



Women's Economic Empowerment in Nigeria:

A critical look at Access to Financial Services



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"The economic and social imperative for women's economic empowerment is clear. Greater gender equality boosts economic growth and leads to better development outcomes. It contributes to reducing income inequality and boosting economic diversification and, in turn, supports economic resilience."

"Narrowing participation gaps between women and men is likely to deliver large economic gains"

~IMF

Acknowledgement

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- We would like to acknowledge the 11 Women Economic Collective leaders from Kano, Kwara, Bauchi, Lagos, Edo and Enugu who contributed insights to this project.

(See appendix for details).



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Purpose & Scope Of This Report

The purpose of this report is to assess women economic empowerment in Nigeria focusing on women's access and use of financial services as well as highlighting opportunities for women's economic empowerment.

The scope of women's economic empowerment in this report is on

- Socio economic activities (income, education & technology use)
- Access to resources (physical, social and financial)
- Access to and use of financial services
- Financial health and capability
- Autonomy
- Participation in community (labour, political etc)

The insights shared in this report is based on secondary data analysis using the Access to Financial Services in Nigeria 2020 survey dataset, desk research, and key informant interviews with women economic collective leaders across interest states in Nigeria.

A group of women in Nigeria are working together to process a large fish, likely for export or sale, in an outdoor setting. The women are wearing traditional headwraps and casual clothing. One woman in a red shirt and blue headwrap is holding the fish up, while others are looking on. The background shows a building with a corrugated metal roof and some trees.

WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN NIGERIA

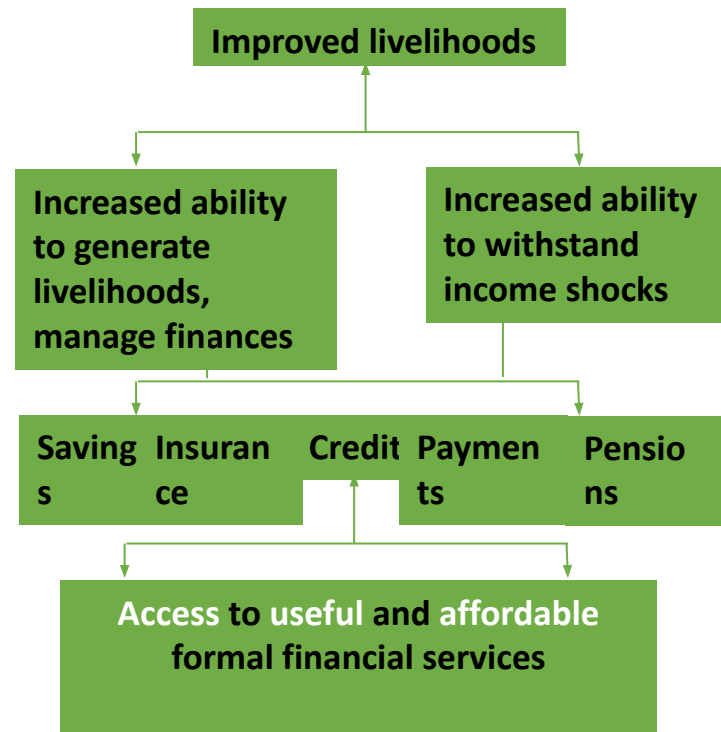
Introduction

- An increase in women's economic empowerment can increase women's bargaining power within their household, increase their participation in economic activities and improve their livelihood (UN Women, 2018). The SDGs 5 and 8 renewed the global commitment to gender equality and women empowerment; including women's economic empowerment, as a major human right and development goal.
- Despite evidence that empowering women can result in benefits for societies at large, and, Africa entered the new African Women's decade on Financial and Economic Inclusion of African Women 2020-2030 progress on gender equality and women's empowerment particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has been far too slow and will require concerted efforts to achieve (AU, 2020)
- According to EFInA's Access to financial services in Nigeria (A2F) 2020 survey, women in Nigeria are underrepresented in formal wage employment requiring higher education & specialized skills and overrepresented in vulnerable/informal employment. The majority of women in Nigeria lack access to healthcare, education, water and sanitation, financial services, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT), all of which are necessary for economic growth. The traditional involvement of Nigerian women in subsistence-level activities essentially means they are historically equipped with entrepreneurial skills; know-how, and experience that can be leveraged for inclusive growth and lasting national prosperity.
- Nigeria's future growth prospect is therefore irrevocably tied to the status of its women and its ability to adequately leverage their considerable economic potential.

Empirical evidence points towards two main pathways between financial inclusion and improved livelihoods – a resilience pathway, which ameliorates and manages the effects of shocks; and an opportunity pathway which generates new prospects for income and employment

Access to formal financial services 'facilitates day-to-day living, and helps families and businesses plan for everything from long-term goals to unexpected emergencies. Individuals are more likely to use formal financial services, such as credit and insurance, to start and expand businesses, invest in education or health, manage risk, and weather financial shocks, which can improve the overall quality of their lives' (World Bank, 2022)

Theory of Change

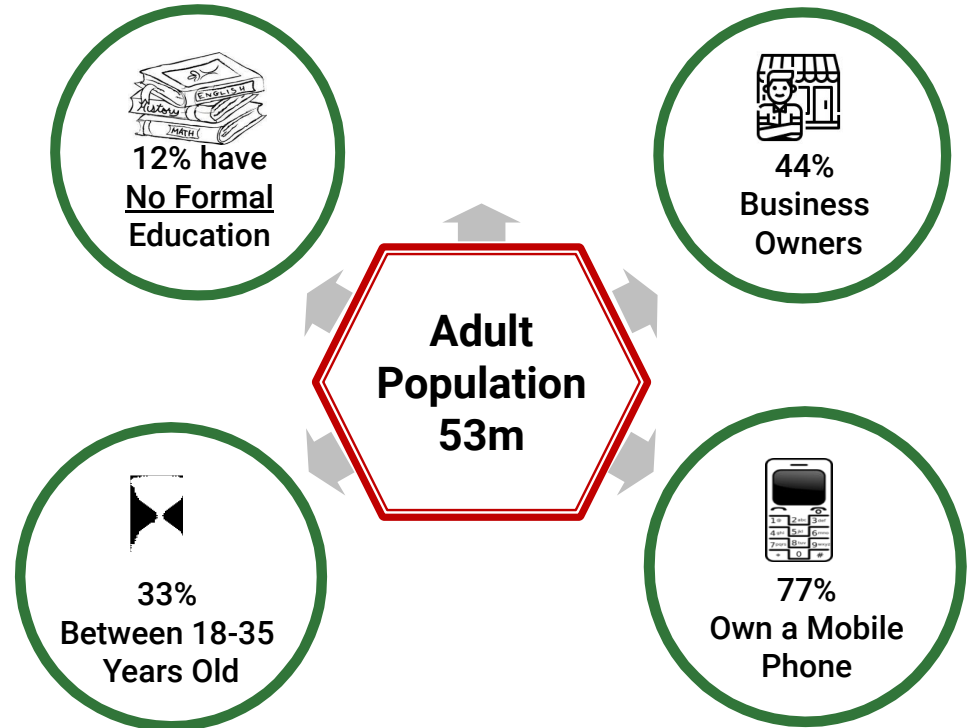


Nigeria has a high rural, youthful & dependent women population with implication for financial inclusion and economic empowerment

The population of Nigerian adult women (18 years and above) is 53 million.

