



# CSW63 GWI Delegate Report Building Social Protection Systems for Empowerment of Women and Girls in Developing Economies

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This turned out to be about Nigeria. West Africa has been struggling for 20 years. It has 200 million inhabitants and 800 ethnic groups in their territorial lands. Their economy consists of fishing and agriculture. They have limited resources and a heritage of being engulfed in violence which targets ethnic communities. The attackers are not identified so it is difficult for the government to control. The victims are mostly women and girls. When their father/husband is killed, they lose their family and move to IDP (internally displaced persons camp) or refugee camps in Cameroon. Central Nigeria is safe. When girls are abducted from schools, they are married off to fighters or rely on sex for food or sex for money.

In 2014 Boko Haram abducted several hundred school girls but other insurgent groups also do this. In 2018 hundreds more were abducted from exams.. What system can Nigeria put in place?

A speaker for the government explained that a lot of insurgent groups have split into factions. In Nigeria, 46% of people live below the poverty line. They have poor human capital. The Red Cross is helping. A team addresses conflict.. The community registers its poor itself. Focus groups set the parameter of what it means to be poor in that community, with men, with women and with children, separately. They sign off when they agree. When brothers are in Boko Haram, people are stigmatized. The government is trying to address social inclusion. The identity system is not quite there yet. Data is critical. But if a village is deserted and all have fled there are no data. Government workers go house to house, put the info on their mobile device. Those labelled poor through this process get 5000 naira a month. 93% of caregivers are female. So social workers visit every week and pay these females. After 3 years of 5000 nairas a month, these women have raised capital and can get a loan. Every ward facilitator is on the website, 2 and 1/2 million are on his register. It is a tedious process but handholding is required. The workers persuade them of the value of education. There is a school fee



program. Women are paid directly, trained in hygiene, finance before school. There is a school food program for G 1-3. with cheap, nutritious recipes. It boosts enrolment. The cost is 70 naira per meal. The cooks are mostly female. It creates a value chain. 6.8 million eggs are required per week so it creates income for poultry farmers.

The empower program teaches health and agriculture. People apply on line. In the past you had to know someone. Loans are given to the bottom of the pyramid to be paid back over 3-4 years If paid back, they get more loans to buy an inventory of 2-5000 naira to stimulate productivity.

The federal government and civil society need synergy and community. The government of the USA and Nigeria need to understand who is in charge at the local level.to be effective.

The federal government is trying to work around gaming of the system and build trust of people at the bottom. Private and public sector need to create opportunities. In the North East, the level of education of girls is not up to par and it will take a lot of time to bring it up to par. What is the level of co-operation with the state government? Women have poor access to health care needs. There is a lack of available health professionals so infant mortality is high. There are ongoing efforts to deal with insurgent groups who do not face arrest and attack with impunity.

The Abuja courts collected summaries but there is a breakdown in functionality. The police is federal and people are not remanded to state courts for state crimes.

The social security system in the US is a good example because it is a federal system, like Nigeria. Nigeria needs state institutions too.

Nigeria is coming out of a 3 year recession. It needs to demonstrate its effectiveness. Civil society gives feedback. Nigeria has money. It does not need aid. Money confiscated from corruption is put into social security.

The North East is not yet into school feeding because it will not co-operate but more are beginning to..30% is enthusiastic. The community facilitates and bought hardware, android and notebooks. There is no banking structure. Villages need power and reception so women can have a phone. If they are given cash, the husband takes it. But on the phone you can save. If people know they have cash, they become vulnerable to theft and attack..The poor and elderly can not move around. They must open an account with an ATM card but the husband collects them instead.

The returned girls: an American university program took them in except for one who had a child and loved her abductor. How to track the abductors? They pretended to be



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soldiers in uniform come to keep the girls safe. They train girls in what to say. The government is capturing biometrics to establish a national identity number. 70% of the population is not yet registered on any platform. The government needs to work with the states and traditional chiefs and tell the women not to give their money to their husbands. Geriatric care is also required. Small by small they'll get there, as they say in Nigeria.