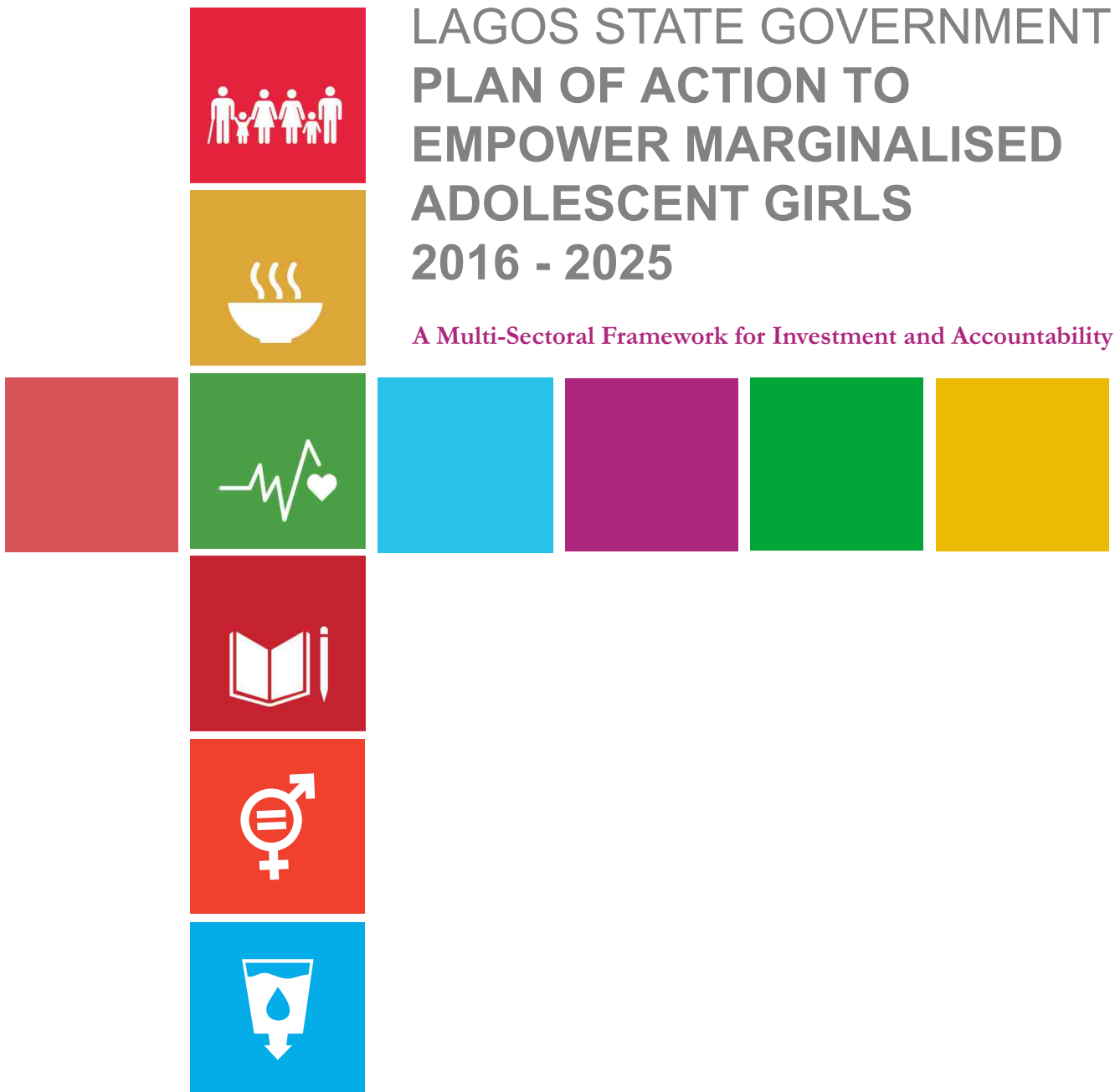


# LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT PLAN OF ACTION TO EMPOWER MARGINALISED ADOLESCENT GIRLS 2016 - 2025

*A Multi-Sectoral Framework for Investment and Accountability*



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The findings about the status of marginalised adolescent girls in Lagos State cited in this document are drawn from Action Health Incorporated, 2011 "A Promise to Keep: Supporting Out-Of- School Adolescent Girls to Reach Their Potential", AHI, Lagos, Nigeria



LAGOS STATE  
GOVERNMENT  
**PLAN OF ACTION TO  
EMPOWER  
MARGINALISED  
ADOLESCENT GIRLS  
2016 - 2025**



FORD  
FOUNDATION

**Action  
Health** Incorporated

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# FOREWORD

**The Lagos State Government Plan of Action to Empower Marginalised Adolescent Girls** has been developed in response to the sheer number of marginalised adolescent girls who are still unreached, the magnitude of challenges they encounter and the need for guidance on how to effectively reach them. The Plan of Action makes the case for enhanced inter-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration in efforts to ensure that marginalised adolescent girls are not left behind, in alignment with international commitments and national commitments towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially in Lagos State. It focuses attention on key populations of marginalised adolescent girls and highlights what global research evidence have shown to be the most productive approaches to reaching and empowering them.

