

November 2022

Assessing National Funding for Women's Economic Empowerment in **Nigeria**

Publish WhatYouFund



Women's
Economic
Empowerment
Building evidence for
better investments

Gender inclusive public policies and budgeting is recognised as a key metric for good governance and is critical to addressing barriers to women's economic empowerment (WEE) and gender equality. 49% of the estimated 200 million Nigerians are women but just 4% are policy makers and 35% of the unemployed in the labor force are women. To bridge the disparity between the genders, national and sub-national governments need to recognise the strength of empowering the girl child and women's ability to participate equally in the existing market. The government also needs to invest in increasing women's rights to economic empowerment, their power to make decisions and financial inclusion. How well is the government doing this already?

Publish What You Fund in partnership with BudgIT conducted an assessment on National Funding for Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) in Nigeria. Our aim was to provide greater insights into the funding landscape to support policymakers, funders, and gender advocates. This is part of a broader programme which examined funding for WEE, women's financial inclusion, women's empowerment collectives in Nigeria.

Nigeria's budget structure and Data Consideration.

Gender Responsive Budgeting although not a new concept is yet to be mainstreamed at the federal and state level in Nigeria. The Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning recommends the ceiling for each ministry's budget components through the MTEF. However, each respective ministry retains discretion on how to determine the allocation to WEE, WFI and WECs.

Nigeria's national budget comprises the federal government budget and sub-national government budgets. Nigeria's budgeting process is separated into four broad phases: preparation, approval, implementation and audit and this process is largely followed by all levels of governments.

A range of sources for gender related data are available for analysis, though coverage and mainstreaming are still limited. Nigeria publishes quarterly budget execution reports on its official budget website. Unfortunately, the information published in audit and financial reports isn't disaggregated to show spending as laid out in the annual budget, therefore it is practically impossible to say to what extent the budget allocations of projects targeting WEE, WFI and WEC interventions were financed in the observed period.

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs has a mandate for gender equality policy formulation; capacity building for gender mainstreaming and implementing GRB practices and policy guidelines which is included in the national gender policy strategic framework which started in 2007.

Budgetary Allocations to WEE, WFI and WEC.

Over the years, there has been an increase in budget allocations to gender-related issues, between 2015 and 2020, we identified 1,889 WEE projects, 156 WFI projects and 185 WECs projects which summed up to a total of N132.28bn was allocated for 1,908 gender-specific projects across 215 MDAs which represents 0.28% of the cumulative N46.65tn of the federal government's approved budget within the 6-year period. We observed that of the N132.28bn gender-specific budget allocations between 2015 and 2020, WEE projects had N130.98bn worth of budgetary allocations, N10.57bn specifically target WECs related interventions while N15.36bn target WFI of which there were some recorded overlap across each metric.

Category	Number of Projects	Amounts
WEE	1889	130,987,232,110
WFI	156	15,356,157,998
WEC	185	10,567,840,183
Total	1096	132,281,720,727

WEE, WFI, and WECS Allocations (2015–2020)

