

**LADY HELEN CHILD  
HEALTH FOUNDATION  
ZOOM SUMMIT  
26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2020**

**A PRESENTATION BY THE FEDERAL  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS ON  
THE IMPACT OF COVID-19  
PANDEMIC ON CHILDREN AND  
THEIR FAMILY**

# MANDATE

- ▣ To stimulate active participation of women and children in all facets of national life including their empowerment, protection and advancement of the social rights of women, children and other vulnerable persons in Nigeria.
- ▣ Also, to formulate policies, coordinate interventions and ensure mainstreaming of their interests in decentralized planning and operations at all levels

## VISION

- ▣ A Nigerian society where the social, economic, political empowerment and rights of women, children and other vulnerable groups are guaranteed and strengthened at all levels of governance.

## MISSION STATEMENT

- ▣ To ensure coordination of all interventions that promote and strengthen social, economic, political empowerment and rights of Nigerian women, children and other vulnerable social groups in the society.

# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILY

The Corona Virus disease, also known as COVID-19, pandemic emerged in the city of Wuhan, China, last year and had since caused a large scale COVID-19 epidemic that has spread to all countries of the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic is considered as the most crucial global health calamity of the century and the greatest challenge that man-kind has faced since the Second World War. COVID-19 has rapidly spread around the world, posing enormous health, economic, environmental and social challenges to the entire human population.

# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILY (CONT.)

The outbreak of COVID-19 in Nigeria like all other countries, brought the nation to its knees as many sectors of the economy were halted- from agriculture to commerce, down to sports. The outbreak of the pandemic continues to affect every single person in our society including the women, children and the vulnerable groups in different ways. The impact of the pandemic has thrown many women, children and their families into a lot of crisis. The upsurge in Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), rape cases, teenage pregnancies, child marriage, child exploitation, child labour, child battery, incest and other forms of violence against women, children and the vulnerable groups is indeed worrisome for the Ministry.

# MEASURES AND INTERVENTIONS BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS

The Ministry is with charged with mandate to ensure the continuous improvement of the welfare and well-being of women, children and the vulnerable groups in all facets of national life, including their empowerment, protection and advancement of their social rights in Nigeria. In this regard, the Ministry has put in place measures and interventions principally targeted at women, children and the most vulnerable groups in our society. These measures and interventions which include among others had help to addressed and curtailed the challenges being faced by women, children and their families as well as cushion the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their economic activities:

## ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY

1. Considering the widespread increase in cases of all forms of violence in the country during the pandemic, the Honourable Minister, FMWA, Her Excellency, Dame Pauline Tallen, OFR, KSG submitted a Memo to the Federal Executive Council Meeting which resulted in President Muhammed Buhari to setting up an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Gender Based Violence to look into all forms of cases of violence against women, children and the vulnerable groups in Nigeria;

2. The Ministry, in collaboration with UNICEF also issued a statement to condemn the widespread cases of rape, kidnapping and all forms of violence against women, children and other vulnerable groups;

3. The Ministry has provided a Toll-free line 08031230651 for reporting cases of violence against women and girls, including Sexual Based Violence;

4. The Ministry organized zonal sensitization seminars for 18 States of the Federation on the provisions of the Child Rights Act, 2003, Ending Violence Against Children (VAC) and promoting Girl-Child Education to create continuous awareness among various stakeholders across the Federation;

## ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY

5. The Ministry in her effort to cushion the effects of the pandemic on Nigerian women, children and their families, distributed food palliatives to some Women organizations, Non-Governmental Organisations, Orphanages and households in the FCT;
6. To underscore the importance of education especially the girl-child education, the Honourable Minister flagged off the distribution of educational materials and Menstrual Hygiene Kits to students of Government Science Secondary School, Pyakasa, Maitama that marked the 2020 International Day of the Girl Child on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020;
7. The Honourable Minister also organized Media Briefing and Launch; the Campaign and Call to Action for women and children to support the girl child education on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020;
8. The Ministry provided Nutritional Support and Medical outreaches to Women and Children in IDP Camps and Children's Homes in the FCT;



## ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY (CONT.)

9. The Ministry, in collaboration with stakeholders such as NAPTIP, had established a Sexual Offender Register. The Register is a detailed compilation of the culprits of sexual offences including their pictures to name and shame them;

10. To underscore the healthy living of women and children, the Ministry carried out the distribution of Diapers across the Primary Health Care Centres in FCT, Orphanages and some IDPs to promote immunization, antenatal and post natal visits, exclusive breastfeeding, basic hygiene and sanitation as well as general wellbeing of the mother and child.

Let me at this juncture reaffirm the Federal Government's commitment for improved welfare and well-being of every single person in the society, including women, children and the vulnerable groups. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs as the apex Ministry saddled with

Thank you for your  
attention