

Advocating for Gender and Protection Policy in Northeast Nigeria



care

**Martawa Zuromaye
(Dignity & Security)
Project.**

Introduction

The 4-year US department of State, Secretary's office for Global Women Issues funded Martawa zuromaye (Dignity and security) project is gender transformative project implemented by CARE Nigeria and 2 women led organization, AFRYDEV and THSI.

The project aims to enhance survivor centered efforts that prevent and respond to Gender based Violence (GBV), (particularly FGM/CEFM and strengthen referral systems.

The project has 3 objectives that focus on;

1. Empowering individuals to address GBV
2. Strengthening communities' capacities to respond to GBV and;
3. Build strong advocacy networks.

Background of intervention:

The government of Nigeria passed the Violence Against People Prohibition (VAPP) Act and Child Protection Law (CPL) in 2015. States governments had the responsibility of domesticating the law, however, several were hesitant.

CARE Nigeria in collaboration with the Yobe state Advocacy Technical Working group led the coordination of several actors to advocate for the domestication of the law in Yobe state. The actors included NGO, Women led CSOs, Religious leaders, Academics, GBV Coordination Networks, Youth led organizations e.t.c

Interventions Includes:

- ❑ 2021 – CARE and partners identify issues and key partners (UNFPA, PLAN, SCI, GBV Subsector, WLOs)
- ❑ Consultations and Public Dialogues with key stakeholders
- ❑ Advocacy Workshop and development of Advocacy strategy
- ❑ Implementation of strategy and Engagement with Yobe state governor
- ❑ April 2022 – Signing of Act in into Law by Yobe State Governor

Key success

1. **Domestication of VAPP/CPL law in the State:** Milestone achievement with Yobe state Government.
2. **Enhanced support system:** Establishment of women and girls' safe spaces for survivor support in Yobe state.
3. **Steering implementation of the law-** The Technical working group developed a costed workplan for implementation of VAPP Law.
4. **Policy influence:** strengthened enforcement mechanism with local authority engagement.

Allies

1. Yobe State Justice and Reforms Team
2. Yobe State Ministry of Women Affairs
3. Yobe state Women Led CSOs

Other successes

1. GBV issues now addressed collectively and through networks
2. Capacity of women led organization and local NGOs strengthened to spearhead advocacy on GBV policies.
3. Development of a costed workplan for implementation of the law

Challenges:

1. Lack of knowledge about the contents of the law
2. Political interference with the process leading to delays in signing of the law
3. Cultural and religious skepticism on the provisions of the law

Key Lessons learnt:

1. An advocacy agenda cannot be a single organization task; success here was based on collective approach which is critical for advocacy win.
2. Importance of getting the buy in of community leaders-religious and traditional leaders is key
3. Need for sustained funding and resource mobilization for implementation

Recommendations:

- Foster local ownership through deeper community engagement
- Secure funding for awareness and support services
- Work towards sustainable implementation of the law across state.

2022 Onward:

1. Development of a costed workplan for implementation
2. Development of a simplified versions of the law for community engagement for familiarization.
3. Awareness and education campaigns for public, law enforcement, judiciary, school authorities, health personnel, traditional and religious leaders etc. on law.



High-Level Advocacy Meeting with the Executive Governor of Yobe State. 2022

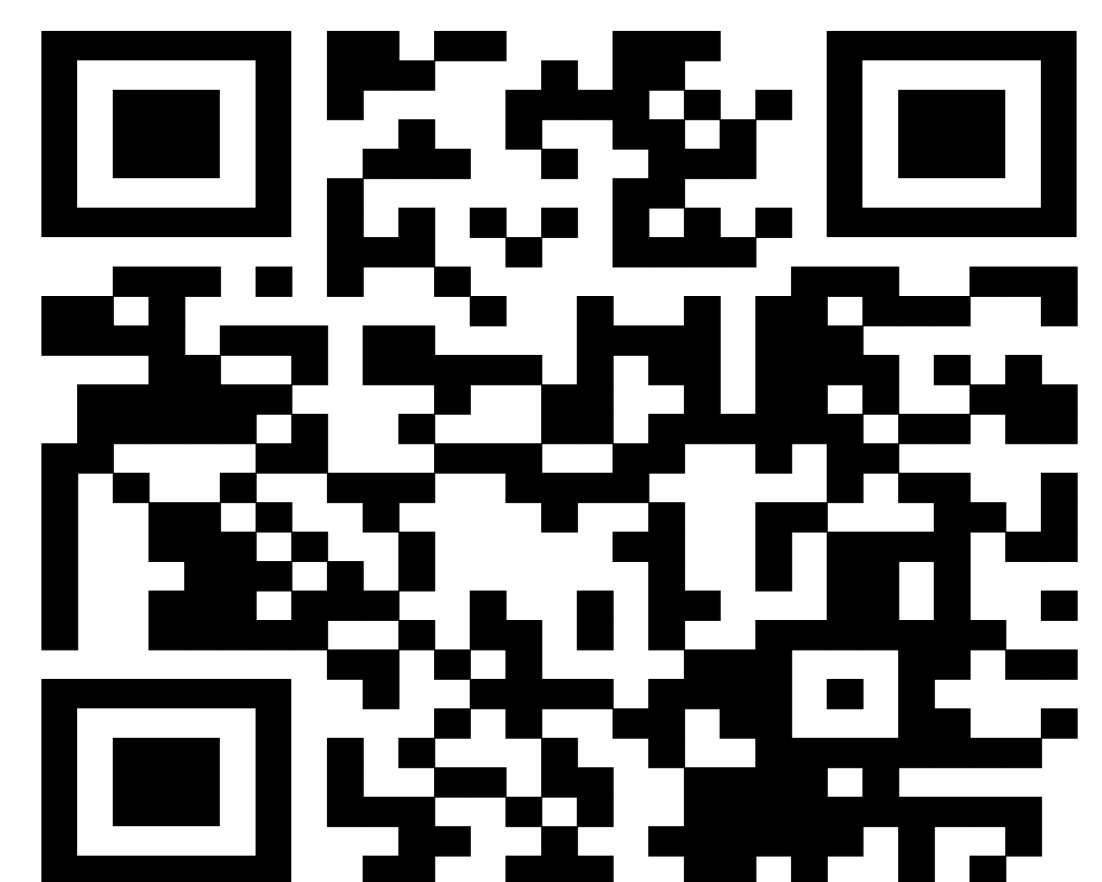
Authors

Authors: Nubwa Iliyasu and Ruth Dede, CARE Nigeria; Joya Banerjee, CARE USA.- *Martawa Zuromaye Advocacy Brief: Passage of a Law on Violence Against Women in Yobe State*

Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the generous funding support from the **US Department of State under the Secretary's office for Global Women Issues (S/GWI)** and express our gratitude to the Nigerian government, Yobe State government and our local partners for their collaboration and support.

Further information



Martawa Zuromaye Advocacy brief

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZbn5liZE_w&t=161s

URL to project video documentary