



Federal Foreign Office



UNMAS



Rule of Law And Empowerment Initiative
also known as
PARTNERS WEST AFRICA NIGERIA

Summary of Gender Baseline Assessment

IN STRENGTHENING EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THREAT-
MITIGATION CAPACITIES OF SECURITY SERVICE
PROVIDERS IN NORTH-EAST NIGERIA

MAY 2021

DISCLAIMER

This Assessment Report is prepared by Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN) which was engaged with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit of the National Police Force (NPF) and Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive unit of the National Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). The data and information have been collected between August 2020 and February 2021. The Report was written at the request of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to ensure gender sensitized projects are delivered to the national security service providers in Nigeria.

The Report has been prepared for the purpose set out in the Terms of Reference entitled "Gender Baseline Assessment in strengthening explosive ordnance threat-mitigation capacities of security service providers in northeast Nigeria". PWAN understands that UNMAS will provide a copy of this Report to NPF and NSCDC. UNMAS agrees that a copy of the Report can be provided to NPF and NSCDC and also be released publically on the basis that it is published for general information only and that UNMAS does not accept any duty, liability or responsibility to any person (other than PWAN) in relation to this Report.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The preparation of the Gender Baseline Assessment report towards strengthening Explosive Ordnance threat mitigation capacities of security service providers in North-East Nigeria has been a collaborative effort. The Rule of Law and Empowerment Initiative, also known as Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN) is a non-governmental organization aimed at promoting good governance, accountability and transparency by expanding opportunities for citizens' engagement. As part of our Citizen Security program area, PWAN was commissioned by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to conduct this gender baseline assessment with financial support from the Government of Germany.

The cooperation and contributions of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit of the Nigeria Police Force, and Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) unit of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in the FCT, Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states is highly appreciated.

The findings from the state level were developed by Mr. Bashir Olasupo, Dr. Abubakar Muazu, Dr. Clifford Gbeyonron who conducted field research and developed the reports for Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states respectively. Findings from the Federal level and supervision of the state level research was provided by the research team lead, DIG Peace Abdallah (Rtd). PWAN wishes to appreciate their commitment towards the development of this report.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This gender baseline assessment was focused on the departments of two security service providers – the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and the Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) unit of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC).

The NPF is the leading and foremost Law Enforcement Organization in Nigeria responsible for the prevention and detection of crime, maintaining public safety, law and order, protection of lives and property and the enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged.

The NSCDC is a paramilitary agency of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with a mandate to provide measures against threat and any form of attack or disaster against the nation and its citizenry. Their duties and responsibilities include securing the state and the people for peace, justice, freedom, fair play and orderliness.

The two units – EOD and CBRNE, share similar responsibilities of identification, recovery/evacuation and demolition of Unexploded Ordnance (UXOs), detection and identification of radioactive materials out of regulatory control and physical supervision, security and monitoring of movement, usage and storage of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive materials.

Findings of this study will support the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) project plans as they partner with the two security institutions on capacity building activities in explosive ordnance threat mitigation.

This study focused on the EOD unit of the NPF and CBRNE unit of the NSCDC in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) states where UNMAS has been coordinating mine action operations since 2018. Nigeria has continued to experience casualties in 2018, 2019 and 2020 from Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) widespread use of explosive devices, including landmines of an improvised nature in the BAY states located in the North-East.

Borno state has been most impacted with reports of victim-activated devices detonated in 76% of the Local Government Areas (LGAs); Adamawa and Yobe states are also affected as victim-activated devices have been detonated in 52% of the LGAs.

This study employed a mixed method design. The research team engaged with relevant officials from the EOD and CBRNE gender units, administrative units, and operations units at the national and state levels of the two security service providers.

Despite the fact that the Nigeria Police Force has a gender policy and NSCDC is in the process of completing its policy and that the country has a Women Peace and Security (WPS) Action plan, gender mainstreaming is yet to be accepted and implemented by the leadership of the two institutions.

FINDINGS

1

Deployment into the EOD and CBRNE is voluntary and is open to both male and female officers after enlistment into the NPF and NSCDC.

2

At the national level, the policy requiring prospective candidates to have a science based educational background is obsolete. However, state commands still maintain this requirement, and this may be a contributory factor to the limited number of female officers within the unit.

3

The NPF does not recruit married women, however the NSCDC does. Certain levels of gender inequality in regulations, especially in the Police, are yet to be expunged. These include provisions that women are to perform only traffic control and administrative duties related to women and children.

4

Cultural and religious norms have been identified as impediments in some instances, to the recruitment of women into the two institutions, especially within the Northern region of the country. The low representation of women within the EOD and CBRNE units is a direct consequence of this gender disparity at the stage of recruitment

5

Some female officers are of the opinion that the functions of the EOD unit are more suited to men due to the high-risk nature of the unit. However, the prevalence of female suicide bombers, and the fact that women are the most affected by explosions may be contributing to a change in perspective of female officers; they have been able to recognize the unique roles that can be played by women in Security Sector Institutions (SSIs) in explosive ordnance detection and disposal.

6

Despite the fact that the Nigeria Police Force has a gender policy and NSCDC is in the process of completing its policy and that the country has a Women Peace and Security (WPS) Action plan, gender mainstreaming is yet to be accepted and implemented by the leadership of the two institutions.

7

At present, the EOD and CBRNE units do not have any female officers within its leadership.

8

The CBRNE and EOD units have training schools in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Lagos, respectively. These schools receive support on capacity building from local, regional, and international organizations including the United Mine Action Service (UNMAS). There is limited participation of female officers within the training institutions due to the limited number who volunteer to join the unit. Female officers within the unit are of the junior cadre and are not within management or any other related positions

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STUDY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1

Gender parity must be taken into consideration during training exercises for the EOD and CBRNE units. This can be achieved by specifically requesting for female officers to participate in the training sessions. Specially designed sensitization and orientation courses targeting female officers from other operational units should be carried out with the aim of providing background knowledge, functions, relevance and importance of the EOD and CBRNE units to encourage more volunteers to join.

2

Deployment to the EOD and CBRNE units is voluntary; however, inconsistencies on the requirement for a science-based educational background at the national and state levels might pose a challenge for officers without that background willing to join both units. The elimination of this requirement should be enforced at the state level, to ensure that all officers are provided the opportunity to participate in explosive ordnance disposal.

3

Female officers who are deployed to more decision making and operational offices within the EOD and CBRNE, should be sensitized on the duties, functions, and importance of the EOD and CBRNE units. The importance of the inclusion of female officers within both units should be emphasized, especially considering the relevant number of suicide bombers and victims that are women.

4

The two institutions need to adopt gender policies to effectively address gender inequality issues contained in their regulatory acts and orders. The gender policies should equally address gender sensitivity to include more female officers at the management and decision-making levels of the NPF and NSCDC. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs charged with ensuring compliance of Nigeria's adoption of the UNSCR1325 should partner with UNMAS to promote NPF and NSCDC to formulate and adopt gender policies that should deploy more female officers as heads of specialized operational departments such as the EOD and CBRNE respectively.

5

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) should engage communities, traditional and religious leaders in particular, in the North-East to support the need for women to participate in the Security Service Provider Sectors. These leaders should be educated on the key role of women in Peace and Security given the large numbers of women and children who are victims and also suicide bombers in the conflict affected areas in the BAY states.

6

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) should engage with the EOD and CBRNE units on the need for gender parity and inclusion of women in explosive ordnance response. Engagement should be carried out at the headquarters level with senior management of both agencies to promote institutionalization reforms; engagement with officers in charge at the state level is also necessary to ensure implementation of reforms.



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