The Plan was developed through a multi-stakeholder, participatory approach, that included the review of existing literature on the current situation of marginalised adolescent girls, interviews with professionals and technical experts from the relevant government departments and a series of consultations with representatives of line departments, civil society organizations and most importantly, marginalised adolescent girls in communities around Lagos. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation would like to express its gratitude to all the stakeholders, who contributed to the development of this Plan of Action. I would like to also thank The Ford Foundation and Action Health Incorporated (AHI) for their technical and financial support for this process.

The Plan of Action presents a roadmap to guide the Lagos State Government's programmes of cooperation with development partners and all relevant stakeholders, by clearly making known the situation of the most marginalised adolescent girls and prescribing practical actions for enabling them to achieve their potential and fulfill their human rights. Specifically, this will be done through four main approaches:

- **Strengthening Partnerships:** Use of the Plan of Action will facilitate more efficient and effective technical and financial partnerships that directly invest in adolescent girls and aim to lower the barriers—at family, community, and state levels—that impede their full potential and participation.
- **Improving Programmes:** The Plan of Action will facilitate the state government and key stakeholders' efforts to identify and tackle the needs of marginalised adolescent girls. In practical terms for example, this will mean improving the amount and quality of data and information about the situation of adolescent girls, to ensure that marginalised girls are counted and included in programming responses.

- **Harmonizing Policies:** The Plan of Action will be used to support the Lagos State Government's review and harmonization of laws and policies, as well as the management of government programmes, in line with agreed international norms and standards, to enable marginalised girls to fulfill their rights.
- **Building Capacity:** The Plan of Action will assist in developing the capacities of Lagos State Government ministries and agencies, the private sector, communities and civil society organisations to take actions necessary for meeting their obligations towards fulfilling the rights of adolescent girls.

My Ministry renews its commitment to take action to empower marginalized adolescent girls in partnership with all the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the social protection, education and health sector. I also call on State and Local Government level actors, the private sector, civil society organisations, and development partners to support the strategic actions outlined in this Plan of Action. By joining forces to improve the opportunities available to these girls, we will be contributing to actualizing His Excellency, Governor Akinwunmi Ambode's vision to run an inclusive Lagos where no one is left behind.



**Hon. Mrs. Lola Akande**  
Commissioner

# ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AHI	Action Health Incorporated
CDA	Community Development Association
CEDAW	Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
FLHE	Family Life and HIV/AIDS Education
GBV	Gender-based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LASURA	Lagos State Urban Renewal Authority
LGEA	Local Government Education Authority
MAG	Marginalised Adolescent Girls
MDAs	Ministries, Departments & Agencies
LGA	Local Government Area
LMDGP	Lagos Metropolitan Development and Governance Project
MAG	Marginalised Adolescent Girls
PHCB	Primary Health Care Board
SAC	Skills Acquisition Centre
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WAPA	Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation
UBEC	Universal Basic Education Commission

*one:*

**MARGINALISED  
ADOLESCENT GIRLS:**  
RATIONALE FOR  
PRIORITIZING THEIR  
EMPOWERMENT



**D**espite significant progress toward social development, access to universal basic education and gender equality in Lagos State, far too many girls within the adolescent age bracket of 10 - 19 years remain marginalised and vulnerable; lacking access to basic education, skills development, healthcare, decent livelihood and social protection. These marginalised adolescent girls include:

- **Girls excluded from education** due to poverty, having to care for ill/ ailing family members, early pregnancy/ childbearing or traditional practices which force them to leave school;
- **Girls who do not have adequate protection** at household level, such as girls living apart from both parents, girls in violent households, girls in domestic labour, girls who are trafficked or living on the street, and girls within internally displaced populations;
- **Girls affected by harmful traditional practices** including female genital mutilation, child marriage and its consequences such as early child-bearing;
- **Girls living within insecure or poorly resourced communities** such as urban slums, areas such as riverine communities, and remote rural areas;
- **Girls living with physical or mental disabilities** many of who are not accounted for in demographic surveys because their “invisibility” is exacerbated by enforced seclusion and stigmatization

A high proportion of these marginalised girls live in the more than 100 poor neighbourhoods referred to as blighted areas or slums in the 2012-2025 Lagos State Development Plan. Although, both males and females living in marginalised communities face problems associated with poverty, poor living conditions and lack of social safety nets, research shows that women and girls are by far the worst affected. Findings from a study of out-of-school adolescent girls conducted in Iwaya, one of the largest slum communities in urban Lagos showed that, of the 480 girls surveyed:

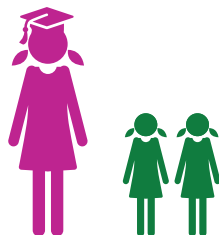
- a) approximately 60% could not read;
- b) over 50% had experienced physical violence by their partner or parent/guardian in the last 12 months and had no recourse or “safe space” to flee or support group or association outside their families and religious communities;
- c) nearly 25% had begun childbearing or were pregnant and;
- d) only 4% had comprehensive knowledge of HIV prevention.

