

# THE VARIED IMPACT OF RISING INSECURITY IN THE LIVES OF NIGERIAN WOMEN

STUDIES FROM TWELVE STATES



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# THE VARIED IMPACT OF RISING INSECURITY IN THE LIVES OF NIGERIAN WOMEN

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>EDD</b>	Expected Date of Delivery
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>KII</b>	Key Informant Interview
<b>MDAs</b>	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plans
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
<b>TBAs</b>	Traditional Birth Attendants
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2030 in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal Five (SDG 5), the precise circumstances of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict states must be addressed. Nigeria is one of the countries where the manifestations of violent conflicts and crimes have significantly heightened the spate of insecurity in Nigeria in the last two decades. Thus, this study was principally undertaken in twelve states in Nigeria to review the impact of surging insecurity in the larger society, outside the households (family), on women's lives in Nigeria within the last seven years. The states involved in the research are: Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Cross River, Ebonyi, Imo, Kaduna, Kebbi, Lagos, Niger, Ondo and Rivers State. Primary data were generated through administration of questionnaires, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions, involving various stakeholders including women and men from the selected communities, security sector leaders and government officials. The data were complemented with information obtained through desk review.

The findings revealed that Nigeria women and girls in conflict and post – conflict situations suffer from horrendous violence and abuse, and double deprivations that increase mortality rate and vulnerability to exploitation. The outbreak and persistence of violent conflicts and crimes such as banditry, insurgency, militancy, herdsmen attacks, ritual killings and separatist agitations have impacted on the security and wellbeing of women in varying ways. These include displacement, injury, death, loss of livelihood, psychological trauma and mental stress. Both state and non-state actors were largely responsible for various violations of the right of women in different conflict settings. In addition, their exposure to insecurity is reinforced by patriarchal structures in the society.

Based on the findings, the study recommends among others, that government authorities, development partners, and civil society organizations should mainstream gender perspectives in conflict analysis and monitoring; Civil society organizations and development partners should lobby government and traditional authorities to include more women in peace negotiations and agreements; governments at all levels - federal, state, and local - should partner with donors and organized private sector to implement economic empowerment programmes that are targeted at improving the capacity and resilience of women to recover from insecurity and contribute to inclusive governance in post-conflict communities; donors and government authorities to set up community-level, informal networks or platforms for women's political mobilization to generate

a mass of grassroots activists; women-led community-based organizations should be supported to lead and expand women's empowerment in post-conflict communities; and government and development actors should prioritize the establishment of community-based structures that provide support to women and girls' rights, especially psycho-social and mental health services to women and girls who are exposed to violence and depredation associated with insecurity.

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Banditry** is a type of organized crime committed by outlaws typically involving the threat or use of violence. A person who engages in banditry is known as a **bandit** and primarily commits crimes such as extortion, robbery, and murder, either as an individual or in groups.

**Conflict and violence** are the use or threat of physical force by groups (civilians, states, social groups). Conflict and violence take various forms, including civil war, large- or small-scale communal conflicts based on regional, ethnic, religious, or other groupings, and domestic violence (World Bank, 2011).

**Forced displacement** (also **forced migration**) is an involuntary or coerced movement of a person or people away from their home or home region. The UNHCR defines 'forced displacement' as follows: displaced "as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations".(UNHCR, 2015)

### **Feminism**

Feminism is simply the quest for the equality of the sexes. (The British Library, 2013)

**Gender means** 'the socially constructed roles and relationships, personality traits, attitudes, behaviors, values, relative power and influence that society ascribes to the two sexes on a differential basis. Gender is relational and refers not simply to women or men but to the relationship between them' (UN Women, 2014).

**Gender sensitivity** implies an understanding of gender differences and their role in producing social norms and power relations, and adapting approaches to these dynamics (Saferworld, 2014).

### **Human Security**

A humane world where people can live in security and dignity, free from poverty and despair, where every individual would be guaranteed freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to fully develop their human potential. In essence, human security means freedom from pervasive threats to people's rights, their safety or even their lives. (Human Security Network. 2021)

### **Insecurity**

Insecurity is a lack of security, uncertainty. The state of being open to danger, threat or lack of protection. (en.wiktionary.org/wiki/insecurity)

### **Insurgency**

Insurgency is a rebellion against authority when those taking part in the rebellion are not recognized as belligerents. (en.wiktionary.org/wiki/insurgency)

### **Internally displaced persons (IDPs)**

These are persons who have been displaced by natural disaster or conflicts from their homes and traditional support structure and have not crossed the borders of their countries. IDPs are different from refugees and migrants. (Adimula, 2016)

### **Militancy**

Militancy simply means the use of confrontational or violent methods in support of a political or social cause. (Alabi, (Nd))

**Peace building** aims to create state of affairs in which violence will not persist, including reinforcing national capacities for conflict management, and laying the foundations for sustainable peace between social groups (UN 2010).

**Terrorism** is the unlawful use of violence or threats to intimidate or coerce a civilian population or government with the goal of furthering political, social, or ideological objectives.



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We also acknowledge the state coordinators who participated in the study, for recruiting and supporting the research assistants (who supported the data collection and validation of report).

## **Foreword**

The 2020 Global Terrorism Index (GTI) ranks Nigeria the 3<sup>rd</sup> most terrorized country in the world and the most terrorized in Africa, worse than Syria, Yemen, Somalia and Pakistan. This is not different from the Global Peace Index (2020) which reveals that civil unrest in Sub-Saharan Africa rose by more than 800 per cent with Nigeria accounting for the largest increase in unrest and largest number of violent demonstrations.

In over a decade, Nigeria has witnessed increased insecurity which is attributed to activities of insurgents, bandits, separatist groups in addition to farmer/herder's crisis and communal conflicts. These spates of insecurity in the country have re-ignited increased fear for women and girls. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by insecurity and violence, which results in the breakdown of community and state protection mechanisms and services, causing displacement, disrupted relationships, weakened infrastructure thus placing additional burden on women and girls. Already bearing the brunt of patriarchal systems expressed through privileging of men and boys, which results in socio-economic inequalities, women and girls are further defenseless and exposed to needless burden due to increased insecurity and its impact. Heightening this, is the new twist that COVID-19 pandemic introduced to violence, leaving women and girls further beaten.

While we recognize actions of state and non-state actors towards addressing insecurity, identifying, and implementing solutions from a gender dimension remains problematic. Of course, Nigeria signed and adopted the UNSCR 1325 – with main thrust of ensuring women's participation in peace and security agenda, not much progress has been witnessed despite the availability of a national framework that provides a roadmap and action plan for inclusion of women and girls. As insecurity is expanding to all geo-political zones of the federation, it is exposing the unpreparedness of actors on dealing with the situation from a gendered perspective.

Evidence gathering – that informs both policy and program- is therefore critical at this time. Without an in-depth analysis and understanding of the gendered dimension of conflicts, implementing effective interventions becomes impossible. Hence, this research examined the gender differences, consequences and impacts of rising insecurity on women and girls in Nigeria. Expanding the study area to include states from the South-west, South-east and South-south in addition to North-east and North-west was intentional considering the speedy escalation of violence in those regions in recent times.

ActionAid Nigeria recognizes that a gender sensitive approach to conflict resolution and in post conflict reconstruction and rebuilding is essential for the sustainability of interventions. This national report forms part of our commitment and contribution to advocacies towards the full adoption and implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Nigeria. By presenting statistics on the impact of conflict on Nigerian women, it is our hope that recommendations will be adapted and incorporated by concerned state and non-state actors as we all strive for a gender balanced world.

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**ActionAid Nigeria, 2021**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

In order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2030 in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal Five (SDG 5), the precise circumstances of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict states must be addressed. SDG 5 seeks to end violence and discrimination against women and girls and as well as deliver them with equal access to education, health care, economic opportunity, political participation, and gender parity in every aspect of society. This position also aligns with the UNSCR 1325 which aims at engendering women's participation in peace making and peace processes. The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2017 and 2000) which aims at engendering women's participation in peace making and peace processes. The UNSCR 1325 is a bold commitment and recognition by the international community of the women's dynamic role by that in conflict preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response. The Resolution also beckoned on United Nation member states to take explicit steps to protect women and girls from gender-based violence (GBV) during conflict; and translate Women, Peace and Security (WPS) priorities into actions.

According to the 2019 SDG Gender Index, no single country is on track to achieve gender equality (SDG5) by 2030. Although, progress has been the lowest among fragile and conflict affected countries, Chad was categorized as last, with a total score of 33.4 out of 100. The bottom ten countries include Sierra Leone, Liberia, **Nigeria**, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Yemen, Congo, and DR Congo. (SDG Data Index, 2019). These countries appeared on the OECD's 2018 list of fragile states (OECD States of Fragility, 2018).

Nigeria launched her National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 first in 2013, second in 2017 with the current review of the third NAP ongoing in 2021. One of the objectives of NAP is to ensure the rights of women and girls are protected and promoted in conflict and peace and also to prosecute any right violations. Currently, even though Nigeria government have translated priorities into concrete action at the national level, only 13 state governments out of 36 plus FCT have also developed state level action plans (SAP) which signifies the non-prioritization of some state government to women's participation in peace processes. In addition, militarism continues to be a persistent barrier to the implementation of the WPS agenda in Nigeria. Prevention of insecurity situations, arms reduction, and demilitarization are obviously absent from discussions on WPS in Nigeria.

Against this backdrop, this study was undertaken principally to review the impact of surging insecurity in the larger society, outside the households (family) on women's lives in Nigeria in the last seven years.

