A SOCIAL CHANGE INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION

REPORT ON

MONTHLY PEACE ARCHITECTURE DIALOGUE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN NIGERIA

LOCATION: CHANCHAGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA (LGA) – NIGER STATE, NIGERIA

By

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TABLE OF CONTENT

List of Tables

List of Figures

Acronyms and Abbreviations

DPRS – Director of Planning Research and Statistics

EWER – Early Warning and Early Response

WPS – Women, Peace and Security

LGA – Local Government Area

SCI – Social Change Initiative

PWAN – Partners West Africa, Nigeria (also known as Rule of Law)

IEP – Institute for Economics and Peace

GBV - Gender-based Violence

ISHD – Innovative Strategy for Human Development

IPs – Implementing Partners

MBBI – Mediators Beyond Borders International

MDAs – Ministries, Department and Agencies

PGD – Post Graduate Diploma

CSOs – Civil Society Organizations

NGOs – Non-governrnental Organizations

NPF – Nigerian Police Force

NSCDC – Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps

NDLEA – National Drug Law Enforcement Agency

NAP - National Acton Plan

SAP – State Action Plan

VGN – Vigilante Group of Nigeria

APSA - African Peace and Security Architecture

AU - African Union (AU)

ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States

UNSCR – United Nations Security Council Resolution

WPS – Women, Peace and Security

Rtn - Rotarian

Acknowledgement

Abstract

The Monthly Peace Architecture Dialogue for Women and Girls in Niger State, Nigeria, aimed to empower women and girls as active participants in peace and security processes, fostering their involvement in local governance and conflict resolution. Despite challenges such as gender-based violence, insecurity, and weak institutional frameworks, the initiative succeeded in building the capacity of local women and girls, facilitating intergenerational dialogue, and strengthening partnerships between government, civil society, and community stakeholders. The program was anchored on three key theories: Conflict Transformation Theory, Feminist Peace Theory, and Social Capital Theory, which informed the design and implementation of the dialogues. Over the course of the initiative, participants were trained in conflict prevention, early warning systems, and dialogue facilitation, and provided with platforms to engage with local government institutions and security agencies. The project contributed to improving community resilience, fostering trust between women and state institutions, and advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda at the grassroots level. The findings highlight the need for continued capacity building, gender-sensitive policies, and stronger collaborations between local stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding efforts. The project has successfully laid the foundation for a more inclusive and sustainable peace architecture in Niger State, with the potential for replication across other regions.

Chapter One

1.1 Introduction and Background

Over the past two decades, the inclusion of women and girls in peacebuilding and leadership has become a crucial theme in global policy. Historically, women have been seen primarily as victims of conflict, but their role as active participants in conflict prevention, mediation, and post-conflict reconstruction has gained increasing recognition. This shift began with United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000), which calls for women's involvement in peace and security decision-making at all levels. UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent resolutions (1820, 1888, 1889, and 1960) emphasize four key pillars: participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery.

At the regional level, the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have adopted frameworks to strengthen the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. The AU has integrated gender into its African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), while ECOWAS developed a Regional Action Plan to guide member states in enhancing women's participation in peace processes.

In Nigeria, the government has domesticated these global commitments by adopting the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, first in 2013 and revised in 2017 and 2023. However, women's participation in peace and security remains limited, especially at the grassroots level, where conflicts are most intense. Structural inequalities, patriarchal norms, and weak institutional frameworks continue to marginalize women in leadership and decision-making processes.

Niger State in central Nigeria faces numerous security challenges, including banditry, farmer-herder conflicts, youth restiveness, and gender-based violence (GBV). These issues destabilize communities and create a rift between citizens and state institutions. Women and girls, who often bear the brunt of these crises, are excluded from peacebuilding efforts, with their roles often confined to passive coping mechanisms rather than active involvement in shaping solutions.

To address this gap, the Monthly Peace Architecture Dialogue for Women and Girls in Nigeria was initiated. This program aims to enhance the capacity of women and girls to contribute to peace and security in their communities through training and facilitated dialogues. It seeks to empower women and girls, create safe spaces for discussion, and foster partnerships with

government and civil society organizations. The goal is to transform women from passive bystanders into proactive agents of peace.

A key aspect of the initiative is bridging generational divides between women and girls. By fostering intergenerational dialogue, the project promotes the exchange of experiences and perspectives, amplifying women's and girls' voices on issues affecting them. This, in turn, strengthens trust between local communities and state institutions, encouraging more inclusive peacebuilding efforts.

Through this program, women and girls in Niger State are empowered to take an active role in peace processes, helping to address local security challenges while contributing to Nigeria's broader commitment to the WPS agenda. By focusing on local-level peacebuilding, the initiative aligns with global frameworks and offers a model for involving women and girls in conflict resolution, thus contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5 (gender equality) and 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions).

In conclusion, the Monthly Peace Architecture Dialogue represents a significant step toward empowering women and girls as agents of change in peace and security processes. By providing training, fostering dialogue, and building partnerships, the initiative aims to enhance women's participation in peacebuilding while contributing to the global WPS agenda. Through these efforts, it seeks to create more inclusive, resilient communities in Niger State and beyond.

1.2   Problem Statement

Despite global, regional, and national commitments to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, the inclusion of women and girls in peacebuilding and leadership processes in Nigeria remains limited. Since the adoption of UNSCR 1325 (2000) and Nigeria's National Action Plans (NAPs) on WPS, progress has been made at policy level; however, implementation at the grassroots has been weak and inconsistent.

Despite their central role in community life, women and girls in Niger State remain largely excluded from peace architecture structures and decision-making processes. Their voices are often silenced in public forums, and where opportunities for participation exist, they lack the technical capacity and institutional support to engage meaningfully.

Furthermore, persistent insecurity—such as gender-based violence, displacement, and economic deprivation—creates an environment where women and girls are more vulnerable,

yet less empowered to respond. Without deliberate interventions that enhance their knowledge, build confidence, and foster linkages with government institutions, women and girls risk remaining on the margins of peace processes.

The *Monthly Peace Architecture Dialogue for Women and Girls* was therefore conceived as a practical response to this gap, with the aim of equipping women and girls in Chanchaga LGA and by extension, Niger State at large with the skills, voice, and platforms necessary to actively shape peace and security outcomes in their communities.

