

Addressing the Needs of Female Inmates and their Babies: **THE SHADOW BUDGET FOR THE NIGERIAN CORRECTIONAL SERVICE (NCoS)**



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1.6 The 2025 Shadow Budget for the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) focuses on the Needs of Female Inmates and their Babies.

References

Acronyms

BOF	-	Budget Office of the Federation
CSOs	-	Civil Society Organizations
CSPRI	-	Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative
ERGP	-	Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
GRB	-	Gender Responsive Budget
NCoS	-	Nigerian Correctional Services
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme

About the project

In Nigeria, the welfare of female inmates and their babies in correctional centers is critical for successful reintegration into society. To address the unique challenges faced by these women, the Center for Gender Economics in Africa (CGE Africa) recently completed a pioneering research project focused on assessing government budgets for female inmates and their babies in correctional centers in Lagos, Suleja, and Enugu.

Women in these facilities often experience extreme hardships, including overcrowded and poorly ventilated cells, inadequate menstrual hygiene, and limited access to healthcare, especially antenatal and post-natal care for pregnant and nursing mothers. Babies in custody with their mothers also lack proper nutrition and care facilities. The absence of psychosocial support services for female inmates further compounds these issues despite the legislative provisions for gender-sensitive reforms outlined in the Nigerian Correctional Service Act of 2019.

The project identified significant gaps in funding and resources for these correctional centers, highlighting the need for better budgeting that will foster sustainable support for female inmates and their babies. Through consultations, CGE Africa raised awareness among stakeholders, built partnerships, and encouraged dialogue to address these challenges. Experts and stakeholders exchanged best practices and developed a model budget for female inmates and their babies to secure commitments for lasting improvements. The MacArthur Foundation funded this project.

This Project's Objectives:

1. To evaluate government budget allocations for female inmates and their babies in line with the provisions of the Nigerian Correctional Service Act of 2019.
2. To examine the alignment of government budgets for female inmates, including programs, activities, and support for their babies, with relevant SDG targets.
3. To generate insights that enhance public awareness about financing the rehabilitation and reintegration of female inmates.

Acknowledgments

The Center for Gender Economics in Africa sincerely thanks **Uchenna Idoko, Dr. Terfa Abraham, and Dr. Aminat Olohunlana**, for their dedication to preparing this report. We also greatly appreciate the contributions of the CGE Africa staff.

We want to acknowledge the support of the MacArthur Foundation, whose funding made this project possible.

1.1 Introduction

Against the backdrop of broader national security concerns, the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) is confronted with significant challenges such as rising crime, violence against women, youth restiveness, and drug abuse, all of which threaten the country's development, particularly its younger population. While the correctional system is designed to reform, rehabilitate, and reintegrate offenders, a more gender-sensitive budget for the NCoS will discourage recidivism.

Budget allocations enable government agencies, including the NCoS, to fulfill their mandates. Whereas budgets are meant to benefit all citizens, gender disparities in service access persist. Female inmates, in particular, face unique challenges within correctional facilities, which are often worsened by inadequate funding and programming that fail to address their specific needs. These gaps not only hinder their rehabilitation but also affect the well-being of their babies, who are born and nursed within these facilities.

The Nigerian Correctional Services Act of 2019 mandates that both custodial and non-custodial functions of the NCoS account for gender differences in their procedures, programs, and projects aimed at rehabilitating, training, and reintegrating inmates. Despite this progressive legal framework, an analysis of the NCoS budget from 2018 to the present conducted by CGE Africa reveals that many programs and projects remain ill-equipped to integrate gender considerations fully. This gap limits the service's ability to adequately prepare inmates—predominantly female inmates and their babies—for successful reintegration into society.