Breakdown

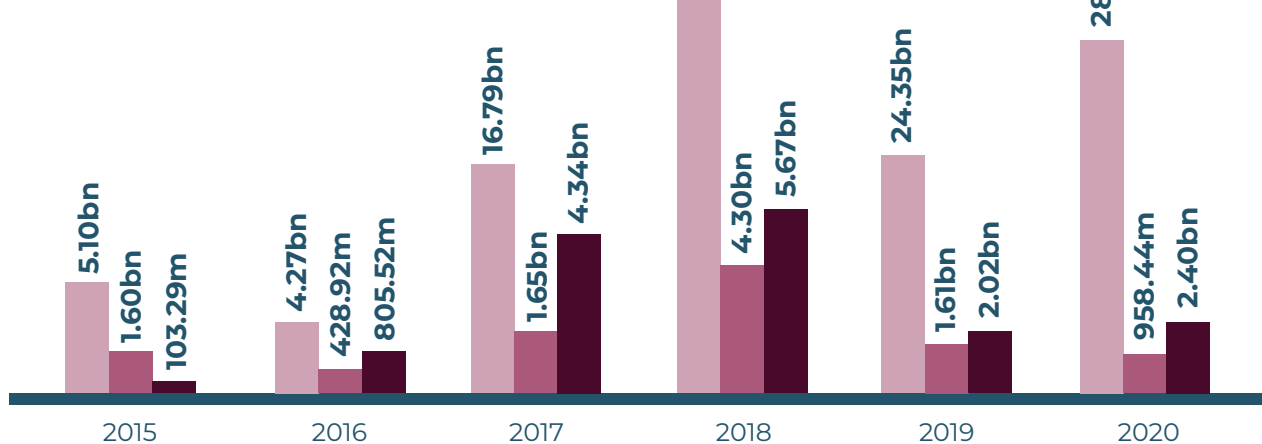
Amount= NGN

Total

WEE: **130.98bn**

WECS: **10.56bn**

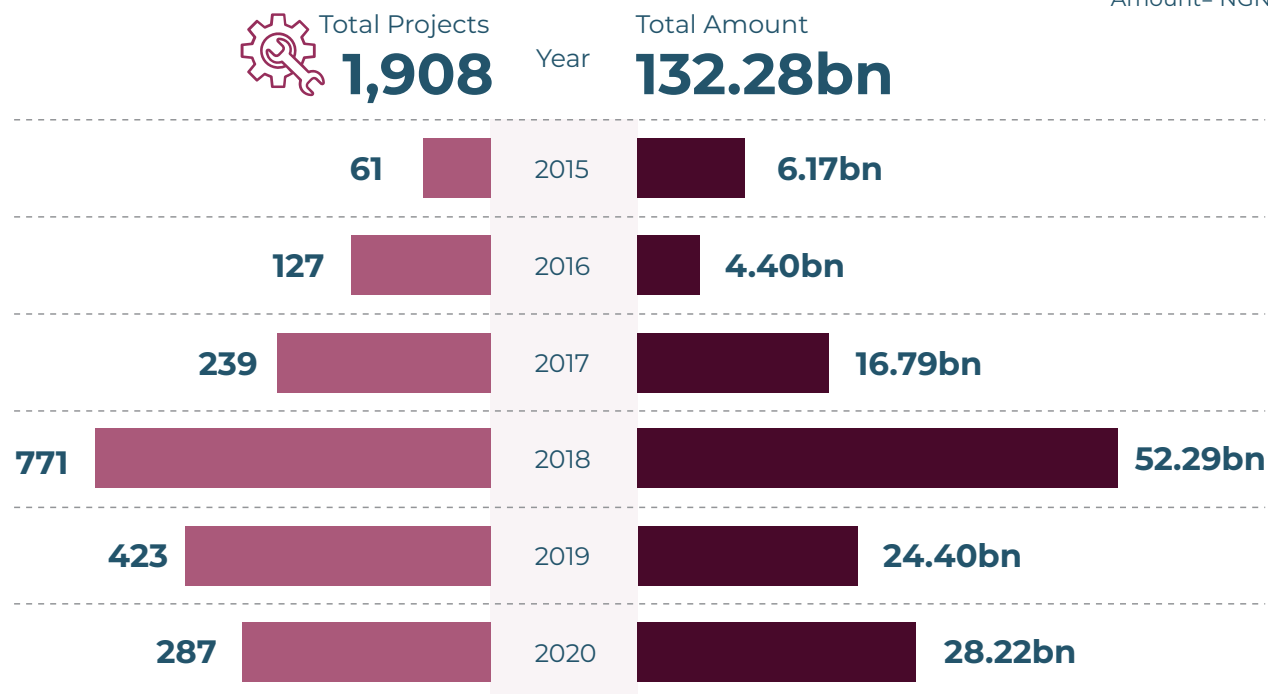
WFI: **15.35bn**



Total WEE, WFI and WECS Projects and Allocations (2015–2020)

Breakdown

Amount= NGN



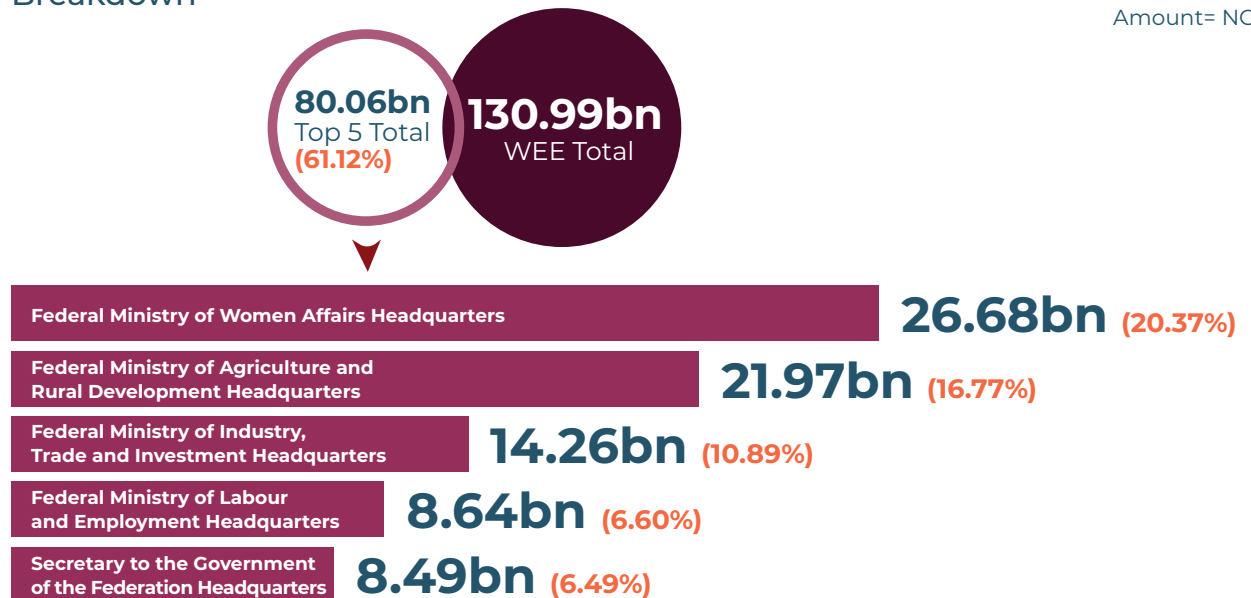
Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE)

