MDG 3: PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY**

### **Issues on Gender-Based Violence**

The issue of gender based violence has increasingly been brought into limelight as an economic and social issue in national development. The Executive, Legislature, Judiciary, Civil Society Groups, Development partners and the Media are more unified in the quest to ensure a society devoid of violence against women.

### **Policies and legislations:**

The following are some of the existing laws available in the country

- Anambra State Gender and Equal Opportunities Commission Law, 2007;
- Imo State Gender and Equal Opportunities Law No. 7, 2007;
- Lagos State Street Hawking Prohibition Law (2008);
- The National Gender Policy 2006 and the Strategic Framework 2007 which seeks to address issues of violence against women and girls in Nigeria among other things. The Policy clearly outlined strategies to combat all forms of violence against women and girls in Nigeria;
- National Child Policy 2007 and its Strategic Plan of Action/Implementation Framework 2007/2008;
- Draft Sexual Harassment Policy for Educational Institutions seeks to prohibit sexual harassment in schools and in the work place;
- National Policy on Victims Assistance and Protection, 2008.

### **Administrative Actions:**

- Inauguration of a Joint Task Force on combating traffic in persons by the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice in 2006. The Task Force was established to review the draft National Plan of Action and expand inter agency procedures for collection and dissemination of data in internal and external trafficking;
- Establishment of 6 operational offices and shelters (Lagos, Kano, Benin, Uyo, Enugu and Sokoto) to monitor trafficking at the grassroots and provide recovery interventions to victims. Skill acquisition centres have also been established at each of these shelters;
- Establishment of National Database/Monitoring Centre for monitoring the situation of human trafficking in Nigeria;
- Bilateral Agreement with the Swiss Government in April 2008 and with the Public Prosecution Services of Netherlands as well as the Dutch National Police in 2009
- Establishment of Trafficked Victims' Trust Fund in 2008;
- Amendment of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement Law in 2006 to incorporate the establishment of a Victims Trust Fund and give the agency powers to impound the properties of convicted traffickers;
- The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development commissioned a well equipped shelter for women to commemorate the 2009 International Women's Day. The Ministry also held a village meeting which had in attendance the President of Finland.

The one-week long activity was also used to engage with the different stakeholders on the implications of gender based violence to national development;

- Between 2006 and 2009, Nigeria prosecuted 60 traffickers and convicted and sentenced 45 to various prison terms ranging from 6 months to 24 years. Over 70 cases against traffickers are at various stages of trial in various high courts across the country.

## Gaps

Despite ongoing efforts, trafficking remains a challenge especially due to its money spinning nature, which benefits the perpetrators. Moreso, a Cartel has been built around the business. Other challenges are

- Poverty;
- Gender discrimination;
- The clandestine nature of trafficking.

## Promoting Gender Parity in Political and Public Life

**Table 5.10: Summary of Seats held by Women in the National Assembly by Year & Gender**

LEGISLATORS	1999 – 2003		2003 – 2007		2007 – 2011	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Senate</b>						
Male	106	97.25	105	96.33	100	91.74
Female	3	2.75	4	3.67	9	8.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>House of Reps</b>						
Male	348	96.67	338	93.88	334	92.78
Female	12	3.33	22	6.12	26	7.22
<b>Both Houses</b>						
Male	454	96.8	443	94.46	434	92.32
Female	15	3.2	26	5.54	35	7.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: INEC.

Currently, the number of female Head of Service and Permanent Secretaries is put at 9 representing (22.5%), while their male counterparts are 31 representing 77.5%. Recently, Nigeria had its first female Head of Office (the highest position for career civil servants) Upon her retirement in 2007, she was replaced by another female. The number of female Ambassadors still remains at 7 since 2003.

In the area of judicial appointments, between 2006 and 2009, 2 women have been appointed to the Supreme Court bench. Women constitute 11.8% of the 17 members of the court. Across the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory judiciaries, women constitute 30% of the total number of High Court Judges. But in Lagos State Women Constitute 65% of the judiciary.

Statistics from the States point to a gradual increase in the number of female Deputy Governors from 2 in 2003 to 6 in 2007.

At the State House of Assembly and the Local Government Areas, a marginal increase has also been witnessed but the proportions of seats occupied by women show that their representation in politics in Nigeria is still very low.

**Table 5.11: Number of seats held in State Houses of Assembly by Gender, 1999, 2003 & 2007**

State	Honourable Members					
	1999		2003		2007	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	939 (97.81%)	21 (2.19%)	933 (96.48%)	34 (3.52%)	913 (94.51%)	53 (5.49%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>960 (100%)</b>		<b>967 (100%)</b>		<b>966 (100%)</b>	

Source: Independent National Electoral Commission, 2007

**Table 5.12: Number of seats held in Local Government Council by Gender 1999, 2003 & 2007**

Office Type	1999		2003		2007	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Chairpersons	588 (98.82%)	7(1.18%)	700(98.04%)	14(1.96%)	227(95.38%)	11 (4.6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>595 (100%)</b>		<b>714 (100%)</b>		<b>238 (100%)</b>	

