



Center for Gender Economics in Africa (CGE Africa)

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Foreword from the Executive Director



2025 was a defining year for the Center for Gender Economics in Africa (CGE Africa). Across Nigeria and West Africa, our work deepened and strengthened the link between gender justice and economic policy, ensuring that women's lived realities meaningfully shaped budgets, climate action, food systems, and energy transitions.

This Annual Impact Report captures that journey through a blended approach that combines clear highlights for quick reference with deeper narrative reflections on context, learning, and systems change.

Throughout the year, CGE Africa partnered with women farmers, miners, students, advocates, policymakers, journalists, and community leaders. Together, we demonstrated that gender-responsive economics is not an abstract concept but a practical and powerful tool for advancing justice, accountability, and sustainable development.

The progress documented on these pages demonstrates collective action, trust, and shared commitment, reinforcing the idea that lasting change is built through partnership and persistence. CGE Africa aims to deepen impact, scale evidence-based solutions, and amplify women's voices in economic decision-making. With partners and communities, we move forward to shape policies that benefit women, economies, and future generations.

Sincerely,
Uchenna Idoko

About CGE Africa

The Center for Gender Economics in Africa (CGE Africa) is a feminist policy, research, capacity-building, and advocacy organization committed to advancing gender equality through economic justice. Our work spans the intersection of gender-responsive economics, inclusive climate and energy policy, food security, natural resource governance, and women's leadership.

In 2025, CGE Africa worked with local communities, national institutions, and regional platforms in Nigeria and across West Africa, combining evidence-based research, policy advocacy, training, and coalition-building to drive systems change. Grounded in lived experience and anchored in structural reform, our approach reflects a core belief that sustainable, inclusive development must be locally informed, collaborative, and embedded in accountable economic and policy frameworks.

2025 at a Glance

In 2025, CGE Africa implemented multi-state programs across Nigeria while sustaining strong regional engagement in Ghana and the wider West African subregion. Our work reached women in both rural and urban communities, strengthened the capacity of emerging leaders, and informed national and subnational policy conversations. Beyond quantitative reach, the year marked a period of consolidation and credibility, deepening trust with communities, strengthening institutional partnerships, and expanding CGE Africa's

presence in national, regional, and global policy spaces. As the organization moved from project delivery to agenda-setting, it gained growing recognition as a credible thought leader on gender and economic justice, ensuring that women's voices increasingly shaped the decisions that affect their lives.

- 12+ multi-state projects implemented.
- 10+ Nigerian states reached.
- West Africa regional engagement (Nigeria & Ghana).
- Hundreds of women farmers, miners, students, and advocates engaged.
- Multiple national and subnational policy dialogues influenced.



Programme and Project Narratives

1. Gender-Responsive Budgeting and Justice for Women

Key Projects

- Assessment of Government Budgets for Female Inmates and Their Babies.
- Gender-Responsive Budgeting for SGBV Prevention and Mitigation (Cross River State).

In 2025, CGE Africa's work on gender-responsive budgeting focused on making public finance systems more accountable to women and girls, particularly those facing extreme vulnerability. Early in the year, we concluded and disseminated findings from a project assessing government budgets for female inmates and their babies in Nigerian correctional centers. Through a national dissemination workshop, a documentary screening, and the launch of a shadow budget report, the project amplified long-overlooked realities in the correctional system and translated evidence into actionable policy recommendations. Engagements with correctional authorities, ministries, civil society organizations, and the media reinforced the urgency of aligning budgets with the Nigerian Correctional Service Act and broader gender commitments.

In Cross River State, CGE Africa advanced its work on gender-responsive budgeting for the prevention and mitigation of sexual and gender-based violence. The year culminated in the institutionalization of the Gender-Based Violence Budget Monitoring and Advocacy Committee, a multi-stakeholder platform established to strengthen transparency, due process, and accountability in GBV-related public spending. Beyond advocacy, this work contributed to measurable improvements in the quality and quantity of gender-sensitive budget submissions from state ministries, departments, and agencies, laying a foundation for sustained monitoring beyond the project's life.

Key outcomes

- The Shadow Budget for the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS), presenting actionable policy recommendations to improve conditions for female inmates and their babies.
- Launch of GBV Budget Monitoring & Advocacy Committee (GBV-BMAC).
- Documentary films and activism tools were used for policy advocacy.
- Increased gender-sensitive budget submissions by state MDAs.



MacArthur
Foundation

AWDF
AFRICAN WOMEN
DEVELOPMENT
FUND

Programme and Project Narratives

2. Strengthening Women’s Voices for Food Security in Nigeria

Key Activities

- Regional women’s hearings across South-South, North-Central, South-East, South-West, and North-East zones.
- Media engagements and feminist policy dialogues.
- National and subnational advocacy visits.