This research report, titled "Addressing the Needs of Female Inmates and Their Babies: The 2025 Shadow Budget for the NCoS," examines the specific needs of female inmates and their babies within the correctional system. It also proposes a shadow budget that prioritizes gender-responsive budgeting practices, ensuring the NCoS can fulfill its mandate to rehabilitate, train, and reintegrate inmates—especially women and their babies—effectively into society. Addressing these needs will enable the NCoS to create a more inclusive and equitable correctional system that supports the development and rehabilitation of all inmates, regardless of gender.

1.2 Legal and Institutional Provisions for Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Correctional Centres

Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) within the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) focuses on ensuring that the service's budget includes programs and projects designed to address gender disparities in access to correctional services. This approach integrates gender considerations into resource allocation, ensuring that both male and female inmates receive services tailored to their needs. GRB uses sex-disaggregated data to guide decisions and provide equitable service delivery across gender lines.

Conducting a GRB analysis of the NCoS involves evaluating the budget of the legal framework established by the Nigerian Correctional Services Act 2019. The report examines whether the budget preparation, approval, implementation, and oversight align with the gender provisions outlined in the Act. It also assesses whether these budgetary alignments contribute to achieving the critical goals of the NCoS: rehabilitation, reintegration, and equitable service delivery.

Legal provisions within the Nigerian Correctional Services Act 2019 are crucial for understanding GRB in the correctional context. Section 34(1) mandates that separate facilities must be provided for female inmates in all states, while Section 35(1) prohibits housing young offenders in adult custodial facilities. These sections underscore the importance of recognizing both gender and age differences in service provision, ensuring that women and young offenders receive appropriate care and support within the correctional system.

Additional legal support for GRB comes from the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). Section 14(1) establishes that Nigeria is built on principles of democracy and social justice, while Section 14(2b) identifies citizens' welfare and security as the government's primary responsibility. Regarding the NCoS budget, resources must be allocated to enhance service delivery to support inmates' rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Section 16(1a) further mandates the state to harness national resources to promote prosperity and an efficient economy, reinforcing the need for strategic budgetary planning that supports programs focused on reforming and rehabilitating offenders.

The Nigerian Correctional Services Act 2019, which replaced the Prisons Act (CAP. P29, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004), introduced significant reforms to modernize correctional services, including implementing non-custodial measures. Section 1(2) of the Act divides the NCoS into custodial and non-custodial functions. Still, the current budgetary allocations must fully support implementing programs aligned with these functions, limiting the service's ability to achieve its goals.

Section 2(1) of the Act outlines critical objectives for the NCoS, which include (a) ensuring compliance with international human rights standards and good correctional practices; (b) providing a platform for non-custodial measures; (c) enhancing focus on reformation, rehabilitation, and reintegration of offenders; and (d) addressing the high number of individuals awaiting trial through systemic reforms. These objectives emphasize aligning budgetary provisions with the NCoS's legal mandate.

Section 14 of the NCoS Act 2019 further mandates that the service provide educational and vocational training opportunities for inmates to facilitate their reintegration into society. However, budgetary allocations often fall short of adequately supporting these activities, limiting the service's ability to meet its rehabilitation and reformation targets.

In summary, the NCoS Act 2019 establishes a legal framework that prioritizes human rights, rehabilitation, and reintegration for inmates. However, the budgetary provisions must be analyzed to determine whether they support projects and programs that address gender disparities and promote the service's broader goals. This report will critically assess the NCoS budget to evaluate its effectiveness in fulfilling these legal and institutional mandates, mainly through gender-responsive budgeting.