Of this adult population:

- 13m (26%) live in South-West
- 12m (23%) live in the North-West
- 6m (12%) have no formal education
- 23m (44%) are business owners
- 33m (61%) live in rural areas
- 17m (32%) are dependants



RESEARCH APPROACH

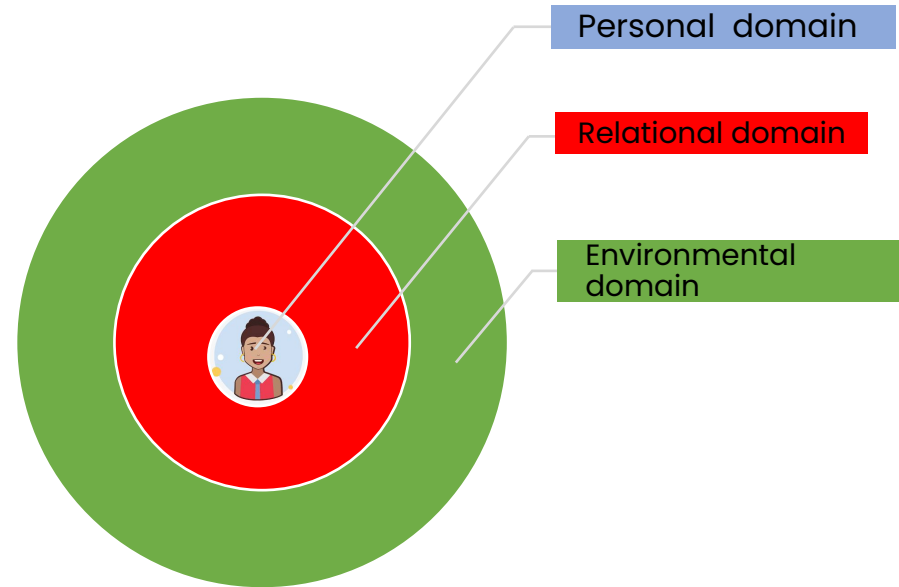
Defining Women's Economic Empowerment

How We Define Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE)

- Our definition of women's economic empowerment is adopted from the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW): A woman is economically empowered when she has access to *skills, resources, and institutions* she needs to succeed and advance economically as well as the *power to make and act on economic decisions including the control of personal and household resources*.
- WEE focuses on women's ability to gain access and control over productive resources and be recognized as fully participating economic actors.
- Women's empowerment is more comprehensive than WEE alone, as it encompasses the process towards realizing a wider set of women's political, economic, and social rights.
- This report does not address women empowerment as a whole or the ongoing debate regarding how best to capture the concept of WEE. Instead, it focuses on the current state of WEE in Nigeria with a detailed look at women's access to finance and the potential ways to address WEE.

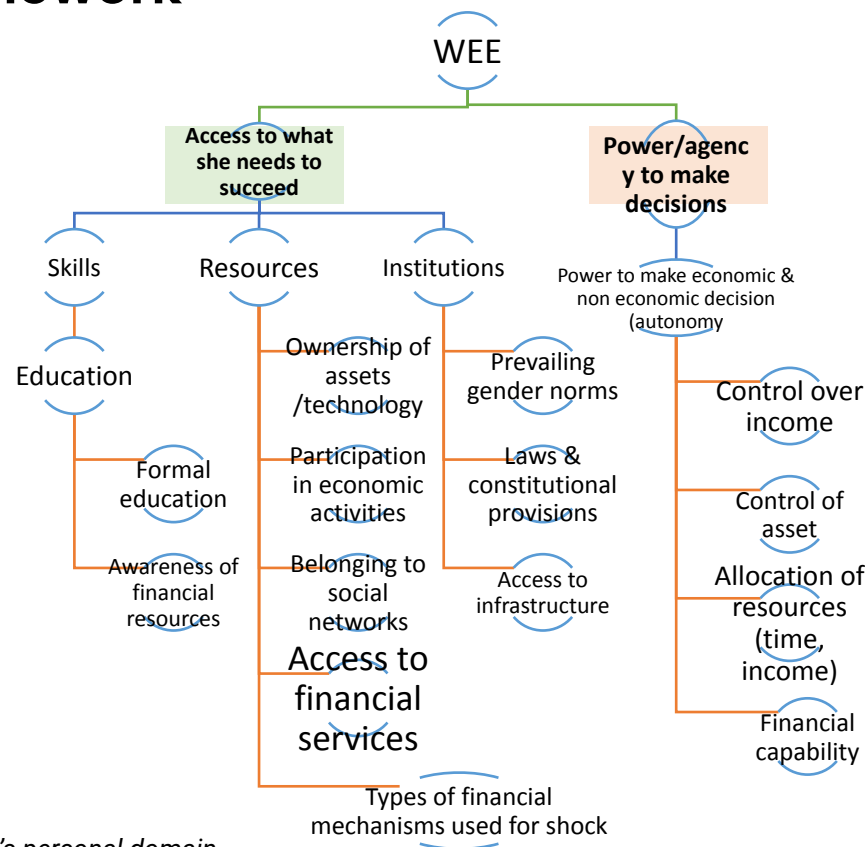
Adopted Framework (indicators/domains) for Women's Economic Empowerment

- The personal domain relates to women's individual knowledge, educational attainment, level of literacy, participation in economic activities, access to human & social resources, access to technology, access to & use of financial services, autonomy.
- The relational domain relates to the attitudes and norms of people within women's lives and the enterprises they interact with, including participation in women collectives, involvement in household decision making, spousal control over asset, time & work.
- The environmental domain relates to the broader social and political structures in the public space which impact women's empowerment – gender norms, labour participation, laws & policies fostering gender discrimination.



This tool aims to provide a context-specific composite index for the measurement of women's empowerment. While the framework itself remains constant, the specific characteristics and relevant indicators of empowerment are defined differently in each evaluation to enable users to build a context specific composite index.

Analytical framework



WEE indicators within the women's personal domain

A woman wearing a purple patterned headscarf and a white sleeveless top is filling a large blue plastic jerrycan from a public water tap. The water is spraying out of the tap, creating a large, dynamic splash. In the background, a young child is partially visible, looking towards the camera. The scene is set outdoors with trees and foliage in the background, suggesting a rural or semi-rural environment. The lighting is bright, indicating it might be late afternoon or early morning.

