

NIGERIA

OUR WORK IN NIGERIA

STATUS OF WOMEN IN NIGERIA

NIGERIAN WOMEN FROM ALL RELIGIONS AND ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS, THOUGH LIMITED BY DISCRIMINATORY PERSPECTIVES OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER NORMS, HAVE STOOD TOGETHER AGAINST THE INCREASING VIOLENCE AND POWER OF EXTREMIST GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY, AND CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EFFECTS OF CONFLICT ON THEIR FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS.

In northern Nigeria, women have increasingly experienced forced early marriage and education restrictions. In the country as a whole, only 53.7 percent of women were literate in 2008, and in 2010, 28 percent had not completed a primary school education. Nigerian women also struggle to gain access to health services. In 2011, only 49 percent of births were attended by skilled health personnel, and the maternal mortality rate in 2013 was 560 female deaths per 100,000 live births. In this environment of limited access to services, mounting violence, and restrictive discriminatory views, Women for Women International seeks to create opportunities for change in the lives of Nigeria's most marginalized women.

WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL IN NIGERIA

JOB SKILLS ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH TO EMPOWER WOMEN: THEY MUST KNOW THEIR RIGHTS, BE ABLE TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT THEM, AND HAVE RESOURCES TO HELP THEM MAKE DECISIONS BEFORE THEY CAN USE VOCATIONAL SKILLS TO CREATE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC STABILITY IN THEIR LIVES.

Women for Women International first opened its doors in Nigeria in 2000, and since then has trained 52,568 women. The country office headquarters is located in Enugu and operates a satellite office in Jos. Work has been focused in over 40 communities throughout the states of Enugu and Jos. In 2014, an estimated 7,055 women will be served in the Women for Women International program.

STRONGER WOMEN, STRONGER NATIONS

OUR MISSION

In countries affected by conflict and war, Women for Women International supports the most marginalized women to earn and save money, improve health and well-being, influence decisions in their home and community, and connect to networks for support. By utilizing skills, knowledge, and resources, she is able to create sustainable change for herself, her family, and community.

WHAT WE DO: OUR PROGRAM

WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL'S 12-MONTH TRAINING PROGRAM PROVIDES POLITICALLY, ECONOMICALLY, AND SOCIALLY EXCLUDED WOMEN IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE WITH THE VOCATIONAL SKILLS, HEALTH INFORMATION, AND RIGHTS EDUCATION THEY NEED TO OVERCOME POVERTY, MAKE HEALTHY DECISIONS, AND BUILD LOCAL NETWORKS TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR RIGHTS.

When women are able to sustain an income, be well, make decisions, and have social networks to support them, they develop the confidence they need to transform their lives, families, and communities. Our program promotes women's social and economic empowerment as the key to building more peaceful and stable societies.

Program participants are assigned to a group of 25 women who meet bi-weekly to engage in learning together. They receive life skills training, including lessons in health awareness, decision-making, negotiation, and civic participation. Women also learn business and vocational skills and gain access to income-generating activities that enable them to move towards economic self-sufficiency.

All of the trainings are led by local trainers and tailored to local contexts and markets. Prior to vocational training, numeracy training covering fundamental arithmetic skills is offered to participants identified as innumerate.

Every month during the training program, each participant receives a small cash transfer as a condition of participating in the program. Participants are free to use these funds however they wish. Many use them to purchase medicine, food, clothing, or transportation, to pay tuition fees for children, or to invest in starting a small business. Women for Women International also encourages participants to save a portion of their monthly training stipend.

NIGERIA

COUNTRY OFFICE

STARTED: 2000

HEADQUARTERS: Enugu

ADDITIONAL OFFICES: Jos

PROGRAMS IN:

Enugu and Plateau states

AVERAGE

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

AVERAGE DAILY INCOME: \$0.29

CHILDREN IN CARE: 5

ILLITERATE: 69 percent

AGE: 31-50 years

VOCATIONAL

SKILLS & TRAINING

Animal Husbandry

Agriculture

Tailoring

Rug Weaving

Handicrafts

Knitting

Petty Trading

Poultry

Small Business Management

BUILDING ALLIES: MEN'S ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT REQUIRES WIDESPREAD SOCIAL CHANGE THAT INVOLVES BOTH MEN AND WOMEN. OUR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS OFTEN NEED THE SUPPORT OF MALE RELATIVES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, USE THEIR NEW KNOWLEDGE, SHARE IN DECISION-MAKING, AND MAKE CHANGES IN THEIR LIVES. IF MEN ARE NOT EDUCATED AND ENCOURAGED TO RESPECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS, WOMEN CAN EASILY FAIL IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO MAKE THESE CHANGES.

Nigeria was the first country office to engage men as allies in women's empowerment by improving men's knowledge about the health, social, and economic issues that can negatively affect the situation of women.