1.3 Global Best Practices and Standards for Correctional Service Management

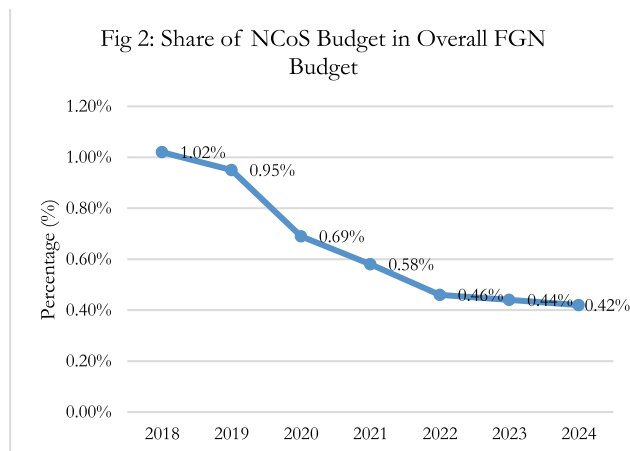
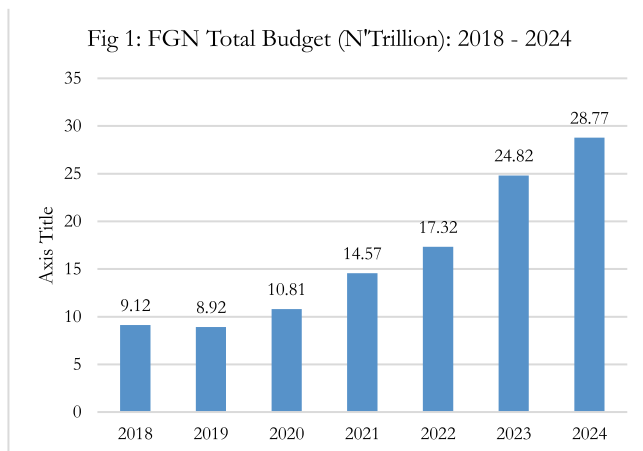
Table 1: Global Best Practices and Standards for Correctional Service Management

Challenges in Nigeria	Context	Best Practice
Overcrowding of offenders	The slow wheel of justice aggravates prison overcrowding.	Construct/ expend the capacity of correctional services; Ameliorate the adverse effects of overcrowding by ensuring that offenders are engaged in a wide range of activities that keep them out of their cells.
Offender Grievances	Grievances raised by offenders that are not adequately addressed lead to break down of law and order in the correctional services	Establish a confidential complaints system and a rapid response system for complaints.
Reorientation for Offenders	Reorienting the attitudes of offenders as the starting point for rehabilitation	Programs on restorative justice assist offenders in taking responsibility for their actions and recognizing the hurt and damage they have inflicted on others. The creation of more hospitable physical surroundings; Pre-release programmes that assist offenders in re -establishing links with their families improve the prospects for their reintegration into society.
Youths and Women Management	Creating separate correctional centers for inmates by age group and gender;	Youths, women , and inmates in general should be kept in different custody;
Gang activity	Communal cells and overcrowded prisons provide fertile ground for gangs, both to increase their membership and their power.	Strict control over the entry of drugs and other contraband into prisons limits the power of gangs to peddle influence; Effective intelligence helps warders to anticipate and implement measures to prevent violence. Intensive personal interaction between warders and offenders, as well as with their families, assists in diverting gang members away from their gangs.

Oversight of correctional services	This enhances openness in the running of the correctional services.	Maintaining a receptive approach to facilitate visits when requested. Oversight by parliament and other human rights organizations is also vital.
Prison escapes	Prevention of escapes is a function of the physical security systems in place.	Strict searching of all persons entering and leaving the institution, including all echelons of the prison staff, as well as regular searching of cells. Regular surveillance of the prison's interior and perimeters (both measures requiring the necessary equipment). Improved induction training on security issues and the hosting of refresher courses on the means to prevent escapes. Regular maintenance of prison security equipment
Availability of medical facilities	Medical facilities in prisons ensure access to health care.	Offenders receive high-quality medical care as requested.
Availability of educational/training facilities	Offenders can develop a variety of artisanal skills in prison workshops.	Providing a broad range of formal and vocational learning opportunities provides an important platform for rehabilitating offenders, equipping them with skills to find gainful employment on their release.
Recreational facilities	recreational facilities, including sports, television viewing, etc	A wide range of recreational facilities enables inmates to remain physically active and to maintain a positive outlook.
Food & Nutrition	Provision is also made for offenders with special dietary needs and those with religious requirements.	Cater for the special dietary needs of offenders.
Budgetary Systems	Budget shortfalls and poor implementation aggravate problems with replacing obsolete equipment, general prison maintenance, overcrowding, and accommodating awaiting trial detainees.	A well-planned budget provides for the eventuality of equipment breakdown and the need to undertake ongoing maintenance of plants and buildings.
Oversight/ Audit	Conduct an internal service evaluation using internal audits and inspections to assess and determine compliance with legislation and practice.	Prison audits (both internal and external) are carried out systematically.