PERSONAL DOMAIN IN WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Despite the Universal Education Act, the girl child continues to face tremendous challenges to attain secondary education

- One key policy trend in the evolution of education policies is the distinct shift towards mainly free universal education, especially for primary and early secondary education. The 2004 Universal Education Act enshrines this right and also includes pre-primary education. By making education free (at least in intent) the government showed a policy commitment to equality of opportunity.
- However, Nigeria still has the highest number of out of school children in Africa - over 10m. The girl child remains over-represented in this population (6.3m) - nearly 2 out of 3 are girls
- There are several factors that undermine secondary education for the girl child e.g. distance to school, cost/levies, cost of education, bullying & sexual harassment, the onset of puberty, early sexual debut or marriage, poverty, social norms against girl's education, etc

	Boys	Girls
Primary Enrolment	62%	59%
Secondary Enrolment	52%	47%

(NDHS, 2018)

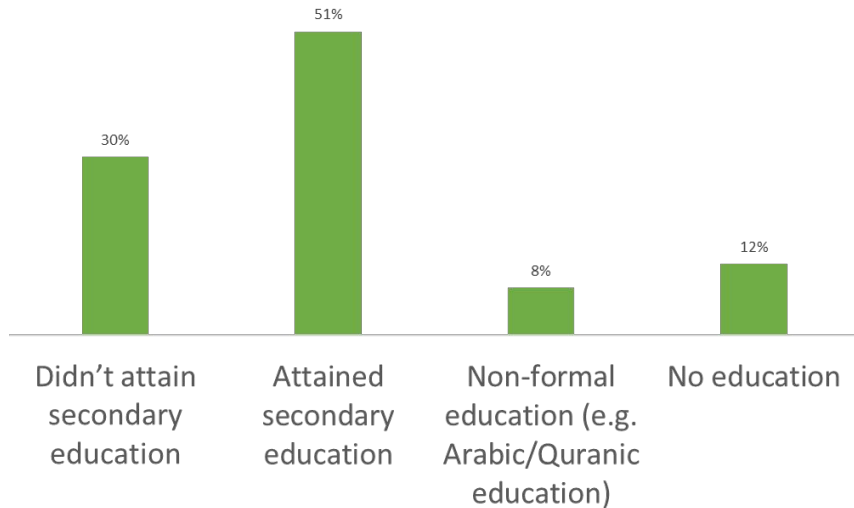
*59% of school-age girls (6-12years) in Nigeria attend primary school

*47% of school-age girls (13-18 years) in Nigeria attend secondary school

Net attendance ratio (NAR) Percentage of the school-age population that attends primary or secondary school. Sample: Children age 6-12 for primary school NAR and children age 13-18 for secondary school NAR

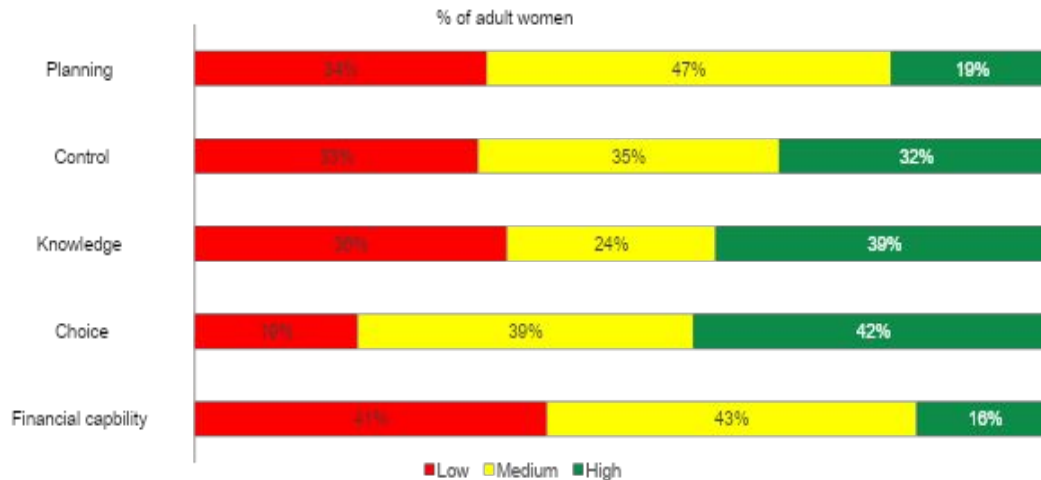
About 51% of adult women have attained secondary education. Women who live in urban areas have more chances at attaining secondary education

Women's highest level of education attained (% of adult women)



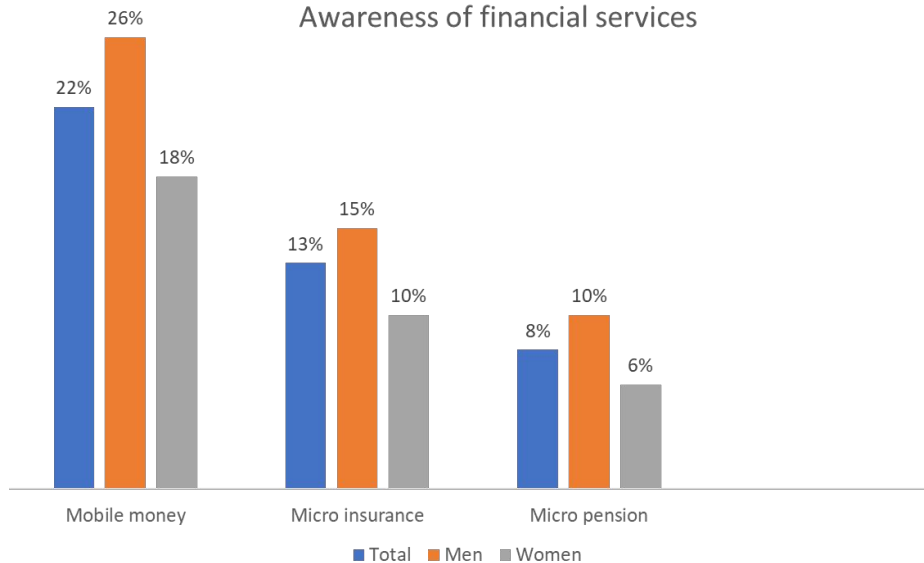
- 1 out of every 2 women have attained secondary education or above
- 43% of adult women are unable to fluently speak the official language – English. 1 out of every 2 cannot read and write English (EFInA 2020)
- Most women living in urban areas (68%) have attained secondary education
- Even among young girls (15 – 17) years, 67% have not attained secondary education
- Nearly half of women (47%) compared to nearly one-quarter (28%) of men are illiterate, meaning they cannot read (NDHS, 2018)

Women were less likely to have the necessary knowledge/skills to plan, budget finance, and choose financial products to satisfy their needs



- **Planning** – plan, save & invest
- **Control** – budget & track funds
- **Knowledge** – numerical knowledge and understanding of financial terms & conditions
- **Choice** – can evaluate financial products & services and lodge a complaint if not satisfied
- **Financial capability** is an average of the financial planning, financial control, knowledge and skills and making financial choices dimensions.

Women generally lack knowledge of the financial options available to them.



- There are several financial products and services that women can leverage to cushion liquidity distress and save for their future
- However, women generally lack knowledge of the financial options available to them.
 - This could be that promotions of these products and services are not targeted at women
 - They don't understand the benefits of these product
- Furthermore, the cost of accessing this information (measured in money, time, and energy) may be high due to family responsibilities.
- There are opportunities to bridge these gap by leveraging on technology (mobile phones) to increase awareness of financial products and services.

