

THE PLENARY SESSION 8 WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY June, 2023

Presented

By

Peace Ibekwe, psc, fsi, mni, (DIG Rtd.)

INTRODUCTION



- Religious crisis, unemployment, attendant woes of bad governance, key to upsurge of non-state armed groups and other criminal networks in most countries in Africa.

- Women and girls are more victims than perpetrators.



OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENTATION

- Examine how gender impacts security in Africa for both men and women
- Analyze the role of gender in non-state armed groups in Africa.
- Critically assess recent efforts to improve gender mainstreaming in the Security Sector in Africa.
- Examine the role of Security Sector leaders in improving gender mainstreaming in the security sector.
- Identify the roles women and girls play in non-state armed groups as in criminal network

WOMEN AND GIRLS AS VICTIMS

- **Forced Marriages.**



- **Sexual abuses in both Internally displaced and Refugee camps.**



WOMEN AND GIRLS AS VICTIMS...

- **Massive displacement**



Borno reviews feeding arrangement in IDP camps | The

[Visit](#)

- **Malnutrition crisis**



- **Women and girls to cover up attacks and for intelligence gathering.**



FORCED RECRUITMENT



- **Child Soldiers: In South Sudan children were recruited by the Cobra Faction and the SPLA in Opposition.**

- **Boko Haram Fighters: Used as Suicide Bombers.**



WOMEN AND GIRLS AS VICTIMS...



11 out of the 22 women rescued from the two baby factories in Isheri-Osun and Okota area of Lagos state have reportedly been delivered of their babies.

- **Women and girls used as baby factories - Human/Child Trafficking**

WOMEN AS EITHER PERPETRATORS OR VICTIMS

- Female drug couriers - drug trafficking.



- Women in armed robbery cartel and kidnapping.



SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING



- The existence of gender policy in the Security Sector.



- Low representation of women in decision making level.



- Recruitment policies now provide more gender balanced opportunities for both males and females.

SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING...

- African Civil Society Organizations & International Organizations continue to support training programs, sensitization and awareness campaigns.
- Gender Desk Officers to address Gender related issues are being established.

CONCLUSION

- Younger Security Sector leaders must take action to support gender balance by taking the following steps:

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The need to actually implement the contents of the variety of gender policies.
- Mandatory percentage for females from the recruitment stage in Security Sector.
- Establishment of Gender Desk to design frameworks for gender related issues within the security sector from the national, the state and local governments levels.
- The religious and cultural inhibitions should be the key points they must address as they meet with traditional and religious leaders.
- Training manuals within the security sector should be reviewed to captured gender related issues for the training of newly recruited and serving personnel.

RECOMMENDATION Cont...

- Welfare scheme within the sector should address specific needs for both the female and male officers. E.g. Office and Training School Accommodation, Sanitary appliances etc. to cater for the feminine needs.
- Female representation in decision making level in the security sector may need a mandatory quota requirement approval to ensure that there are more females appointed to such levels.
- Female leaders in the security sector both in service and retired have to lead enlightenment campaigns and also mentor younger female officers.

International Organizations as they work with Security Sector in Africa, must also continue to demand female representations in their programmes and projects.

Thank you for listening