1.4 Gender Analysis of the Federal Government Budget for Nigerian Correctional Services (NCoS): 2018-2024

Amidst the FGN total budget trend, the share allocated to correctional services is declining. Whereas the NCoS Act 2019 creates more responsibilities for the services (custodial and non-custodial), the allocation to the service is meager in the context of its responsibilities as provided for in the Act, which also includes how inmates should be treated. To enhance the position of the service to meet the needs of female inmates and their babies as well as other engendered concerns that include its staff in the 2025 fiscal year, this section presents the methodology on what the budget of NCoS should look like in 2025 and how it should be allocated to address needs of female inmates and their babies.



The share of the NCoS's capital budget from 2018 to 2024 declined from 24.4% in 2018 to 11.79% in 2024. A declining allocation of the NCoS budget for capital projects implies that there is also a smaller space in the budget for enhancing funding that will address the needs of female inmates and their babies.

Fig 3: Share of Capital Budget in Total Budget of the NCoS: 2018 - 2024

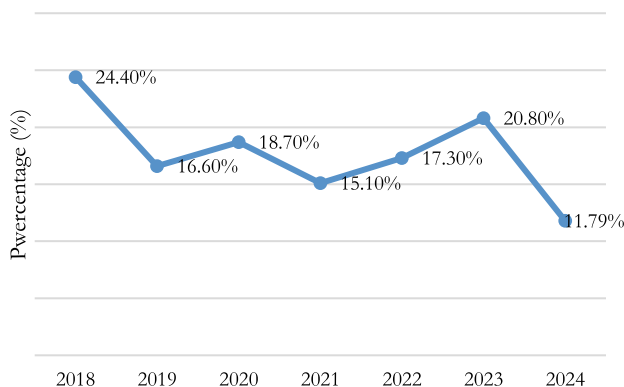
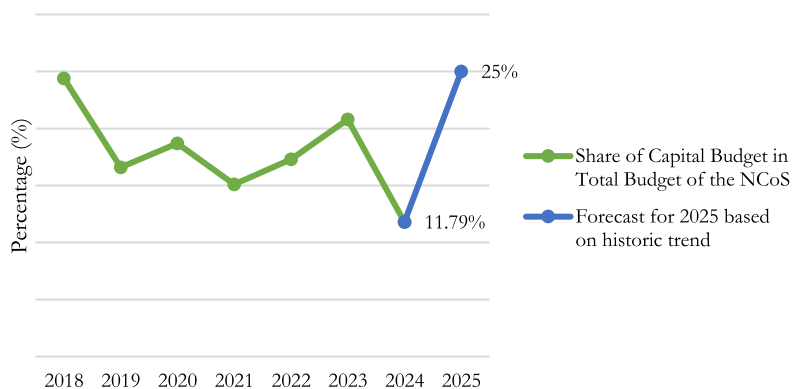


Fig 4: Share of Capital Budget in Total Budget of the NCoS: 2018 - 2024 with 2025 Forecast



Further analysis of the projects and programs funded as capital items in the NCoS budget shows no clear budget lines to address the needs of females and their babies. It is, therefore, recommended that NCoS's budget be gender-responsive. The total amount for the capital project for the NCoS in the 2024 budget was N14.26 billion. This was allocated into 12 projects presented in Table 1 below. The analysis of the structure of the 2018 to 2024 budget of the NCoS provides insight into how the shadow budget for the service should look in 2025 to deliver on its gender-responsive needs in general and the need for female inmates and their babies in particular.