1.3   Goal and Objectives

13.1 Goal: Inclusion of women and girls in leadership and peace processes in Nigeria.

1.3.2 Objectives

The following are the objectives of the SCI:

- To build the capacities of women and girls and other stakeholders in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, resolution and management; EWER and dialogue facilitation, advocacy, etc
- To create platforms and safe spaces for women and girls to amplify their voices on issues of peace and security affecting them and their communities in Chanchaga LGA in Niger, Nigeria; given that other existing platforms in the state/LGA does not have reasonable number of women and where they are present; their participation are minimal except when put in a solely women focus group discussion.
- To bridge the generational gaps between women and girls in communities for effective peace and security
- To move women from reactive nature to violent conflicts to pro-activeness to nipping issues before getting out of hand.
- To build trust between the government institutions and the women and girls

1.4   Challenges and Mitigation

The SCI faced several challenges, with mitigation strategies implemented to advance its progress:

1. Slow Initial Engagement: At the start, engaging key officers from relevant MDAs and NGOs was slow, especially due to annual leave periods in January. However, two

MDAs responded and connected the SCI team with the Niger State Ministry of Homeland Security. As a result, three capacity-building workshops were organized, with the peace fellow invited to lead them.

2. Gender-Based Violence Focus: During the May Dialogue meeting, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) was identified as a major issue. The Ministry of Women Affairs organized a two-day workshop for the GBV Management Committee, involving key stakeholders like the Governor's wife, female state parliament members, and traditional rulers. This workshop led to the revival of the committee.

3. Capacity Building in Women, Peace, and Security (WPS): PWAN initiated a Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) project. The Peace Fellow was invited to lead workshops on WPS for Mixed Observer Teams and Women-led organizations, contributing to the project's success.

4. Training in Humanitarian and Disaster Management: The Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management took advantage of the SCI as an opportunity to build the capacity of 30 staff members in conflict, peace, violence, and communication in humanitarian management during August 2025.

5. Flooding Impact: Niger State faced severe flooding in Mokwa, which disrupted the participation of ministry staff involved in the SCI. However, replacements were assigned, and communication was maintained through a WhatsApp platform where meeting photos and summaries were shared.

6. Advocacy Visits Delays: Advocacy visits to key stakeholders were delayed due to the Governor's involvement in the International Airport launch. Despite this, some MDAs attended to the SCI's requests.

7. Late Participant Attendance: Approximately 30% of participants were late to meetings. This was addressed by celebrating early arrivals and starting meetings on time, which improved early attendance by July 2025.

Chapter Two

2.1   Literature Review

Women in Peace and Security: A Global Perspective

The discourse on women in peace and security has gained momentum globally since the early 2000s. Cynthia Enloe (2014) and Jean Boulden (2019) argue that women bring unique perspectives to peacebuilding, particularly in addressing root causes of insecurity such as social exclusion and structural inequality. Studies show that peace agreements are 35% more likely to last at least 15 years when women participate meaningfully in negotiations (UN Women, 2015). However, barriers such as cultural stereotypes, political exclusion, and limited access to resources continue to restrict women's full participation (Paffenholz et al., 2016).

The African Context

In Africa, the AU's Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) and its Continental Results Framework (2018–2028) on WPS have been instrumental in monitoring and reporting women's roles in peace processes. Despite these frameworks, women's involvement remains uneven across the continent. For instance, while women played key roles in Liberia's peace movement that helped end its civil war (Gbowee, 2011), other regions continue to marginalize women in post-conflict governance.

ECOWAS, through its Regional Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, has made efforts to harmonize women's roles in peace and security in West Africa. Yet, local realities such as weak institutions, patriarchal structures, and recurring insecurity limit the full implementation of these commitments (Akinboye, 2020).

Women, Peace and Security in Nigeria

Nigeria has adopted three National Action Plans (NAPs) on UNSCR 1325, demonstrating its policy-level commitment to women's inclusion in peace and security. However, implementation remains weak. Studies by Okpara (2020) and WANEP (2021) reveal that women are still underrepresented in decision-making at local and state levels. Even where women's platforms exist, they are often tokenistic, lacking influence over actual decision-making processes.

In states like Niger, insecurity has compounded women's exclusion. Gender-based violence is widespread, and women's roles are often limited to reactive coping mechanisms such as mobilizing food or support during crises (CLEEN Foundation, 2022). Initiatives like the SCI therefore serve as innovative platforms for moving women from passive to proactive roles in security and governance.

Gaps in Existing Literature

While much literature highlights women's global and regional roles in peacebuilding, fewer studies focus specifically on local government contexts in Northern Nigeria. Existing studies often concentrate on high-level policy analysis but neglect the lived realities of women and girls in grassroots communities. This project therefore contributes to closing that gap by providing evidence from Chanchaga LGA and Niger State at large.

2.2   Theoretical Underpinning

This report is anchored on three complementary theoretical perspectives which provide the intellectual foundation for both its design and implementation.

a.   **Conflict Transformation Theory (Lederach, 1995)**

This theory argues that sustainable peace requires addressing not only the immediate manifestations of conflict but also the deeper relational, cultural, and structural dimensions that fuel it. For the Chanchaga context, this means that women and girls cannot be passive recipients of externally imposed "peace programs." Instead, they must be equipped to actively transform relationships— between families, communities, and institutions—by confronting root causes such as gender-based violence, youth restiveness, and weak trust in authorities. The Monthly Peace Architecture Dialogue applied this theory by ensuring that every session moved beyond "resolving disputes" toward *building long-term relationships* of trust, inclusivity, and cooperation among participants and local institutions.

b.   **Feminist Peace Theory**

Feminist scholars contend that gender inequality is not peripheral but central to the persistence of violence and insecurity. Exclusion of women and girls from peace and governance structures reproduces cycles of marginalization and conflict. In the case of Chanchaga LGA, women's voices have often been silenced in local decision-making processes, leaving their needs

underrepresented in security responses. By deliberately centering women and girls in the Monthly Peace Architecture Dialogue, this project applied Feminist Peace Theory in practice—creating space for women to articulate their lived realities, challenge gendered hierarchies, and position themselves as equal stakeholders in building a peaceful society.

    c.   **Social Capital Theory**

Social Capital Theory emphasizes the value of networks, trust, and reciprocity in building resilient communities. In fragile contexts, weak links between citizens and institutions often result in mistrust, alienation, and disengagement. This project sought to strengthen both bonding capital (relationships among women and girls themselves) and bridging capital (connections between women/girls and government institutions). The use of WhatsApp groups, dialogue sessions, and advocacy visits to ministries were all practical strategies to enhance social capital, thereby fostering cooperation, information-sharing, and collective problem-solving.