The findings of the research adds to the existing body of knowledge on the nature and impact of evolving security threats on women's existence in Nigeria. It establishes facts and principles behind the impact of insecurity on women and girls and recommends measure to address the problems.

### **Objective**

The overarching objective of this research is to review the impact of rising insecurity on women's lives in Nigeria.

### **Limitations**

The study was conducted in twelve states in Nigeria; however, the research work was limited to a few locations in each state. While these provided us with representative sample of the state, its finding may not be claimed to adequately represent the overall situation in the states. The nature of each state terrain which often results to long distance of travel between communities in the state limited the time allocated to activities in some instances which made it very tasking for data collectors. Access to certain respondents was difficult because of certain associated fragility of their situations. Some respondents do not speak English language, data collectors and researchers had to make use of translators; such responses may have some possibility of missing out correct meaning / opinion.

Lastly, because the researchers who worked as data collectors are mostly indigenes of the state; it is feared that this might have affected the objectivity of some of the reports as their likely opinions and bias may have reflected in their interpretations of some phenomenon. The researchers received adequate training to lessen or utterly check this probability.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In the last two decades, Nigeria has witnessed many violent conflicts and crimes with devastating impact at the individual, community, and societal levels. The manifestation of insecurity in Nigeria derives from both man-induced challenges (terrorism, banditry, kidnapping for ransom, among others) and nature-induced situations (climate change, environmental degradation), which undermines lives and livelihood in different parts of the country.



**Chart 1: Root Causes of Rising Insecurity**

People's experiences of insecurity are shaped in part by gender. In fact, Omorogbe (2019) contends that gender issues are an integral part of problematic peace and security which needs to be addressed in Nigeria. The impact of insecurity in Nigeria is not peculiar to a particular gender, women however have paid a heavy price in the conflicts and violence that have been ravaging the country, especially in the past two decades. Yet women's experiences of insecurity in Nigeria have received scant scholarly attention.

According to Makama (2013), women constitute approximately half of the population in Nigeria, and play important role as mothers, producers, managers, community developers/organizers and contribute to the society; hence women perform double responsibilities in all the society. However, women have endured unprecedented levels of sexual victimization, forced displacement, health complications, increased food insecurity and internal displacement, among others. Adadevoh (2007), for instance, theorizes the manifestation and impact of insecurity on women from the perspective of marginality and gender schema, noting that domestic violence, sexism, and male chauvinism are a product of the patriarchal nature of the Nigerian society which seems to oppress and subdue women thereby making them insecure to lead a healthy life or realize their full potentials.

Some other scholars share similar view, arguing that the subordination of women to men remains steep and subtle in various forms in prevalent customs, culture, and traditions in Nigeria, which further heightens or exacerbates their exposure to insecurity (Nmaduet *al.*, 2010; Alabi and Alabi, 2014). Other studies such as WEF (2016), Ticonflict (2013) and Nte (2010) have observed that women and girls have also experienced discrimination in nutrition, health care, education, and workplaces.

It is pertinent to note that this primeval dimension of women insecurity did not highlight the empirical nature of the impact of insecurity on women. The argument appeared more as a clamour for the emancipation of women than the impact of insecurity on women. Yet, insecurity affects both genders but at different comparative degrees and levels. The outbreak of diverse security challenges and climate change has had varying impacts on the security and welfare of women and girls in different ways.

### *Climate Change*

Beyond patriarchy, studies have also shown that natural induced threats such as climate change is an enabler of insecurity with consequences for women in Nigeria. Climate change is a critical global issue that has adverse impacts on the environment, livelihood activities, and food security (Schnitter and Berry 2019; Sujakhu *et al.*, 2019). The impact of climatic change – in the form of erosion, landslides, and general land degradation, drought, and desertification – have threatened agricultural activities, which are the major livelihood sources for rural farmers in Nigeria (Nnadi *et al.* 2019). The risks of insecurity posed by climatic conditions affects both male and female. Although women were found to adopt on-farm and non-farm strategies slightly more than men that often engage in some off-farm activities (Anugwa *et al.*, 2020). However, the severe climatic conditions which pose threat to food security in Nigeria impacts on women negatively as on-farm workers and producers (Waheed *et. Al.*, 2017).

Similarly, Adenike et al (2019) argues that the prevailing impacts of extreme climatic conditions disproportionately affects women more than men in Nigeria given the difference in social responsibilities. Ishaya and Abaje (2008) explained that, rising sea levels and salinization could also affect the health and mortality rate of women, given that women are usually responsible for collecting water for their families from the stream because of inadequate access to clean water. The result is that women in rural coastal areas in Nigeria, particularly in the South –South *Zone* (Niger Delta region), are chiefly at risk because they are highly reliant on the coastal natural resources to sustain their livelihoods.

### *Boko Haram Insurgency*

In more concrete terms, conflict in the Northeast has resulted in massive loss of lives, property, and livelihoods. Boko Haram insurgency and increased militarization in the zone continue to have a devastating impact on women and girls. Studies have shown that insecurity in northern Nigeria, especially the Boko Haram insurgency, has disproportionately affected women (Onuoha and George, 2015; Osita-Njoku and Chikere, 2015; Bloom and Matfess, 2016; Ajayi, 2020; Ola, 2020). Though Boko Haram is known to be the most significant source of violence in Nigeria since the transition to democracy in 1999, the group's abuses against women in the Northeast have also earned it international notoriety (Bloom and Matfess, 2016). Boko Haram fighters targeted women and girls with rape and other sexual violence, including deploying young girls as suicide bombers (Onuoha and George, 2015; Osita-Njoku and Chikere, 2015).

In fact, women and girls make up at least 79% of approximately 2.5 million people displaced across the country's northeast because of Boko Haram terrorism. Both before and during displacement, they routinely face sexual and gender-based violence from Boko Haram, including camp officials and military or security agents (Ajayi 2020; Ogbe, 2020). Studies further reveal that the inability of women to provide shelter, water and food for their family makes them increasingly vulnerable to sexual exploitation in exchange for food or other assistance (OCHA 2016; Ajayi 2020). For instance, some 3,213 pregnancies were recorded in Bakassi Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp in Maiduguri, Borno State, between June and December 2016, due to sexual exploitation and abuses (OCHA 2016). In addition, Ogbe (2020) also noted that even the military camps carved out for IDPs have witnessed a preponderance of such sexual exploitation and abuses of women and girls. Women also face mental and sexual health challenges in a context of limited access to quality healthcare and justice in most of the IDP camps (Ajayi, 2020).

### *Herdsmen-Farmers Clashes*

The outbreak and escalation on violent conflicts in the form of herdsmen-farmers clashes is another security challenge that have greatly impacted the lives and livelihood of women. Deadly attacks by herders have resulted in death, destruction, and devastation of livelihoods across the length and breadth of the country. Factors such as climate change, shrinking natural resources, cattle rustling, and weakness in justice administration have made such violent clashes more frequent and deadlier in recent years. The threat of herdsmen attack is prevalent across all geopolitical zones in Nigeria, but its frequency and devastation are particularly acute in the North-Central Zone (Middle Belt region) Between 2001 and 2018, for example, about 60,000 deaths were recorded in multiple clashes. It is estimated that more than 300,000 were displaced across states, 176,000 in Benue, about 100,000 in Plateau, another 100,000 in Nasarawa (UN Women Nigeria, 2021; Ogune, 2021).

The resulting crisis has affected the life and security of women and girls, as “many women have been widowed, have lost their livelihoods, and have become victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence” (UN Women Nigeria, 2021, p.6). In rural areas, where many women are farmers, food production and farmlands have been abandoned out of fear that cattle would destroy them or their community may suffer targeted attacks, thereby exacerbating poverty and food insecurity in Nigeria.

As everywhere else in Nigeria, violent attacks by armed herdsmen, have heightened the spate of insecurity in the South West zone. The 2012 gender policy report by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development showed that it is only in the South-West zone that women own more land (28.3%) than men (22.5%) yet women who manage to own land have been forced in recent times to abandon them over safety concerns, as deadly herdsmen and other criminals have attacked, raped, and killed several rural residents (Ogunsusi and Adeleke, 2021). Incessant herdsmen attacks have provoked organized protest by some aggrieved women in some states. In May 2019, for instance, women in Akure, Ondo State, protested against the rising cases of attacks, rituals and kidnapping by suspected fulani herdsmen. They marched through the street of Akure and went to the palace of the Deji of Akure, complaining that hoodlums masquerading as "fulani herdsmen" have all surrounded the forests and bushes. The protesters noted that the fulani herdsmen, who are always armed with all kinds of weapons, molest, maim, and rape women, and even destroy their farmlands and livestock (Saharareporteros, 2019).

#### *Escalating Banditry*

Recently, in the Northwest area of Nigeria, the activities of violent organized criminal gang commonly referred to as bandits have become a subject of serious concern to local communities, security agencies, and the government. Banditry which has long afflicted northern Nigeria, have assumed a dangerous dimension mostly in Zamfara but also Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, and more recently, Sokoto and Taraba states (Rufa’i, 2018; Nextier SPD, 2018). For instance, while about 1,100 people were murdered in 2018 in the six states of Northwest Nigeria in 2018, over 2,200 were killed in 2019 and 1,600 killed between January and June 2020 (Ademola, 2021). The attacks have had heavy human and economic cost, ranging from the sexual assault of women and girls, attacks on villages, to cattle rustling, amongst others. Studies reveal that women are particularly vulnerable to these attacks, as they are usually kidnapped, held in captivity and most times physically and sexually violated (Dami, 2021; Centre for Democracy and Development, 2015).