S/N	Project Codes	Project Name	Status	Allocation
1	ERGP14176282	Construction of 4Nos 3000 Capacity Maximum security custodial centres (Osun, Plateau, Gombe, Abia)	Ongoing	1,858,751,813
2	ERGP22101440	Construction of 4Nos 3000 Capacity Maximum security custodial centres (Kano/FCT) and 14 Nos of Satellites custodial nationwide	Ongoing	935,143,011
3	ERGP22101448	Construction/Rehabilitation of Custodial Centres and Barracks Nationwide	Ongoing	7,703,385,028
4	ERGP22101481	Procurement of pick up Vans	Ongoing	415,913,816
5	ERGP25178747	Prison biometrics, arms ammunition, and many more	Ongoing	1,723,503,524
6	ERGP25178747	Construction and provision of clinics in 6 geopolitical zones and the FCT	Ongoing	6,510,010
7	EGRP27115966	Construction of 3000 capacity maximum security prison in Abuja (Phase I)	Ongoing	700,871,974
8	ERGP27175321	Nigerian Correctional Academy, Ogun State	Ongoing	128,345,717
9	ERGP27178659	Construction and Equipping of Furniture factories in FCT, KD, Lagos, Rivers, Ebonyi and Osun state Commands	Ongoing	6,510,010
10	ERGP5115958	Provision of Agro chemicals and agro-allied products to all farm centres	Ongoing	434,067,791
11	ERGP20244491	Provision for Solar street lights in custodial centers in Ebonyi, Edo, Ondo, Yobe, FCT and Kaduna states	New	197,500,000
12	ERGP202444492	Renovation of custodial centres in Ebonyi, Edo, Ondo, Yobe, FCT, and Kaduna states	New	150,325,068
Total				14,260,827,762

Recommendations from the Analysis

- The NCoS Total Budget from 2018 to 2024 is 0.6% of the FGN total, and the 2024 share is 0.42%. The 2025 budget should be raised to at least 1% of the FGN total budget, increasing the NCoS budget 2025 from N120.97 b to N287.7 b.
- Adequate feeding should be contextualized in the overall context of the NCoS nutrition program.
- The construction and rehabilitation of female custodial centers should be considered part of the overall rehabilitation of custodial centers.
- Recreational facilities should also be contextualized in the overall budget for the construction and rehabilitation of centers nationwide.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the responsiveness of the NCoS budget to meet the needs of females and babies should be done within the overall context of the gender policy of the NCoS and the gender responsiveness of the budget of the NCoS.
- Post-release support should be contextualized within the overall rehabilitation, reintegration, and de-radicalization program of the NCoS.

1.5 Methodological Notes for the 2025 Shadow Budget for the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) focuses on the Needs of Female Inmates and Their Babies.

Table 3: Shadow Budget for the NCoS with Methodological Notes

Budget Line Item	% of NCoS Budget	Amount (Naira)	2024 Budget Capture		2025 Projection		Methodological Comments/ Recommendations
			% of NCoS Budget	Amount (Naira)	% of NCoS Budget	Amount (Naira)	
			%	N'b	%	N'b	
Total NCoS Budget	100%	N XXXX	100%	120.97	100%	287.7	The NCoS Total Budget from 2018 to 2024 is 0.6% of the FGN total, and the 2024 share is 0.42%. The 2025 budget should be raised to at least 1% of the FGN total budget, increasing the NCoS budget 2025 from N120.97 b to N287.7 b.

The capital budget captures allocation for Specific Projects to enable the NCoS to focus on the needs of female inmates and their babies. However, the share of the Capital budget in the NCoS budget 2024 is 11.79% . The share of the capital budget for the NCoS should be at least 24%.