# PROFILE OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL GIRLS IN LAGOS SLUMS

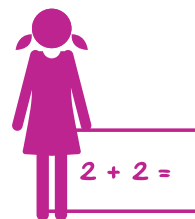
## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



**1 in 4**  
has never attended school

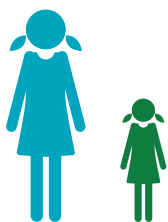


**1 in 3**  
completed JSS3



**1 in 3**  
of those who ever enrolled  
never made it beyond  
primary school

## SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



**1 in 2**  
has initiated sexual  
activity



**1 in 5**  
has been pregnant  
or have had a child  
before



**1 in 3**  
has experienced  
forced sex



**1 in 10**  
is married

## LIVELIHOOD



Girls' labour/contribution  
to household income is  
prioritized above schooling



**4 in 5**  
work but they are often  
not paid or are paid only  
in-kind



Pressure to provide an  
income for themselves or  
their families also leads  
many girls to engage in  
transactional sex with  
older men.

Marginalised adolescent girls across the state face diminished economic opportunities; high rates of illiteracy; sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS; child, early, and forced marriage; early and unintended pregnancies; trafficking; and other forms of discrimination, violence, and abuse. These disadvantages both perpetuate and ensure cycles of poverty, which multiply as generations of girls have families of their own.

Addressing marginalised adolescent girls' plight calls for urgent action and going forward, the Lagos State Government will prioritize their continuing lack of access to basic services, exposure to harmful practices, violence, abuse and denial of their human rights and dignity. The government recognizes that these girls represent a huge untapped potential, and strategic investment in their social protection, health, education, and livelihood skills, will not only promote social justice for them but, is critical for achieving internationally-agreed development goals and human rights.

Specifically, empowering marginalised adolescent girls will significantly contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Lagos State in several of ways including:

**SDG 1: No Poverty** - End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Bringing an end to poverty requires building girls' social and economic assets. Poor girls are more than twice as likely to marry in childhood as girls from wealthy homes. They face potentially life-threatening risks from early pregnancy, and are confronted with lost hopes for an education and a better income. Marginalised girls have a right to equal access to all avenues to end poverty, from social protection safety nets to use of appropriate new technology and financial services. Research shows that when women have access to and control of income and resources, families and communities benefit, as much as the women themselves.

**SDG 2: Zero Hunger** - End hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Adequate nutrition is especially critical for women because inadequate nutrition wreaks havoc not only on women's own health but also on the health of their children. Children of malnourished women are more likely to face cognitive impairments, short stature, lower resistance to infections, and a higher risk of disease and death throughout their lives.

**SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being** - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all. Maternal mortality is the leading cause of death for girls aged 15-19 years and providing better access to sexual and reproductive health information and services for these girls will help reduce unwanted teenage pregnancies, maternal death, child mortality and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.

**SDG 4: Quality Education** - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Educated girls are more likely to delay marriage and to have better maternal and child health outcomes, and are more able and inclined to invest in the health and education of their children. Promoting girls' education and increasing school completion is the best development investment in terms of human capital formation, social justice, and economic return.

**SDG 5: Gender Equality** - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls Too often marginalised adolescent girls bear the burden of sex discrimination and human rights violations that hinder the achievement of women's empowerment and gender equality. Specific investments are needed to protect marginalised girls and provide opportunities to girls at risk of school dropout and exclusion, child marriage, HIV infection, exploitation and other human-rights violations simply because they are young and female.

**SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation** - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Girls and women bear the burden of fetching water for household use many times resulting in the loss of time for educational and occupational opportunities. They also bear the brunt of the lack of toilets and other sanitation facilities, especially challenges with management of their menstrual hygiene needs, and more than men, suffer the indignity of being forced to defecate and urinate in the open. Alternatively, they have to walk to remote locations outside their community, or use toilets shared with men leaving them vulnerable to assault and potential rape.

**SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. In the context of widespread unemployment, underemployment, and vulnerable employment, marginalised girls are significantly less likely to obtain stable employment or find work in the formal sector. Rather, gender stereotypes often define what 'women's work' is, and channel women into some of the worst jobs with much lower earnings. Data also shows that compared to boys, they are more engaged in certain forms of child labour especially as child domestic workers, with greater exposure to harassment, assault and violence.

**SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The vision of the Lagos Mega-City is that of a city of opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing and public transportation with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations. Programmes targeting urban slum dwellers will positively affect hundreds of thousands of marginalised girls in urban settings who also have important roles to play in the reduction of pollution and poverty and the city's development.