#### *Militancy and Youth Restiveness*

Militancy in the **South South zone** or Niger Delta region continues to undermine the security and well-being of women. There has been a proliferation of militant groups staging attacks on Nigeria’s critical energy infrastructure in the region (Onuoha, 2016; Ibaba, 2011). The Nigerian State responded with aggressive military deployment, complemented with floundering Presidential amnesty programme for repentant ex-militants. As a result of conflict, many people were killed, communities were destroyed, women and young girls were raped (Akubor, 2011; Zdunnek, 2010; Ekine, 2008). Persistent attacks in the form of pipeline vandalism, illegal bunkering, and oil theft have undermined the optimal performance of the oil industry, including adding to environmental pollution associated with the operations of oil multinationals in the region. Besides, studies have also shown that women are subjected to all kinds of violence as well as human rights abuses from states actors, and militants as well. These human rights abuse most often are rarely addressed due

to the culture of impunity and weak rule of law institutions. (Ihayere, Ogeleka, and Ataine, 2014). Across the Niger Delta, as throughout Nigeria, impunity from prosecution for individuals responsible for serious human rights abuses has created a devastating cycle of increasing conflict and violence. Militant attacks were not limited to oil company operational sites, but also took place in the streets, offices, homes and nightclubs. Such attacks have resulted in violation of the rights of children and women (Ibaba, 2008).

#### *Secessionist and other violent crimes*

Insecurity in the South East zone in the form of armed robbery, kidnapping, cult-clashes, farmers-herders conflict, separatist agitations, and attacks by unknown gunmen have negatively impacted on the livelihoods and socio-economic activities of women, particularly those involved in farming and trading in local communities. Trading in local markets is majorly dominated by women and children. In addition, these rural communities are affected by the incessant herdsmen attacks that result in the destruction of farms and killing of farmers, especially women and children. For instance, herdsmen attack on Ukpabi-Nimbo in Enugu state, on 25 April 2016, witnessed the killings of over 40 residents. The herdsmen were alleged to have consistently raped, maimed, and killed victims from the communities (Igata, 2016). The activities of separatist agitators and roaming armed gangs loosely described as unknown gunmen add to the environment of insecurity in the South East. More than 25 police stations were attacked in parts of the South-East and South-South in the first five months of 2021, resulting in the killing of over 127 policemen and other security personnel (Adepegba, 2021). Data from Nextier SPD Violent Conflict Database shows that in the twelve months to September 2021, Nigeria recorded 74 alleged secession-related violent incidents in the South-East and South-South regions of Nigeria, resulting in 352 casualties (comprising of 98 civilians and 78 security agents), 17 persons injured, and two persons kidnapped.

Furthermore, attack on security forces by the unknown gun men and reprisal attacks by security operatives have compounded the security challenges faced by women. Numerous checkpoints mounted by security forces as part of militarized response to insecurity in the zone have increased the burden on women, particularly pregnant women. The frequent security crackdown and extra-judicial killing of young men in the zone have also forced many to go into hiding, forcing their mothers and wives to work for extended period in order to fend for the family (Ishiekwene, 2021). Thus, Idike (2021) contends that women and their children suffer more in this crisis, because they are naturally closer to the family, as a result, more sensitive to the emotions, stress and pain associated with the events which affect humanity.

#### *Electoral Violence*

The prevalence of electoral violence presents another form of insecurity known to have negatively impacted on women in Nigeria (International Crisis Group, 2018). Agbalajobi (2016) observes that electoral violence is a major cause of low participation of women in politics in Nigeria. Thus, the inability of the government at all levels to make adequate security provisioning engenders gender inequality in the electoral process. Rasak and Garuba (2017) corroborate this position, noting that there has been very low involvement of women in the electoral process despite the increased number of educated women who can ably contest for elective positions in Nigeria. They attributed this situation to the violent nature of the electioneering process, especially on the Election Day, which hinder women's advancement politically.



Besides direct physical violence that characterize elections in Nigeria, women face a lot of security issues due to human rights violations and psychological violence. According to Paasilinna, *et al* (2017), familial pressure in the form of intimidation or forced disenfranchisement which may include spousal or parental pressure on who to vote for, refusal to leave home to vote, refusal of relatives to watch children for women to vote, among other challenges, affect women disproportionately. In this light, the National Democratic Institute (2017) observed that abuse and harassment that constitute psychological violence seek to delegitimize women as political actors, undermine their confidence, competence and visibility in the political and public spheres which negatively affect how they are portrayed and perceived.

From the foregoing, the impact of insecurity on women in Nigeria manifests in different scale and scope depending on context. The patriarchal nature of the Nigerian society has tended to provide the underlying context of structural violence that exacerbates physical insecurity suffered by women. The literature reviewed revealed that death, displacement, disenfranchisement, loss of livelihood, rape, and other forms of SGBV are the most recurring and severe effect of insecurity on women in Nigeria. The psychological impact of insecurity on women as well as the coping mechanisms adopted by women has not received adequate scrutiny in extant literature.

### **Feminist Perspective of Conflict and Insecurity**

International conflicts have frequently been studied through the lens of numerous theories, like realism and liberalism, but none of these views can really elucidate the roots and significance of conflict, although the ruthless consequences of conflicts form a common ground among these theories. In the utmost common sense, conflict is a fight between two civil entities with considerable hostility. Another fact that contributes to this common ground between the many theories of international relations is the point that all these theories jointly overlook gender analysis as a part of the nature, basis, and consequence of conflicts. Well-known American feminist scholar, Laura Sjoberg, debates that the oversight of gender analysis in conflict situation is a critical error since the actual disposition of conflicts cannot be totally understood without making references to gender. Especially for the fact that women are continuously present in insecurity situations.

Feminists see power, like the government, to be gendered. Feminists provide alternative views of power that underscores relational skill and a normative framework based on care ethics. They believe that states with better gender equality are less likely to go to conflict or to engage in government-sanctioned violence. Feminism stands for power equality between males and females and the feminist theorizing of conflict stems from this very concept of gender equality. Conflict is commonly portrayed as the function of masculinity, but feminists solicit to differ. Feminists maintain that the traditional philosophies of international relations are short-sighted, masculine in nature, and partial (Sjoberg, 2013). Feminists and gender theorists encourage us to see conflict from the viewpoints of ordinary people. Violence happens on and through people and these people are positioned differently based on gender. Focusing on gender equality will contribute to positive changes in security and economic reconsiderations.

In conclusion feminist views offer valuable insight into matters of conflict and insecurity and area of certain relevance to security challenges such as ethnic, ideological, and nationalist driven insecurities, which confront us in this twenty first century. Recently in 2019, the United Nations Security Council adopted the title ‘women and peace and security’ under Article 41 of the Charter where it restated that when implementing and renewing sanctions, countries must consider including acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence; and advised existing sanction committees to apply targeted sanctions against those who perpetrated and directed sexual violence in war. This demonstrates that the feminist work and the perspective of gender theorists are gradually being recognized and precisely so.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The main approach employed by this research is the Feminist approach that allowed the researchers to ask new types of questions about women’s lives and experiences with other marginalized groups. A mixed-method approach of data gathering, which involved the utilization of both quantitative and qualitative sources, was technically employed for outcome harvest, data collection and story collection.

#### **Research Instruments, Scope and Sample of quantitative and qualitative study:**

Qualitative data were collected using key informant interviews and focus group discussions. Both methods enabled the researchers to gain a better understanding of women's experiences and concerns which is consistent with the feminist approach. Focus group discussions was very advantageous because it helped the data collectors to access more reflective and valuable viewpoints from the affected population. It also helped field officers bring together key representatives of the relevant stakeholders to share their opinion on the subject matter of interests to the researchers.

The instruments were given to experts in the field of tests and measurement for content validity. About 1200 questionnaires were administered. Additionally, consent and support of various traditional leaders in the local governments and community participants were sought and secured for the study.

**Table 1: Research Instruments, Respondents' Categories, and Size**

<b>INSTRUMENT</b>	<b>SAMPLE/SIZE</b>
<b>Questionnaires</b>	<b>1,200 Respondents</b> - 100 Respondents per state
<b>Focus Group Discussions</b>	<b>384 Persons</b> participated in the FGDS - 48 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) - 4 FGDs Per State - 8 Persons per FGD
<b>Key Informant Interviews</b>	<b>96 Key Informants</b> were interviewed - 8 Key Informants per State
Total Number of Respondents- 1,680	

Largely each instrument covered diverse aspects of the variables being investigated using the purposive sampling technique. Women directly affected by different forms of conflict situations were targeted while stakeholders and gatekeepers who are directly concerned with maintaining peace and security in target communities were targeted for the key informant’s interview. The researchers developed and administered questionnaires for use in the six geopolitical zones with two states being covered per region.

**Table 2: Selected Study States**

Geopolitical Zones	States
North East	Bauchi and Adamawa States
North West	Kaduna and Kebbi States
North Central	Niger and Benue States
South South	Rivers and Cross Rivers States
South East	Ebonyi and Imo States
South West	Ondo and Lagos States

### Data Analysis

The quantitative data collected were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23 while the qualitative data used the

- a. **Narrative analysis** approach which is all about listening to people **telling stories** and analysing the meaning to make sense and gain insights into the lives of our target beneficiaries.
- b. **Thematic analysis** to look at patterns and group them according to **similarities or themes**. These themes helped us make sense of the content and derived meaning from it. Conclusions were drawn and the preliminary results of the findings of this research which were presented at a virtual stakeholders' validation workshop and relevant insights were garnered from the exercises and incorporated to improve the overall quality of the research findings.