Source: Independent National Electoral Commission

**Table 5.13: Number of seats held in Local Government Council Wards by Gender 1999, 2003 & 2007**

Office Type	1999		2003		2007	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Councilors	6,532 (98.79%)	80 (1.21%)	8,698 (96.99%)	270 (3.01%)	1,576 (90.57%)	164 (9.43%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,612 (100%)</b>		<b>8968 (100%)</b>		<b>1,740 (100%)</b>	

Source: Independent National Electoral Commission

Gender disaggregated information on the political sector obtained from the National Gender Data Bank hosted by the NCWD shows that females accounted for an insignificant percentage of positions held across board in 1999, 2003, and 2007 (as shown in the tables above). Even though there is a gradual increase of female elected officers and political appointees in 2003 and 2007, the margin is still very wide compared to the requirements of the AU Solemn Declaration, Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing + 10), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the National Gender Policy. Decision making is also anchored majorly by the men at the community, state and national levels.

In the private sector, there has been a gradual increase of female chief executives in areas such as the telecommunications, information technology, banking and finance, property, pharmaceutical, etc. For example, 2 women were appointed chief executives of two banks out of 6 of such appointments.

### **Administrative Measures**

In recognition of the challenges women face in the area of political participation, the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in collaboration with development partners & CSO have therefore taken major steps to address identified institutional barriers. Below are some of such steps:

#### ***Constitutional Context of Women's Participation in Political and Public Life***

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which guarantees every Nigerian citizen (woman or man) freedom from discrimination and association is undergoing reforms. The Reform process has again afforded Nigerian Women the opportunity to integrate a women's agenda into the process.

#### ***Electoral Reform System***

The present administration set up an Electoral Reform Committee to identify factors that affect the quality and credibility of elections, strengthen the electoral system in order to legitimize election outcomes and to enhance the roles of democratic institutions and practices in Nigeria.

Women groups under the aegis of Coalition of Women Groups in Nigeria mobilized women political leaders, gender experts, legal practitioners and distinguished scholars from the thirty six States of the federation in 2008 to advocate better deals in the quality of election conducts in the country. In a position paper titled "*Hear the VOICES of Women*", The Group called for the following new provisions on Affirmative Action and Equality and to be added to any intended legal framework to ensure electoral equity:

- Entrenchment of Affirmative Action (AA) principles in Party Constitutions with specific and actionable commitments of number of spaces as some of the guidelines for registration by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC);
- Political Party to entrench deliberate Affirmative Action to address gaps in participation, candidacy and opportunities in party leadership structures, especially in favour of women.

Other measures taken in addressing women's barriers include:

- The Establishment of the first ever House of Representatives Committee of Women in Parliament in 2008 by the leadership of the House of Representatives. The Committee hosted the first Women in Parliament Summit in Abuja in July, 2009 with a call for more slots for women in the House of Representatives and the Senate during elections;
- Political parties also responded to promoting women's participation through the waiver of participation fees.

- Development of the National Gender Policy, 2006 and its Strategic Implementation Framework and Plan 2008 with specific objectives, targets and monitoring framework to pursue the realization of the policy declaration and guide activities towards eliminating discrimination and improving the participation of women in national life;
- Development of a Toolkit for Women In Decision-Making Positions on Gender Mainstreaming for Good Governance to broaden the ownership of gender equality principles and enhance system-wide implementation of the National Gender Policy in 2007;
- Establishment of a National Gender Data Bank, 2006 to contribute to strengthening national and local capacities to produce, analyze, store and disseminate quality gender statistics, in order to enhance the utilization of disaggregated data for sustainable development planning and programming;
- Hosting of a National Forum for Women in Governance in July, 2006 to evolve modalities for the running of zonal offices for women's political mobilization before the 2007 elections;
- Hosting of a follow-up summit on Women in Governance in October 2007. The summit was aimed at setting priorities for elected women in governance in the form of an action plan to be implemented over the next four years and the outcome was "*The Obudu Women's Declaration*";
- Establishment of a Joint Donor Trust Fund for Women Political activities in Nigeria in 2007;
- Establishment and funding of zonal political empowerment offices in the six geo-political zones of the country. These Centres managed by Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) carried out many training sessions for female political aspirants and gave technical support to their activities;
- Intensive local and international capacity building on gender mainstreaming for top level and medium cadre officials of women machinery, line agencies at all levels of governance to promote gender mainstreaming in policies and projects;
- Advocacy and sustained agitation for 35% Affirmative Action in favour of women to bridge the gaps in both elective and appointive positions at all levels by 2015. This has also translated into gains for women in the military and para-military systems as more of them are being promoted into the top level decision-making positions;
- Setting up of a Network of the Nigerian Women Hall of Fame Inductees as a vehicle for promoting gender issues and mentoring the younger ones who might want to emulate them in their localities and states. These women are first achievers in their chosen professions. This has projected the image of Nigerian women who can be appointed into political and public life;
- Increased positive reporting of women's activities in the Media as front burner issues. This is so because of the targeted gender trainings and consultations with this group;
- The Annual National Council for Women Affairs still holds on geo-political rotation to ensure assessment of performance, impact of activities and targets towards policy goals, targets and compliance with policy prescriptions as well as ascertainment of levels of efficient and judicious use of resources;
- Strategic partnerships with the Media in the design and dissemination of media messages and Information, Education and Communication materials drumming up support for



political aspirants as well as the involvement of traditional media communicators in the use of local language.