Nigerian women are predominantly business owners and significantly under-represented in formal salaried wage employment



	Formal sector	Informal sector	Farming	Business owners	Dependents
Categories	Salary/wages from a business/company (formal sector)	Salary/wages from an individual with own business (informal sector), from an individual for chores such as domestic chores or farm labour	Subsistence/ small scale farming, Commercial/ large scale farming	Own business/trader - farming products, non farming products, agricultural inputs, provide a service	Get money from household member, family & friends
% of women population (53 million)	5%	7%	12%	44%	32%

Some of the reasons why women engage in income-generating ventures include: improving their standard of living, providing for the family, becoming financially independent, personal interests, earn a living, and increasing their self-esteem (Falola *et al*, 2020)

A substantial proportion of Nigerian women are business owners in the following sectors

Nearly 2 in 5 adult women have 'investing in business' as a financial need they are currently trying to meet



Agriculture 21%



Trade 39%



Service 45%

- There are several motivations why women start businesses which could range from generating income to supporting themselves and their families, achieving a work-life balance, lack of formal job opportunities, personal satisfaction etc. (Carranza *et al.*, 2018)
- The motivations for these businesses have the potential to influence the growth of these businesses and interest to scale the business

For majority of Nigerian women, the size, frequency and cash-based nature of their income makes them vulnerable and threatens their resilience

Mode of income	77% women received their income through cash (A2F, 2020)
Frequency of income	Women received their income in the following frequency (A2F, 2020) Daily - 44%, Weekly - 22% Monthly - 16% Annually - 4% Seasonally/occasionally/upon job completion - 14%
Unpaid labour	Still, 15% of working women and 8% of men are not paid for their work (NDHS, 2018)
Resilience	47% think it's not possible at all to come up with 45,000 Naira in 7 days to meet a sudden need (A2F, 2020)
Total monthly income	33% had a personal average total monthly income from all sources (salaries, pension and income from investment) below 15,000 per month. An additional one-third are dependents (A2F, 2020)

3 out of every 4 women own a mobile phone but only 1 out of these women are comfortable using smartphone

Technology can be leveraged as a tool to raise awareness of financial services and deliver these services to women



77% own a Mobile phone
10% use a Mobile phone belonging to someone else or is shared



28% of women are very comfortable using smartphones

Although women own both feature & smartphones phones, their low level of education can limit usage and they often rely on their (more literate) men for support



20% own a smartphone – which is able to access the internet, send and receive emails, and is capable of downloading apps. It is likely to have a touch screen



16% own feature phone which is able to access the internet, send and receive emails, store and play music but is not able to download apps



56% own basic phone which is only capable of voice calling and SMS

“Most women in core agriculturist communities do not know how to operate their phones. So, they used their sons or husbands account number to collect money “... Excerpts from a discussion with a WEC leader from Enugu state

Men are more than three times as likely to own a house or land as women



Ownership of physical capital

- Agricultural land – 27%
- Land – 21%
- House/dwelling they reside in – 27%
- Livestock – 27%
- Other property – 12%

Women are saving through these physical assets

- buildings (19%)
- land (22%)
- farming/agric./livestock (34%)
- Jewellery (gold, coins) 5%
- mutual funds/ shares/fixed deposits (2%)

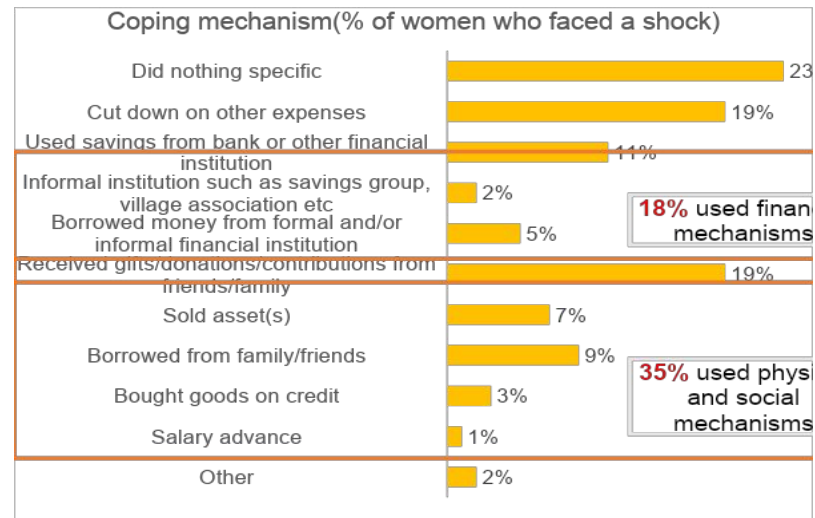
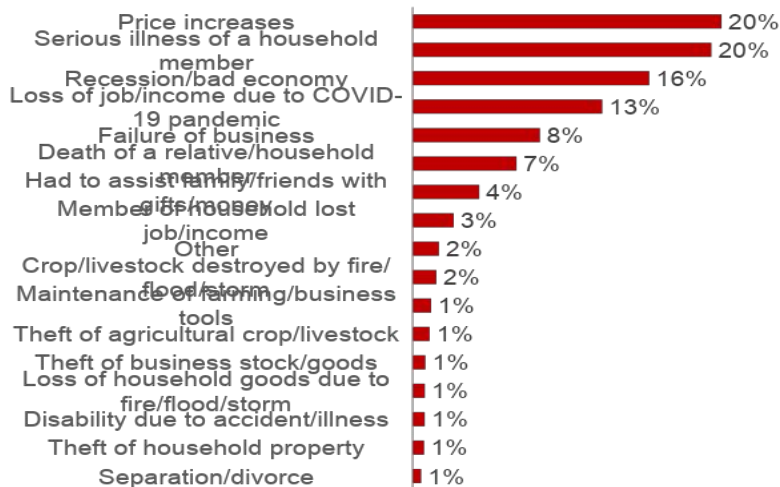
- Ownership of property increases with age among both women and men
- By zone, house ownership among women is highest in the South East (27%) and lowest in the North West (4%)

(NDHS, 2018)

Legal regulations and customary rules often restrict women's access to and control over assets that can be accepted as collateral, such as land or livestock. Women are less likely to have land titled under their name, even when their families own land, and are less likely than men to have control over land, even when they do formally own it. Biased inheritance rights often bestow land to male relatives, leaving both widows and daughters at a disadvantage (Agarwal, 2003).