*two:*

**OVERVIEW OF  
EFFORTS TO RESPOND  
TO MARGINALISED  
GIRLS' NEEDS IN  
LAGOS STATE**

## Legislation and Policy

Lagos State passed the Child's Rights Law (CRL) in 2007, domesticating the national Child's Rights Act (CRA) 2003. The law sets out the right of every child to be free from physical, mental or emotional injury, abuse, neglect or maltreatment, including sexual abuse and provides a robust framework for the child protection system.

The CRL places responsibility on the state government to safeguard and promote the welfare of children by providing a range of services to families and children, including identifying and responding to children in need of protection. Lagos State also enacted the Protection against Domestic Violence Law in 2007 which makes provision for protection orders for victims of domestic violence, including adolescent girls.

In February 2016, the Lagos State government launched the Lagos State Violence Against Children (VAC) Priority Actions, which sets out the short-term and long-term strategies to end violence against children.

## Poverty Alleviation Interventions


The Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation coordinates the state's poverty alleviation and vulnerability reduction programmes through the provision for vocational skills training geared towards income-generation for women. In this regard, WAPA operates 16 (sixteen) Skills Acquisition Centres across the 3 Senatorial Districts of the state. It also organizes short-term skills training programmes for girls in various communities as the need is identified.

The Ministry of Youth and Social Development (MYSD) provides social development and protection services that give succour to the vulnerable members of the society including marginalised girls and persons living with disabilities. In fulfilling her mandate, MYSD runs youth centres and programmes aimed at enabling youths to acquire vocational and life-skills to perform optimally in nation building.

The Ministry of Agriculture implements youth empowerment training programmes in various aspects of agriculture and encourages school leavers to become active participants in the agriculture value chain. The Agric-YES programme provides exposure to agriculture best practices in aquaculture, poultry, vegetable farming and bee keeping in a commercial farm as well as a permanent settlement in farm estates in various locations in the state.

## Education and Health Interventions

Lagos State Agency for Mass Literacy, Adult & Non-Formal Education runs centres for continuing education/ literacy centres which are set up across the state for people who dropped out from school – primary six or junior secondary school - offering opportunities for them to learn to read and write. The centres also offer skills training for this category of learners, free-of-charge.



The Ministry of Health focuses on the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents through the Hello Lagos Programme and also addresses domestic sexual violence and family planning through collaboration with stakeholders. The ministry currently has 6 (six) adolescent/youth-friendly centres around the state and one clinic for teenage mothers on Lagos Island.

### **Violence Prevention and Protection Interventions**

To address the issues of violence against children and women, WAPA runs helplines which respond to reported cases of sexual harassment, rape, child labour, and child trafficking. This is in addition to operating a shelter/safe home for victimized girls and women in Lagos State.

In response to the increase in incidence of reporting rape, defilement, domestic violence, child abuse, neglect and maltreatment in the state, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT) was inaugurated in September 2014. This multi-agency team provides follow up services in select domestic sexual violence cases where high risk factors are present or in cases where there is an elevated level of risk to victims, and/or children accompanied by a need for intensive victim support.

Through the Ministry of Justice, Office of the Public Defender (OPD), indigent, vulnerable and defenceless citizens of the State and victims of gender-based violence (GBV) crimes are assured of free legal representation. The OPD also provides social workers to accompany victims to the police station and the court, depending on the level of risk involved.

### **Other Interventions and the Persistent Need**

Apart from the above-mentioned interventions implemented by the Lagos State Government, non-governmental and faith-based organizations continue to play very important roles in the prevention and mitigation of challenges faced by marginalised girls in Lagos State especially with education, health, violence prevention and poverty eradication interventions.

Despite these efforts, multitudes of girls remain left behind and this Plan of Action is the state's response to scale up effective interventions. The Plan of Action will also address the existing barriers to access for marginalised girls including the problem of proximity of services in relation to residence of beneficiaries, and the minimum enrolment requirements for existing livelihood initiatives, which cutoff significant proportions of intended beneficiaries.

*three:*

**PLAN OF ACTION  
FOR MARGINALISED  
ADOLESCENT GIRLS'  
EMPOWERMENT**





The *Lagos State Plan of Action to Empower Marginalised Adolescent Girls* recognizes that the key competencies and assets that adolescent girls need to fulfill their potential and effectively participate as full members of society rest on the principles of human rights. Building these assets are also in alignment with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) especially the targets set to end poverty, achieve zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, quality education and gender equality.

## VISION, GOAL AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### **Vision:**

A state where all adolescent girls enjoy their fundamental human rights, are able to realize their full potential and contribute to the sustainable development of their communities.

### **Goal:**

To empower marginalised adolescent girls, enabling them to know, claim and achieve their human rights.