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and her partners have concluded arrangements for another Summit before the end of 2009 to strategize for more women in politics well ahead of the 2011 elections.

### **Challenges**

Some major challenges hampering the visibility of women in political and public life include:

- Socio-cultural and religious factors;
- Patriarchal nature of the Nigerian society which has over the years put women in a subordinate position in the traditional household setting and national politics;
- Poverty among women;
- Hostile political environment;
- Weak capacity for effective participation of women.

### **Issues on Women Rights**

#### **Policy and Legislation:**

A number of States in Nigeria have legislations on gender discriminatory practices prevalent in their States with particular emphasis on harmful traditional practices. Additional legislations and policies to protect and promote the rights of women by States include;

- Administration of Estates (Small Payments) Law, 2006, Lagos State;
- Imo State Gender and Equal Opportunities Law No. 7 2007;
- Anambra State Gender and Equal Opportunities Commission Law 2007;
- National Gender Policy, 2006;
- Strategic Implementation Framework and Plan for the National Gender Policy, 2008;
- National Child Policy and Plan of Action 2007.

In 2007, an Executive Bill to domesticate CEDAW was presented to the National Assembly. High level advocacy was carried out by stakeholders from government and non-governmental agencies towards ensuring the passage of the Bill before the expiration of the 2003 – 2007 Parliament. The Bill went through 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and public hearing but was stepped down at the final presentation due to some gray areas raised on the floor of the assembly.

Presently, attempts are being made to re-introduce the Bill under the current Legislative session. The FMWASD is collaborating with the National Assembly Committee on Women Affairs and other stakeholders have set up a Technical Committee for this purpose. A team of experts (religious scholars, academia, legal practitioners and gender experts) were commissioned to analyse the gray areas with a view to coming up with a convincing analysis for advocacy purposes.

The Child Rights Act, 2003 has been adopted and some States out of the 36 States of the Federation states have adopted the Act and passed Child Rights Laws.

In 2008, a National Policy on Sexual Harassment in Educational Institutions was developed through a collaborative effort by NGOs, National Human Rights Commission, the National Universities Commission and other stakeholders. This policy is yet to be presented for adoption.

A National Action Plan on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Nigeria was developed by the Nigerian Government with a chapter devoted to the Rights of women and children. This action plan was deposited with the United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva at a landmark Ceremony in July 2009.

### **Administrative Steps:**

To promote and protect the rights of women, certain steps and mechanisms have been put in place. This include;

- Production of Nigeria Gender Statistics Book, 2008. Published by the FMWASD to provide data on key social and economic indices for programme intervention and policy formulation;
- Establishment of a National Gender Data Bank in 2007 with a Multi-Technical Committee from relevant MDAs and civil societies to drive the process;
- Reactivation and establishment of Women Development Centres in the States and Local Government Areas to cater for the needs of women in the rural areas through the development of a Strategic Implementation Framework;
- Establishment of Offices of Citizens Rights Directorate In Federal and State Ministries of Justice ;
- Establishment of all Girls Schools in Zamfara, Katsina, Borno and Yobe States to promote girl child education especially in science and technology;
- Establishment of Continuing Education Centres for Female School Drop-outs in some Northern states of the country;
- Establishment of Day-Care Centres in Workplaces to provide support for working mothers;
- Setting up of the Child Rights Implementation Committees at the Federal, State and Local Government levels towards the implementation of the Child Rights Act, 2003 and the corresponding Child Rights Laws in the states.

### **Gender sensitization for law enforcement officers and the judiciary:**

- The National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with UNDP trained 200 human rights desk officers in the Police Force in 2006 on effective response to cases of domestic violence;
- A Training Manual for the Training of Law Enforcement Agents on Women's Human rights has been developed in collaboration with the Women Aids Collective (WACOL) is now operational.
- In 2007, the FMWASD with support from the MDG office carried out a nation -wide training workshop on Gender-Based Violence for 300 Law Enforcement Officers (Police,

Army, Immigration, Customs, Prisons and the judiciary). The aim was to foster collaboration amongst law enforcement agencies and the Judiciary in addressing issues of Gender – Based Violence (GBV) as well as protect survivors of violence;

- Nigerian judges and magistrates are continuously being exposed to training on Gender and Women’s Human Rights by the National Judicial Institute and other development partners. As a result, some court judgments now reflect the impact of such trainings. For instance, an Administrative Policy of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) that compels a married woman to produce a letter of consent from her husband as a condition for issuance of international passport was said to be in violation of Section 42 (1) (a) of the 1999 Constitution and Article 18(3) of the West African Charter on the People's Human Rights, by Hon. Justice G.K. Olotu.