Although 3 in 4 Nigerian women experienced a financial shock in 2020, only 18% leveraged financial mechanisms as a resource to meet these needs

- Women were more likely to cut down on expenses (7.6million), do nothing (6.7million), sell assets (3.8 million) than use savings (3.5million) to cope with these crises
- 13.2 million women rely on physical and social mechanisms, while 6.8million rely on formal and informal mechanisms to cope with financial distress



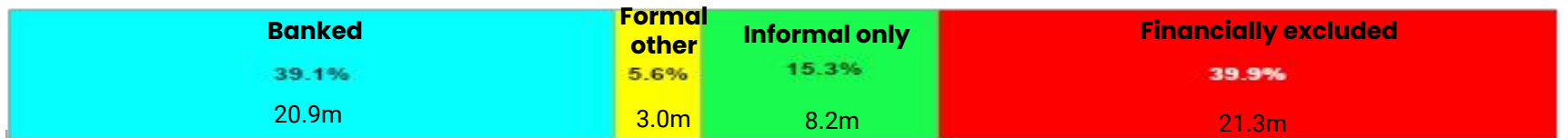
Nearly half of Nigerian women (23.9 million) now use formal financial services

- About 39% of Nigerian women have a bank account, up from 33% in 2018
- About 32 million women remain unbanked – without a bank account
- The high use of informal financial services also presents an opportunity to drive women economic empowerment leveraging on the strong social capital available in these informal channels

60.0% Financially served

39.9% Financially excluded

44.7% Formally included



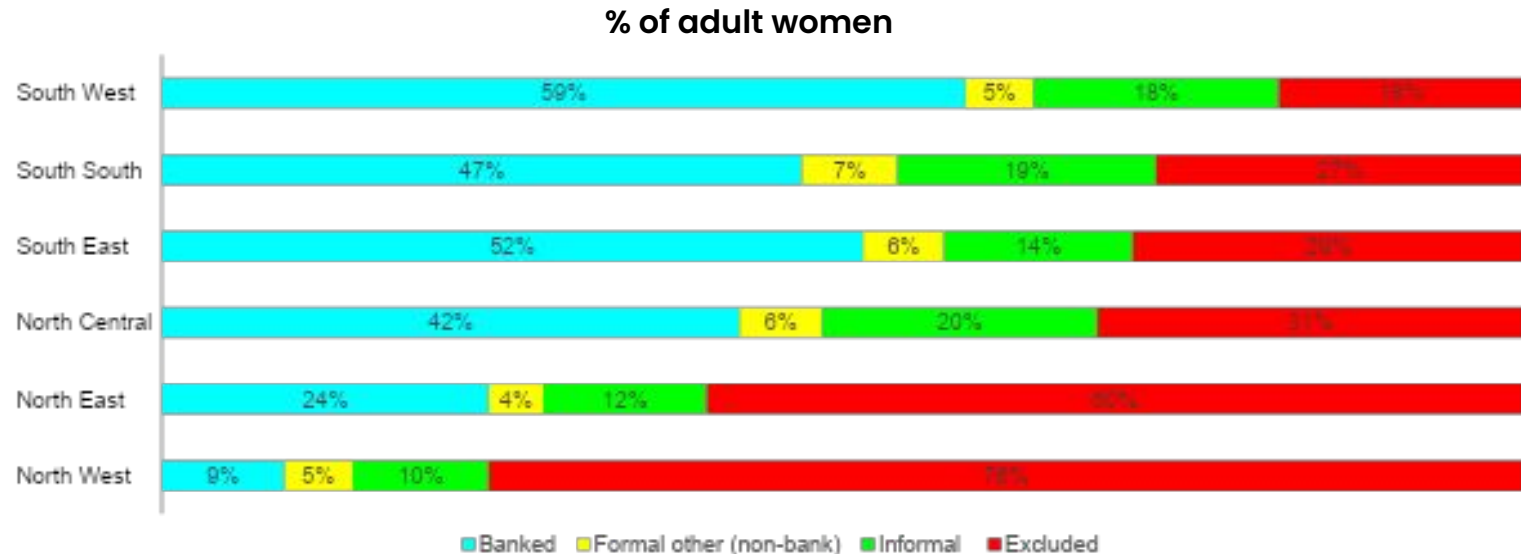
These four strands are mutually exclusive

53m

- ❑ Banked: adults who have access to or use of deposit money bank, in addition to having/using a traditional banking products such as ATM card, credit card, savings account, current account, fixed deposit account, mortgage, overdraft, loan from a bank or Islamic banking products
- ❑ Formal other :all adults who have access to or use of other formal institutions and financial products not supplied by deposit money banks including insurance companies, microfinance bank, pension schemes or shares. It also include remittance through formal channels
- ❑ Informal only: all adults who do not have any banked or formal other products but have access to or use only informal services and products. This includes savings clubs/pools, esusu, ajo or money lenders; as well as remittance through informal channels such as transport service or recharge card
- ❑ Financially excluded: adults who are not in the banked, formal other or informal only categories even though the person may be using or have access to any of the following loan/gift from friends or family and loan from employers as well as remittances via a family member or friend

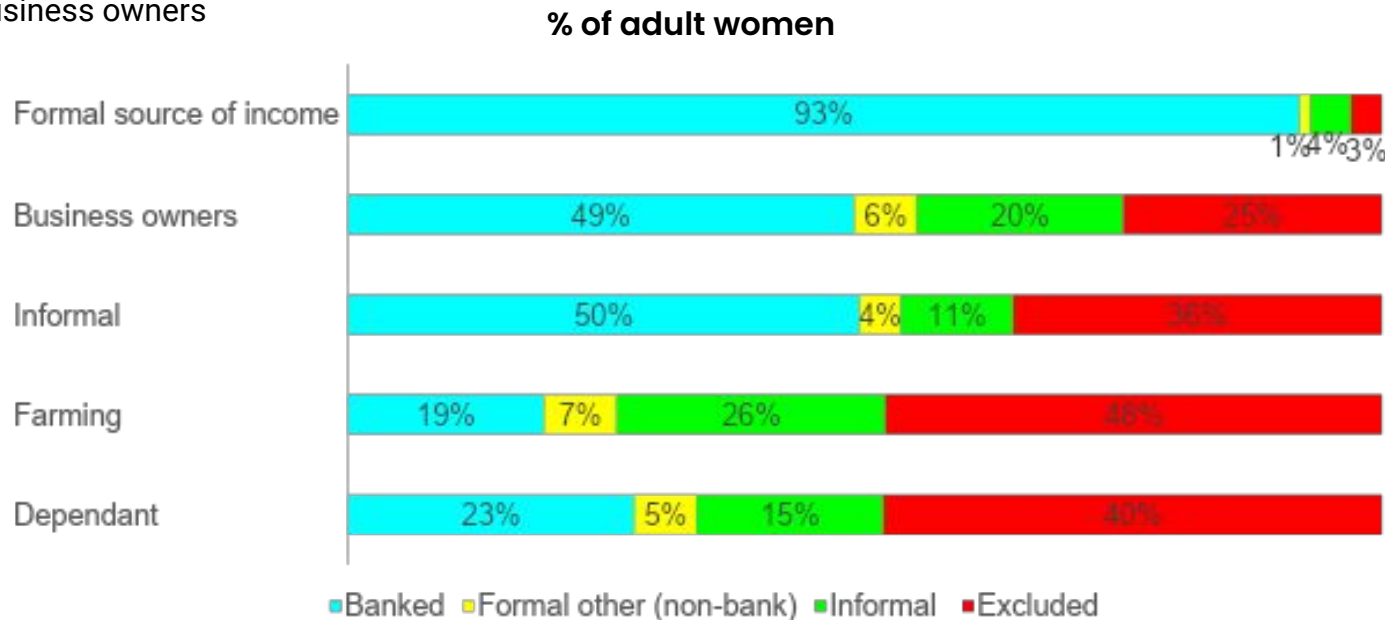
Women in Northern parts of Nigeria are more likely to be financially excluded