The capital budget of the NCoS	11.79%	14.26	24%	69.05	Using the budgetary allocation trend from 2018 to 2024, we arrive at a higher share of capital projects in the NCoS budget of 24%, which becomes the minimum threshold.
Specific Projects to meet the needs of female inmates and their babies are estimated to be part of the NCoS's capital budget.					
		% of NCoS Budget	Amount (Naira)		
1. Comprehensive Healthcare		8.58%	5.92	Items 1, 2, 5, 7, and 9 should account for 26% of the NCoS capital budget 2025, with the share and size weighted differently.	
2. Clean Water and Sanitation		6.9%	4.76		
3. Transportation Services		3.9%	2.69		
4. Adequate Feeding		5%	3.45	Adequate feeding should be contextualized in NCoS's overall nutrition program.	
5. Clothing for Mothers and Infants		3.38%	2.33		
6. Female Custodial Centers		32.41%	22.38	The construction and rehabilitation of female custodial centers should be considered part of the overall construction and rehabilitation.	
7. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support		1.72%	1.19		
8. Recreational Facilities		21.6%	14.91	Recreational facilities should also be contextualized in the overall budget for the construction and rehabilitation of Centres nationwide.	

9. Aftercare and Economic Empowerment		5.2%	3.59	
10. Post-Release Support		6.31%	4.36	Post-release support should be contextualized within the NCoS's overall rehabilitation, reintegration, and de-radicalization programme.
11. Monitoring and Evaluation		5%	3.45	Monitoring and evaluating the NCoS budget's responsiveness to meeting the needs of females and babies should be done within the overall context of the NCoS gender Policy and the Gender responsiveness to the NCoS budget.

1.6 The 2025 Shadow Budget for the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) focuses on the Needs of Female Inmates and their Babies.

Table 4: Shadow Budget for the NCoS with Justifications Notes

Budget Line Item	% of NCoS Budget	Amount (Naira billion)	Context	Justification
Total NCoS Budget	100%	287.7	The total amount explicitly allocated for addressing the needs of all inmates.	This total should be a portion of the Ministry of Interior's budget allocated to NCoS.
Comprehensive Healthcare	8.58%	5.92	Antenatal/postnatal care, reproductive health, and menstrual health products for female inmates.	Legislatively, the UN 1979 and 1989 conventions bolstered the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women while protecting babies's rights and health outcomes. Inclusively, the Nigerian Constitution 1999 also protected women

against all forms of exclusion in exercising their right to healthy living.

- SDG targets 3.1, 3.2, and 3.7 ensure the reduction of maternal, neonatal, and child mortality while ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health.
- To achieve these targets, it is essential to ensure mutual inclusion of women in policy and budgetary allocations regardless of status.
- Practically, providing care services in reproductive and menstrual health products reduces infections such as endometritis, cervicitis, and vulvovaginal candidiasis. Frequent and timely changes of sanitary pads for inmates have a high likelihood of reducing the risk of cervical and endometrial cancer and other chronic pelvic diseases.
- More so, intensive ante-and postnatal care to inmates reduces maternal and child mortality, forced abortion, stillbirth, or pre-term delivery. It reduces postpartum complications for mother and child, improving child health outcomes such as cognitive development, active learning ability, etc. Additionally, geriatric support and menopausal

