

# **BRIEF ON THE MARYAM BABANGIDA NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WOMEN DEVELOPMENT (MBNCWD) ABUJA.**

## **Brief Background of MBNCWD**

Established and incorporated in 1992 as National Centre for Women Development, Limited by Guarantee. Then re-established as a Federal Parastatal by Decree No. 11 of 1995 (now CAP N15 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004) as the National Centre for Women Development in the Presidency. Then In 2000, Supervisory power was vested with Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. The Act was amended on 28th May, 2023, now the National Centre for Women Development (Amendment) Act 2023 LFN Cap N15 which renamed the Centre as Maryam Babangida National Centre for Women Development in appreciation of H.E Late Maryam Babangida in recognition of her contributions towards national development.

Maryam Babangida National Centre for Women Development is a leading institution dedicated to promoting gender equity and development, through research documentation, a databank, training and enterprise development, advocacy and counselling, mobilization of resources and providing qualitative consultancy and social services and information technology, through dynamic leadership and a well trained motivated and professional staff. It is also the only parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, has its vision as “a national Centre of excellence for gender equity and sustainable women development”

## **Mandate of the MBNCWD and its priorities**

- Research on the issues and concerns of women and the girl child
- Training and development
- Documentation of women’s contributions & achievements

## **Functions of MBNCWD**

Section 5 of the NCWD Act outlines functions of the Centre as follows:

- 1) The Centre shall primarily be charged with responsibility to stimulate consciousness towards the attainment of higher levels of development and activity for Nigerian Women and promote international co-operation for the attainment of this objective.
- (2) in pursuance of the purposes set out in subsection (1) of this section, the Centre shall

- (a) promote research into the activities and achievements of Women;
- (b) serve as a data bank on Women and development in Nigeria;
- (c) facilitate the formulation of policies affecting Women primarily in areas such as education, employment, health and finance;
- (d) provide training in skill development, income generation activities and serve as a training ground for managers and leaders;
- (e) provide a forum for guidance, counseling and mobilization of Women in both urban and rural areas; and
- (f) liaise with national, regional and international agencies involved in Women development programme.

### **Initiatives related to gender-based violence and child protection by MBNCWD**

1. Ongoing update of the gender-based violence dashboard which supports gender policy development, advocacy and awareness campaigns, resource allocation, monitoring SGBV trends, targeted interventions, justice system tracking.
2. Ongoing projects on rehabilitation and empowerment of Female IDPs (has also in the past rehabilitated Chibok girls)
3. Robust ICT, skill acquisition and vocational training programmes for women and girls to strengthen independent living while promoting economic empowerment.
4. Advocacy and community sensitization programmes on harmful traditional practices.
5. Project on identification of gender gaps across different sectors of the Nigerian economy.
6. Contribution through legal opinions and advisory to relevant Agencies on violence and related issues.
7. Legal literacy programmes for traditional gatekeepers in communities on discriminatory laws and practices.
8. Rehabilitation programmes for female drug users
9. Implementation of outreach programmes to schools (including school for the blind), to create GBV awareness while offering free basic supplies.
10. Implementation of annual summer holiday programmes for children
11. Using the digital dashboard to create awareness on gender-based violence, and promoting women in governance and decision making in Nigeria
12. Capacity development programmes for women in governance and decision making bodies (recently trained the 36 commissioners of state ministries of women affairs in Nigeria.

**How the MBNCWD contributes to prevention, protection, accountability and survivor support.**

- 1) Using its GBV dashboard, MBNCWD creates awareness on the issues and current trends.
- 2) Strengthens economic independence of survivors, women and girls through its robust training and empowerment programmes.
- 3) Engages in advocacy using data, legal opinions
- 4) Collaborates with relevant agencies and partners including the Nigerian Law Reform Commission, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons NAPTIP, Ministries of Health and Education etc, on issues of GBV and child protection
- 5) Through its Resource Centre for Women, MBNCWD collaborates with relevant partners to build capacity of women in governance and decision making bodies who inform policy and contribute to reforms.

**MBNCWD's Good Practices**

1. MBNCWD uses an all inclusive model of training for its programmes (males, females and persons with disabilities are included)
2. Introduced a unique Female Artisanship training Programme
3. MBNCWD carries out evidence-based interventions, taking advantage of its GBV dashboard.
4. MBNCWD also employs the economic empowerment strategy to empower women and girls which significantly reduces dependence.