**Strategic Plan**

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| Name: | Date: |
| Women’s Network Safe Space Ministry | 2023-2026 |
| By: | Timeframe: |
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| Executive Summary | Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a global issue affecting mostly women and the girl child most especially where the society is operating under patriarchal which Nigeria is one of such society. According to the UN Women 2015, one out of every three women has experienced either physical, psychological and or sexual violence by intimate–partner and non-partner at some point in their lives. This project is conceived against the observed vulnerabilities of women in the North East part of Nigeria where conflict has festered for about fifteen (15) years. The states most affected and still being affected by the insurgency are: Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) States. The violence in the North East is mainly being perpetrated by the Boko Haram insurgent terrorists’ group since 2009. Their main target includes violent attacks and destruction of people’s homes, market places, churches, mosques, schools and other public utilities. The insurgency thus forced millions of the inhabitants of this region to move to more secure locations. This movements also came with its attendant disruptions to livelihoods in destination homes as well as pressure on public utilities while several others were accommodated in makeshift camps put in place by government, Churches and humanitarian agencies.  In addition to being victims; the insurgents also engage women as tools to propagate all forms of violence. Findings reveal that socio-cultural constraints and customs of women is often exploited by the insurgents thereby increasing the vulnerability of women in the conflict environment.  In Northern Nigeria generally, women play very significant role in modelling social interactions of children and young person’s especially in the most critical formative years. Women are the connectors; to societies, communities and families. Therefore, including women in decision making processes from the smallest unit of the family, community and the larger public engenders their commitment to the decisions reached. Once women have found their voice; they are often committed to the cause.  There is the understanding that women are in the center of birthing and countering insurgency and violent extremism; however, most programmes aimed at countering insurgencies tend to undermine the role women can play in countering the effect of insurgency. Women suffer disproportionately from conflicts. They suffer sexual violence and other deprivations. The proactive participation and involvement of women in efforts at countering extremism and insurgency can bring about significant positive changes.  In the last five years, there has been a significant shift in the magnitude of the conflict situation in the three states. Some of the territories hitherto occupied by insurgents were liberated by the military, some of their captives were also liberated which included mainly women many of which have been sexually abused with a large number of them have been delivered babies for the insurgents while in captivity. Also, there is the resettlement of displaced persons back to their communities after such communities were totally liberated. All these brings up new livelihood challenges and the ability to cope and manage these new challenges will go a long way determining how quickly the society is able to remove the scare created in minds of the people.  **Organizational /Historical Background**  Women’s Network Safe Space Ministry (WNSSM) was established in 2016 because of the experience of the President of the Ministry. She was one of those that fled (Islamic Insurgency) Boko Haram in October 2014 while she was working as Deputy Director of Theological Education by Extension (EYN TEE College) in Mubi. She spent several days in Cameroon with other refugees before getting a way to return to Nigeria. She went to Jos with her family as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) staying in rented place. She observed that there were many women and children displaced without shelter, food and clothing. This has touched her heart to think of what to do in order to help especially women and children that are vulnerable. After working with TEE College, she was transferred to EYN-Church of the Brethren Headquarters at Kwarhi, suburb of Mubi to serve as Deputy Director of Women Ministry. Working with women and children for several years where they shared their experiences, fears and plight has instilled in her concern for the vulnerable. This led her to do PhD in Gender Based Violence as the IDPs were more and more affected by being abused at different levels.  WNSSM was officially organized in 2018 by supporting the abused women and children most especially survivors of Gender Based Violence in the North-east Nigeria. While supporting the vulnerable women and children, there is concern of where to shelter them temporary by giving them safe space as immediate safety, trauma healing and counseling, training them for self- reliance and empowering them with skills required. As well as empowering them educationally by enrolling some of this women into literacy class, educating them on personal hygiene and supporting the girls and orphans to go back to school. ).  WNSSM is committed to advancing women’s rights and work towards achieving a society free from all forms of Violence Against Women, Girls and Children. Over the years, WNSSM has invested in empowering women and girls to claim their rights, enabling equitable access to services, resources and opportunities; facilitating greater access to justice for survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV); and supporting change agents opposed to and committed to eradication of all forms of Violence Against Women, Girls and Children (VAWGC). An individual cannot do this without support from other individuals, churches, NGOs etc. This is a great task that needs to be achieved by returning dignity to the abused women, girls and children.   * WNSSM is the result of a passion toward the plight of GBV survivors caused by insurgency and other factors * The Boko Haram insurgents have raped many women and girls and held them captive * These survivors are traumatized and stigmatized * Many survivors have lost their dignity and pride as women within society * Though I was able to flee from the insurgents, many did not * These women and children have shared their experiences with me |

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| Vision Statement | * Survivors of GBV to live a dignified life and are economically and educationally empowered * Our vision is that survivors of GBV become self-sustaining and remain well recognized in their community, well respected and truly empowered. * We also seek to continue our role as advocates of women’s rights, promoters of women’s capacities, and as the driving force of social change |

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| Mission Statement | * To attain gender equality in our communities, to which end we focus our efforts on promoting the social, educational, and economic development of survivors of GBV, including advocating for women’s rights, eliminating discrimination against GBV survivors, advancing their capacities and leadership skills, promoting their participation in the decisions that affect their lives, and amplifying their voices for peace and security at the local and national levels * To provide economic and social services which will contribute to the reduction of poverty, trauma, illiteracy, diseases among survivors of GBV in communities generally. |