Food security emerged as one of the most urgent gender justice issues in 2025. Through the Strengthening Women’s Voices for Food Security in Nigeria project, CGE Africa facilitated regional women’s hearings across multiple geopolitical zones, creating safe, intentional spaces for women farmers, traders, and grassroots leaders to share experiences of hunger, climate shocks, rising costs, insecurity, and exclusion from policy processes. These dialogues made visible the gendered dimensions of Nigeria’s food crisis and challenged dominant narratives that often ignore women’s unpaid labor and leadership within food systems.

Insights from these hearings informed media engagements, advocacy dialogues, and the development of a feminist policy paper titled Food Security Begins with Women’s Voices. By the end of the year, the policy paper had been formally presented to federal and state agricultural institutions, ensuring that women’s testimonies and recommendations entered official policy and planning conversations. The project reaffirmed CGE Africa’s commitment to centering women not as passive victims of food insecurity but as knowledge holders and policy actors.

Impact:

- Women’s lived realities positioned at the center of food security policy discourse.
- Feminist policy paper Food Security Begins with Women’s Voices submitted to federal and state institutions.



Programme and Project Narratives

3. Gender, Energy Transition, and Climate Justice

Partners: Ziva Community Initiative, Nigeria, and NORPRA, Ghana

Key Achievements:

- Baseline research across Northern Nigeria & Northern Ghana
- Training of women farmers and miners
- National Policy Dialogue in Abuja
- Media parley and stakeholder consultations
- Regional learning and cross-border advocacy

At the regional level, CGE Africa deepened its leadership on gender and the energy transition through the Increasing Renewable Energy Investments for the Empowerment of Women in Sustainable Agriculture and Mining in West Africa (IREEWAM) project. Implemented in partnership with organizations in Nigeria and Ghana, the project combined research, policy dialogue, media engagement, and coalition-building. A major milestone was the completion and launch of a baseline research report documenting gender disparities in energy access, financing, and leadership within agricultural and mining enterprises in Northern Nigeria and Northern Ghana.

Findings from the research were presented at national policy dialogues and regional platforms, including engagements in Abuja and Accra. These conversations brought together policymakers, civil society actors, private-sector representatives, and women leaders to explore practical pathways for gender-responsive energy financing and inclusive clean energy transitions. Through IREEWAM, CGE Africa strengthened cross-border learning and positioned gender justice as central to Africa’s energy future, not peripheral.

Impact:

- Evidence base for gender-responsive renewable energy financing.
- Strengthened West African feminist energy networks.



Programme and Project Narratives

4. Advancing Gender Inclusion in Climate Change Resilience and the Blue Economy

Flagship Initiatives:

- Future Women Leaders in Fisheries Fellowship (FUWOLIFF)
- Gender and Blue Economy Conference 2025

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Highlights:

- 12 postgraduate fellows trained across leadership, research, and entrepreneurship.
- National Working Group on Gender & Blue Economy sustained.
- Launch of Girls by the Shore: A Girl’s Guide to the Blue Economy.

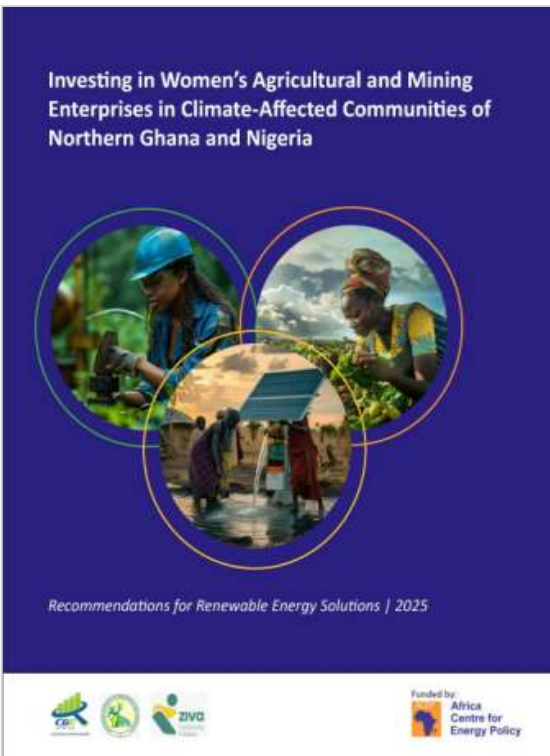
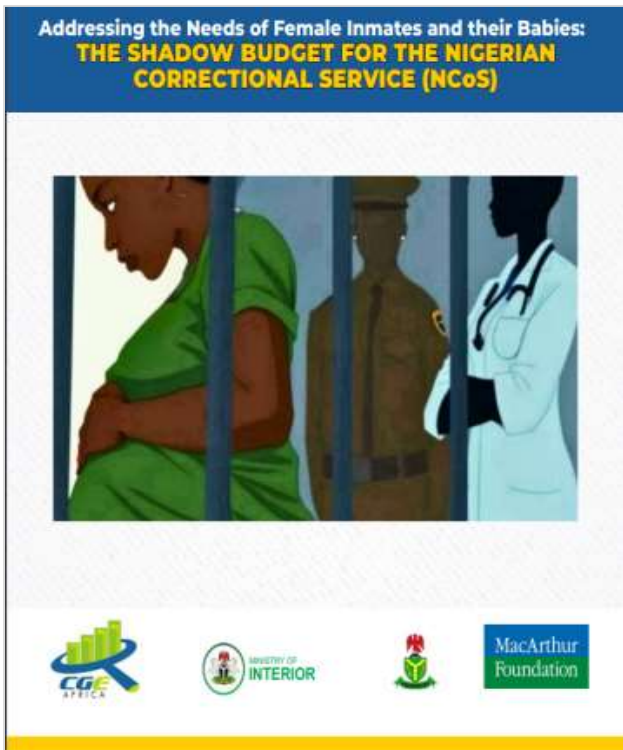