## Strategic Priorities:

To ensure that every hitherto marginalised adolescent girl in Lagos State has:

1. **Education:** Basic education (with literacy and numeracy skills at the minimum) as enshrined in the UBEC Act, being her foundation for navigating life and contributing to society;
2. **Health:** Comprehensive health care that includes life skills, sexual and reproductive health information and services to achieve optimal wellbeing;
3. **Livelihood:** Capabilities to access economic opportunities and sustainable means of securing the basic necessities of life, including food, water, shelter and clothing; and
4. **Social Protection:** Lives free of poverty, discrimination and violence, in a safe and secure environment where her fundamental rights are protected.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE PLAN OF ACTION

This Plan of Action for empowering marginalised adolescent girls will be guided by the following principles:

- **Human rights-based approach:** Recognizing that girls' rights are enshrined in the constitution and protected by international covenants to which Nigeria is a signatory.
- **Integrated assets building approach:** Adopting a comprehensive, multi-sector approach to facilitate the development of the recognised protective assets for adolescent girls.
- **Life-cycle approach:** Implementing interventions that are sensitive to life-cycle transitions, and to evolving needs and capacities (e.g., girls aged 10-14 compared to those 15-19)
- **Transforming gender norms:** Tackling the underlying issue of gender inequality that condones discriminatory practices which deter girls from achieving their full potential.
- **Recognises internal diversity:** Understanding that adolescent girls are not homogeneous and addressing their varying needs by residence, marital status, physical/cognitive ability, etc.
- **Evidence-based programming:** Implementing programmes that evaluation research data has demonstrated produce the expected results and informed by the on the ground insights in the specific contexts.
- **Realignment of existing resources and programmes:** Reviewing policies/ programmes to serve girls most in need with a view to ending poverty, risks and vulnerability
- **Partnership:** Acknowledging and drawing on the contributions of all stakeholders across sectors - government, private sector and civil society, with deliberate actions to seek the contributions of marginalized girls themselves, as direct beneficiaries and active participants.

## FRAMEWORK FOR INVESTMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

During the 2016-2025 implementation period of this strategic action plan, the following framework will guide the investment of resources, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of actions by stakeholders.

### Cross-cutting Strategic Actions

Mechanisms are employed to ensure that in tackling the underlying issues of gender inequality, programming is evidence-driven and deliberate action is taken to see that marginalised girls count and their insights/contributions are valued.

S/N	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	INDICATORS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS
1	Institute research mechanisms to enrich and expand available information about the status and needs of marginalised girls to facilitate better design, planning, and implementation of interventions in education, health, economic livelihood, and social protection.	Performance of baseline surveys and routine data collection exercises.
2	Institute review mechanisms in order to assess the quality of service delivery, identify service provision challenges, funding efficacy and capacity building needs.	Performance of annual review of performance towards strategic objectives in all four priority areas.
3	Create platforms to facilitate marginalised girls' consultation and participation in the design, implementation and assessment of priority area interventions.	Increase in number of hitherto marginalised girls who contribute to programme design, implementation and performance review exercises and participate in community development activities.
4	Create girl-centred safe spaces in marginalised communities where girls can access educational, health, economic empowerment, and social protection services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of girl-centred safe spaces for marginalised girls.</li> <li>• Increase in number of girls-only associations that are open to marginalised adolescent girls membership.</li> </ul>

## Priority Area: Education

Strategic Objective - Every marginalised adolescent girl has basic education (with minimum literacy and numeracy skills) as enshrined in the UBEC Act, being her foundation for navigating life and contributing to society.

S/N	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	INDICATORS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS
1	Promote policies and programmes that help families keep their daughters in school and delay marriage, including measures directed at alleviating economic pressures from paying school fees within poorer households and marginalised communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of new education programmes that integrate marginalised adolescent girls as primary beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Increase in number of marginalised adolescent girls enrolled in formal primary and secondary schools.</li> <li>• Increase in number of marginalised adolescent girls enrolled in literacy and numeracy classes at vocational training and skills acquisition centres.</li> </ul>
2	Facilitate the school retention and completion, as well as return to school of out- of- school girls by employing gender-responsive policies and infrastructure including the provision of sexuality education for all girls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number and attendance of special classes for older marginalised girls and those with learning challenges.</li> <li>• Increasing number of married and parenting marginalised girls accessing literacy centres and educational programmes.</li> <li>• Increase in number of classes offered at times convenient for marginalised girls' work schedules.</li> <li>• Increase in number and utilization of childcare services / crèches located at literacy centres and second chance education programmes or formal schools.</li> <li>• Increase in opportunities for the inclusion of sexuality education and life skills training for marginalised girls at literacy centres and in second chance education programmes.</li> </ul>