The program began in 2002, funded by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, to support Nigeria's enactment of laws against practices that institutionalized the transfer of widows as property and prevented women from holding their own property, as well as to address issues such as female genital mutilation and the lack of women in decision-making positions.

Since male religious and community leaders have tremendous influence over the attitudes, thinking, and behavior of other men in Nigeria, Women for Women International focuses on educating them about the value of women's economic engagement, social protection, and rights.

By targeting leaders for training, Women for Women International leverages not only their moral influence, but also the institutional positions that give them the access and ability to educate many more men in the community.

Since the program began, Women for Women International has trained 2,329 male leaders in Nigeria.

CONFRONTING VIOLENCE & DISCRIMINATION

In Nigeria, Women for Women International's men's engagement program has covered issues pertaining to gender-based violence and discrimination, including:

- Female Genital Mutilation
- Women in Decision-making Positions
- Rights of Widows
- Women's Property Rights

Since 2002, Women for Women International has trained over 2,329 male leaders in Nigeria.

Nigeria was first Country Office to pioneer men's engagement.

OUR IMPACT

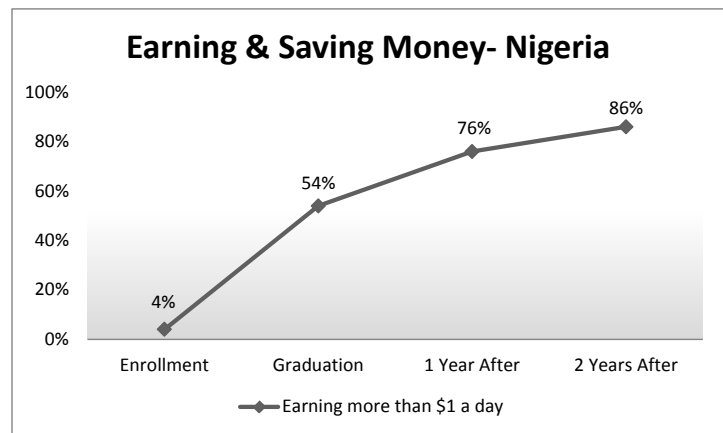
OUR PROGRAM IS FOCUSED ON HELPING WOMEN ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING FOUR KEY OUTCOMES:

1 WOMEN EARN AND SAVE MONEY

When women earn an income, they reinvest a much higher portion in their families and communities, compared to men.

In Nigeria, women demonstrate the ability to increase their daily income even two years after graduating from our program, earning an average of \$2.90 per day two years after graduation, compared to \$0.29 at enrollment.

(See footnote 1)

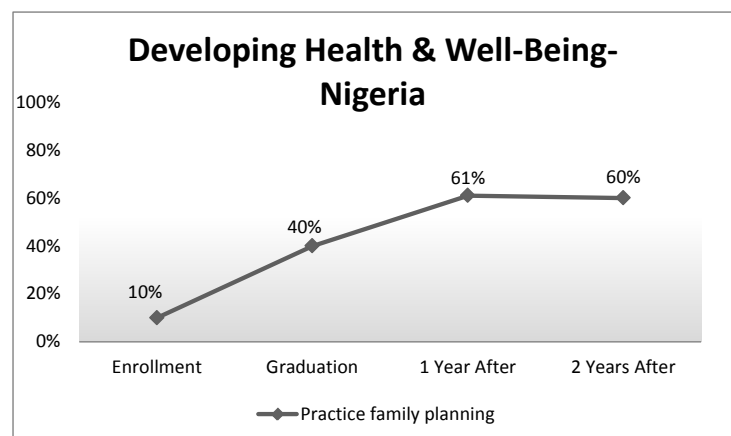


2 WOMEN DEVELOP HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Access to affordable and accessible healthcare – as well as training in disease prevention – significantly reduces preventable deaths.

Women continue to apply improved knowledge about how to protect their health and well-being after graduating from our program. 10 percent of women report practicing family planning at enrollment, compared to 60 percent two years after graduation.

(See footnote 1)



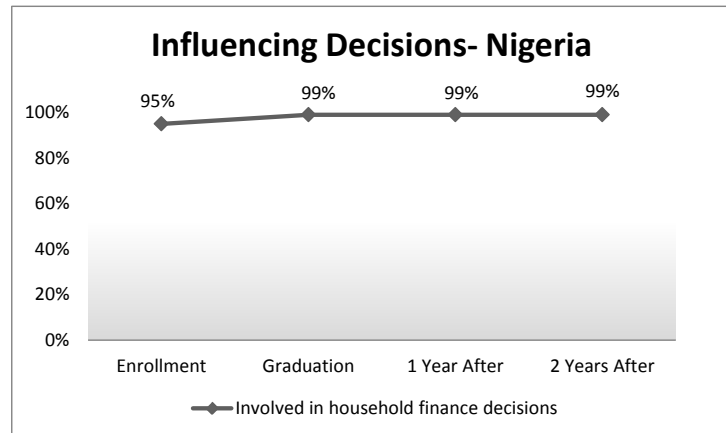
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WOMEN INFLUENCE DECISIONS IN THE HOME AND COMMUNITY

Studies show that women exercise greater decision-making power within their families when they are educated, earn a stable income, and have access to resources such as land and credit.