Knowledge Products and Publications (2025)

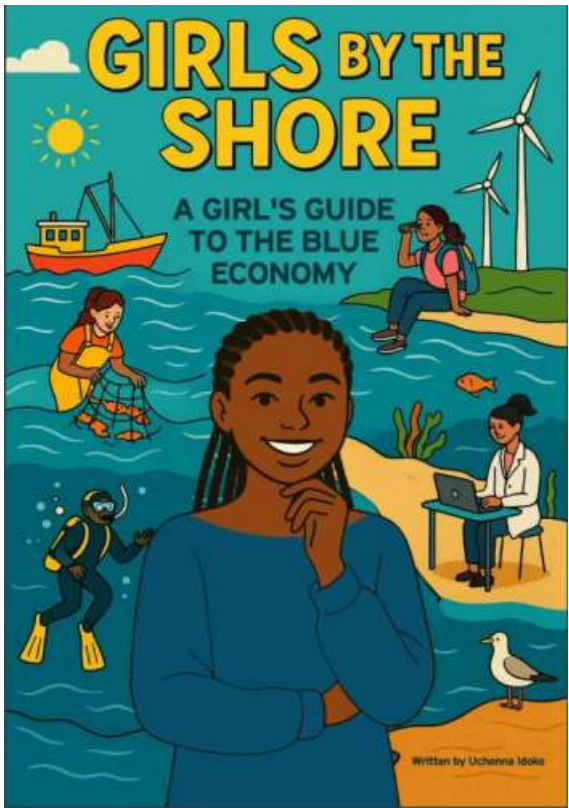
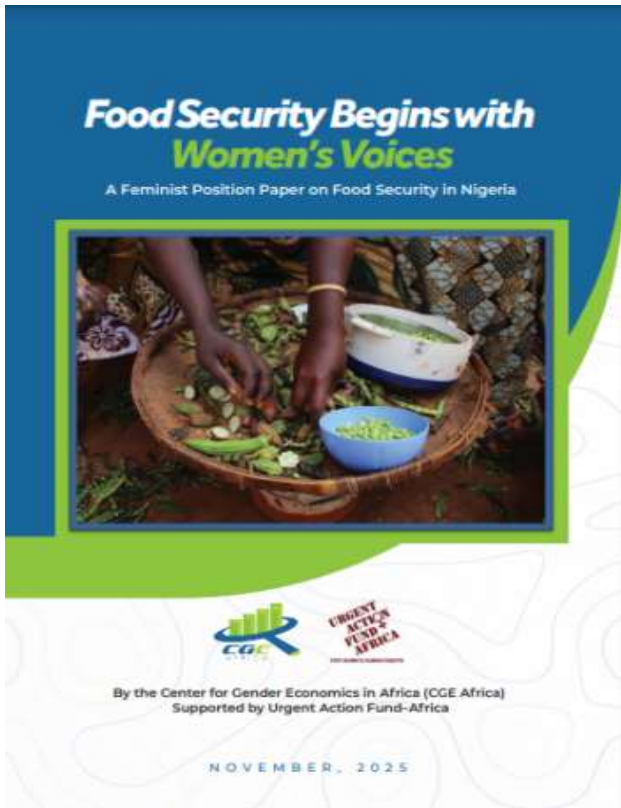
Knowledge generation remained central to CGE Africa’s strategy in 2025. Throughout the year, the organization produced and disseminated research reports, policy papers, and educational publications on issues ranging from correctional justice and food security to renewable energy and the blue economy. These knowledge products were not standalone outputs; they were actively used to inform advocacy, shape media narratives, and support evidence-based engagement with decision-makers.