3	Ameliorate the impact of current barriers in the implementation of the free universal basic education programme and remove the hidden costs to schooling beyond tuition fees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elimination or reduction of school uniform requirements for marginalised girls or provision of discounted or free uniforms.</li> <li>• Introduction of school feeding programme/ provision of in-school meals for marginalised girls.</li> <li>• Increased provision of discounted or free transport to education / learning centres.</li> <li>• Increased provision of discounted textbooks and learning materials to enrolled marginalised girls.</li> </ul>
4	Ensure equitable location of literacy centres, second-chance education programmes, public primary and secondary schools, in urban slum communities and hard-to-reach rural areas across the 3 (three) senatorial districts with particular attention to serving areas where a high population of marginalised adolescent girls reside.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of literacy centres and education programmes located near high populations of marginalised girls in the 3 (three) senatorial districts of the state.</li> <li>• Increase in number of public primary and secondary schools located near concentrations of marginalised girls in the 3 (three) senatorial districts of the state.</li> </ul>
5	Integrate literacy and numeracy training opportunities into the operations of vocational training programmes and skills acquisition centres.	Increase in number of literacy and numeracy programmes at established vocational training and skills acquisition centres.
6	Integrate ICT training into existing Lagos State literacy programme and vocational skills training curricula for marginalised adolescent girls to enhance their social engagement and competitiveness in the market space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of basic ICT modules in state literacy programme and advanced ICT courses at vocational training and skills acquisition centres.</li> <li>• Increase in the physical infrastructure (computers, internet connectivity, alternative power supply, etc.) at all literacy, vocational training and skills acquisition centres.</li> </ul>

## Priority Area: Health

Strategic Objective – Every marginalised adolescent girl has access to comprehensive health care that includes sexual and reproductive health information, life skills, and services to achieve optimal wellbeing.

S/N	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	INDICATORS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS
1	Mobilize and educate communities to change harmful norms and practices such as unprotected sexual intercourse that risks HIV/AIDS and STDs, child marriage, early childbearing, and female genital mutilation.	Increase in awareness programmes in marginalised community marketplaces to discourage harmful practices.
2	Sensitize critical community stakeholders on girls' vulnerability and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) challenges; and the importance of providing youth-friendly and girl-friendly health services within marginalised communities.	Increase in awareness programmes in marginalised community marketplaces to educate community members on the vulnerability of adolescent girls.  Increase in awareness programmes in marginalised community marketplaces to promote utilization of adolescent-friendly SRH services.
3	Enlighten girls and boys in marginalised communities on their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).	Increase in youth-targeted sensitization programmes in marginalised communities such as peer educator training and performances.
4	Build health personnel's capacity to provide adolescent-friendly health services that meet the needs of MAGs.	Increase in number of training programmes on adolescent-friendly health service provision.
5	Locate youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services in proximity of marginalised communities with expertise to meet the needs of MAGs.	Increase in number of SRHS facilities located in close proximity to marginalised communities.  Increase in number of marginalised adolescent girls accessing SRH services that meet their needs in facilities in their communities.

6	Engage clinical social workers in PHCs and non-clinical social workers to serve the needs of marginalised adolescent girls in slum communities and hard-to-reach areas.	Creation and increased distribution of contact list for all social workers serving marginalised girls.
8	Provide Alternative Emergency Transportation (AET) to serve marginalised areas in cases of obstetric, gynaecological, and other medical emergencies. (Keke Marwa/Keke NAPEP, or motorized canoes for riverine communities)	Decrease in the incidence of morbidity and mortality resulting from delays in accessing service for obstetric, gynaecological, and other medical emergencies.
9	Implement programmes to sustain delivery of girl-friendly health services to marginalised adolescent girls in communities.	Creation of partnerships with private sector to provide long-term funding for health service provision.
10	Building capacity of PHC Staff, community health extension workers, skilled birth attendants, social workers to deliver SRH services for marginalised adolescent girls.	Increase in number of capacity-building programmes for staff that provide a comprehensive range of SRH services to marginalised girls.
11	Collaborate with Schools of Community Health (Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Lagos State University Teaching Hospital) to post residents to PHCs that serve marginalised adolescent girls.	Increase in numbers of resident doctors posted from LUTH and LASUTH to marginalised adolescent girls-serving PHCs.

## Priority Area: Economic Livelihood

Strategic Objective – Every marginalised adolescent girl has capabilities to access economic opportunities and sustainable means of securing the basic necessities of life, including food, shelter, and clothing.

S/N	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	INDICATORS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS
1	Promote economic empowerment interventions that driven by data collected from MAG research mechanism, especially entrepreneurship, capacity-building, and employment programmes that are grounded in real market needs and opportunities.	Increase in context-driven interventions and programmes in marginalised community marketplaces.
2	Improve access for educationally disadvantaged and marginalised adolescent girls' to state-operated Skills Acquisition Centre (SAC) and Agriculture Youth Empowerment Scheme (Agric-YES) programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of policy documents specifying minimum qualifications for entry into SAC and Agric-YES programmes.</li> <li>• Increase in MAGs enrolment in SAC and Agric-YES programmes.</li> </ul>
3	Provide accelerated learning opportunities for MAGs that empower them with skills to succeed in the workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of guided apprenticeships and internships targeted at marginalised girls.</li> <li>• Increase in proportion of learners enrolled in established state government vocational skills training centres who are marginalised adolescent girls.</li> </ul>
4	Increase budget allocation to support livelihood programmes, life skills, and marketable income-generating vocational training programmes for marginalised adolescent girls in Lagos State.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review budgetary allocation for programmes for marginalised girls.</li> <li>• Increase in budgetary allocation for programmes for marginalised girls.</li> <li>• Identification of additional funding sources for funding marginalised girls' programmes.</li> </ul>