Taken together, these three theories provided a strong foundation for the project: Conflict Transformation Theory guided the approach to long-term peacebuilding, Feminist Peace Theory framed the inclusion of women and girls as non-negotiable, and Social Capital Theory informed strategies for building trust and networks across community and institutional lines.

2.3   Change Theory and How It Was Applied

If women and girls' capacities are built in concepts relevant to peace, security and development; if safe spaces and platforms are created for women and girls to engage meaningfully on issues of peace, security and development; If relevant stakeholders (government and non-government) in peace, security and development dialogue with women and girls; Then, women and girls will be strategically involved in peace and leadership processes.

The design of the Monthly Peace Architecture Dialogue for Women and Girls in Chanchaga LGA was guided by a practical Theory of Change (ToC) that responds to the local realities of exclusion, insecurity, and weak institutional engagement.

It can be summarized as follows:

- If women and girls in Chanchaga LGA are provided with training and capacity-building on peacebuilding, leadership, and conflict prevention,

- If safe spaces and platforms are deliberately created for them to engage in open, respectful, and structured dialogue,

- If these platforms are linked with government ministries, security agencies, and civil society stakeholders,

- Then women and girls will gain the knowledge, confidence, and networks required to actively participate in peace and governance processes.

This participation will not only enhance their agency but also lead to:

1. Improved community resilience—as women and girls mobilize to mediate disputes, prevent violence, and support victims of conflict.

2. Strengthened institutional trust—as local women and government stakeholders engage in constructive, continuous dialogue.

3. Greater social cohesion—as intergenerational and cross-gender relationships are nurtured, reducing alienation and marginalization.

In essence, the Theory of Change recognizes that peace cannot be sustained without the voices and leadership of women and girls. By investing in their capacities, linking them to institutions, and creating supportive dialogue platforms, this project contributes directly to a more inclusive and sustainable peace architecture in Niger State.

2.4   Methods and Design

The project employed a participatory and action-oriented design, rooted in the belief that women and girls should not only be passive beneficiaries of peace interventions but active contributors, decision-makers, and co-creators in shaping sustainable peace. This approach was premised on the understanding that community-driven peace processes are more inclusive, effective, and sustainable when women and girls are central actors (Lederach, 1995; Anderlini, 2007).

Participatory Approach

Participation was prioritized at every stage — from the initiation of letters to stakeholders, to planning, to the actual dialogue sessions. Rather than imposing pre-designed solutions, the

project methodology actively sought the voices of women, girls, traditional leaders, government representatives, and civil society actors. This participatory stance ensured shared ownership and built legitimacy for the peace architecture dialogues.

Capacity-Building Orientation

Central to the design was the conviction that skills development empowers women and girls to effectively engage in peacebuilding and leadership. For this reason, the project included targeted two-day training workshops for selected staff of partner organizations and community women leaders. Training modules focused on:

- Gender-sensitive facilitation and leadership,

- Principles of conflict transformation,

- Strategies for community resilience, and

- Practical mediation and dialogue techniques.

By strengthening local capacities, the project ensured that women and girls were not merely "recipients" of dialogue but were better prepared to lead conversations and advocate for their needs.

Dialogue Sessions as Practice Platforms

The monthly one-day peace architecture dialogues (held over three months: May–July 2025) served as the practical engagement phase where learning translated into action. Each session:

- Provided a safe space for women and girls to articulate experiences with insecurity, marginalization, and gender-based violence.

- Fostered intergenerational exchange, where younger women and girls learned from older women leaders.

- Included government and security stakeholders who listened, responded, and in some cases pledged concrete actions to improve women's safety and participation.

- Generated collective action points that were documented for follow-up, reinforcing accountability between communities and institutions.

Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

The design deliberately integrated government agencies (such as the Ministry of Women Affairs), civil society partners (like Peace Women Across Nigeria – PWAN), and local community leaders. These collaborations expanded the project's legitimacy and increased the chances of sustaining outcomes beyond the project timeline.

Action-Research Orientation

In addition to empowering participants, the project also adopted an action-research lens. Monitoring tools such as attendance registers, reflection notes, and feedback forms were embedded into the sessions, allowing the project to collect real-time data on women's participation and emerging peace concerns. This evidence informed the final evaluation in August 2025 and will provide a knowledge base for future peace programming in Niger State.

Chapter Three

3.1   Interventions and Activities

Implementation Phases

1. **SCI Initiation (January 2025):** The SCI commenced with a few phone calls to Directors and Executive Directors of strategic implementing partners identified in Niger State, particularly the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, PWAN, ISHD and Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management. The letter of introduction and small brief about the SCI was sent to them. They met with senior staff and accepted to support the SCI and also suggested another ministry – Ministry of Homeland Security be added to the list of implementing partners.

2. **Planning and Coordination (February–March 2025):** Meetings were held online through a WhatsApp platform created for the MDAs, some NGOs and well-meaning individuals that formed the Implementing Partners (IPs) who contributed to the development of the work plan for April to August, mapping of participants, identify priority issues, draft agenda for each dialogue meeting as well as facilitating some sessions.

3. **Capacity-Building Workshop and Advocacy Visits (April 2025):** A two-day training was conducted for the Implementing Partners. Topics included conflict analysis, peacebuilding strategies, early warning/early response mechanisms, advocacy skills, and IEP Positive Pillars of Peace (which resonated with many of them).

4. **Monthly Peace Architecture Dialogues (May–July 2025):**

    1. Training Segment: The month of May and June began with technical presentations to deepen participants' understanding on EWER and Advocacy of issues such as gender-based violence prevention, trust-building with state institutions, and community mediation.

    o Dialogue Segment: Following training, participants engaged in facilitated discussions where they identified local security concerns, shared experiences, and developed practical community-driven solutions.

5. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (August 2025):** Progress was tracked through attendance sheets, pre- and post-test, reflections, facilitator notes, and WhatsApp group

exchanges. These tools helped to measure changes in knowledge, attitudes, and participant engagement.

Participants

The project directly engaged 25 women and girls as well as 22 men, drawn from different communities within Chanchaga LGA. Participants included:

- Community women leaders.