Publications

- 1. Addressing the Needs of Female Inmates and Their Babies (Shadow Budget Report)
- 2. Investing in Women’s Agricultural and Mining Enterprises in Climate-Affected Communities of Northern Ghana and Nigeria
- 3. Food Security Begins with Women’s Voices (Feminist Policy Paper)
- 4. Girls by the Shore: A Girl’s Guide to the Blue Economy



Knowledge Products and Publications (2025)



Short Films

- 1. Àwághá- The short Film
- 2. Empower Her for Energy Transition
- 3. Young Women Rising in Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nigeria
- 4. Food Crisis - Hear Her Voice



Knowledge Products and Publications (2025)

Short Films



Strategic Engagements and Representation

CGE Africa maintained a strong presence at national, regional, and global platforms in 2025. From the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to regional energy and mining conferences, our engagements ensured that African women's economic realities were reflected in high-level discussions. These spaces also strengthened partnerships with civil society organizations, research institutions, and media actors, amplifying the reach and influence of our work.

CGE Africa actively contributed to:

- UN CSW 69 (New York)
- Future of Energy Conference (Accra)
- National & subnational policy dialogues
- Media engagements and expert panels
- Civil society coalition meetings



Knowledge Products and Publications (2025)

Media Visibility and Public Engagement

Media engagement played a critical role in extending the impact of CGE Africa’s work. Throughout the year, national newspapers, online platforms, television, and radio outlets covered our projects, policy positions, and public events. This visibility helped shift public discourse, elevate women’s voices, and reinforce accountability by keeping gender and economic justice issues in the public eye. Media engagement was critical to extending the impact of CGE Africa’s work. Throughout the year, national newspapers, online platforms, television, and radio outlets covered our projects, policy positions, and public events. This visibility helped shift public discourse, elevate women’s voices, and reinforce accountability by keeping gender and economic justice issues in the public eye.

In 2025, CGE Africa’s work was featured across national and international media including: Vanguard, Daily Trust, Leadership, NAN, Blueprint, PrimeTime News, TV & Radio platforms, and documentaries.



Knowledge Products and Publications (2025)

Media Visibility and Public Engagement



Addressing the Needs of Female Inmates...



Women Advocate Gender-Responsive Sys..

Organisational Growth and Governance

Internally, 2025 was a year of reflection, consolidation, and strategic planning. The staff retreat created space for collective learning, wellness, and alignment with organizational values and priorities, while the board retreat strengthened governance oversight, fiduciary responsibility, and long-term planning. Together, these internal processes reinforced CGE Africa’s institutional resilience and readiness for growth.

- 2025 Staff Retreat: *Scaling Impact, Deepening Purpose*
- 2025 Board Retreat: *Sustaining Impact, Nurturing Growth*
- Strengthened governance, fiduciary oversight, and strategic planning



Knowledge Products and Publications (2025)

Partners and Funders (2025)

CGE Africa’s impact in 2025 was made possible by the trust and collaboration of funders, partners, and allies across Nigeria and West Africa. Support from philanthropic institutions, regional partners, media organizations, and community groups enabled the organization to respond flexibly to emerging issues while sustaining its long-term advocacy goals.

- African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF)
- Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP)
- Urgent Action Fund–Africa
- Civil society,MDAs, media, schools and community partners across Nigeria & West Africa

Looking Ahead to 2026

As CGE Africa enters 2026, the organization remains committed to scaling feminist economic research, deepening policy accountability, strengthening regional collaboration, and investing in women's leadership across sectors. The lessons from 2025 reaffirm that when women's voices shape economic decisions, societies become more just, resilient, and inclusive.

As we move into 2026, CGE Africa remains committed to:

- Scaling feminist economic research
- Deepening policy accountability
- Expanding regional collaboration
- Investing in women’s leadership and systems change



Appreciation

We extend our sincere gratitude to the women and communities who shared their stories, the partners who walked alongside us, and the funders who trusted our vision. The impact documented in this report belongs to all of us. Together, we continue building an Africa where economic systems work for women, not against them.

Center for Gender Economics in Africa (CGE Africa)

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A background image of three smiling women in traditional African attire, overlaid with a blue semi-transparent filter. The woman on the left is wearing a patterned wrap, the woman in the center is wearing a dark wrap with a colorful patterned top, and the woman on the right is wearing a patterned wrap. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera.

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