

\$40m Intervention Fund for Women in the Oil and Gas Sector by FG, NEXIM

Women in the Oil and Gas sector have been provided with a \$40m intervention fund by the Federal Government in collaboration with the Nigerian Export-Import Bank. Timipre Sylva, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, disclosed this news at the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board-sponsored second edition of the Women in Oil and Gas Industry, Diversity SWG conference held in Lagos on the 14th of June 2022.

This fund was made available by the NCDMB-NEXIM Bank collaboration in 2021. This intervention fund is an addition to the already existing \$300m Nigerian Content Initiative Fund, which is equally available to women and men who meet the criteria. The Bank of Industry is managing the fund. Recognizing the importance of women in nation-building, and specifically in the growth and development of the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry, the NCDMB took a worthy step in inaugurating the Diversity Sectorial Working Group under the Nigerian Content Consultative Forum as provided in Section 58 of the NOGICD Act". This is imperative to create a platform for more women's participation in the sector, as women account for only 22 percent global labor force in the oil and gas sector.

Women For Women International Facilitates N290m Loans to Women Groups to Eradicate Poverty.

The Economic Empowerment Manager of Women for Women International-Nigeria at the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in Bauchi disclosed that the sum of N271,578,000 was disbursed as loans to different women groups in the country. Also, a total of 290,615,750 was redistributed back to the members of the groups.

WfWI-N helped build the capacity of these women through training and advocacy, enabling them to start little savings and assessing small loans to grow their petty trades.

UN CEDAW: Nigeria reaffirms commitment to gender responsive recovery

Nigeria has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to a gender responsive recovery and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) five, on achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls.

The Deputy Permanent Representative of Nigeria to UN gave, the assurance at a hybrid roundtable on "Expanding Gender Responsive Investment Initiatives for Economic Recovery and Sustainability" at Nigeria House in New York.

UK Invests in Future of the Commonwealth with New Education Programmes



The prime minister, on the 25th of June during the CHOGM Leaders Retreat pledged an additional £217 million to support girls' education across the Commonwealth. The UK is committed to getting 40 million more girls into school around the world by 2026

The fund covers three major education projects across Commonwealth countries. These includes:

- Supporting global education data gathering
- Teacher training in Rwanda and
- Programmes to get girls and vulnerable children into school in Pakistan

The biggest funding allocation – up to £130 million – will go to GOAL's Action for Learning Project to help girls and vulnerable children get back into the classroom in Pakistan. This will reduce barriers and schooling costs for girls, and work with the local authorities to train teachers and improve school management. The Data for Foundational Learning Programme will receive £27 million, and will support UNESCO to track children's learning outcomes globally. With better data on literacy and numeracy, policymakers can understand what works and share resources.

The UK is playing a leading role in supporting women's economic empowerment and tackling gender-based violence across the Commonwealth. The Government confirmed a further £1m in funding for the SheTrades programme, which supports women-owned businesses this week also. Since 2018 SheTrades Commonwealth has directly supported over 3,500 female entrepreneurs in Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria, helping to generate over £32m of sales for those women-owned businesses and supporting the creation of more than 6,600 jobs.

African Women Entrepreneurship Program Secured N8 Million Grant for the Promotion of Women Empowerment and Rights (POWER) Project

The African Women Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP) has successfully secured an N8 million grant from Aspire Coronation Trust (ACT) Foundation for women and youth empowerment in some South-East and South-South states in Nigeria. The grant will serve women and youth between the ages of 20 to 40, with the overall goal of building capacities and skills training.

The training focus is based on financial literacy, group formation, recordkeeping, business management, and entrepreneurship, as well as promoting the Sustainable Development Goals cutting across 700 women and youth within 12 communities, namely: Ogidi, Ogbaru, Okija, Mbiri, ubulukwu, Abavo, Agwu, Udi, Enugu East, Ohaozara, Abakiliki & Onicha in Anambra, Delta, Enugu, and the Ebonyi States.

WEMA Bank Plc renewed its commitment to women empowerment by partnering with She Can Nigeria to organize a conference to help Nigerian women realize their potential and develop their capabilities.

The partnership involved helping women and young female entrepreneurs attain their personal and business potential through mentoring and skill acquisition programs needed to improve their financial status.

Coca-Cola Foundation strengthens plastic waste management June 2022

The Coca-Cola Foundation awarded Growing Business Foundation (GBF) a grant to strengthen the plastic waste management value chain through its Empowering Collectors Initiative (ECI). The program would run for about 24 months and seeks to improve environmental resilience by preventing the flow of plastic waste, especially PET, to waterways and landfills through an aggressive and organized approach that targets about 25,000 MT of waste.

According to the president of the Coca-Cola Foundation, the initiative aims to create an economic ecosystem that would not only support environmentally beneficial actions but also furnish women with skills and training in the waste management value chain – enabling their economic empowerment and improving the quality of life for their families. The initiative covers 3000 female collectors and micro aggregators across six states of Nigeria, representing key hubs where increased urban migration and economic activity coupled with a poor waste management system has heightened the waste concerns in the country.

Women group storm APC secretariat, demand VP slot

The agitation over the choice of Vice-Presidential candidate to Bola Tinubu of the All-Progressives Congress (APC), took a new twist on the 23rd of June 2022, as a group of women stormed the national party secretariat and demanded that the slot be allocated to a female.

The Deputy Women Leader, Hajiya Zainab Ibrahim, of the group said it had sent a formal letter to the national leadership on their request. The women's aim of going to the secretariat is to raise awareness and mobilize women to participate in the ongoing voters registration.



Fact About WEE

Did you know that achieving women's rights and gender equality is integral to WEE?

Did you know that empowering women and closing gender gaps, especially in the work environment, promotes the 2030 agenda for sustainable development?

Did you know that when more women work, the economy grows?

Did you know that economic growth is assured when women attain higher education?

Did you know that economically leveling the ground for women is good for business?