- Adolescent girls and youth representatives.

- Government desk officers.

- Civil society representatives from women-focused NGOs.

- People Living with Disabilities

- Ministries, Departments and Agencies (Ministry Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Land Security, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Hearing impaired people living in disability, National Human Rights Commission, Nigeria Police Force, Market Women Association, Traditional Rulers Wife, Rotary Association, Niger State, amongst others.

This deliberate mix encouraged intergenerational exchange and facilitated stronger links between women, girls, and formal governance structures.

Ethical Considerations

All participants took part voluntarily, with informed consent obtained prior to engagement. The sessions were designed to ensure confidentiality, especially during sensitive discussions around GBV. The principle of "do no harm" guided all interactions, ensuring the project created a safe, inclusive, and empowering environment for women and girls. Each month's session ended with the Rotary Peace Fellow asking each participant to state how he or she feels of the day's session.

3.2 Key Findings and Impact

The following are the findings and impact of the SCI:

- The concepts around Women, Peace and Security (WPS) is very new to the state as confessed by the participants and key stakeholders covered by the advocacy visits and

workshop and dialogue meetings. The capacity building component of the participants in concepts like conflict, EWER, dialogue facilitation, advocacy and IEP positive peace pillars were embraced by the state and participants. The government IPs – the ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development and Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management saw an opportunity to revive the GBV Management Committee by the Governor's wife that has been active before the SCI, while the other ministry use the opportunity to build the capacity of 30staff members. Also, through PWAN's programme tilted SPRING with support from UKAID and Tetra Tech, the RPF was able to expose Niger State women and women-focused NGOs to UNSCR – 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which in a way is preparing the state to develop a state action plan (SAP) soon.

- The SCI also found out that drug abuse is highly prevalent in the state, therefore the members of the SCI planned with the Lead woman of the VGN and NDLEA to organise an awareness for more women officers and landlords/ladies of Chanchaga LGA immediately after the July Meeting.

- There is a lot illegal mining going on in Niger as it is discovered the state has mineral resource such as gold apart from being one of the food baskets of Nigeria. The state is also undergoing heavy reconstructions of road networks. These two activities have brought more visitors into state which has heighten insecurity – such as stabbing of a bank staff; the State University students were on riot with community members due to steal of farm produce. The SCI, through the participants identified their causes and suggested to the government officials, interventions that can arrest the situation, particularly the Police officer assured all that the force will do the needful.

- The SCI also discovered that some laws of Niger state need reforms. For example, some laws still carry very small of punishment for grievous offence, which aid the continuity of god-fathers bailing out drug criminals. The SCI members carried out an advocacy visits to the Law Reform Agency. The agency informed them that the process of the reform can be initiated by the Ministry of Justice.

- In the course of the SCI implementation, it was discovered that the Ministry of Homeland Security does have any woman recruited into the Intelligence because it was thought they could not do it well and it is delicate. Right there in the July meeting, this was addressed by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and the

Nigerian Police Force (NPF), which it is believed that it will be followed up with the Honourable Commissioner.

- There was a lingering case of fraud by a company that just came into Niger state and have been defrauding particularly women and girls, which was brought to the Dialogue Meeting in June and by the end of July 2025, the Nigeria Police and NSCDC took action and the company had been sent out of the State

- The Rotary Club of Minna and its activities were not well known by most of the SCI participants. With the attendance the Rotary Club representatives and opportunity given to do good-will messages, the awareness and the club and its activities has increased.

- Finally, the participants commended on the EWER and IEP Eight Positive Peace Pillars has opened them up to watch out for negative changes in their homes, communities and the appropriate channels of reporting to get timely response.

Chapter Four

4.1 General Conclusion

The Monthly Peace Architecture Dialogue for Women and Girls in Niger State has demonstrated that empowering women and girls in peacebuilding is not only crucial for community resilience but also pivotal in advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda at the grassroots level. Despite existing challenges such as slow engagement, gender-based violence, and insecure environments, the initiative successfully addressed these issues by building the capacities of local women and girls, fostering intergenerational dialogue, and strengthening partnerships between government, civil society, and community stakeholders. The program has contributed significantly to enhancing women's roles as active agents of peace, offering a promising model for replication in other regions.

Through the dialogue sessions, women and girls were given a platform to express their needs, concerns, and solutions. The inclusion of local government officials, police, and traditional leaders further strengthened the communication between local institutions and communities. Despite setbacks, such as delayed attendance and natural disruptions like flooding, the project successfully empowered participants, increased the visibility of women's contributions to peace, and created pathways for future collaboration. Moreover, the SCI has revealed significant gaps in institutional frameworks, particularly in government policies and laws, which need reform to ensure women's full inclusion in the peacebuilding process.

The evidence gathered from the dialogue sessions, coupled with the lessons learned, suggests that greater emphasis must be placed on gender-sensitive policies, the creation of safe spaces, and proactive strategies to address security concerns. This effort has the potential to catalyze broader societal shifts towards inclusivity, equality, and sustainable peace in Niger State and beyond.

4.2 Recommendations/Implications for Policy

The recommendations are as follows:

- Niger State, both government and non-government to embark on serious capacity building of the people on the concept of conflict, peace, dialogue facilitation, etc.
- An EWER system should be set up at the state and the twenty-five (25) LGAs

- The state should create a Toll-free emergency center. This can be done public-private partnership with the telephone network providers in the state

- The prosecution of GBV perpetrators should be fastened, which it was advocated for creation of specialised courts in Nigeria

- Appropriate budget should be allocated for the prevention and responses to GVB in the Niger State

- The Ministry of Homeland Security should engage female staff in the intelligence unity.

- The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and PWAN should partner together to ensure a speedy development the SAP -UNSCR 1325 for Niger State.

- The Rotary Club of Minna should catch in on this opportunity to have more strategic engagement with these women and girls as well as their groups

- The collaboration amongst the three government MDAs was amazing to them as expressed by the Director of Planning, Research and Statistics of the Ministry of Women Affairs. More of this should happen to reduce the unhealthy rivalry amongst MDAs and for effective budget implementation.

- In view of the Ministry of Homeland Security as a new MDA in the State, the creation of security-desk officers in all MDAs and the 25 LGAs of the state with appropriate capacity building will boost the EWER system.

- The three MDAs should continue to host the dialogue meetings in Chanchaga and fashion out ways to replicate it the other 24 LGAs.