**Similarly there are proposed Legislations aimed at protecting the rights of women to include;**

- Bill on Abolition of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women In Nigeria and Other Related Matters;
- Gender Mainstreaming Bill, Ogun State;
- Elimination of Violence in Society Bill 2006;
- Equal Opportunity Bill, Ebonyi State;
- Girl Child Education Bill, Ebonyi State;
- Anti-Discrimination and Stigmatization Bill, Enugu State;
- Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill, Kaduna State;
- Prohibition of Sexual Violence Bill;
- Bill for the establishment of a Commission for Persons with Disabilities

**The current Challenges facing women include:**

- Lack of legal provision for Affirmative Action to ensure equitable participation of women and men in electoral processes, including access to appointive posts
- Weak interpretation of constitutional provisions/legislation to protect women e.g. sexual violence, domestic violence
- Poor evidence - based programming and planning
- High level of vulnerability to HIV/AIDS among women and girls
- Low literacy level among women
- Cultural and religious barriers

Although Nigeria has not domesticated the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (APRRW) and other international instruments that protect the Rights of women, e.g. CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, progress has been made in raising awareness at all levels to move the process of domestication to the front burner of discussions at the National House of Assembly.

**Progress made so far**

- There are on-going efforts by the FMWASD in collaboration with other stakeholders to re-strategize on the re-introduction of the bill as well as the best way to pursue the process for the domestication of the APPRRW;
- In a bid to ensure the speedy passage of the CEDAW bill by the current Assembly (2007-2011), the FMWASD engaged a team of experts (religious scholars, academia, legal practitioners and gender experts) to analyze the contentious areas *vis a vis* their respective fields as it affects provisions of CEDAW (especially articles 2, 12 and 16);
- A Coalition of Development Partners with UNIFEM leading the process have conducted an in-depth studies and situation analysis of the APPRRW and CEDAW provisions. One of the aims of the studies is to promote a deeper understanding of the contextual issues of both documents in Nigeria;

Outcome of some of these efforts are as follows:

- i. A compilation of discriminatory laws and policies affecting women and children;
- ii. Explanatory Matrix on Contentious Articles of CEDAW
- iii. Stakeholder analysis to assist in mapping out allies, opposition groups and articles of the provisions that are viewed as critical to facilitate fruitful dialogue and engagement at all levels of the country;
- iv. Examination of the women's protocol to the African Charter and its relation to CEDAW;
- v. An exposition of the extent of compatibility/non compatibility of provision of women's protocol to the African Charter and CEDAW with Religious texts;
- vi. Accessible answers to frequently asked questions;
- vii. Compilation of best practices on CEDAW domestication from African and other countries with a similar legal and parliamentary system.

## **GEN-TRACK ON MDG 5: IMPROVING MATERNAL HEALTH**

Nigeria has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, estimated at between 800 and 1,100,000 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births (World Health Organization (WHO) 2006). Medically, most of the maternal deaths result from five major complications – haemorrhage, infection, unsafe abortion, hypertensive disease of pregnancy, and obstructed labour.

The health seeking behaviour of Nigerian women regarding pregnancy related care remains poor and poses one of the greatest challenges to maternal mortality reduction in the country. As reported in the National HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health Survey (NAHRS) 2005, less than two thirds of pregnant women received antenatal care, only about half were attended to at delivery by skilled attendants and less than half received post-natal care (FMOH, 2006).

In response to this alarming situation, the Nigerian government is committed to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other international goals as embodied in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action through the Integrated Maternal, New born and Child Health Strategy (IMNCH). Furthermore, many States of the Federation (e.g. Kaduna, Kano, Jigawa, Cross River, Niger and Zamfara States) now provide free ante natal care and delivery services to women.

In support of the successful implementation of the Integrated Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (IMNCH), the first Lady of Nigeria Hajia Turai Musa Yar'adua has expanded women's access to clean delivery supplies through the distribution of '*Mama Kits*' which contains immediate needs of the mother and baby during and just after delivery. She is currently working with wives of state governors to reduce maternal and child mortality and ensure sustainable development in the country.

The Women and Youth Empowerment Foundation (WAYEF), a pet project of the First Lady is currently implementing a project - the community friendly ambulance scheme to deliver ante-natal services to the door steps of pregnant women in some rural areas of the country

A midwifery scheme aimed at addressing the shortfall of midwives in the nation's rural areas, as well as improving reproductive health and rights of Nigerians to enhance the standards of living and quality of life is currently being implemented.

In line with its advocacy and social mobilisation role, the Ministry of Women Affairs with support from the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs commenced a nationwide advocacy campaign to State Governors, Traditional and Religious leaders, State Houses of Assembly and others for improved commitment to maternal and child survival.

### **Malaria**

Malaria remains a serious challenge in the control of maternal mortality. The Nigerian Statistical Fact Sheets on Economic and Social Development revealed that 6,427 (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2007) who gave birth within a period of 2 years preceding the survey received intermittent preventive therapy for malaria during pregnancy. A total of 69.2% of the women

were from the urban centres, while 30.2% of the women were based in the rural areas. A probable reason for this wide disparity is the fact that more women in the rural areas patronize Traditional Birth Attendants than women in the urban areas.