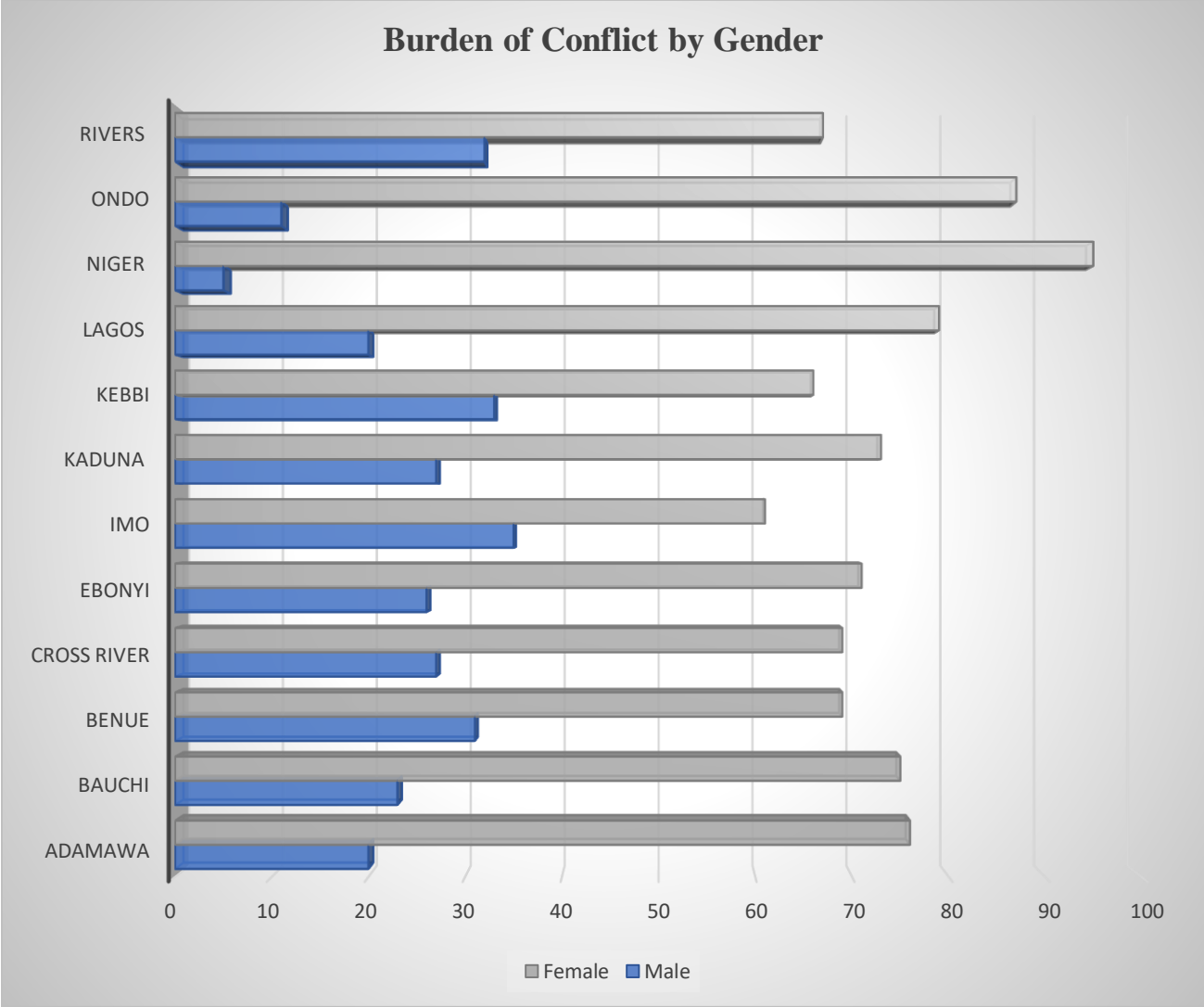
## 4. RESEARCH FINDINGS

This research has considered an array of factors, which includes people’s traditions, population, and age, which may affect how people experience conflict. Nevertheless, there was a confirmation from consistent responses from respondents across the twelve research states that gender is the major factor to be considered – women, men, girls, and boys experience conflict differently, especially pin-pointing the fact that women suffer more during this conflict situations. From the

survey results 734 respondents hold the view that past armed conflicts killed more men than women, but the current style of armed conflicts surging over Nigeria kills both men and women at the same rate. 379 respondents are certain that more men still die during armed conflicts while 87 respondents were indifferent.

Even with the rising death rate of women caught up in armed conflict situations, the ones who survive bear more burdens than men. This is because they are forced to pick up their late husband’s responsibilities alongside theirs. While the men who survive conflicts depend on women survivors who are relatives to provide care work support to them, this greatly increases women’s burden in conflict and post- conflict situations. Enduring conflict and multiple insecurity situations affect both male and female but affects the women more.

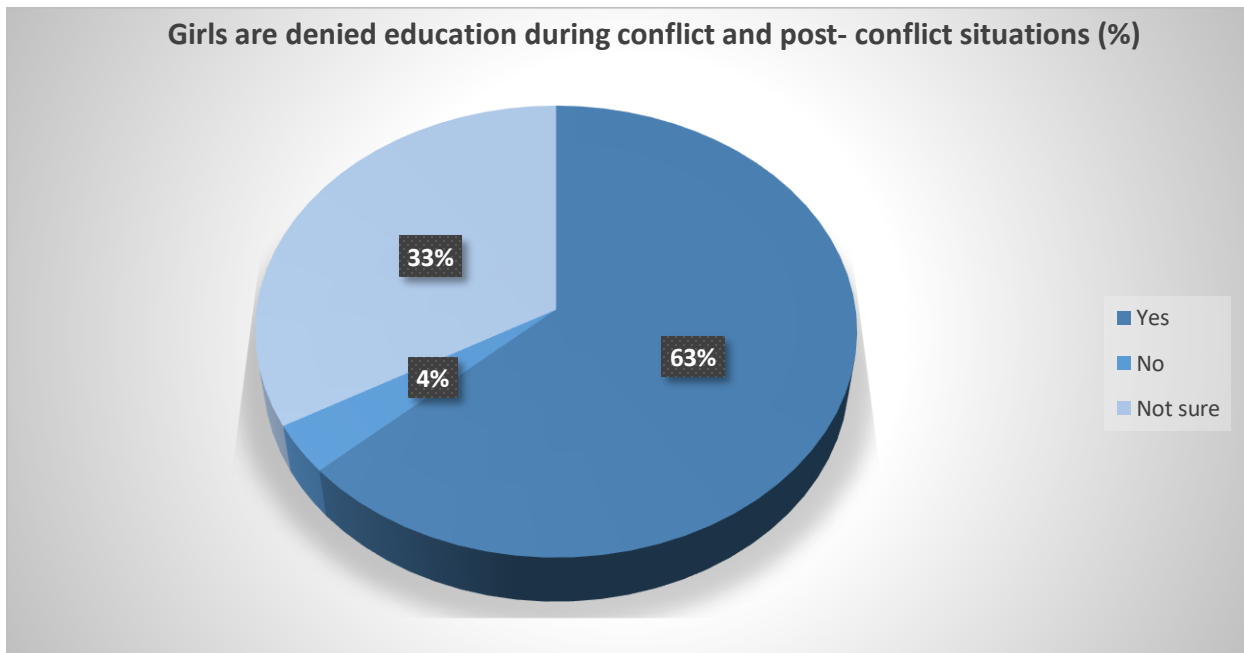
Figure 1 below shows responses from the survey when respondents were asked to share the gender that bears most of the burden of conflict in their state and communities.



**Figure 1: Burden of Conflict by Gender.**

i. **Education and Training**

What is the impact of the conflicts on education and training of boys and girls, men and women? To answer this question, two kinds of data were collected; quantitative data (questionnaires for community members) and qualitative data (interviews with students and focus group discussions with education stakeholders), subjected to descriptive statistical and content analysis respectively.



**Figure 2: Girls denied education due to conflict (%)**

Figure 2: shows that the community members felt that conflict negatively affects girl child enrollment, retention and completion at all levels of learning especially at primary and secondary education; the women attending skill acquisition trainings are also halted during conflicts. Sixty-three per cent of the community members believed that in conflict-affected communities that girls are more likely to be out of school compared to boys. In support of the community members' responses, narratives from interviews with students, women and education stakeholders indicated that the girls are currently being denied education in conflict and post – conflict communities.

*A student in Niger state highlighted that: Before I was schooling without fear, but after we were abducted from our school. I was lucky to be among those who were released. I haven't been allowed to go back to school, people peep through their windows to have a glimpse of me. My siblings are asked on the street if I am pregnant. I miss school, our prayer time, play and my*

*forthcoming exams, but I am glad I am safe at home, sometimes I cry and ask why me? Why now? No one in our household is discussing if I will ever go back to school. .*

A girl - Key Informant, Niger State October, 2021

Related responses were echoed by most of the students. During the focus group discussions, majority of the education stakeholders who are also parents agreed that the authorities do not provide services to reestablish normalcy and help the children especially girls stay in touch with their dream of becoming educated in the post- conflict communities. They said life is worse for the girls who escaped from insurgents' captivity, they suffer stigma, mental illness and most times they come back pregnant or with babies. They are usually withdrawn and won't relate with other children, not to talk of attending school.