4.3   Sustainability

The sustainability of the Monthly Peace Architecture Dialogue is assured by several factors:

- **WhatsApp Platform**: The use of a WhatsApp platform to maintain collaboration and information exchange among participants has proven to be an effective tool for ongoing engagement. This platform allows for continued communication, updates on security issues, and collective action beyond the life of the project.

- **Capacity Building Continuity**: The lessons learned from the capacity-building sessions are being recognized by both government and civil society organizations, who have shown commitment to bridging existing gaps in institutional and community-based peacebuilding efforts.

- **Stakeholder Commitment**: The positive feedback from government MDAs, traditional leaders, and NGOs suggests that the dialogue sessions have laid the foundation for long-term collaboration. This buy-in from key stakeholders enhances the likelihood of the initiative's continuation.

4.4   Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system was employed to assess the effectiveness of the monthly peace architecture dialogue for women and girls in Nigeria carried out in Chanchaga Local Government Area of Niger State.

Table 1: Measurement and Evaluation of Workshop Dialogue

Question / Variable	Response Options	Count	Percentage (%)
Sex	Female	25	53
	Male	22	47
Age Group	18–25	10	21
	26–35	18	38
	36–45	14	30
	46+	5	11
Disability	Yes	44	94
	No	3	6
Dialogue Useful?	Yes	47	100
	No	-	-
Positive Impacts	Training on peace/conflict concepts	38	81
	Open and sincere discussions on peace and security using the "5WsH" approach	39	83
	Freedom of expression/mutual respect	33	70
	Role plays and case-based learning	14	30
	Practical early warning strategies	30	63
	Safe space for women/girls	26	56
	Networking with stakeholders	24	52

	Addressing real-life security incidents in the community	26	56
	Other	38	81
Issues not addressed	Limited govt. follow-up	38	81
	Insufficient funding	9	19
Challenges to full participation	Transport cost/distance	40	85
	Household/family duties	6	13
	Security fears	1	2
Location suitable?	Yes	47	100
	No	-	-
Facilitation inclusive?	Yes	38	81
	No	9	19
Duration appropriate?	Appropriate	43	92
	Too Long	2	4
	Too Short	2	4
Replication in 24 LGAs?	Yes	47	100
	No	-	-

Gender of Respondents: Majority of participants were women, reflecting the target audience. A good number of men were also involved, showing some male engagement in women/girls' peace and security issues. See chart below:
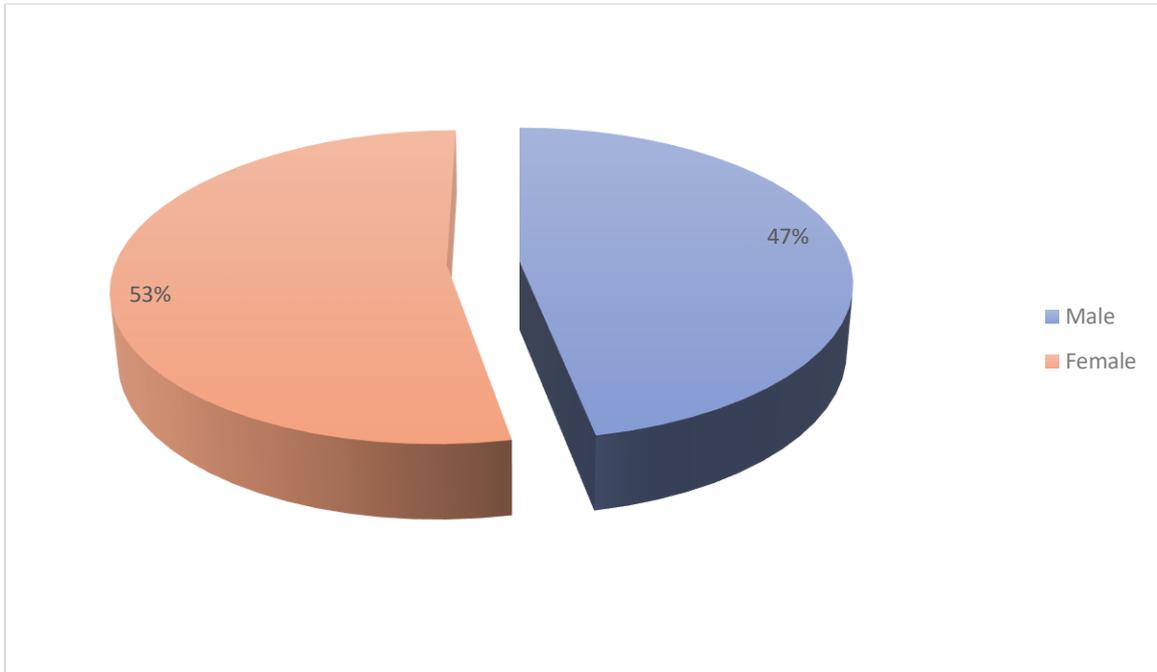
Figure 1: Gender of Respondents

Age Group: Younger women (18–25) represent a smaller but significant portion, reflecting growing youth engagement in community matters and future leadership potential. Women aged 26–35 make up the largest group, indicating strong participation in leadership and advocacy. Women in the 36–45 range bring valuable experience, often acting as mentors and balancing youthful energy with wisdom. Older women (46+) are fewer, suggesting challenges in engaging this demographic, though they still offer meaningful ideas.