5	Sustain the approval of annual budget lines for programming to meet the needs of marginalised adolescent girls in Lagos State.	Demonstration of lawmakers' commitment to endorsing funding for programmes that support marginalised girls in Lagos State.
6	Locate skills acquisition and agricultural demonstration centres within and in close proximity to marginalised communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in skills acquisition and agricultural demonstration centres in marginalised communities.</li> <li>• Establishment of requirement for new centres to be located in places of need.</li> </ul>
7	Establish platforms to connect marginalised adolescent girls to established female entrepreneurs in the community who can employ them and guide them into entrepreneurship and provide value chain preparedness in their relevant sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of career fairs and networking events for marginalised girls to meet potential employers and mentors.</li> <li>• Increase in number of mentors supporting marginalised adolescent girls.</li> </ul>
8	Foster new partnerships with private sector businesses to engage marginalised adolescent girls in their sector's value chain.	Increase in number of opportunities provided to marginalised girls in private sector, including training, job apprenticeship, and employment

Priority Area: Social Protection

Strategic Objective – Every marginalised adolescent girl lives free of poverty, discrimination and violence, in a safe and secure environment where her fundamental rights are protected.

S/N	STRATEGIC ACTIONS	INDICATORS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS
1	Facilitate the process of securing proper identification by marginalised adolescent girls to improve their ability to access critical services and exercise their rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in birth registration and procurement of national identity cards among marginalised girls.</li> <li>• Increase in property ownership, education enrolment, gainful employment, bank accounts ownership, and voting among marginalised girls.</li> </ul>
2	Sustain the exemplary policy and legal frameworks that exist to protect adolescent girls from violence and discrimination, and strengthen their enforcement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in numbers of reported cases of violation of marginalised girls' rights.</li> <li>• Increase in number of adolescent girls who can confidently state knowledge of their rights, the laws protecting those rights, and the sources of free protection services available to them in their communities.</li> <li>• Increase in utilization of public services such as the police and other security agencies, and the office of the public defender by marginalised girls.</li> <li>• Increase in number of community-based clubs on prevention of gender-based violence (including members who are men and boys) that take action to promote and protect adolescent girls.</li> </ul>
3	Remove obstacles that prevent marginalised girls from accessing help through the justice system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of rights-based education programmes targeted at marginalised girls.</li> <li>• Increase in number of legal professionals trained to work with marginalised girls.</li> <li>• Increase in support networks to help marginalised adolescent girls when faced with violation of their rights.</li> </ul>

4	Increase awareness of the laws and legal protections adolescent girls are granted under the law in Lagos State.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the number of legal rights sensitization programmes targeted at members of marginalised communities.</li> <li>• Increase in proportion of reported cases of violence against marginalised adolescent girls.</li> <li>• Increase in number of prosecutions due to violence against marginalised girls and other infringement upon their rights.</li> </ul>
5	Foster increased advocacy among relevant stakeholders and establish cross-sectorial partnerships to design and implement social protection interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of agencies and private organizations involved in protecting the rights of marginalised adolescent girls.</li> <li>• Increase in number of organizations displaying rights based information resources on their premises such as pamphlets and posters.</li> </ul>
6	Mainstream issues affecting marginalised adolescent girls across line ministries/sectors to promote best practices in programming to meet their needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of agency staff trained on the intersection of adolescence and gender to address marginalised girls' needs.</li> <li>• Increase in number of marginalised adolescent girls reached by interventions providing GBV protection and response services.</li> </ul>
7	Ensure adequate water and sanitation facilities to assure girls' privacy, menstrual hygiene needs; and protection from vulnerability to sexual assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in number of water and sanitation facilities designed to ensure girls' safety.</li> <li>• Improvements in water supply system that bring clean water closer to marginalised communities.</li> <li>• Increase in time available/ freed-up for marginalized girls to pursue education, economic activities, recreational and other community development activities</li> </ul>

## SUPPORTING BOYS TO BUILD A NEW REALITY

Lessons from programmes for marginalized adolescent girls' empowerment around the world underscore the need to pay deliberate attention the role of boys and young men. Unfortunately, the discourse usually focuses on boys and men as the perpetrators of injustice against girls and women, without acknowledging that boys also experience the negative impact of poverty and gender inequitable norms.