A mother in Benue claimed that:

*I was so disappointed when our village was destroyed from the farmer – herder clashes and we moved to an IDP Camp. Mostly men were called out and spoken to and they relayed the information to us. Nobody called the children to talk to them about any plan for their educational pursuits in the future. Our daughters were immediately turned to camp servants, they served from dawn to dusk, while the boys had time to play football with adult men. The boys started learning in the field after playing football weeks before some agencies started volunteering to teach all the children including the girls.*

A Parent in a focus group discussion in Abagana IDP Camp, Benue State, October 2021

Another parent in Bauchi pointed out that:

*Many months after we returned to our community our girls stayed back while boys schooled because the available structure for learning was small to offer single-sex classrooms for both boys and girls. Community leaders had to approve for boys to start schooling first until more classrooms are constructed for girls. Also most teachers were male, thankfully girls are back to school now but they lost learning time.*

A man - key informant in Dass, Bauchi State, October 2021

The result from the data collected showed that the parents will want the government to post more female teachers to the schools in the IDP camps to inspire and teach the girls and also remind community members that girl's education is still worthwhile. Most of the community members interviewed were not satisfied with the quality and outcomes of learning. However they were happy that learning is taking place at all. The summary of the FGD discussions held in IDPs from different research states: Ebonyi, Cross River, Bauchi, Adamawa, Benue, Niger Kaduna and Kebbi states highlighted the fact that learning spaces in the camps were overpopulated and the teachers were very few. There where near absence of structured psychosocial services or counseling to help children survive trauma especially girls who survived sexual violence.

In Demsawo, Adamawa, in response to the question of what improvement will stakeholders like to see in schooling in conflict and post Conflict communities? A Key Informant interviewed said: *Well, the progress we need from the government is for them to fund school constructions in IDP*

*camps, and school reconstructions in post – conflict communities. Government should partner with other agencies to also provide child centered counselling services to help our children recover from fear, emotional disorders and stigma from rape.*

A Key Informant during an interview in Adamawa State, October 2021

## **ii. Leadership, Politics and Decision making.**

The responses from focus group discussions on women’s leadership brought to light the effectiveness of donor agencies’ programme in sensitizing post conflict communities towards the need for women’s leadership. This also helped in making women aspire for community leadership and politics. However, the responses of the community stakeholders revealed that they were not happy that women who were in leadership committees in the IDPs, are no longer allowed to lead when they returned to their communities.

*“I wish men will drop their hold on culture in our community, the culture that deprives women from being community leaders and making decision alongside men. After all when we were in the IDP camp women were leaders in the camp. What has changed?”*

A key informant in Bauchi State, October 2021

Women in a focus group discussion in Ezza in Ebonyi state emphasized the need for the government and NGOs to provide trainings for the male community leaders in post-conflict communities sensitizing them to support women’s leadership. This will help women consolidate on the leadership skills they learnt during the conflict. Thus, one of the women argued that:

Leadership skills is a critical ability women need to be effective members of their communities.

A woman in a Focus Group Discussion in Ezza community in Ebonyi State

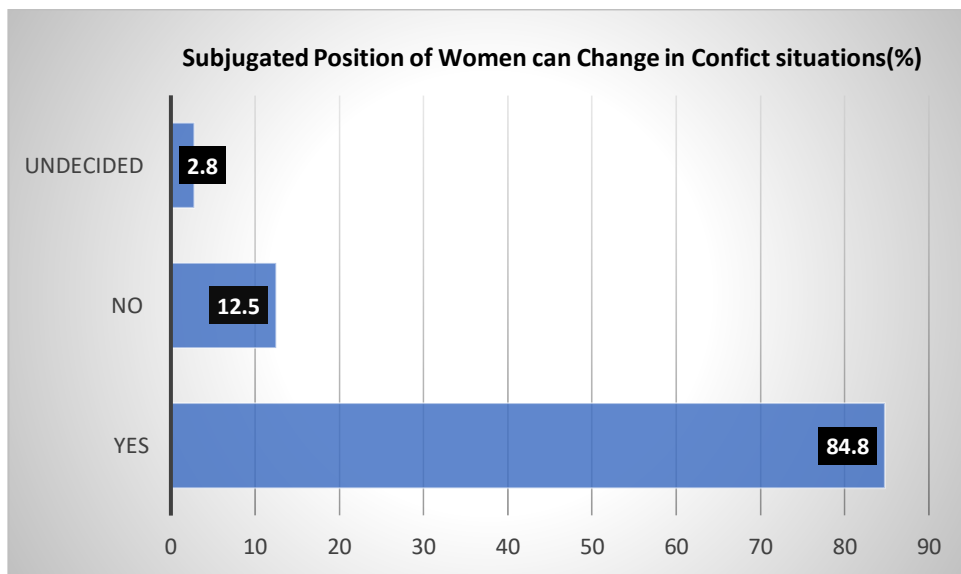
*In one of the FGDs in Niger State respondents shared that since the outbreak of conflicts, women have been discouraged from leadership in the public spheres. They are afraid to come out so that they don’t become too visible for insurgents to attack or kidnap. The very few that have ventured into politics are consistently threatened and this keep reducing the number of women in public life.*

FGD Report in Niger State, October, 2021

A female politician in Rivers State commented that:

*We are witnessing a sudden rise in women’s participation in politics in our local government. I believe it’s because we played key roles in rebuilding our community after the last series of cult clashes. This is a great milestone for women’s leadership in our communities.*

Data collected across all the research states shows that respondents believe in women’s leadership abilities despite the patriarchal norms being practiced in several communities throughout the research states which subjugates women. This was revealed when community respondents were asked if they believe that women’s subjugated position can change for better during conflict situation. The analysis showed that 1017 respondents which represents 84.8 percent of respondents answered ‘yes’.



Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	1017	84.8
No	150	12.5
Undecided	33	2.8

Figure 3: Subjugated Position of Women can Change in Conflict Situations (%)

According to the respondents of the FGDs in the researched communities, programmes implemented by donor agencies’ have been effective in sensitizing post conflict communities towards the need for women’s participation in leadership. This helped in making women aspire to be part of decision making processes in political spaces. However, community stakeholders revealed that women encounter setbacks as they leave the camps to participate in leadership and politics externally. They are mostly challenged by societal norms and patriarchy that no longer allow them to lead when they returned to their communities.



A key informant in Kaduna State challenged authorities when she said:

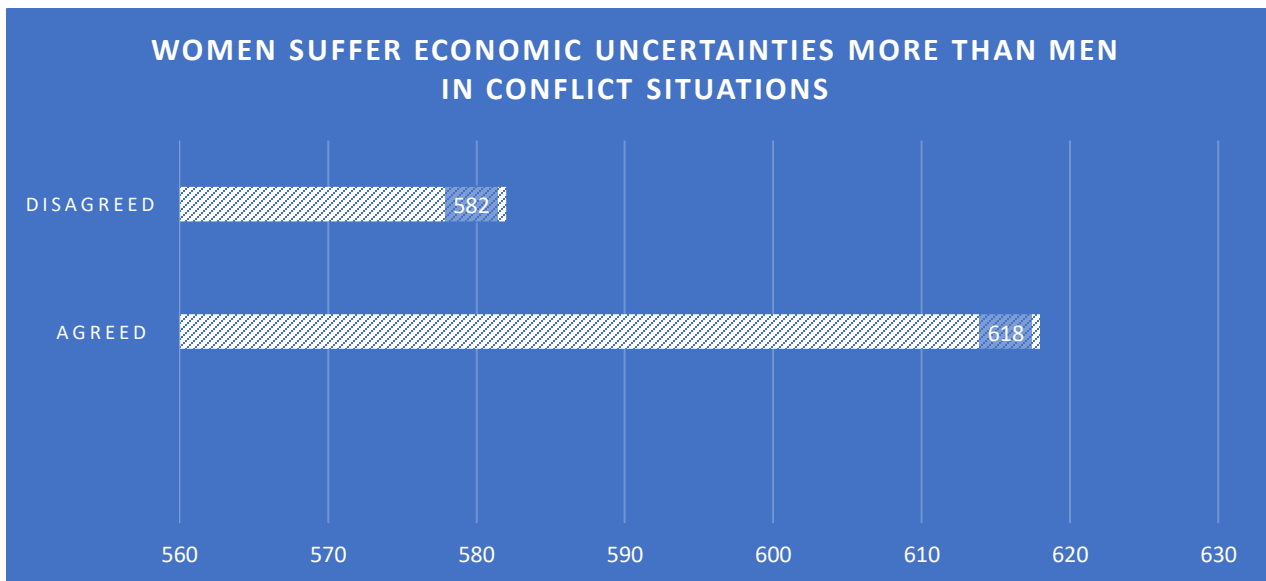
*The authorities are not monitoring or measuring women’s progress or retrogression in leadership within conflict and post-conflict communities. She called on government agencies to please check on women to find out if they are participating or not.*

A woman Leader- Key informant, in Riman, Kaduna State.

### iii. Economic Security

Analysed responses from community stakeholders’ questionnaires, FGDS and Key Informant’s interviews provided data for addressing women’s economic insecurity because of conflict. From the survey analysis more than half of the community stakeholders agreed that women suffer economic uncertainties more than men during conflict and post-conflict situations.

Figure 4 showed that 618 respondents which represents 51.5 percent of the respondents, agreed that women suffer economic uncertainties more than men while others were indifferent.