Figure 2: Age Group Distribution

Representation of persons Living with Disability: Majority of the respondents were without disabilities, but still some representation. Some inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) made the workshop inclusive as see below:
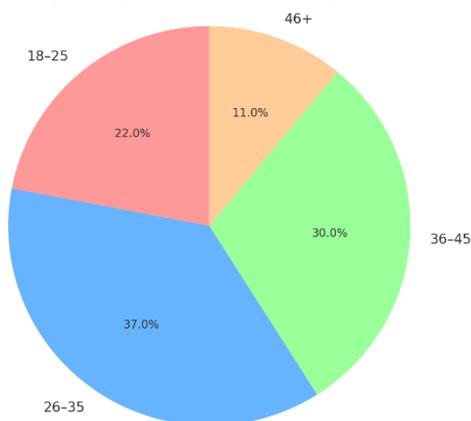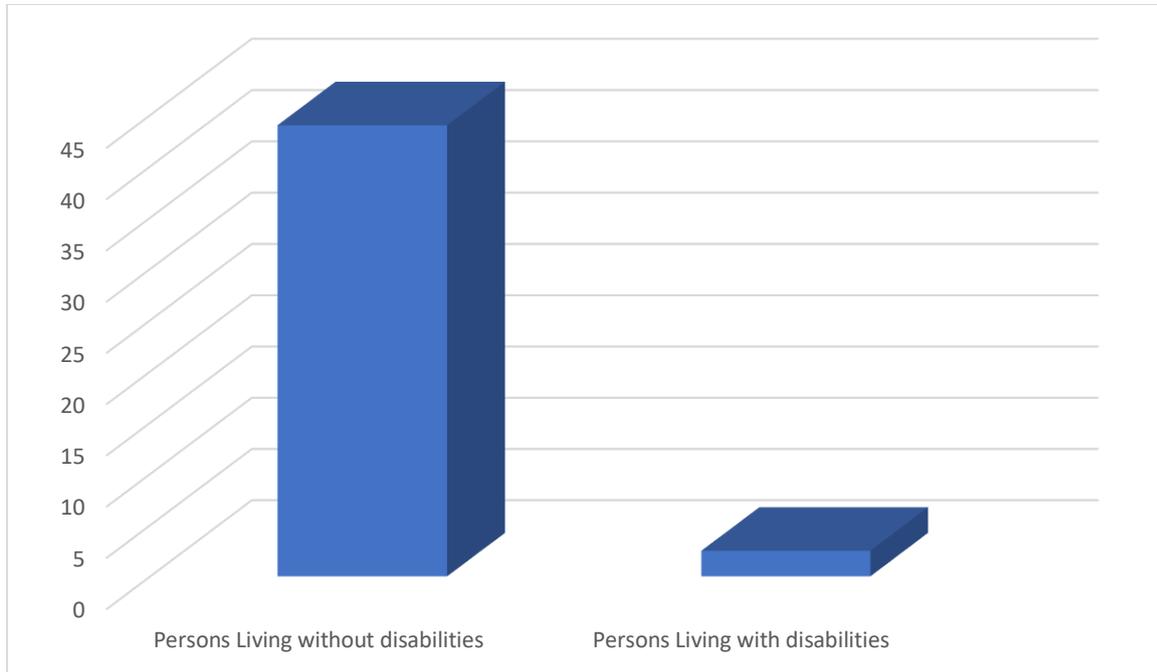

Figure 3: Representation of Persons Living with disability

Dialogue Usefulness: Respondents affirmed to a 100% to the usefulness of the workshop was useful thus providing strong evidence the meeting was valued by participants.

Positive Impacts: Respondents highlighted the following key positive outcomes from the dialogue:

- Training on Peace/Conflict Concepts: 81% expressed strong interest in skill-building.

- Open and Sincere Discussions on Peace and Security: The use of the "5WsH" approach was well-received, fostering meaningful discussions.

- Freedom of Expression/Mutual Respect: 70% emphasized the importance of creating a safe, respectful space.

- Role Plays and Case-Based Learning: This method was appreciated, though fewer respondents mentioned it specifically.

- Practical Early Warning Strategies: 63% valued the connections made as an important outcome of the dialogue.

20

- Safe Space for Women/Girls: 56% of respondents valued the proactive security measures aimed at gender safety.

- Networking with Stakeholders: Over 52% highlighted the creation of gender-safe environments as a significant benefit.

- Addressing Real-Life Security Incidents in the Community: Many respondents appreciated the focus on actual security challenges.

Issues Not Addressed: Respondents indicated the following concerns were not adequately addressed during the dialogue:

- Limited government follow-up and timely responses to issues

- Insufficient funding for continued support

To mitigate these challenges, I have established clear action plans with government partnerships and diversify funding sources for sustainable support. Additionally, enhance skill-building, promote inclusive participation, and strengthen stakeholder engagement to ensure long-term impact and safety.

Challenges to full participation: 85% of participants identified transportation costs and distance as the primary barriers to their full participation. 13% cited household and family responsibilities, while 2% attributed their challenges to security concerns. To address these obstacles, each participant received a transportation allowance and was provided with meals during the workshop dialogues.
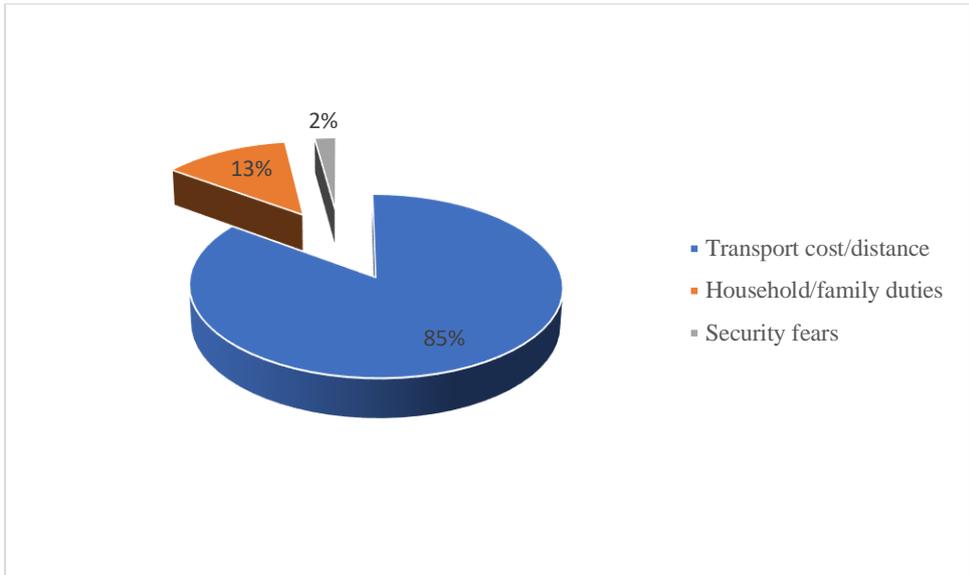
Figure 4: Challenges to Full Participation

Location Suitable: All respondents affirmed that the location was suitable to workshop dialogue represented by a 100% response.

Facilitation Inclusive: 81% of respondents felt represented. Whereas, 19% suggested inclusion of more youth & security agencies.