WEE focuses on actualising women's rights and gender equality. This is both the process and the results of improving women's skills, agency, resource access and control, and bargaining power. These qualities enable women to contribute to economic activity and obtain the resources they need to support themselves.

Top Five Ministries allocating to WEE (2015–2020)

Breakdown

Amount= NGN



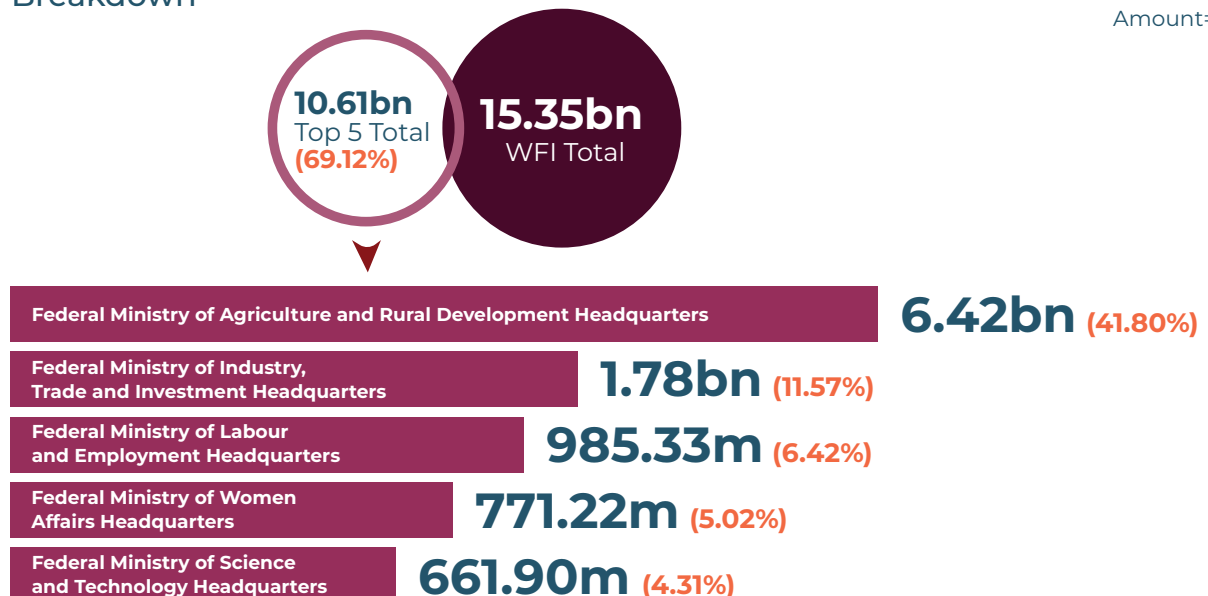
Women's Financial Inclusion (WFI)

WFI is the meaningful access, use and control of financial services that generate economic and social benefits essential to realizing economic rights, gender equality and WEE. For women, meaningful participation in the financial sector goes beyond 14 formal and 15 informal types of banking services for personal, personal or business use. WFI recognizes the many ways that financial services benefit women's economic and social lives, especially when such services embody women's unique needs.

