

REPORT OF THE EDO STATE PAWED WEE ADVOCACY COALITION VISIT TO THE COMMISSIONER MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER ISSUES: 6TH DECEMBER 2021



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Introduction

The Partnership for Advancing Women Economic Development (PAWED) is a Nigerian CSO advocacy and communications coalition that advance evidence, policies and programs that further women's economic empowerment vanguard organizations such as Women's Empowerment Collectives. The PAWED project works at the national level and in selected states in each of the 6 geopolitical zones to increase the salience of in Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) amongst policy makers in Nigeria. The Edo state pawed advocacy coalition as an advocacy partner conduct advocacy around the annual budgets in Edo State and follow up with the government MDAs on promises made to increase WEE in the 2022 budget. The overarching goal of the Pawed advocacy coalition in Edo state is to expand the decisional space for WEE programming in the state by catalysing state governments to increase commitment to WEE programming through evidence-based advocacy.

Objective of the advocacy visit

- The Objective of the advocacy visit was to advocate for increased investment in the number of intervention and budgetary allocation to women's economic empowerment interventions in 2022 budget in the state and
- To increase the knowledge of effective policies, programs and strategies to advance women's economic empowerment within the ministry agriculture with a primary focus on women's empowerment collectives

Advocacy targets

Name	Designation
Barrister Marie Edeko	Commissioner, Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues
Mrs Dorcas Idehen	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues.
Mrs, Irenonsen Ihensekhien	Director Gender Issues Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues.
Mrs Marian A Edogiawerie	Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues



PAWED WEE advocacy coalition team member

Name	Designation	CSO/WECS
Bliss Ojeruse	Executive Director	Saving Hands Development Initiative
Patience Edevure Silas	Program officer	Willi Johnson Foundation
Abiola Daisy Igaga	Executive Director	Take A Cue Development initiative
Rev Fr. Fidelis Arhedo	Executive Director	Justice Development Peace Commission Initiative
Osariemen Edoseghe	Program Officer	Access to health, women's and children's right
Jennifer Oboh Oviawe	Regional officer	Lapo Edo Region
Vivian O.Evbotokhai	Program lead	Lapo-Pawed
Patrick Omosigho	Account officer	Lapo-Pawed
Onome Azegbeobor	Program officer	
Dr Iro Aghedo	Consultant	dRPC-Pawed
Precious Diagboya	Consultant	dRPC-Pawed



Pre-advocacy activities

Prior to conducting the advocacy visit one planning meeting was held to strategize, discuss and harmonize the advocacy issues and identify the advocacy target. Also, letter was Sent to the identify advocacy targets. The aim of the planning meeting was to generate evidence of gaps in government WEE intervention performance, develop advocacy messages to catalyse improved performance, and to conduct advocacy visit to strategic advocacy targets who will advance salience of WEE.

Overview of the advocacy visit

The PAWED WEE Advocacy Coalition in Edo state was led by Bliss Ojeruse executive director saving hands development initiative. A total number of sixteen participant were present during the advocacy visit. Four advocacy targets from the ministry of social development and gender issues and twelve from the Pawed WEE advocacy coalition in Edo state. Presentation of the advocacy ask was done by the Bliss Ojeruse executive director saving hands development initiative and focal lead Pawed advocacy coalition on behalf of the Pawed WEE advocacy coalition in Edo state.



Advocacy asks/issues raised by PAWED advocacy coalition

- To increased the number of projects intervention and budgetary allocation to women's economic empowerment interventions in the 2022 proposed budget in the state.
- To increase the knowledge of government official on effective policies, programs and strategies to advance women's economic empowerment within the ministry of social development and gender issues with a primary focus on women's empowerment collectives
- Development of effective monitoring and evaluation framework to monitor WEE projects across MDAs
- Need for inter- ministerial, inter- departmental, inter-agency and inter-MDAs collaboration for effective implementation of WEE and to prevent duplication of efforts

Feedback/response from the advocacy targets

Responding to issues raised by the PAWED WEE Advocacy Coalition in Edo state the permanent secretary Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues Mrs Dorcas Idehen appraised the pawed advocacy coalition for taking issues of women economic empowerment in the state very serious.



She noted that the state government is doing a lot to empower women economically. She further mentioned that the state government is currently harmonizing all women economic Empowerment program in the state. However, the ministry of ministry of social development and gender issues is committed to:

- Working with the ministry for Budget and economic planning, the state house of assembly and the office of first-lady to ensure increased budgetary allocation for women economic Empowerment for the ministry in the proposed 2022 budget and to ensure more women economic Empowerment program and intervention is captured in the ministry 2022 proposed state budget submitted to the state house of assembly by the governor
- Will ensure inter- ministerial, inter- departmental, inter-agency and inter-MDAs collaboration for effective implementation of WEE intervention

Advocacy outcome

The Commissioner ministry of social development and gender issues assured the Paved advocacy coalition that the 2022 budget will be an improvement on the 2021 WEE allocations. She advised the paved advocacy coalition to ensure the register the coalition with the ministry in order to ensure effective, more partnership and collaboration with government on wee intervention

Recommendation

- The pawed advocacy coalition should ensure it registered with the ministry of social development and gender issues

Next step

- The ministry of social development and gender issues will partner with pawed advocacy coalition to organize quarterly, mid-year and annual stakeholder forum on the implementation of WEE projects and progress reporting
- Registration of Pawed advocacy coalition with the ministry of social development and gender issues to ensure more partnership and collaboration

