

GENDER RESPONSIVE URBAN PLANNING IN NIGERIA: ISSUES AND PROSPECTS

by

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8 March 2022

**GENDER EQUALITY
TODAY FOR A
SUSTAINABLE
TOMORROW**

#IWD2022

Outline

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Introduction

- ❑ **The theme for 2022 International Women's Day, is "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".**
- ❑ **It recognises the contribution of women and girls around the world, in areas of climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all**
- ❑ **Urban Planning can contribute significantly in these thematic areas.**



□ Introduction cont..

- The Sustainable development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda have both agreed on the principles of inclusiveness, “leaving no one behind”
- Social Considerations have now come to the fore in development management including pro-poor, gender sensitive and inclusive approaches.
- Inclusive cities for every one means improving the lives of marginalized people particularly the women, children and the elderly.
- In the past priorities and the needs of the women was not taken into consideration. Must recognise that **women use and experience cities in different ways from men.**

□ Introduction cont..

- **In Nigeria, there are inequalities between women and men in most human development indices, with the gap widening in the education, employment and health subsectors (FAO 2018).**
- **Reasons for the persistence of gender inequalities in Nigeria include: cultural and societal values; low level of education and sensitization; religious beliefs; high level of poverty among women; poor implementation of gender policies; lack of continuity and sustainability of development programmes; early marriage, etc. (FAO 2018).**

Introduction cont..

‘Realising gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities... The systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the agenda is crucial’ (UN General Assembly, 2016b).

Conceptual Clarification

According to UN Habitat (2000):

Gender refers to the relations between men and women and not simply to women's issues. Gender refers to the **socially constructed roles ascribed to women and men** at a particular time and place. Gender roles are learnt and **vary widely between cultures**. They are categorisations **based on social processes** and are not necessarily connected to biological sexual differences. Gender roles can change

Gender Sensitivity - means being sensitive to the needs of women and men, boys and girls. The ultimate goal is to achieve equity or equality. Gender sensitivity entails searching, considering and accommodating social relations between women and men in their context, in any policy analysis, planning and programming.

Conceptual Clarification cont..

- The United Nations defines **Gender Mainstreaming** as the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies and programmes, in any area and at all levels. Its ultimate goal is gender equality (access to resources, opportunities, and rewards of labour) to impact women and men and bridge gender disparities positively.
- **Gender Analysis** - Gender analysis is a critical examination of humanity, including women, men, girls, and boys in the development process. Gender analysis ensures that consideration is given to the different needs of women and men at all levels of policy, planning and programming

Conceptual Clarification cont..

- ❑ **Gender Measurement:**
- ❑ **Gender-related Development Index (GDI)** considers equality in achievement between women and men, and
- ❑ **Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)** examines whether women and men are able to actively participate in economic and political life and take part in decision-making.

Legal, Policy and Institutional Frameworks

LEGAL

- Constitution
- Laws & regulations

POLICY

- National Policies on Gender, Urban Planning, Economic development etc.

INSTITUTIONAL

- Ministries & MDAs
- Non State Actors
- Legislators etc.

Legal Framework

Nigeria

▪ Nigerian Constitution of 1999 (14):

- Article 15[2] and Article 42[1][a] and [b], [2] and [3] prohibit discrimination based on sex and ensure that men and women have equal access to the courts in matters of contracts, torts and all civil matters.

- Explicit recognition of women's equal rights is contained in Articles 17[1] and [2][a], which recognize the equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the law.

- Recognition of the right to land, housing and property is endorsed in Article 16[2][d], which declares that "the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that suitable and adequate shelter are provided for all citizens".

- Article 43 recognizes the right to acquire property and guarantees every citizen the right to acquire and own immovable property anywhere in the country.