As a priority to stem the tide of Malaria in the country, the Federal Government of Nigeria launched the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Campaign which anchors on the global strategies for malaria control which are multi-pronged and of proven efficacy. These include:

- Prompt and Effective Case Management;
- Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria in pregnancy;
- Integrated Vector Management including Use of Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs), Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) and Environmental Management;
- Other cross-cutting interventions include Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization, Effective Programme Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Partnership and Collaborations.

State Governments have stepped up the campaign through since the inception of the Roll Back Malaria Initiative, malaria control in Nigeria has undergone an evolution that has resulted in the attainment of several milestones which have served to set the stage for the next phase in the implementation process: rapid scaling up of interventions. These milestones include among others, development and adoption of national policies and guidelines development of training manuals; sensitization and training of health workers and stakeholders on all interventions.

The procurement and distribution of insecticide treated nets (ITNs) for distribution to pregnant women and introduction of free malaria treatment for children under-five, pregnant women and nursing mothers.

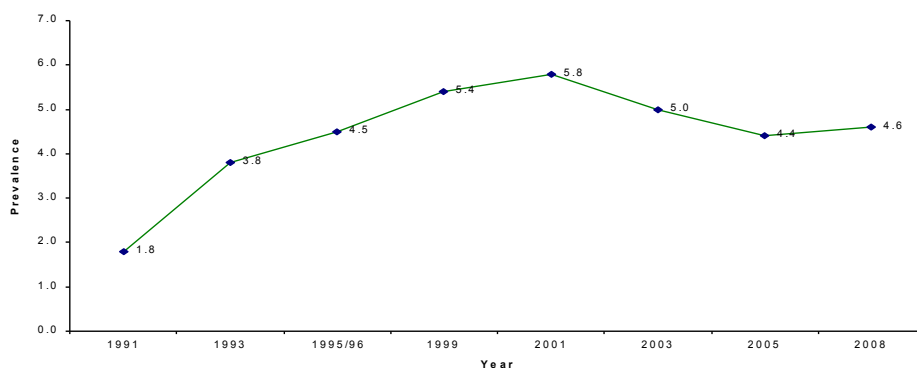
## **GEN-TRACK ON MDG 6: COMBATING HIV/AIDS AND OTHER RELATED INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

### **Trends in HIV/AIDS Prevalence in Nigeria**

Efforts at reversing the trends of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria experienced a slight setback in 2008 compared to year 2005. The national HIV/AIDS prevalence rate which was 4.4% in 2005 increased to 4.6% in 2008. State prevalence rate ranged from 1.0% in Ekiti to 10.6% in Benue State. The situation of the epidemic in the states with prevalence rates that are higher than the national figure may be explained by the low social economic status of the people, high risk sexual practices as well as negative cultural practices in the areas.

Figure 1 below shows the trend of HIV prevalence in Nigeria from 1991 to 2008 as reported in the HIV sentinel sero-surveillance cycles.

**Figure 5.1: National HIV Prevalence Trend 1991 – 2008 (HSS 2008)**



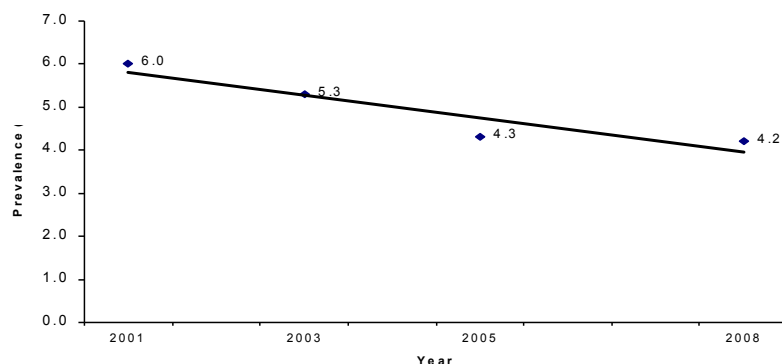
With the current HIV prevalence of 4.6%, an estimated 2.95 million people were living with HIV in Nigeria by the end of 2008. Of this, 833,000 (adults: 740,000, children under 15 years: 93,000) require Anti – Retro Viral Therapy (ART).

Generally, awareness about HIV and AIDS has continued to increase in the country. The current level of awareness is put at 94%. This is much higher than the rate as at the time of the presentation of the Country's initial report when it was 87.7%. However awareness is higher among men (95%) than women (92%).

### **HIV Prevalence by Age Group**

The 2008 sentinel survey revealed that the prevalence rate among women aged 15 – 24 years is 4.2%. This is a slight decrease compared to the rate for 2005 which stood at 4.3%.