Often times, boys and men are under tremendous pressure to conform to society's perceptions of manhood so that they are not considered 'weak' or ridiculed. They are affected by peer pressure to use alcohol, drug or even express their power and show that they are in control by raping girls or coercing them to succumb to their sexual advances.

Because boys and young men are socialized as 'leaders' and 'breadwinners', when situations arise and they are unable to play these roles or function in these capacities, they may become angry, frustrated or abusive because of the perception that this makes them less than boys and men.

Therefore, it is important to engage boys and men with building a new reality, in such a way that it is enhancing, not diminishing, the work to empower girls and women. To promote gender equitable norms among boys and young men, opportunities need to be created to:

1. Change attitudes and perceptions about what it means to be a man, healthy relationships, violence against women and girls, HIV/AIDS and conflict resolution;
2. Identify young men who have the ability to promote gender-equitable values to serve as role models and mentors to promote change;
3. Support boys' capacity for self-actualization that does not rely on the subjugation and violation of girls and women;
4. Promote the ideals that a really strong boy or man listens to and respects the views of a girl/woman, and sees her as a full human being, while also understanding that it is not an admittance of weakness to talk about his challenges and seek non-violent ways of resolving them.

*four:*

**FRAMEWORK FOR  
PARTNERSHIP AND  
COLLABORATION**

The successful implementation of this strategy for the empowerment of marginalised adolescent girls will require strong partnerships between government, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships will be built upon the principles and values of a shared vision, and shared goals in which the assets and capacities of marginalised adolescent girls can be mobilized, and their rights respected.



EDUCATION SECTOR	
Collaborating Partner	Roles and Responsibilities
Ministry of Education	Developed Curriculum (Implementation) Provide infrastructure Staffing (quality control) Learning and teaching Measurement and evaluation
Agency for Mass Literacy	Developed Curriculum (Implementation) Provide infrastructure Staffing (quality control) Learning and teaching Measurement and evaluation
Community Development Associations (CDA)	Sensitization Mobilisation Prompt if a child is out of school (Yellow Card)
Local Government Education Authority	Ensure children of school age are in school/ learning centres and enforce enrolment.
Local Government and LGEA	Supervision and Support
Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget	Creation of budget line for implementation
Education Sector NGOs and Development Partners	Technical and financial support

## HEALTH SECTOR

Collaborating Partner	Roles and Responsibilities
Ministry of Health	Provide framework
Primary Health Care Board (PHCB)	Regulates primary health care centres- accessible, acceptable and affordable
Local Government Health Authority (LGHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enforce/supervise coordination of health services</li> <li>• Environmental issues- roads, sewage</li> </ul>
Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• Protection</li> </ul>
Ministry of Youth and Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling</li> <li>• Social workers</li> <li>• Technical support</li> </ul>
Health Sector NGOs and Development Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical and financial support</li> <li>• Training and exchange programmes</li> </ul>
Traditional Medicine Board	Register Traditional Birth Attendants and regulate their activities
Sexual Violence Response Team Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to gender-based violence cases</li> <li>• Train health workers</li> <li>• Provide legal services</li> <li>• Counsel families</li> </ul>



ECONOMIC LIVELIHOOD SECTOR	
Collaborating Partner	Roles and Responsibilities
Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide framework, infrastructure</li> <li>• Technical backstopping</li> </ul>
Lagos Technical and Vocational Education Board(LASTVEB)	Provide technical human resource needs
Ministry of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Empowerment</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Provision of agricultural implements</li> </ul>
Financial Institutions: • LASMI, Microfinance and Commercial Banks	Loans and funds for empowerment
Economic/ Livelihoods Sector NGOs and Development Partners	Technical and financial support Training and apprenticeship programmes
Private Sector Businesses, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement in sector's value chain.</li> <li>• Training, job apprenticeship, and employment</li> </ul>
Individual Philanthropists	Support empowerment programmes
Ministry of Commerce, Industries and Cooperatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of girls/young women cooperatives</li> <li>• Seed Loans, Training</li> </ul>
Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget	Creation of budget line for implementation

## SOCIAL PROTECTION SECTOR

Collaborating Partners	Roles and Responsibilities
Ministry of Justice Security Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Watch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal framework; Prosecution of offenders</li> <li>• Enforce laws made</li> </ul>
Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide social security</li> <li>• Facilitate intervention programs</li> </ul>
Ministry of Information	Dissemination of security information
Lagos State Urban Renewal Authority (LASURA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of slum communities</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Provision of basic social infrastructure</li> </ul>
Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development	Mapping of the communities
Non-Governmental Organisations and Development Partners	Social protection initiatives technical assistance and financial support
Community Development Associations (CDAs)	Compliance and referrals
Faith Based Organisations (FBOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Awareness raising Interventions</li> </ul>
Ministry of Environment	Liveable cities
Local Government and Community Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination</li> <li>• Mobilisation</li> </ul>
Ministry of Information	Community awareness creation
Ministry of Youth and Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correctional Centres, Youth Social and Care Support</li> <li>• Counselling</li> </ul>

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