Duration Appropriate: 92% of respondents stated that the duration of workshop dialogue was appropriate, whereas minimal responses accounted for 4% as too long and 4% as too short. Overall, the training duration was appropriate

Figure 5: Appropriation of Duration of Workshop Dialogue

Replication in 24 LGAs: 100% respondents affirmed that the workshop dialogue should be replicated in the other 24 local government areas of Niger State.

22

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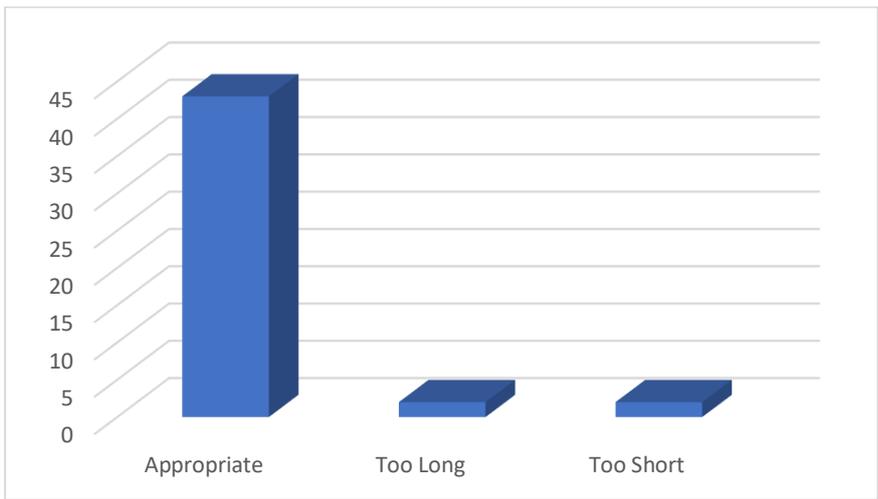Adelabu, N. S. G., & Duyile, P. F. (2025). *Gender and peacebuilding in Nigeria: Exploring women's engagement, contributions, and risks.* Nnamdi Azikiwe Journal of Political Science, 10(1), 1–22. Retrieved from https://najops.org.ng/index.php/najops/article/view/290 Najops

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - List of Photos

SCI workshop training banner

Participants in group-work during a 2 Day Workshop on Understanding Conflict, EWER and Dialogue Facilitation led by RFP, Olutoyin Falade in April, 2025

Rotary Club representative giving a goodwill message

RPF – Olutoyin Falade led a 2 day Refresher capacity Building on Gender-based Violence – Group picture with the Governor's wife Her Excellency Fatima Umar Bago

Step-down training to the Vigilante Group of Nigeria in Chanchaga LGA

RFP, Olutoyin Falade facilitating some sessions of the Training on GBV in Niger State

The closing of the July 2025 Dialogue meeting

PWAN presenting a workshop exercise

RFP – Olutoyin Falade leading the Dialogue Meeting for the Month of July, 2025

RFP – Olutoyin Falade with some of the female implementing committee

RFP, Olutoyin Falade facilitating a 2 Day Workshop on Understanding Conflict, EWER and Dialogue Facilitation

Trainees doing a group work during a 2 Day Workshop on Understanding Conflict, EWER and Dialogue Facilitation

Appendix 2 – Clearance and recommendation

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY ROTARY PEACE CENTER

Plot 146, Pool Road. Makerere Kampala-Uganda, Email: info.rpc@mak.ac.ug
Website: www.rpc.mak.ac.ug

13ᵗʰ January 2025

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Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Warm greetings from Makerere University Rotary Peace Center.

I am writing this letter to confirm that Ms. Falade Olutoyin Oluremi is a student at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. She is enrolled in the Rotary Peace Fellowship, pursuing a Post-Graduate Diploma in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation. Her registration number is 2024/HD03/013X, and her student is 2400700013.

Falade Olutoyin Oluremi is on course for a period of one year. So far, she has completed her onsite stay at Makerere University and is right now implementing her social change initiative titled **"Monthly Peace Architecture Dialogue Platform for Women and Girls in Nigeria."**

The purpose of this letter is to request for your support to Falade Olutoyin Oluremi in implementing her social change initiative.

We believe that the support rendered for her social change initiative will be impactful in promoting peacebuilding in her community.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala (Ph.D),
ASSOC. PROFESSOR,
DIRECTOR, ROTARY PEACE CENTER,
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY.
Email: nhnambalirwa@gmail.com , helen.nambalirwa@mak.ac.ug
Tel: +256 772309982

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION AND PEACE STUDIES, SCHOOL OF LIBERAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Appendix 3 – Testimonies of participants

I got home after the first day of the two (2) days of capacity building on EWER, Dialogue Facilitation and Advocacy, I met my children in situation I have warned them not to engage in. I just walked into the room without shouting. I felt I will contradict what the knowledge I gained at the workshop – **Luqman Folorunsho (ISHD)**

I went to my golf club after the 2 Days Workshop for the Implementing Committee, a conflict occurred amongst friends and I was able to mediate amongst them with a solution. They admired me for that because in the past I might fuel it the more. Also, the IEP positive peace pillars I have embraced for my family and will introduce to the Ministry where I work. – Ahmed Salisu **(Director, Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management)**

The SCI has exposed our Ministry to collaborating with the two other ministries with related functions, we shall work towards more collaborations going forward – **Mary Yisa (Director – Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development)**

Niger State is working assiduously to have a functional EWER system and we are glad to know the roles women can play in its effectiveness. - **Ismaila Husseni (Director of Security – Ministry of Homeland Security)**

This SCI has come at time that Niger state really needs it. I believe it will add value to the existing structure in the state – Hon. Ahmed Baba Suleiman **(Hon Commissioner of Minstry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management)**

We have gained many strategies to deal with conflicts in Niger state. This will assist us to bring violent conflicts to the barest minimum. As a youth, I have been equipped to engage in dialogues with many strategic stakeholders because of the skills I acquired from the SCI dialogue meeting. **Hajara Achibi (Program Officer – Global Promoters for Community Initiative)**

We highly appreciate you for your conscientious efforts and sacrifices. You made the sessions very well understood that I am a better person going forward – **Abudalziz Kobo (Director of Administration, Ministration of Homeland Security)**

We cannot quantify what your SCI has contributed to improving the lives of women and girls in Niger State. I want to appreciate Rotary International and Makerere University – **Barr. Mairo Mann (Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management)**

Appendix 4 – Any Other Relevant Document – List of Participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE SOCIAL CHANGE INITIATIVE – MONTHLY PEACE ARCHITURE DIALOGUE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CHANCHAGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA (LGA), NIGER STATE – NIGERIA.