**Figure 5.2: National HIV Prevalence among Women Aged 15 – 24 Years, 2001 – 2008**



With a steady decline in the prevalence rate among women aged 15 – 24 years from 6.0% in 2001 to 4.2% in 2008 (as shown in Figure 2), remarkable progress was made in controlling the spread of HIV among women aged 15-24 years.

**Table 5.14: HIV Prevalence Rates by Selected Characteristics Disaggregated by Sex**

HIV Prevalence of all Respondents According to Selected Background Characteristics: (FMOH, Nigeria 2007

Characteristics	Male	Total	Female	Total	% total	Total
<b>Location</b>						
Rural	3.3	3169	3.6	2672	3.5	5841
Urban	3.0	1678	4.7	1520	3.8	3198
<b>Education</b>						
None	3.3	634	2.4	1127	2.7	1761
Qur'anic	3.2	463	2.1	285	2.8	748
Primary	3.8	952	5.4	886	4.6	1838
Secondary	3.0	2167	4.3	1550	3.5	3717
Higher	3.2	630	5.5	344	4.0	974
<b>Age group</b>						
15-19	2.1	1065	1.3	915	1.7	1980
20-24	1.9	863	4.5	843	3.2	1706
25-29	3.6	727	4.7	746	4.1	1473
30-39	5.1	920	5.7	1005	5.4	1925
40-49	4.6	654	3.5	681	4.0	1335
50-64	2.7	619	-	-	2.7	619
<b>Religion</b>						
Islam	3.3	2410	2.6	1962	3.0	4372
Protestant	2.9	1729	5.2	1667	4.0	3396
Catholic	4.1	633	5.2	536	4.6	1169
Traditional	2.6	39	6.7	15	3.7	54



<b>Marital status</b>						
Currently married	4.4	2163	4.0	2588	4.2	4751
Cohabiting	3.2	142	2.1	158	2.7	300
Never married	2.3	2422	2.8	1207	2.5	3629
Separated	5.0	40	9.8	41	7.4	81
Divorced	3.6	28	11.8	51	8.9	79
Widowed	2.3	44	9.7	144	8.0	188
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>4847</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4192</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>9039</b>

Table shows a

5.11 wide

gap in the prevalence rate among boys and girls aged 20 – 24 which stood at 1.9% and 4.1% respective. This calls for increased effort at addressing the gender dimensions of the epidemic.

### ***Gender specific administrative, economic, social, and legal measures to combat HIV/AIDS***

In addressing the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS, the following are some of the measures put in place;

- Establishment of a Gender Technical Committee by NACA to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all programmes and plans and that gender disaggregated data are available for effective planning at all levels in the country;
- The emergence of different advocacy platforms representing different constituencies within the national response system such as the Network of People living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NEPWHAN), the Youth Network on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NYNETHA); the Nigerian Business Coalition Against HIV/AIDS (NIBUCCA); the National Faith-Based Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS (NFACA);
- Creation of the National Women Coalition on HIV/AIDS (NAWOCA) at the National and State levels in 2007 and 2008, an initiative of the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Hajia Turai Yaradua. NAWOCA serves as a unified advocacy platform for addressing the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection in Nigeria;
- Implementation of the National Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS with respect to gender dimension of HIV/AIDS, including intervention for safe sex among Commercial Sex-workers, provision of Counseling for women living with HIV/AIDS by the FMWASD.

The reasons for the noticeable reduction in national prevalence rate compared to that of 2005 may not be far from some of the following landmark steps that the government has taken in demonstrating its commitment to addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Nigeria:

- Legal backing for the transition of the National Action Committee for the Control of AIDS to an Agency (National Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS (NACA)) through an Act of Parliament passed in February 2007;

- Increased budgetary allocation to the Agency for effective coordination of HIV/AIDS programmes nationwide. For instance, the National Economic Council (comprising of all the governors and the economic team) have agreed to commit 1% of their annual budget to the control of HIV/AIDS. Government appropriation to NACA has increased considerably from N573, 080, 456 in 2005 to N1, 435,000,000 in 2007 and expenditure by state governments on AIDS for 2006 was N4, 861, 734,421;
- Increased commitment to the creation of awareness of the causes and prevention of HIV/AIDS among the general populace;
- Increased commitment to mainstreaming gender into HIV/AIDS programmes.

The effective coordination of HIV/AIDS programmes in Nigeria by NACA and the government at the State level has led to the transition of some State Action Committees to autonomous Agencies in eight States of the federation: Bauchi, Cross-River, Nasarawa, Lagos, Plateau, Anambra, Kaduna and Benue State. Several other States are in advanced stages of their transition process. Furthermore at a high level advocacy event held in Kaduna on the 30th of July 2009, members of the Houses of Assembly from more than 10 Northern States, Commissioners of Health and members of the House of Representatives committee on HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, and Leprosy Control, committed to ensuring the transformation of State Action Committees on AIDS to Agencies. The status of an Agency guarantees direct and increased funding for HIV and AIDS in the National and State budgets for more effective coordination of the response.