**Figure 4: Women suffer economic uncertainties more than men in conflict situations**

During the focus group discussion in Ebonyi state on economic security a woman said:

*“In my community women were already experiencing high economic uncertainty, the communal clashes worsened this insecurity. At least we use to make small money before, but now nothing is*

*available at all. Due to the Ezza and Effium Communal Clashes our houses and farm lands were burnt down so there is nothing to harvest and nothing to sell."*

A woman in a Focus Group Discussion, Ezza, Ebonyi State

However one of the women in Bauchi state said:

*I find it notable that before the era of insurgencies women use to need their father's or husband's permission to take up employment in our community even when educated. But conflicts have started changing this norm. She said women who were not allowed to work before have started working circumstantially as a matter of necessity to be able to provide for their families, this is our silver linings from pain.*

A Key Informant from Gudun Sayawa, Bauchi State

The responses from focus group discussions on women's economic insecurity gave insight to the emerging economic uncertainties that women are experiencing in some of the research states.

A Business Woman in Imo State said:

*Every Monday women are forced to provide three meals a day when it's difficult to provide breakfast and dinner that we use to provide in the other days. Our care burden has doubled with the conquest of IPOB. Our children stay at home on Mondays doing nothing, as women our businesses and work have been totally distorted. Some of us are violated in front of children who were meant to be in school.*

A woman in the FGD in Owerri, Imo State

Another woman in Lagos State said:

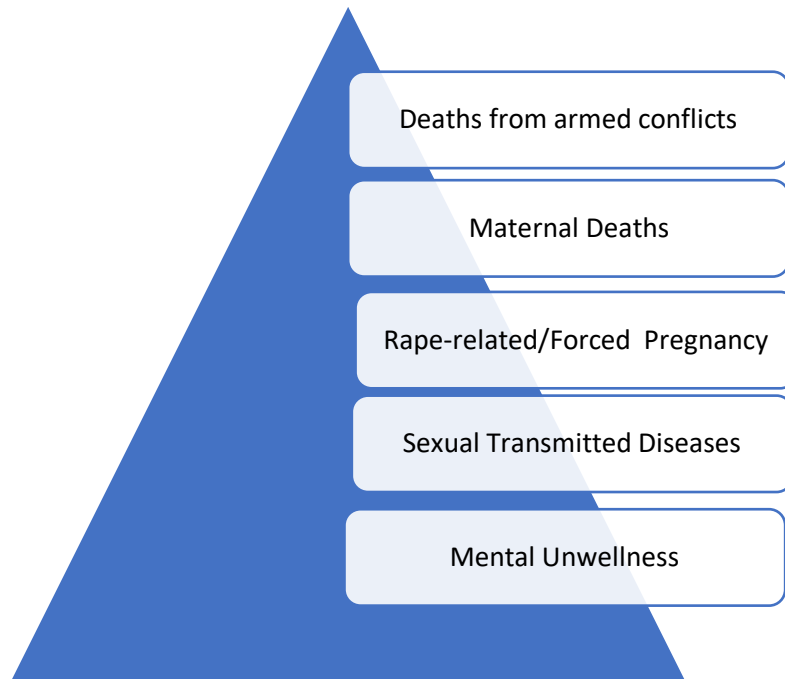
*In Lagos most of us women are self-employed doing petty businesses here and there. We depend on our businesses for daily sustenance, the day we sell, our families eat, the day we don't make sales our families starve. When our children finished demonstrating against police brutality in the state #ENDSARS, hoodlums took over the streets and we suffered! Our families suffered hunger, lack and hopelessness. I am sure that if government will calculate the number of businesses especially small businesses like mine that were destroyed by the hoodlums, I am sure businesses owned by women will rank the highest.*

A business woman in the FGD in Agege, Lagos State

#### **iv. Healthcare and Well-being**

Most of the women involved in the focus group discussions on this thematic area of study have survived or cared for a woman who have survived health care and wellbeing insecurity during conflict and post conflict situations in their communities and states. The table showed the ranked

impact of conflicts on women’s health and well-being submitted by our respondents during the FGD discussions on impact of insecurity situations on women’s health and well-being across the research states.



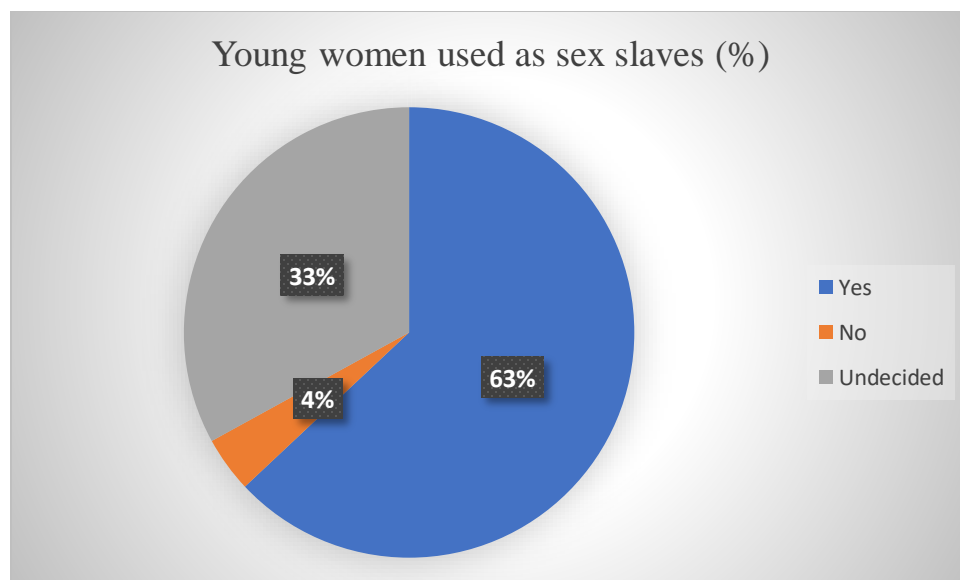
**Chart 2: Impact of Conflicts on Women’s Health and Well-Being**

According to the FGDs summary report from the 12 research states other factors that affect women’s health and well –being are: lack of toilets/ adequate toilets in IDP camps, malnutrition, lack of water, lack of sanitary pads and lack of clinics. The lack of reproductive health services was also significantly highlighted.

A young girl released by bandits in Niger state said;

*My fear was indescribable when we finally got to abductors camp that night and watched girls who were kidnapped before us serving the bandits. One of them later told us in the morning while we were praying that she has been raped severally. I almost felt my heart stop beating.*

*A Key Informant in Niger, State.*



**Figure 5: Young Women used as Sex Slaves in Conflict Situations (%)**

The analyzed survey data shows that the community stakeholders agree that young girls in conflict situations are raped while being held as baits for ransom and still working for their abductors as enslaved caregivers. This was revealed when community respondents were asked if they believe that young women are used as sex slaves in times of conflict. The analysis in Figure 5 show that 63 % said yes while 4% said no and 33% were undecided.

A woman emphasized that:

*“Few weeks to my Expected Delivery Date, the Effium and Izza communal conflict broke out on the night of January 22, 2021. While running to safety, I gave birth in the forest. Another woman used a cutlass to cut the umbilical cord. It was only God that looked after me and my frail baby. We stayed in the bush for 3 days, we couldn’t clean ourselves, and I couldn’t lactate. My baby was in distress until we escaped to Ezzamgbo.”*

A woman in the Focus Group Discussion in Ezza, Ebonyi state, October 2021

Another lady in Rivers State echoed similar experience:

*“During the communal conflict between our community and a neighboring community, my co- wife delivered her baby at home with the help of a traditional birth attendant. Because the clinic we use is situated at a high-risk area, many questions arose such as, ‘What if she had any of the dangerous birth complications, especially because she is a first-time mother?’ ”*

A woman in the FGDs in Lewu, Rivers State, October 2021

Likewise, FGD respondents in Adamawa and Bauchi states also discussed an emerging happening in some communities where residents are returnees who earlier fled due to conflict. They are witnessing a gradual rise in sexual violence. Some of the respondents believe it's a learned behavior from insurgents, while some think that it's a way of re-establishing male domination which was lost briefly in the IDP camps. This claim brought about the suggestion that key stakeholders need to urgently engage males to end this rising menace.

## **v. Shelter and Housing**

Discussions and interviews with research participants revealed that for many respondents, there was a commonly held view and a strong belief that no matter how many years' people live in the IDP camp they can never be completely settled in as they will be in their ancestral homes or in a rented apartment they call their own.

We asked women in the FGDs on shelter and housing in the IDP camps in Kaduna, Cross River, Benue, and Adamawa to draw up a personal list of what they miss in their homes. A summary of their lists were farms, gardens, shops, beds, prayer time with family, food, finance, utensils, blankets, what topped their list was 'peace, stability and privacy'.

*I came to this camp pregnant, my daughter turned 4 years old in August and she is yet to visit her ancestral home. I pray that sometimes soon we will return to our homes.*

A woman in FGD in Bakassi Resettlement Camp at Ekpri-Ikang, Cross River State

Another woman in Ondo State said:

*Since herdsmen destroyed our farmlands and burnt down our homes in Olondan village, I have been living with my children in my grandmother's house in another town here in Ondo state while my husband relocated to Ekiti state to live with his friend. Our family life have been disrupted and there is no hope in sight.*

A woman in FGD in Akure, Ondo State

Survey data collected shows that the communities were grateful with the shelters provided for them at the IDPs but will want them to be gender and disability sensitive. In table 3 below 1,029 out of 1,200 respondents agreed it's important to ensure shelters in the IDPs are gender aware and inclusive. Conflict impacts persons living with disability doubly.