			<p>symptoms and related issues must be accounted for in the budgetary allocation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To meet global standards, it is essential to catch up with exemplar countries like Canada and Denmark, which offer access to contraception, maternal healthcare, tests, and treatments for STIs. ▪ Using the African case studies, correctional centers in Rwanda provided specialized age-tailored medical care for female prison inmates. Some chronic diseases and terminally ill offenders were granted access to treatment.
Clean Water and Sanitation		Access to clean water and sanitation facilities in female custodial centers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Having access to clean water and sanitation preserves their rights as citizens. This aligns with SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2, which indicate universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and end unsafe defecation practices through basic sanitation and hygiene access. ▪ Engendering this item assists female inmates in having access to improved personal hygiene, reduces health risks, and prevents related illnesses such as the outbreak of tuberculosis and other waterborne diseases.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More importantly, these provisions enhance their dignity, promote rehabilitation, and preserve their rights as women. A reference case is correctional centers in Sweden, which provide private sanitation facilities to female inmates. ▪ Hence, Nigeria is expected to conform to international standards such as the Bangkok rules for treating women prisoners.
Transportation Services	3.9%	2.69	Provision of transportation for court appearances and medical visits, especially antenatal, delivery, post-natal, and post-discharge needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to effective transportation services for female inmates is essential for their overall well-being. This resonates with SDG targets 5.1 and 10.2, which focus on ending gender discrimination and promoting universal access to basic facilities like transportation. Similarly, Article 5 of the American Convention on Human Rights points to humane treatment and equitable access for all. ▪ An efficient transport system enhances safety and dignity, preventing harassment and abuse. A gender-sensitive transportation system should include trained health officers who can respond promptly to unplanned placenta eruptions, pre-term deliveries, etc.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective transport services further enhance prompt access to legal proceedings and court appearances and ease of access to specialized hospitals in case of eventualities. ▪ Like Australia, NCoS should ensure that customized vehicles for female inmates are accompanied by trained female staff. ▪ Also, New Zealand's transport policy sectionalized female transport while prioritizing the needs of women in transit. ▪ About Africa, South Africa provides transportation services with female-only escorts to prevent the abuse of offenders. It also includes emergency medical kits for real-time emergency care access. This initiative reduced the abuse rate by 30%.
Adequate Feeding	5%	3.45	Nutrition for female inmates and their infants, including provisions for breastfeeding mothers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality nutrition for female inmates helps contribute to the achievements of SDGs 2.1 and 2.2, which proclaim access to nutritious food for vulnerable groups and ending infant malnutrition. To achieve this, global standards such as the nutritional guides for prisoners and standards for treating female inmates must be incorporated into the NCoS budgetary allocation.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The outcome of this initiative ensures that female inmates and their infants receive balanced nutrition, promote physical well-being, and prevent stunted growth and mental retardation of the infants. ▪ Exemplary countries are the United Kingdom's nutritional guide for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, Sweden's prioritization of nutritious meals and snacks, California's elderly inmates' nutrition programs, and New Zealand's conscious, healthy living and breastfeeding support. ▪ South Africa provided female nutritional needs assessment and food quality control.
Clothing for Mothers and Infants	3.38%	2.33	Provision of appropriate clothing for nursing mothers and their infants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The provision of gender-sensitive clothing reduces inequality of rights for female inmates. It promotes self-respect, subjective well-being, and dignity. This item is expected to provide undergarments, maternity wear, breastfeeding support, and neonatal, infant, and child wear. Sometimes, it is women's right to be culturally and religiously accommodated in their outlook. ▪ Access to appropriate clothing enhances their rehabilitation mindset and promotes mental wellness while

				<p>transitioning to a sustainable path for reintegration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Australia's women's correctional service programs offer undergarments and clothing that support religious and cultural diversity. ▪ Similarly, correctional services in Canada provide maternity wear and support breastfeeding. New Zealand offers female inmates baby supplies, toys, clothing, and other parenting support.
Female Custodial Centers	32.41%	22.38	Construction of more centers with crèches, aftercare services, and exclusive breastfeeding rooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Renovating existing or constructing new correctional centers that are mutually inclusive for female inmates is crucial for shared rights for women and their offspring. These centers preserve their dignity during pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and bonding. It creates an environment to nurture the newborns safely. Having access to facilities with critical feminine support reduces the incidence of criminal relapse and intergenerational trauma and enhances their reintegration back into society. ▪ More importantly, these centers provide access to specialized