**Other strategic steps taken to address HIV/AIDS epidemic are as follows:**

- The National Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Strategy, 2004—2008 is being implemented and 15 states developed respective engendered BCC/SBC Plans;
- Development and dissemination of a National HIV/AIDS Prevention Plan 2007 – 2009 to guide prevention activities nationwide;
- Enormous amount of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials developed, produced and disseminated;
- Tremendous capacity building on advocacy, message development and dissemination and channel selection;
- Positive outcomes of advocacy activities at the federal, state, and local levels;
- Training of thousands of people across the country as peer educators;
- Establishment of over 640 HIV Counseling and Testing Centres user friendly and gender sensitive at different levels;
- Establishment of 253 active Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) sites;
- Scale up in the quantity of condoms distributed in the country, particularly female condoms;
- Proposal to expand coverage of funds disbursement/grants to State-based NGOs in the high prevalent areas are being considered by FMWASD;
- Increase in private sector interventions for instance, the Nigerian Business Coalition against AIDS (NIBUCAA) in February 2008, NIBUCAA in partnership with GTZ signed a memorandum of understanding with the Private Investors for Africa for the

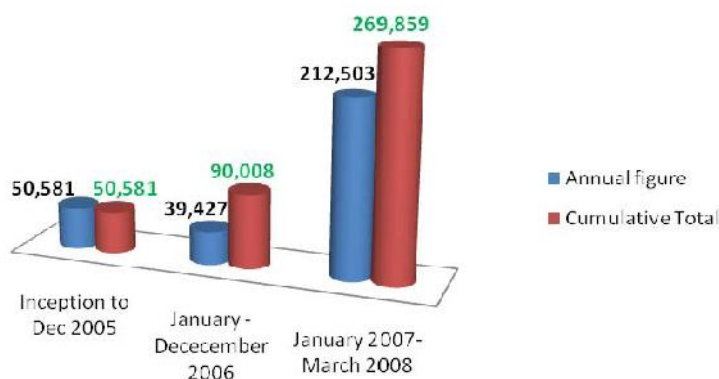
takeoff of a 2yr pilot project titled “Private Investors for Africa HIV/AIDS Workplace Programme in Supply Chain Companies in Nigeria” which has the overall objective of providing comprehensive AIDS treatment programme to over 4000 employees and their dependants;

- Capacity building programmes on mainstreaming of gender and HIV/AIDS conducted in key sectors;
- Advocacy conducted by NACA, State Action Committee on AIDS/State AIDS (SACA) and line ministries at federal and state levels;
- Training of HIV/AIDS desk officers & focal persons in line ministries at federal and state level on gender mainstreaming;
- Workplace policies developed by the Federal Ministry of Labour and other agencies are being disseminated and implemented;
- Family Life HIV/AIDS Education (FLHE) curriculum developed and integrated into the teaching of ten subjects in 26 states;
- Several teachers, guidance counselors and peer educators have been trained all over the country;
- HIV/AIDS BCC had been integrated into the National Youth Service Corp programme;
- Increased advocacy activities targeted at religious leaders on the knowledge of HIV/AIDS aimed at change in perception and attitude towards people living with AIDS (PLWAs) and People affected by AIDS (PABA);
- Faith Based Organization (FBOs) Strengthened by HIV/AIDS Fund (HAF) fund;
- Over 10,000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) are currently on scholarships across the country;
- Several PLWAs are receiving gender sensitive micro credit support and skill acquisition for self reliance;
- HIV/AIDS was mainstreamed into mid-term economic framework (National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategies(NEEDS)/State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS));
- HIV/AIDS programming has been mainstreamed into annual budget preparation processes at different levels.

#### **Availability of Treatment and Social Services to Women at Local Level**

- The Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) sites in the country increased from 25 in 2005 to 215 in 2007. Figure 3 below shows the trend in increase of clients receiving care;

#### **Figure 5.1: Annual Cumulative/Number of Clients on ART as at March 2008**



- The Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) sites increased to 253 in 2007;
- HIV Counseling and Testing (HCT) sites have been increased from 153 in 2005 to 640 in 2007;
- TB-DOTS and HIV management integrated at sites by 2007;
- Pediatric ART initiated for 5,279 children by 2007;
- Improvement in the capacity and quality of Home Based Care services in the country;
- Expansion in the enrollment of persons into the ARV programme.

### **Enhanced Legal and Policy Environment for HIV/AIDS programming in Nigeria**

The need to use the law to end acts of discrimination and stigmatization against people living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria is well recognized. Currently, there is an Executive Bill before the National Assembly on Anti Discrimination and Anti Stigmatization. The said Bill has passed first reading and is currently being harmonized with a similar private member Bill. Advocacy efforts are ongoing towards its speedy passage into law after this harmonization. Despite this, some States of the federation have passed such laws. An example is the People Living With HIV/AIDS Freedom from Discrimination Law, 2007 of Akwa Ibom State.

The policy environment for HIV/AIDS programming in Nigeria is very rich, however it is constantly being reviewed and strengthened towards ensuring a response system that is proactive as well as sensitive to gender and human rights concerns. For instance, the National Policy on HIV/AIDS 2005 is currently undergoing a review process in order for it to be effective in responding to emerging issues. Also undergoing review is the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Framework for Action 2005 – 2009. The review process is expected to yield the emergence of an action plan that guides programming on HIV/AIDS during the period 2010 – 2015.