Increased access to formal financial services can be leveraged to drive women economic empowerment in Northern Nigeria



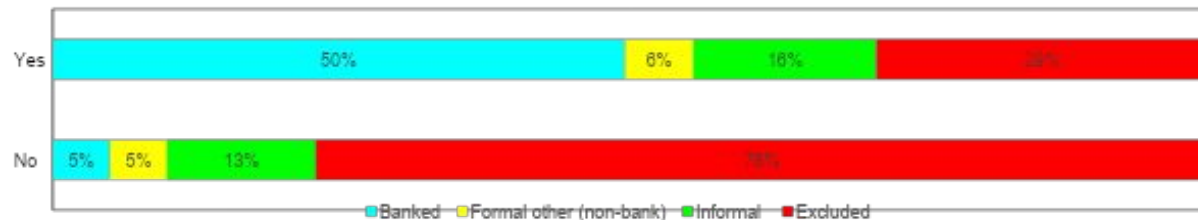
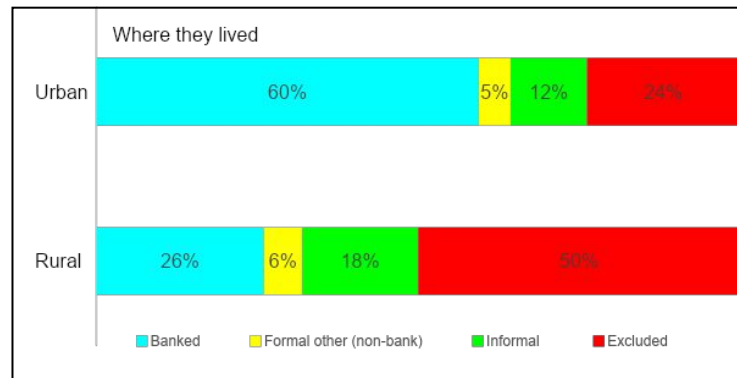
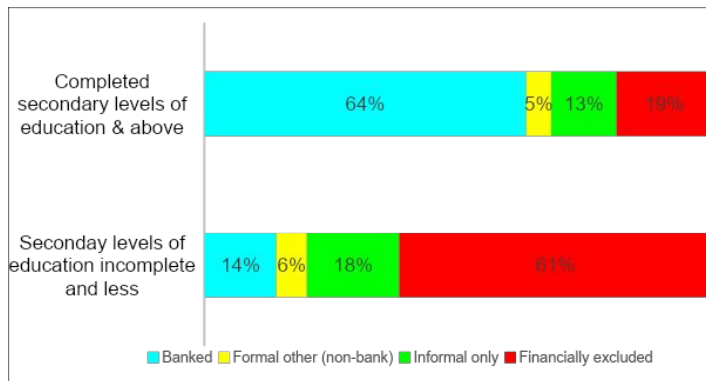
Half of the women in business do not have access to formal financial services which can provide opportunities to boost their business

Increased access to formal financial services could drive women economic empowerment for about 13 million female business owners



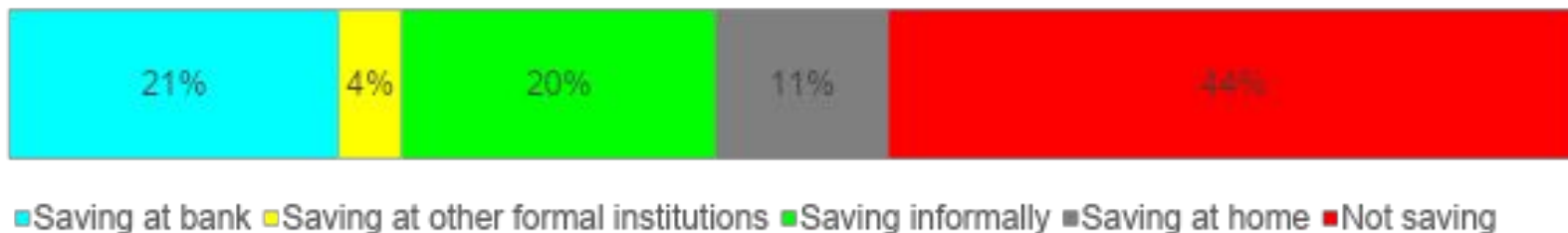
Women who have completed secondary education, live in the urban areas, had mobile phones are more likely to have access to financial services

Over 16 million rural women are financially excluded



Nearly half of Nigerian women are not saving because of limited income after expenses or being unemployed

At least 2 in 5 women are not accumulating the resources needed to boost their resilience in times of shocks or take advantage of opportunities



- Women were saving for their day-to-day household needs, school feeds/education, to cover their business expenses including expanding their business/business asset/business premises
- Other sources of savings include agriculture/livestock (34%), land (22%), and property building/house (19%)
- Most women saved weekly (34%) and monthly (33%)
- 39% women are hoping to rely on their savings to meet their needs when they are old and cannot work
- Majority of women are not saving due to having limited money to save after expenses and being unemployed
- Selected a source of savings because it was close, easy/simple to use, and quick access to their savings

Two-thirds of women are not borrowing and even when they borrow, they rely on informal groups and social networks

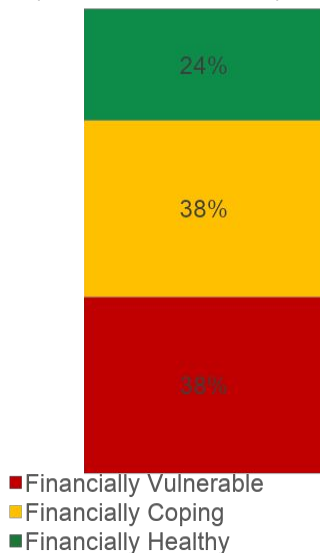
At least 2 in 5 women are not accumulating the resources needed to boost their resilience in times of shocks or take advantage of opportunities



- 23% of women have credit
- Majority are borrowing to start/expand their business (31%), Food/clothing 19%
- Borrow from family and friends (15%) & informal sources (8%)
- Reasons for borrowing from a particular source include Suitable repayment (14%), to get money as soon as possible (42%)

Only 24% of Nigerian women spend, save and manage risks in ways that allow them to be financially healthy, resilient and seize opportunities

Financial Health Indicator
(% of adult women)



Financially Healthy	% of adult population spending, saving and managing risks in a ways that allow them to be financially healthy, resilient and seize opportunities
Financially Coping	% of adult population spending, saving and managing risks in ways that they are financially coping with being resilient and seizing opportunities. Adults struggling with some, but nor necessarily all aspects of their financial lives
Financially Vulnerable	% of adult population spending, saving and managing risks in ways that make them financially vulnerable and struggling to seize opportunities. Adults struggling with all, or nearly all, aspects of their financial lives

Women's economic empowerment improves household livelihood and food security, this is evident in how she allocates her limited income to household expenditure

Falola *et al*, 2020 published a breakdown of income of rural food women entrepreneurs in Kwara state with a mean income of N15,344.65.