**Table 3: Gender and Inclusion Sensitive Shelters for Displaced Citizens**

<i>Level of Importance</i>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<i>Extremely Important</i>	<b>552</b>	<b>46.0</b>
<i>Very Important</i>	<b>216</b>	<b>18.0</b>
<i>Important</i>	<b>162</b>	<b>13.5</b>
<i>Slightly Important</i>	<b>99</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<i>Not at all Important</i>	89	7.4
<i>Undecided</i>	82	6.8
<i>Total</i>	1200	100.0

A woman in Kaduna narrated:

*The night we left our village to safety from herdsmen attack, my family carried me alongside, but my cousin who lived with us and have been my caregiver for 6 years now had to flee with her parents to a different direction. When I arrived here I felt alone, I couldn't bath for 2 days because I can't bath without being assisted in privacy. I was getting suicidal, on the third day a few areas in the camp has been covered and my brother appealed to two women in the camp to assist me have a bath. After that help, they both have remained very supportive, they have become my rescuers till date. I still live here and I am hopeful that one day we will return home.*

A woman living with disability in Kujama IDP Camp, Kaduna State

*Sometimes during the raining nights when it gets really cold. I gather my children and cover them with every piece of cloth I can find in our luggage. Then when they have all slept I will silently pray that God should take us back to our home where we can have proper shelter and warmth.*

A woman in Abagana IDP Camp, Benue State

## **5. RECOMMENDATION**

The focus of this research was the gendered nature of the impact of insecurity in selected states in Nigeria. The results generally showed greater impact of insecurity on women and girls relative to men in the twelve states. Nonetheless, there was an exception which proved that rate of death from direct conflict combats in almost all the states are near equal for both men and women. This suggests that insecurity needs to be prevented, conflicts that are already ongoing needs to be resolved to prevent deaths of both sexes. During this research, the efforts to improve access to

more sources of livelihoods by women, access to health care and leadership positions were discussed and observed. The findings of this research suggest that beyond preventing and resolving conflict situations, there is a need to have a gender sensitive approach to interventions during conflicts and in post conflict reconstruction and rebuilding. This can be done through a truly gender responsive mechanisms. Consequently, the following recommendations were drawn from the results of this research:

	Summary of Findings	Recommendation
1	Gender blindness in conflict analysis which excludes women's different experiences, interests and needs.	Government authorities, development partners, and civil society organisations should mainstream gender perspectives in conflict analysis and monitoring. This will help these key stakeholders to gain a nuanced understanding of the underlying drivers and enablers of insecurity, in ways that enable policy and programming to address the gendered nature and impact of violence and insecurity.  Understanding that conflict analysis is not a one-off activity but a lens through which evolving conflict dynamics are regularly updated and addressed.
2	There is inadequate inclusion of women's concerns in peace agreements and few women involved in peace negotiations and agreements in Nigeria.	Civil society organizations and development partners should pressure governmental and traditional authorities to include more women in peace negotiations and agreements. This will ensure not only their representation in the peace process but adequate inclusion of women's concerns in peace agreements.  Thereby fulfilling Nigeria's commitment to the full and effective implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.
3.	There is absence and inadequate economic empowerment and financial inclusion programmes that targets women in post-conflict communities.	Governments at all levels - federal, state, and local should partner with donors and organized private sector to implement economic empowerment programmes that are targeted at improving the capacity and resilience of women to recover from insecurity and contribute to inclusive governance in post-conflict communities.
4	There is absence of leadership and political mobilization platforms in post – conflict communities in Nigeria.	There is the need for donors and government authorities to set up community-level, informal networks or platforms for women's

		political mobilisation to generate a mass of grassroots activists. These activists will become change agents and critical human resource base for early warning interventions, conflict resolution and peace building.
5	Women- led grassroots organizations do not fully recover from conflicts situations.	Women-led community-based organizations need to be supported or new ones created to lead and expand women’s empowerment in post-conflict communities. To promote women’s rights and gender equality in post-conflict communities, international development partners such as UN Women should channel support to women’s social and grassroots movements.
6	Most male community leaders reinstate patriarchal norms in post- conflict communities.	Civil Societies should partner with government agencies such as the National Orientation Agency and the Ministry of Women and Social Development to implement capacity-building programmes for male leaders in post-conflict communities to gradually address patriarchal norms that perpetuate the subjugation of women in the society.
7	Absence of psycho - social support for women and girls that are survivors of gender based violence in conflict and post conflict situations.	Government and development actors should prioritize the establishment of community-based structures that provide support to women and girls' rights, especially psycho-social and mental health services to women and girls who are exposed to violence and depredation associated with insecurity
8	Gender neutral budgeting for conflict mitigation in conflict and post conflict states	Gender responsive budgeting for conflict – prevention, mitigation and post – conflict community reconstruction. Allocating specific budgets for both women and men survivors. Financing to support both women’s basic needs and strategic needs.
9	Inadequate scholarly work on women and girls’ experiences of insecurity in Nigeria	There is a need to carry out further research which will critically evaluate the responses of government, donor agencies and other stakeholders on the impacts of insecurity on women and girls in Nigeria.



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**Annexures**

**Annexure 1: Individual Questionnaire**



2021 Survey  
Number \_\_\_\_\_

Serial

**Research Survey on the Varied Impact of Rising  
Insecurity in the Lives of Nigerian Women Project.**

**Quality Assurance**

**To be completed by the Research Assistant or Interviewer**

(a) Date: -..... (b) State Code: -.....

(c) Name/ Signature of Interviewer:

.....  
(d)Name/Signature of the State Coordinator: -  
.....

**To be completed by Data Entry Clerk**

(a) Date: -..... (b) Name: -.....

(c) Remark:.....

(d)Signature of Data Entry Clerk: -.....

**INTRODUCTION**

Dear Madam/Sir,

Good day to you. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ a Researcher working with the Women Voice and Leadership Project (WVL Project). We have been commissioned to conduct a research on **‘the Varied Impact of Rising Insecurity in the Lives of Nigerian Women Project’**. You have been randomly selected as a respondent within this state to be interviewed for this study. Your participation is voluntary; however, we guarantee that your identity will be kept anonymous and the information will be kept confidential. Please answer the questions asked truthfully and be free to ask any question at any time of the interview. Thanks for your time.\

**SECTION A: SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS**

Please note that this session can only be answered for the person being interviewed.

S/N	Question	Options
1.	Gender of respondent	1) Male 2) Female
2	Ethnicity	1) Igbo 2) Hausa 3) Yoruba 4) Others (specify) .....
3	Religion	1) Christian 2) Islam 3) Traditional religion 4) Others (Specify).....
4	Age as at last birthday/ Age group	1) 18-24 years 2) 25 -34 3) 35-44 4) 45-54 5) 55 -64 6) 65 -74 7) 75 years and above

<b>5</b>	Marital status	1) Single 2) Married 3) Divorced/Separated 4) Widowed
<b>6</b>	Highest Education completed	1) No formal education 2) Primary education 3) Secondary education 4) Tertiary education
<b>7</b>	Household Size	1) 1 – 5 2) 6 – 10 3) 11 – 15 4) 16 – 20 5) 21 and Above ..... (Please specify)
<b>8</b>	Position in the household	1) Breadwinner 2) Co-provider/ Co-supporter 3) Dependent 4). Others (Please specify) .....

\*Household in this context refers members living together and eating from the same pot

### SECTION B: MAPPING INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

S/N	Question	Options	Guide for the interview
<b>1</b>	Which state are you residing in?	i.	<u>one answer</u>
<b>2.</b>	Which Community _____ and LGA _____?	Which Geographical Region of the state? I. Urban Area II. Rural Area	<u>one answer</u>
<b>3</b>	What type of insecurity activities exist in your state?		
<b>4.</b>	How many IDPs/ Shelters do you have in your State?	i. 0 ii. 1 – 5 iii. > 6 iv. I don't know	<u>one answer</u>

5.	Which of the social amenities is provided and is functional in your camp(IDP)?  Water, shelter, schools, clinic , reproductive health clinic, etc	Please specify..... i. ii. iii. iv.	<u>Multiple answer</u>
6	Who does conflict affect more?	Male  Female	<u>One answer</u>

**Section C: Impact Assessment of Rising Insecurity on Women**

1	How long have women and girls suffered the impact of insecurity in your state?	i) Less than a year ii) Between 1 and 3 years iii) Between 4 and 7 years iv) Between 8 and 12 years v) 13 years and above	<u>One answer</u>
2(i)	Are women and girls protected during conflict situations in your state?	i. Yes ii. No iii I don't know	<u>One answer</u>
2(ii)	If 'Yes' in Q 2(i) above,	Which category of women enjoy protection? Please specify I. Adolescent girls II. Middle aged women III. Elderly Women.	<i>(Tick all that applies)</i>



		Health and Psychological Impact			
		Political Economic Impact			
		Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Women & Girls			
7.	What is/are the major ways insecurity situation affect Women and girls in your state?	Please specify i. It affects Education and Training ii. It affects their participation in politics and decision making. iii. It affects their source of livelihoods. iv. It brings about 'Food Insecurity' v. It affects women's Health and Wellbeing – including their reproductive health vi. Others (Please specify) ..... ..... .....	<u>Probe respondents because this will be questions for FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS</u>		
8.	Do you think the subjugated situation of women and girls in your state during conflict situation can change?	i. Yes ii. No	<u>One answer</u>		

## Section D: Recommendations

1.	What can your state government do to prevent conflict situations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Implement laws that have been enacted.</li> <li>ii. Make new laws the will help stop it?</li> <li>iii. Budget allocation for ‘prevention’ of armed conflicts</li> <li>iv. Others (specify) .....</li> </ul>	<i>(tick all that applies)</i>
2.	What kind of service can Agencies/Programs (including Government, Non-Governmental & other associations) in your state provide for women and girls during conflict situations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Gender sensitive shelters (<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>)</li> <li>ii. Access to credits and loans(<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>)</li> <li>iii. Psychosocial support(<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>)</li> <li>iv. Periodic updates on situations (<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>)</li> <li>v. Mobile Schools (<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>)</li> <li>vi. Adequate water and sanitary products for women and girls (<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>)</li> <li>vii. Appropriate food for infants, pregnant, and lactating mothers. (<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>)</li> <li>viii. Protection of women and girls from harassment/opposition(<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>)</li> <li>ix. Others (specify) .....(<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Please rank</b></p> <p><b>1 = Not at all important</b>  <b>2 = Slightly important</b>  <b>3 = Important</b>  <b>4 = Important</b>  <b>5 = Very Important</b></p>

**Thank You**

### Annexure 2: FGDs Guide

**Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) guideline:** Research Survey on the Varied Impact of Rising Insecurity in the Lives of Nigerian Women Project.