Women become increasingly involved in making the decisions that affect their lives. 95 percent of women reported being involved in household financial decisions at enrollment, compared to 99 percent two years after graduation.

(See footnote 1)



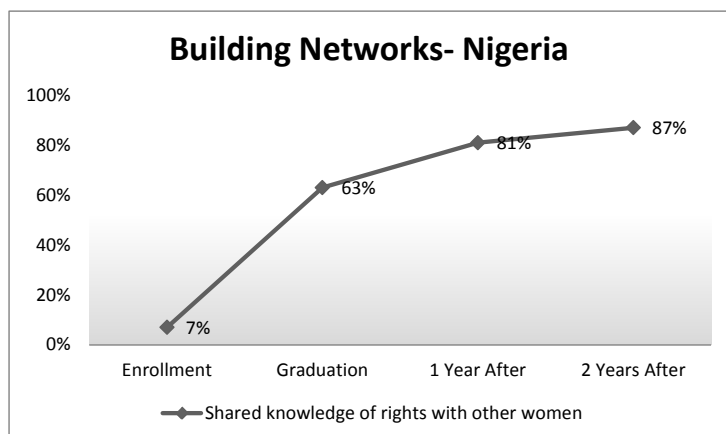
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WOMEN CREATE AND CONNECT TO NETWORKS FOR SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

As program participants, women learn the importance of working together. By working in groups, they also benefit from a support system and social networks.

Women share what they learn about their rights with other women in their communities. 87 percent of women reported educating another woman on her rights at graduation, one and two years after graduation, compared to 7 percent at enrollment. Educating a woman yields dividends not only for herself, but for others in her community.

(See footnote 1)



FACTS ABOUT WOMEN IN NIGERIA

20 percent of Nigerian children are married by the age of 15, and 39 percent by the age of 18.²

46 percent of Nigerian women believe that a husband beating his wife is a justifiable action.³

Only 18 percent of Nigerian women who are married or in a union between the ages of 15 and 49 practice some form of contraception.⁴

Only 66 percent of pregnant women receive prenatal care.⁵

The average Nigerian woman will give birth to 6 children during her lifetime.⁶

Nigeria's maternal mortality rate is 560 female deaths per 100,000 live births.⁷

Only 49 percent of births are attended by skilled health staff.⁸

Only 18 percent of pregnant Nigerian women with HIV receive antiretroviral treatment to prevent the transmission of HIV to their children.⁹

Only 53.7 percent of all Nigerian women are literate.¹⁰

FOOTNOTES

¹ Data represents women who graduated from our program in Nigeria between 2010 and 2011.

² "Table 9: Child Protection." The State of the World's Children 2014 in Numbers. UNICEF. Page 81. http://www.unicef.org/sowc2014/numbers/documents/english/SOWC2014_In%20Numbers_28%20Jan.pdf

³ "The State of the World's Children 2014." United Nations Children's Fund. Accessed 4 June 2014. http://www.unicef.org/sowc2014/numbers/documents/english/SOWC2014_In%20Numbers_28%20Jan.pdf.

⁴ "Contraceptive Prevalence (percent of women ages 15-49)." The World Bank Data. Accessed 3 June 2014. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.CONU.ZS>

⁵ "Pregnant Women Receiving Prenatal Care (percent)." The World Bank. Accessed 4 June 2014. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.ANVC.ZS>

⁶ "Fertility Rate, total (births per woman)." The World Bank Data.

Accessed 3 June 2014. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN>

⁷ "Maternal Mortality Ratio (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births)." The World Bank. Accessed 4 June 2014. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT>

⁸ "Births Attended by Skilled Health Staff (percent of total)." The World Bank Data. Accessed 3 June 2014. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.BRTC.ZS>

⁹ "WHO African Region: Nigeria Statistics Summary (2002-present)." Global Health Observatory Data Repository-WHO. Accessed 3 June 2014. <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.country.country-NGA>

¹⁰ "The Demographic and Health Surveys Program: Nigeria." USAID. Accessed 3 June 2014. http://dhsprogram.com/Where-We-Work/Country-Main.cfm?ctry_id=30&c=Nigeria&Country=Nigeria&cn=&r=1

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