S/NO	NAMES	AGE GROUP & SEX	PWD	RELIGION	DESIGNATION/POSITION	ORGANIZATION AND TEL NO
1.	Juwon Adeleye	(20-29) M	No	Christian	Program Assistant	PWAN/08153067429
2.	Abdulaziz Kobo	(30-39) F	No	Islam	Assistant Director of Administration	Ministry of Homeland Security/08032455052
3.	Salisu Ahmed	(50-59) M	No	Islam	Director of Research and Statistics	Ministry Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management/08066242838
4.	Ikejiani Daniel	(20-29) M	No	Christian	Photographer	ISHD/08118099516
5.	Luqman Folorunsho	(30-39) M	No	Islam	Assistant	ISHD/08164718511
6.	Abubakar Sadiq	(30-39) M	No	Islam	Programs Assistant	PWAN/08138733722
7.	Hauwa Sani	(40-49) F	No	Islam	Planning Officer	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development/08132081355
8.	Ismaila Hussaine	(40-49) M	No	Islam	Director of Security	Ministry of Homeland Security/08036259562
9.	Muhammad Yunusa	(40-49) M	No	Islam	Chairman	Human Right Protection, Rule of Law & Justice International Foundation /08038715789
10.	Mary Yisa	(50-59) F	No	Christian	Director of Planning	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development/07039364201
11.	Larai Ibrahim	(50-59) F	No	Islam	Director of Women Affairs	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development/08107728054
12.	Dr. Valda Martins	(40-49) F	Yes	Christian	CEO	SAAO Initiative/ 08035903111
13.	Hajara Aliyu	(50-59) F	No	Islam	Director of Rehabilitation	Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs/08034528389
14.	Hadiza Shiru	(50-59) F	No	Islam	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development/08032318178
15.	Rachel Twaki	(50-59) F	No	Christian	Director Social Welfare	Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development/08065502030
16.	Hajara Achibi	(30-39) F	No	Islam	Program Officer	Global Promoters and Community Initiative/08133411494
17.	Shekinnah Danladi	F	No	Christian		NGL/09032537151

18.	Amina Ahmed	(60-69) F	No	Islam	Coordinator	Hearing Impaired People With Disability/08036360311
19.	Samuel Saidu	M	No	Christian	Coordinator	Community Action Popular Participation/07034071111
20.	Philomena Anigbogu	F	No	Christian	Deputy State Commandant	Nigerian Security & Civil Defence Corps./08060070000
21.	CSP Ebi Kosipre	(40-49) F	No	Christian	Divisional Police Officer	The Nigeria Police Force/08065648268
22.	Fatima Faruq	F	No	Islam	Member	FOMWAN/08065822329
23.	Lucy Zakari	F	No	Christian	Officer	Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency/08162174648
24.	Opeyemi Obafemi	(30-39) F	No	Christian	Sales Representative	Market Women Association/07068757266
25.	Chidinma Barrah	(40-49) F	No	Christian	Sales Representative – POS Operators	07035956593
26.	Abosede Titilayo	F	No		Financial Secretary	WOWICAN/08069119833
27.	Aishat Kutigi	F	No	Islam		National Association of Women Entrepreneurs/07037163799
28.	Aliyu Jibrin	(30-39) M	No	Islam	Programme Officer	Oga Landlord Foundation/08126497417
29.	Ahmed Noah	M	No		President	Rotary Club of MXCity/07031325553
30.	Ayuba Remikat	F	No			SFCG/07068946428
31.	Abubukar Zubairu	(30-39) M	No	Islam		EIPWD's/08068608244
32.	Joy Jibrin	(30-39) F	Yes	Christian	Officer	CAPP/07034301338
33.	Rakiya Musa	(40-49) F	No	Islam	Officer	MWASD/08038147026
34.	Aguda Paulina	(40-49) F	No	Christian	Principal Investigation Officer	National Human Rights Commission/08033820778
35.	Muktah Zainab	(20-29) F	No	Islam	Vice President	Student Union Government/08028531051
36.	Busari Latifat	(30-39) F	No	Islam	State Woman Gender & Child Protection	VGN/08051749145
37.	Dirnan Samuel	(30-39) M	No	Christian	Assistant State Project Officer	Search For Common Ground/08134978306
38.	Modupe Adedapo	(40-49) F	No	Christian	Chair Person of Peace Rotary	Peace Rotary Club/08036090855
39.	Salmat Aliyu	(50-59) F	No	Islam	Wife of Hakimi	Traditional Rulers Wife/08038488318
40.	Ibrahim Aisha	(20-29) F	No	Islam	Social Secretary	National Youth Council of Nigeria/09016885297
41.	Amina Ahmed	(50-59) F	Yes	Islam	EIPWDs	EIPWDs/08036380311
42.	Mohammed Jiya	(40-49) M	No	Islam	Security Ministry of Homeland Security	Ministry of Homeland Security/07033366542
43.	Hussaini Yahaya	(50-59) M	No	Islam	Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps	Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps./08065424924
44.	Adoga Godswill	(20-29) M	No	Christian	Office Assistant	PWAN/07084340542

S/N							
45.	Mohammed Sokomba	(30-39) M	No	Islam	Security Officer	Ministry of HOMELAND Security/08135953052
46.	Jacob Eshiorameh	(20-29) M	No	Christian	Photographer	ISHD/07045327424
47.	Sunday Agbabiaka	(40-49) M	No	Christian	GBV Situation-Room Director	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs/08055067868

High Level Delegations to the Workshop Dialogues

S/N	NAMES	DESIGNATION
1.	Her Excellency - Haj. Fatima Bago	First Lady Niger State/ Chairperson GBV
	Hon. Afiniki E Dauda	Deputy Speaker Niger State House of Assembly
2.	Barr Mairo Mohammad Mann	Permanent Secretary Ministry Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management
3.	Iko Dauda Amadu	Minna Emirate
4.	M.S. Auna	Kontagora Emirate
5.	Hadiza M Shiru permanent Secretary	Permanent Secretary Ministry Women affairs and Social Development
6.	Hon. Ahmed Baba Suleiman	Commissioner of Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management