The multi-sectoral approach to addressing the challenge of HIV/AIDS is being effectively implemented in Nigeria. Different sectors are responding effectively to the epidemic by strengthening their policy environment. For instance, the Education Sector developed and is currently implementing the National Policy on HIV/AIDS for the Education Sector in Nigeria, 2007; National Education Sector HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (2006 -2010); National Policy on Gender in Basic Education, 2007 and the National Family Life and HIV/AIDS Education

Curriculum etc. The Labour sector also developed and is monitoring the implementation of the HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy, 2005.

## **Challenges**

- Coordination at the Federal level is still fraught with challenges, especially in the area of resources, given that only some 25% of Federal level resources pass through HIV/AIDS National Strategic Framework for Action 2005 - 2009, although majority of funders comply with the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Framework (NSF);
- Poor funding at sub-national levels, in particular by states and Local Government Areas (LGAs);
- Weak capacity at state level and among some CCEs, especially in terms of staffing levels;
- Only a few SACAs have been transformed into agencies and this limits both role and funding availability;
- Weak coordination at LGA levels;
- LGAs and Local Action Committee on AIDS (LACAs) are yet to take responsibility for own roles, thereby limiting response at grassroots level.

## **5.4 NGDB DIGITIZATION**

### **5.4.1 Stage one: Data Bank Digitization**

This is the conversion of the raw data in form of tables, charts and prose into a computer binary language and formatted into an active data base. This requires the services of professional computer programmers, especially Specialists in COBOL, BASICS, FORTRAN, JAVA, and ORACLE.

### **5.4.2 Stage Two: Data Bank Infrastructure**

These are the physical hardwares needed to house the digitized bank and also afford varied users to visit and utilize them. Such basic Hardwares are necessary (even though some have already been in place courtesy MDGs Office and UNICEF).

## **5.5 Hosting the Gender Data Bank Online**

In order to share the Nigeria Gender Data Bank to both local and international end-users, the following technical resources are needed to implement the translation, transmitting and cross-breeding of Nigeria Gender mainstreaming into the global equality project of the male and female sexes.

### **5.5.1 Technical Specifications for Hosting the Bank on the worldwide web**

Depending on the number of computers to be maintained in the Bank as well as those to be connected to the Bank from offices in the NCWD. The end-user or point of Presence must be provided with an “always-on” 24hrs connection to the Internet at a very high speed of either 128/64 kbps for 10 systems + 1 Server + 1 monitoring system or 256/128 kbps in both download and upload on a DEDICATED access for 20 systems + 1 server + 1 monitoring system and 512/256 kbps for 40 systems + 1 Server + 1 Network Controller for a comprehensive applications service offering.

Other Internet Protocols can easily be integrated using an external IP device that can be used for Gender data trunking. Other multimedia applications such as Virtual Private Network (VPN) etc are also recommended for the platform.

### **5.5.2 Security Specifications against Data Tempering.**

Highly enterprise grade equipment with the most advanced security features must be installed to help allay any fear in tempering the Data Bank. Also VLANs (Virtual Local Area Networks) and Firewalls must be in place in order to insure that the Bank’s document and contents are not altered by any one other than an authorized user. All of the systems must be supported by VPN pass-through with Lamit 2Pro Advance Server.

### **5.5.3. Recommended V-SAT Terminal**

The unreliable services offered by ISP to end-users, the unstable connection and high cost of shared bandwidth from other competitors calls, for a more robust, dedicated and cost effective internet services for the Gender Data Bank. The proposed V-Sat terminal must comprise of an outdoor Satellite Antenna of 1.2M, 1.8M or 2.4M diameter with 2, 3 or 5watt BUC, iDirect/Shiron Satellite Modem (Indoor RSCT System), transmit DVB, LNB, cable kit etc.

The Block-up Converter (BUC) or Transceiver is connected to an indoor system using coaxial cables. The computing equipment (PC, Router, etc) connects to the indoor systems using a CAT5 10/100 Ethernet cable in LAN. The Satellite Antenna Dish must transmit and receive packets to and from the Geo-stationary Statellite teleports through AMC-12 Satellite at 37.5 degree West, which offers a high speed, high availability, high reliability, high service stability and many other resources and good maintenance to end-users with interactive applications for various gender mainstreaming tracking, advocacies and project.

### **5.5.4 Proposed Satellite Facility**

The Gender Data Bank will require dedicated, shared and committed information Rate (CIR) and Bandwidth on demand (BOD). The Bank’s bandwidth must be scaled to meet specific needs and requirements, using the iDirect platform on AMC-12 Satellite at 37.5 degree West, IS-904 @ 60 degree East and IS-10 @ 68.5 degree East on either C-band or Ku-band.

The two operational broadband service platform, (C-band or Ku-band) provide two ways Internet Access for data, and all other multimedia applications the Data Bank visitors will use.