<b>Notes to facilitator</b>	This focus group guideline is for eliciting information on the research questions from local market actors and stakeholders
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<b>Type of discussion</b>	The focus group moderator nurtures disclosure in an open and spontaneous format. The moderator’s goal is to generate a maximum number of different ideas and opinions from as many different people in the time allotted.
<b>Tools</b>	Print and use the reporting template
<b>Time</b>	120 minutes with a 10 min break after 1 hour.
<b>Number of Participants</b>	The group needs to be large enough to generate rich discussion but not so large that some participants are left out. -12 (8 people are ideal)
<b>Note the following</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion is free-flowing. Ideally, participant comments will stimulate and influence the thinking and sharing of others. Some people even find themselves changing their thoughts and opinions during the group discussion.</li> <li>• All views are important and should be noted</li> <li>• Facilitate the discussion and try to probe consistently (why do you think that? Has anyone else had a similar experience/view?)</li> </ul>
<b>FGD Participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>FGD A-</b> 8 Participants drawn from education and training institutions. Service providers, students, school management committee members and others.</li> <li>▪ <b>FGD B-</b> 8 Participants-female politicians, women in management positions, women in community and religious institutions leadership.</li> <li>▪ <b>FGD C-</b> 8 Participants- Women from the Agricultural value chain, market women, and women in production.</li> <li>▪ <b>FGD D-</b> 8 Participants- Women in the health sector, reproductive health. Nurses, psychologists, doctors etc.</li> <li>▪ <b>FGD E -</b> 8 Participants- Women that live in internally displaced shelters, or temporal housing due to conflicts etc.</li> </ul>
<b>FGD Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the types of violence that women and girls suffer in your state?</li> <li>- What are the adverse impact of conflict situations on the women and girls residing in your State?</li> </ul> <p>How has conflict situations affected women and girls - <b>discuss only within the participant’s thematic area of work.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education and Training.</li> <li>- Healthcare and Wellbeing – including their reproductive health</li> <li>- Leadership, Politics and Decision making.</li> <li>- Economic Security</li> <li>- . Shelter and Housing</li> <li>- Others (Please specify) .....</li> </ul> <p>What measures, programs, or services will help <u>PREVENT</u> women and girls residing in your State from experiencing armed and unarmed conflicts_?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What measures, programs, or services are available to help women and girls residing in your State who have been exposed to</li> </ul>

	conflicts <u>COPE</u> with the consequences of experiencing violence?/ _____?
<b>Categories of questions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engagement questions: introduce participants to and make them comfortable with the topic of discussion</li> <li>2. Exploration questions: get to the meat of the discussion</li> <li>3. Exit question: check to see if anything was missed in the discussion.</li> </ol>

**Annexure 3: Key Informants Guide**

**Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) Guides:** Research Survey on the Varied Impact of Rising Insecurity in the Lives of Nigerian Women Project.

<b>Notes to interviewer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This interview guide is to be administered face to face, via telephone or via emails.</li> <li>▪ It can be used for interviewing: Key Informants in the areas of Research.</li> <li>▪ The questionnaire has a section for questions for the Key informant.</li> </ul>
<b>Study introduction</b>	<p>My name is. . . . . a Researcher working with the Women Voice and Leadership Project (WVL Project). We have been commissioned to conduct a research on <b>‘the Varied Impact of Rising Insecurity in the Lives of Nigerian Women Project’</b>. The goal of this project is to carry out an original and systematic investigation and assessment of the impact of the surging insecurity in our state . . . . . On women. The findings of the research will increasethe existing knowledge and understanding of this threat to women’s existence. It will establish factsand principles behind the impact. You have been specially selected as a respondent within this state to be interviewed for this study. Your participation is voluntary; however, we guarantee that your identity will be kept anonymous and the information will be kept confidential. Please answer the questions asked truthfully and be free to ask any question at any time of the interview. Thanks for your time. This interview should take around 40 minutes to complete, 1-hour appointment should be scheduled.</p>
<b>General</b>	
<b>Information</b>	
<b>Person Conducting Interview</b>	
<b>Location of interview</b>	
<b>Date of interview</b>	
<b>Name of respondent</b>	

<p><b>Which Thematic Area is the Key Informant working in -</b></p> <p>A. Education and Training.</p> <p>B. Healthcare and Wellbeing – including their reproductive health</p> <p>C. Leadership, Politics and Decision making.</p> <p>D. Economic Security</p> <p>E. Shelter and Housing</p>	
<p><b>Interview Questions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What kind of conflict exist in your states? Who does it affect more? Women? Girls? Men? Why?</li> <li>2. What are the adverse impact of conflict situations on the women and girls residing in your State?</li> <li>3. How has conflict situations affected women and girls - discuss only within the participant’s thematic area of work stated above.</li> <li>4. What interventions should be made available to help PREVENT violence against women and girls residing in your State?</li> <li>5. What do you miss most in your home/ community, before the conflict?</li> </ol>

\*Request for any printed or electronic document on the research theme from the informant.

**Annexure 4: List of State Coordinators and Data Collectors for the research.**

States	State Coordinating Organizations	Data Collectors
Adamawa	Street Watch Initiative for Humanitarian Service and Development. (SWIHSD) - Queen B. Otono	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nkasire j. Umaru.</li> <li>- Othniel netungbe Ordinal</li> <li>- Onyedika Umejike</li> <li>- Ahua Caleb Terfa.</li> </ul>
Bauchi	Rahama Women Development Programme - Yohanna Yisa-Doko	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yohanna Yisa-Doko</li> <li>- Fauziya Idris Saidu</li> <li>- Comfort Ene Attah</li> <li>- Garba Sulaiman</li> </ul>

Benue	Okaha Women and Children Development Organisations - Joy Aricha Ijuwo	- Audu Queen Oka - Ijuwo Nora Anyale - Robert Ado Odumu - Adi Charles Ordain
Cross Rivers	Child Care & Adult Protection Initiatives - Evelyn Oti	- Obi Grace Eze - Nnenna Ugbor - Owai, Happiness Onun - Emerald Albert Emah-Emah
Ebonyi	Parent-Child Intervention Centre - Peggy Chukwuemeka	- Ugwu Stella Nkechi - Peggy Chukwuemeka - Oforneke Nnamdi - Chima Jacob Ogbu
Imo	Honour Birth Foundation - Onyemaechi Elizabeth	- Onyemaechi Elizabeth - Ohurogu Emeka.O. - Abaraonye Favour.O - Nwagha Slyverline.U.
Kaduna	Hope for the Village Child Foundation - Ruth Asabe Barrera	- Esther Yakubu - Shut Kachollom Alice - Kassang Jahdiel Simon - Ruth Asabe Barrera
Kebbi	Nana Girls and Women Empowerment Initiative - Khalid Abdullahi Sarki	- Khalid Abdullahi Sarki - Kubili Samuel Bwala. - Zarau Ahmad - Maryam ibrahim
Lagos	Center for Gender Economics Initiative - Uchenna Idoko	- Tonia Ohamara - Abisoye Ajose - Ebubechi Amobi - Folake Ashinze
Niger	Raise Foundation - Moses Friday Ukama	- Ruth Mamman - Saliu Muideen Olalekan - Justina Y. Aliyu - Yusuf Adeku Abdulkadir

Ondo	Justice Development And Peace Center - Augustine A. Ogunleye	- Onileke Omolade - Adebayo Margaret - Oluba Fisayo Dorcas - Falana Olamide
Rivers	Mother of Good Counsel Initiative (MOGCI) - Doris Onyeneke	- Doris Onyeneke - Ebitimi Araye - Ogechi Okoro - Obiageli Oraka-Oifoghe

#### **Annexure 5: List of Data Management Team**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Team Members</b>
<b>Olive Community Development Initiative</b> - Oluwatoni Modupe Adeleke	- Umar Bolaji-Data Analyst - Ibraheem Abiola - Jolomi David - Memijo Taiwo - Adeleke Samson - Akanbi Blessing - Diab Olayinka - Olaniyi Temitope

"It has probably become more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier in an armed conflict."

MAJOR GENERAL PATRICK CAMMAERT,  
FORMER UN PEACEKEEPING COMMANDER