Kenya

- ❑ New Constitution adopted in 2010
- ❑ Section 21(3) states that all State organs and all public officers have to address the needs of vulnerable groups within society, including women, older members of society, etc.
- ❑ Section 27(3): women and men have the right to equal treatment, including the right to equal opportunities in political, economic, cultural and social spheres.
- ❑ Lists the proportion of women in public institutions (two-thirds)
- ❑ Section 59(1)(b) establishes the Kenya National Human Rights and Equality Commission to promote gender equality and equity and to coordinate and facilitate gender mainstreaming in national development;
- ❑ Section 60(1): lists the principles of land policy, namely equitable access to land; security of land rights; elimination of gender discrimination in law, customs and practices related to land and property in land; communities to settle land disputes through recognised local community initiatives;

Policy Framework

□ International

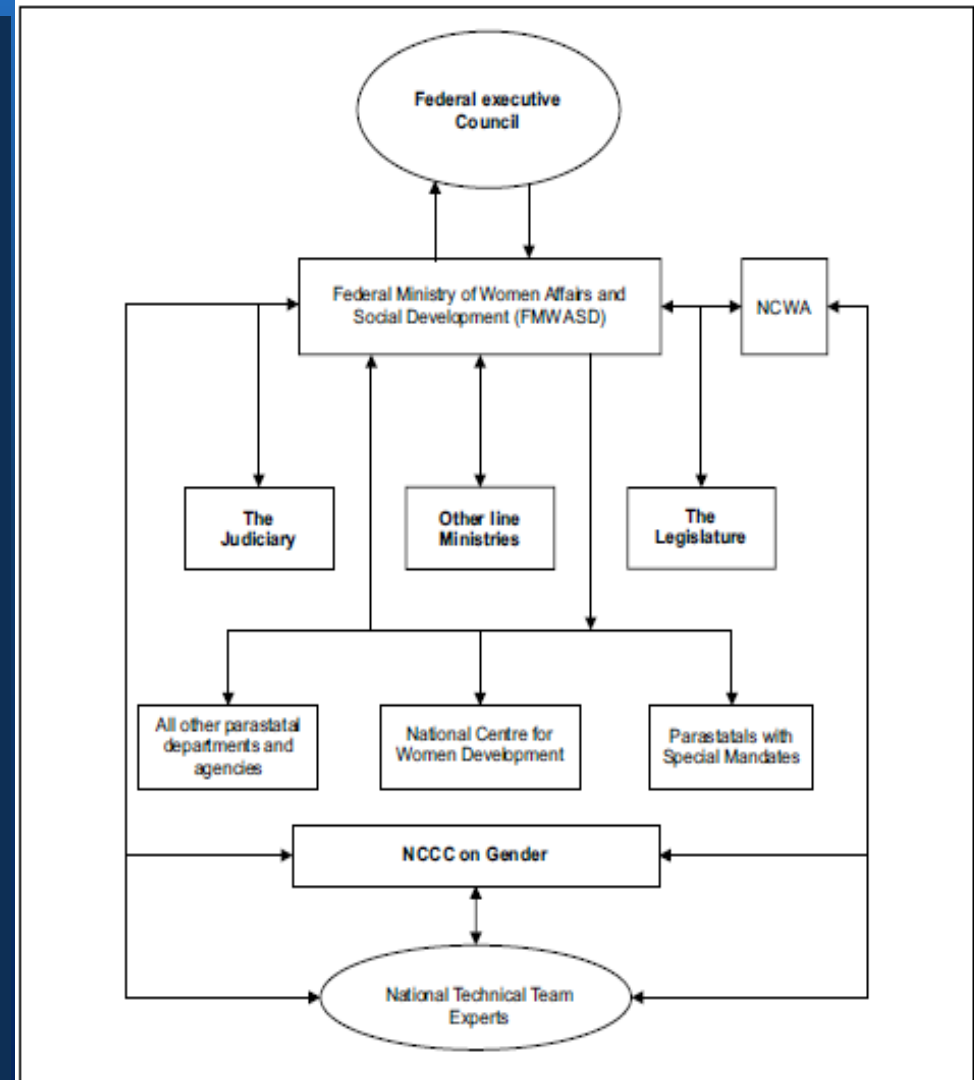
- **Beijing Platform for Action**
- **Convention on the elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women.**
- **Sustainable Development Goals – Goals 5, 6 & 11**

□ National

- **National Policy for Women Development**
- **Gender Responsive Budgeting**
- **National policies on Urban Development & Housing 2012 – these two important policies did not address gender issues in housing and urban development**

Institutional Framework

- ❑ Federal Ministry for Women Affairs
- ❑ National Centre for Women Development
- ❑ Non State Actors
- ❑ Civil Society organisations



Gender and Urban Planning

Urban planning plays an important role in the provisioning of infrastructure; reducing violence; and creating opportunities for participation, decision-making, and, thus, empowerment. These are also essential components of the targets under SDG 5, which seeks to 'achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' (Secretary-General, UN, 2014).