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| SWOT Analysis |  |

SWOT Analysis

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| External Factors | Strengths | Internal Factors | Weaknesses |
|  | * Resilience of women |  | Shelter |
|  | * participation |  | Vulnerability of women |
|  | * Rural character * Clear vision and existing history in community * Good, reputable and strong leadership * Strong accountability mechanisms in place and use. * .Good relations, networks and contacts with key actors. |  | Inadequate resources   |  | | --- | | Lack of paid staff, resulting in limited organisational capacity | | Small volunteer base | | Volunteer burnout | |  | |
| External factors | Opportunities | Internal Factors | Threats |
|  | Seminars/workshop |  | Boko Haram abduction |
|  | Resources through WNSSM |  | Fulani herders |
|  | counselling |  | Inflation |
|  | empowerment |  | Kidnappers |
|  | support |  | Lack of security |
|  | • Growth of the organisation as a thought-leader in the gender equality sector |  | Limited resources |
|  | Positive brand reputation within the local community |  | Stigmatization |
|  | • Renewed focus on feminist issues at a government level |  | Societal opposition to progressive feminism |
|  | Increased partnership opportunities with primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions |  | The growth of both anti-feminist movements and non-progressive ‘feminist’ movements |
|  | Opportunities for growth and development in the advocacy space |  | Lack of interest in progressing gender equality |
|  |  |  | Decrease in funding opportunities for nonprofits |

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| Core Values | * The motivation of our work is based on the right of all human beings to have equal opportunities to life: which include, social justice and equity, freedom, good health right to education, and economic empowerment. * We are motivated by the right of all human beings to have equal opportunities in life which include social justice and equity, freedom, good health, education, and economic empowerment. Our services are for all prospective beneficiaries regardless of gender, religion, cultural, or ethnic background. * We are committed to promoting safe spaces for survivors of GBV, gender equality and empowerment, and to remove any barriers preventing GBV survivors from fully participating in their communities and public life. * We believe in full and inclusive participation by all, and that every person – man, woman, or child – has the right and responsibility to contribute their talents, skills, and resources to the work we do for and with them.   This means that our services are for all our prospective beneficiaries regardless of their gender, religion, culture and ethnic background.  Thus:  **1. Integrity:** We are committed to the highest forms of accountability and honesty.  **2. Dignity:** We believe in freedom of choice and autonomy regarding bodily integrity.  **3. Courage:** We stand for what is right and just and take intentional bold steps in uncharted paths to effect change for women and girls.  **4. Solidarity:** Inspired by the principles of diversity, equity and equality, we empathise with, and support women and girls to access social justice and human dignity.  **5. Commitment:** We are passionate about working for the safety and wellbeing of women and girls. We have a pledge to fulfil all our promises. |

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| Objectives | * To provide survivors of GBV with safe spaces, enabling them to have the freedom for self-expression * To provide these survivors with the life skills that will empower them economically, and to promote self-reliance among them * To support survivors of GBV educationally by paying the fees for books and transportation, leading to the reduction of illiteracy and health-related issues among women and girls * To promote women’s full participation in society – politically, socially, and religiously |

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| Motivation/Planned activities | * Partnership is a key organizing principle * WNSSM is committed to developing, maintaining, and nurturing partnerships, including alliances and linkages, with institutions and individuals who identify with our vision and mission * WNSSM – with the support of friends, donors, and others – participate in various interventions in the northeastern part of Nigeria where Boko Haran activities are prevalent * WNSSM provides services in the areas of skills acquisition, startup grants, seed grants, education, and health * Skills gained include tailoring, fashion design, and knitting, etc. * Entrepreneurial skills are encouraged and many sell homemade soaps, pomades for hair care, and other products * Assistance is provided to survivors and vulnerable populations, including counseling and trauma healing * Identification and mapping of target groups for behavioral change campaign using selected areas in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) States. * Behavioral Change Campaigns and awareness creation across selected areas in the target communities (Women, Girls and Children as main target) * Creation of Safe Spaces in selected areas and Faith based locations to serve as information, Counseling and referrer centers. * Workshop and Seminars to communities and religious leaders. * Provision of skills for self sustainability * Workshop and seminars on personal Hygiene and Sanitation * Workshop and seminars on local nutritional food for lactating Mothers * Provision of cash aid to most vulnerable GBV survivors as support for empowerment * Assist with book fees and transportation to women for learning and school fees for girls and children. * Supervision/ Monitoring * Evaluation and closing |

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| Financials  Projections | Skills Education  Sewing machine = 5,250 USD  Knitting machine = 2,200 USD  School fee =2,500 USD  Books (learning materials) =2,500 USD  Seminar/workshop =2000 USD  Provision of nutritional food =3,500 USD  Provision of seed grant =4,000 USD  Logistics   1. Transportation =400 USD   fuel =100 USD  Honorarium =400 USD  Total **22,850 USD[[1]](#footnote-1)** |

1. 10% increase yearly because of inflation of commodities in Nigeria. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)