				<p>recreational support, including improved access to physical exercises and engagement in outdoor games specifically designed for women. The Sweden Prisons and Probation Act established separate baby and mother units within the custodial centers.</p>
<p>Mental Health and Psychosocial Support</p>	<p>1.72%</p>	<p>1.19</p>	<p>Mental health services and support for female inmates, particularly victims of gender-based violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Psychosocial support is essential for improving inmates' mental wellness, developing coping skills, and positively regulating their emotions. It enables them to overcome their traumatic experiences, reduces stress and anxiety, and is a critical tool for anger management, thus reducing the rate of recidivism and criminal relapse. ▪ Providing specialized gender-disaggregated access to mental health support through behavioral therapy and trauma-informed care allows them to become peace advocates. ▪ Restorative justice programs in South Africa support women in healing and reconciling with society. Similarly, the US female offenders reentry program offers support for rehabilitation through individualized psychosocial

Recreational Facilities	21.6%	14.91	Development of recreational spaces and activities in custodial centers for female inmates. Development of female sports.	<p>support in the women’s program of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Female rights should be protected in a mutually inclusive manner. Sporting activities increase physical metabolism, promote self-esteem, confidence, team bonding, social interaction, and complete behavioral changes. ▪ Engaging in regular creative activities helps in addressing substance addiction, mental balance, and reorientation. It could also lead to innovative thinking and creativity. Canada’s female offenders’ recreation program improved offenders’ attitudes and institutional adjustments while reducing relapse after reintegration into society. ▪ Also, UK Sports for Change (S4C) explores sporting activities to develop life skills and boost self-esteem and confidence. The UK’s Women’s Fitness and Wellbeing initiative was designed for holistic mindfulness and physical activities of female offenders. This initiative reduced 75% of disciplinary incidence, 80% showed increased self-esteem and mental balance, and 90% improved physical fitness.
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Aftercare and Economic Empowerment			Aftercare programs focused on empowering female inmates with skills for economic independence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introducing specialized vocational and educational training based on duration of stay is essential for their financial independence. Sustainable vocations and the effective transition of products and skills into society are crucial for their reintegration and aftercare.▪ Routine mentorship series by professional training, marketing support, and access to grants and credit facilities are essential programs that should be instituted for female offenders before reintegration into society. This enhances employment opportunities, improves financial independence, and curbs recidivism. The item aligns with SDG target 8.5 and SDG 10, which addresses access to decent jobs for men and women without systemic inequalities and biases.▪ The US Prison Industry Enhancement Certification program certifies industries to provide training and employment opportunities for inmates. The initiative reduces recidivism by 30% and increases the inmate employability rate by 50%.
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Post-Release Support	6.31%	4.36	Loans, rehabilitation, and reintegration programs for female inmates who have finished serving their terms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender-sensitive post-release support programs are essential to curb recidivism. Tailored engagement in the next 6-12 months of release in terms of settling housing, business stability, and monitoring substance use are crucial to sustainable reintegration. ▪ Building a forum for collaborative case management, regular checks, and individualized support allows ex-convicts to fast-track readmission into society. Instituting female fellowship programs helps give women voices and advocates for specific needs in businesses, employment, and behavioral support. ▪ An example of such fellowship and network is the Australian Women's Prisons network, which empowers female offenders to reintegrate into the community and offers mentorship and other support services. ▪ The government is expected to kick start with funding, which gradually becomes a self-sustaining government program.
Monitoring and Evaluation	5%	3.45	Ongoing assessment and evaluation of the implementation and impact of gender-responsive budgeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensures accountability, tracks progress and identifies budget improvement areas. This ensures that

				<p>the funds allocated to each budget item are judiciously utilized without leakages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Expenditure items must be analyzed in a gender - disaggregated framework. Similarly, the agency collates gender-disaggregated data on performance, thereby calculating the gender parity index for effective learning outcomes.▪ This will allow efficient evaluation of budget impact on gender outcomes.
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978-978-999-528-8