The premise for achieving gender equality through urban planning is that women and men have different needs (such as safety, ergonomics, activity patterns) and that a lack of or inadequate access to urban infrastructure and services has a disproportionate impact on women especially in urban poor settlements (ODA 2021)

Gender responsive Planning

- ❑ **Calls for a critical review of the practice whereby men tend to participate in planning and decision-making while women are purely involved in implementation.**
- ❑ **Over the years women have been either side-lined or under-utilised. Their exclusion from mainstream planning and development has reduced general productivity and access to services.**
- ❑ **Both women and men know how their surrounding environment should be planned in order to meet the requirements of the household and the larger community. This knowledge must be integrated into urban planning and management.**
- ❑ **Gender responsive planning encourages the equal participation of women and men in the decision-making process, accommodating their different needs, priorities and views.**

Methods of Gender responsive Planning cont...

- ❑ Gender responsive stakeholder participation;**
- ❑ Gender disaggregated data and Analysis;**
- ❑ Gender responsive strategy, plan formulation and decision-making;**
- ❑ Gender responsive action planning and resource mobilisation for effective implementation; and**
- ❑ Institutionalising gender responsive planning and measuring progress**

Issues

- ❑ **Traditional roles of planning where gender is NOT considered an important factor in urban planning.**
- ❑ **Lack of capacity of officials in gender issues and participatory methods.**
- ❑ **Low levels of education on the part of women compared to men.**
- ❑ **Feeling of marginalization due to culture and tradition**
- ❑ **Poverty of Voice**

Prospects

- Promoting sustainability through better access to services, productivity and efficiency**
- Inclusion and leaving no one behind**
- Reduction in poverty**
- Improvement in revenue**
- Ownership of management of planning schemes and programmes**

Recommendations and Implementation Strategies

□ Recommendation One:

- **In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD), UN Habitat, and other partners, the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to initiate advocacy and sensitisation of both men and women to ensure the mainstreaming of gender issues in housing and urban development.**

□ Implementation Strategies:

- **Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to initiate and adopt a gender strategy for all its projects by the third quarter of 2022.**

Recommendations and Implementation Strategies

cont ..

- **The Ministry to build an in house capacity on gender-responsive plans and programmes in all its activities by the third quarter of 2022.**
- **Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to present a memorandum at the National Council on Housing and Urban Development to adopt gender-responsive policies.**

Recommendations *(CONTD)*

□ Recommendation Two:

- **Federal, state, and local governments to intensify efforts in formalising and upgrading informal settlements through gender-responsive upgrading programmes.**

□ Implementation Strategies:

- **Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to sensitise state governments and all partners on the need to upgrade slums using gender-responsive settlements upgrading programmes by the fourth quarter of 2022.**
- **State Governments to adopt gender-responsive urban upgrading programmes by the fourth quarter of 2022.**

Recommendations (**CONTD**)

❑ **Recommendation Three:**

❑ The National Urban Development Policy should be revised to include a detailed guide on mainstreaming gender in all planning schemes, provision of urban services and public spaces.

❑ **Implementation Strategies:**

- Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to revise the National Urban Development Policy to contain gender-responsive programmes by the third quarter of 2022
- The Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to institutionalise gender mainstreaming in all its policies and programmes by the fourth quarter of 2022.

Recommendations (**CONTD**)

□ **Recommendation Four:**

- **Men still dominate land ownership and control in Nigeria. The State Governments need to establish programmes that would improve access to land to both men and women, support home-based enterprises and increase their productivity.**

□ **Implementation Strategies:**

- **Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to ensure adequate gender-responsive provisions in the proposed land policy.**
- **State Governments to ensure the provision of land at appropriate locations to both women and men for service and home-based enterprises.**

Contact & Comments

□ Your comments and suggestions on this paper are welcome. Please send to:

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THANK
YOU