Food 48%



Non food allocation 52%

Personal savings, investment, rent, clothing,
children education etc

Significant factors influencing women's contribution to households' welfare in the study area were age, level of education, savings, remittances, training on entrepreneurship and access to credit (Falola *et al*, 2020)

Another study in South-East Nigeria found that increasing women's share of income raises the budget share for the different expenditure category in the household. This supports the notion intra-household resource allocation from women to men increases the household economic outcomes (Opata *et al.*, 2020)

Summary of the personal domain section

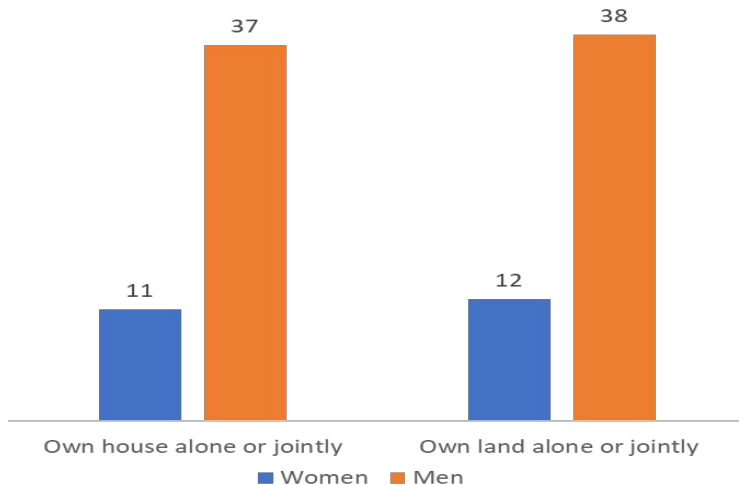
- With only half of adult Nigerian women attaining secondary education, there are about 49% of women who are not equipped with the level of education (secondary education and above) needed to improve their income and socio-economic outcome. There are several factors that have been highlighted in the report as the reasons for this low level of education among women
- Since fewer women attain higher levels of education, much fewer women succeed into formal/high skilled professions. While majority become business owners in the trade/service sector or become dependents
- The Nigerian woman is aspirational and has goals she is striving to meet whether she is a salaried worker or a business owner. Half of the business owners have no access to financial services and this is worse for other income sources (dependents, farmers, informal workers) except formal salary earners
- Access to finance becomes a huge challenge for these women as they cannot build/grow their businesses in line with their aspirations, cant access larger domestic markets and international markets, and in turn improve their economic outcomes and remain limited to small scale businesses
- Nigeria is a patriarchal society as such women are still perceived to be limited to certain types of jobs, have lesser pay than men, have limited autonomy over their income earning capacity (where they work), household monetary decision making, their health, and major household purchases. Regardless most women are striving to plan, save and manage the financial risks they face even though they are still more disadvantaged compared to men in this regard
- Unpaid work is still an issue in Nigeria and will continue to rob women of their time for rest, social interaction, and learning to better their lives without compensating their unpaid work with an income



RELATIONAL DOMAINS IN WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Women are less likely than men to own physical assets such as a house or land either alone or jointly this will most likely deter access to credit facilities

*Percentage of women and men age 15-49
by ownership of specific items*



- Women who own a house alone/jointly -11%
- Women who own land alone/jointly -12%
- Women's ownership of assets is highest in Anambra and Ebonyi states (NDHS, 2018)
- The implication of lack of land access and ownership rights have tended to compromise women's access to credit facilities, among others, due to lack of collateral. Some other implications include deterrence of investment opportunities and inhibition of land transactions that accounts for loss of gains from such transactions

Women, including those who have full-time jobs, spend disproportionate amount of hours on housework relative to men



Unpaid care work for women - average of 13 hours per day



Unpaid care work for men - average of 1 hour per day



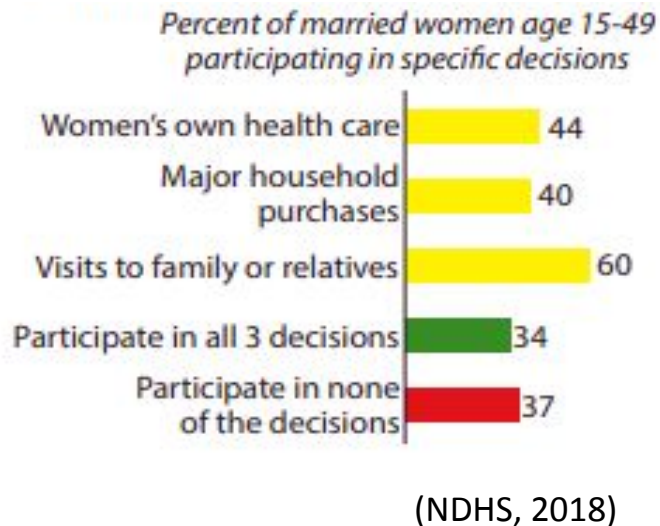
Learning, social, cultural activities, use of mass media, and other self care for women - an average of 3 hours per day



Learning, social, cultural activities, use of mass media and other self care for men – average of 7 hours per day

- Unpaid work is work that produces goods and services for household consumption, which includes collecting firewood and fuel, fetching water, cooking, cleaning and providing care for children, older persons and other dependents
- Not paying women for housework is a social norm. However, in Nigeria especially, paying a cook or maid to undertake these same chores is a natural labour market transaction.
- Unpaid care work is essential to the functioning of the economy , but often goes uncounted and unrecognized
- Women bear disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work.

Only 40% of married women had contributed to decisions regarding major household purchases

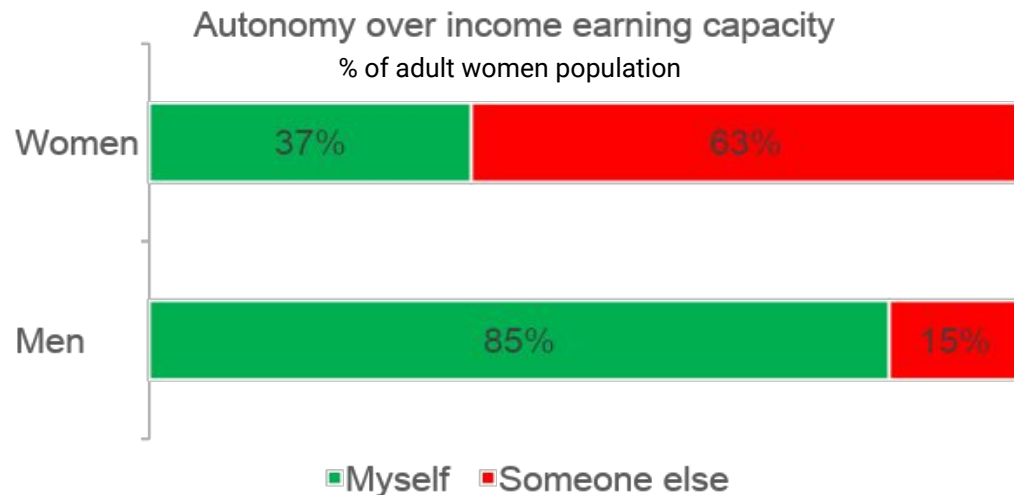


The three decisions here are

1. Woman's own health care
2. Major household purchases
3. Visit family or relatives

- According to the NDHS, 2018 participation in household decision making is an essential aspect of women's empowerment and reflects women's level of agency within their own household and environment
- The 2018 NDHS asked married women about their participation in three types of household decisions: her own health care, making major household purchases, and visits to family or relatives.
- Married women in Nigeria are most likely to have sole or joint decision-making power about visiting family or relatives (60%) and least likely to make decisions about their own health care (44%) or household purchases (40%). The proportion of women participating in major household purchases is low considering most Nigerian households are run by women
- Overall, 34% of married women participate in all three decisions. Married women's participation in decision-making in all three decisions has gradually improved from 14% in 2003.