Top Five Ministries allocating to WFI (2015–2020)

Breakdown

Amount= NGN



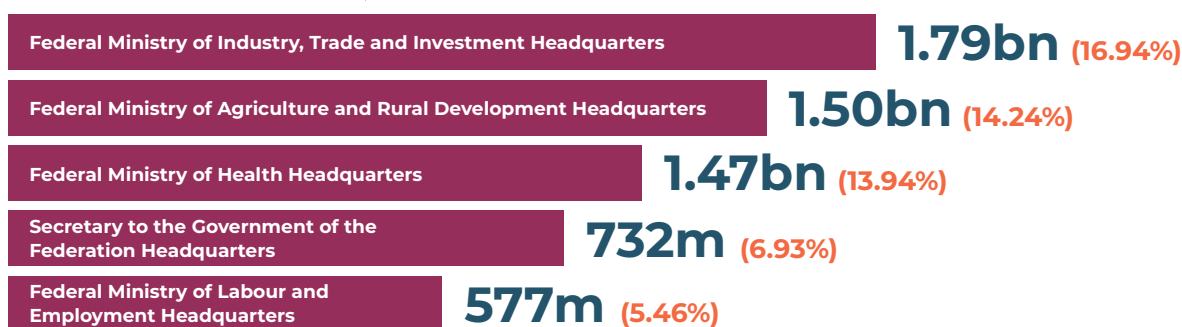
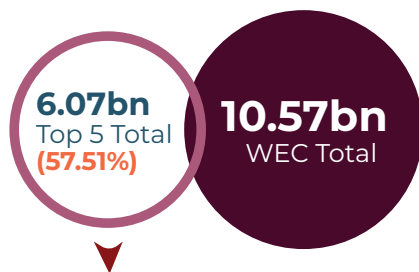
Women's Empowerment Collectives (WECs)

WECs is a concept that represents groups of women with a unifying purpose having regular meetings. All over the world, women join groups and collectives to support each other economically and socially. These groups take many forms, including voluntary membership, autonomy, contributions in the form of time, work, or money, regular meetings, and goals to enhance and improve the well-being of members. share common characteristics.

Top Five Ministries allocating to WEC (2015–2020)

Breakdown

Amount= NGN



Concept of core and enabling environment

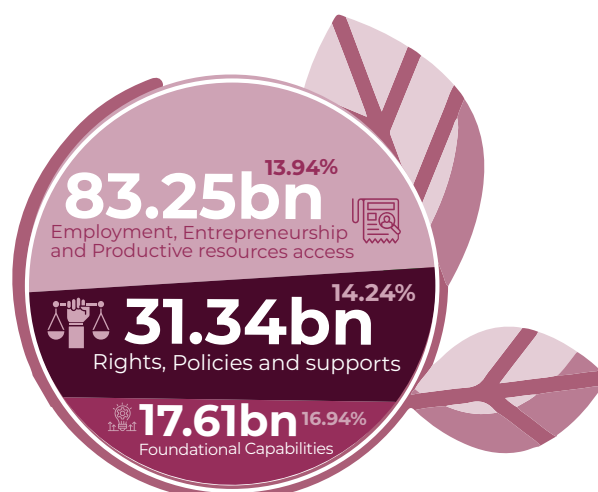
Publish What You Fund and the International Centre for Research on Women established a framework for WEE which is outlined in 3 tier which includes:

- 1. Employment, entrepreneurship & productive resources access:** *productive resources, employment and entrepreneurship.*
- 2. Rights, policies & supports:** *rights-based supports, macroeconomic interventions, livelihood resources.*
- 3. Foundational capabilities:** *gender based violence, basic social services, health, education.*

Budget Allocations to Core and Enabling Environment for WEE (2015–2021)

Breakdown

Amount= NGN



Conclusion and recommendations:

The government needs to institutionalize GRB practices to empower accountability actors to evaluate the impact of budgetary and extrabudgetary disbursements to WEE, WFI, and WECs. To improve transparency and accountability around the allocation and utilization of WEE, WFI, and WEC-specific funds, the government needs to do the following:

1. Build more institutional capacity for gender responsive budgeting and create a clear and transparent framework that will guide the prioritization and funding of gender responsive initiatives and interventions.
2. Provide more disaggregated data on government spending: There is a need for the government to publish expenditure data, disaggregated on a project-by-project basis to aid the evaluation of the disbursement of funds for each project.
3. Conduct and publish gender impact assessment by establishing a performance measurement framework for medium and long term initiatives which will determine the essential requirements for gender responsive budgeting, including the collection and reporting of gender disaggregated data on beneficiaries for all programs
4. Publish gender-targeted line items with appropriate budget classifiers for monitoring, reporting and evaluating the effectiveness of such line items which should be based on existing and established gender issues.
5. Strengthen coordination between key state actors, institutional roles, responsibilities and coordination through the enforcements of existing frameworks and guidelines that mandate MDA's on the preparation and execution of a successful gender responsive budget.
6. Implement policies aimed at promoting gender equity and establish systems that link those policies to budget tracking and analysis.
7. Harmonizing gender equality principles enshrined in the constitution with Nigeria's laws and enforcing the already established legal framework to improve on gender disparities in the country.

Publish WhatYouFund

budgfi

 **International
Budget
Partnership**

**Women's
Economic
Empowerment**
Building evidence for
better investments