More men had autonomy over whether they should work to earn income



Only 1 out of every 3 women had autonomy/ a final say on whether they should work to earn income.

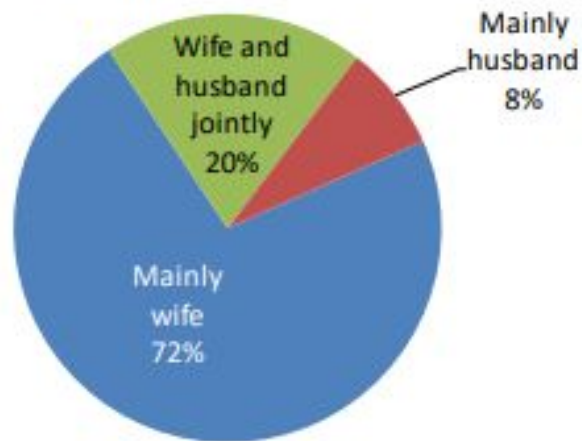
In most cases, it was either their spouse, parents, or someone else in the family

“Most men think they are giving privilege to women to engage in economic activities and a lot of women have issues with autonomy” excerpts from discussions with a WECs leader from Kano

“....sometimes her words do not have weight. Women are not considered when it comes to decision making more especially if he has that almighty power in the house”... excerpts from discussions with a WECs leader from Kano

Women who are not employed and women that earn about the same or less than their husbands were less likely to have a joint decision over their spouse's income

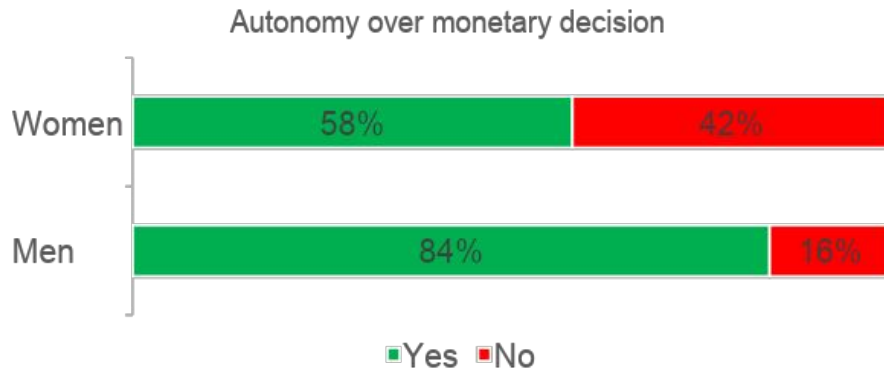
Percent distribution of currently married women with cash earnings in the 12 months before the survey



Currently, married women age 15-49 who were paid in cash for employment in the 12 months before the survey were asked who makes decisions about the use of their earnings.

- In addition to having access to income, women need to have control over their earnings to be empowered.
- Women's participation in decisions regarding the use of their own and their husband's earnings varies by the amount of their earnings relative to the amount of their husband's earnings.
- Women who earn about the same as their husband are more likely to decide jointly about the use of their own earnings (48%) and those of their husband (53%) than women who earn more or less than their husband
- Women who are not employed (88%) and women who earn less than their husband (73%) were most likely to report that their husband primarily decides on his own about the use of his earnings.
- Women who earn about the same as their husband were least likely to report that their husband alone makes such decisions (43%)

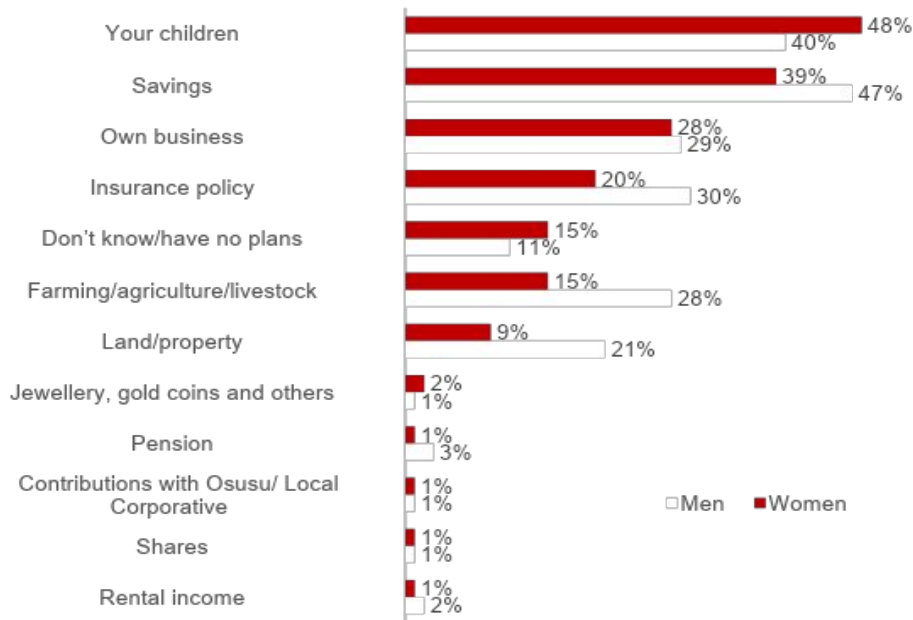
Men had more autonomy over monetary decision-making in their households. Most employed women had either independent or joint autonomy over monetary decisions in the household



- There is a relationship between a woman's source of income and her autonomy over household monetary decision-making.
- Almost all formal salary earners (80%) have autonomy over monetary decision making, followed by business owners (70%), farmers (65%), informal workers (61%) while dependents were the least (35%) of women to have autonomy over their income (NDHS, 2018)

- According to the NDHS 2018, 72% of married women who are employed and earned cash made independent decisions on how to spend their earnings, while 20% made joint decisions with their husband. Overall, 84% of working women earn less than their husbands, only 5% earn more than their husbands(NDHS, 2018)
- Women are not considered when it comes to decision making more especially if he (man) has that almighty power in the house.....excerpts from discussions with a WECs leader from Kano

Most women plan to rely on their children for income in old age when they cannot work which is not reliable source of income for old age



- Women will rely on children (48%), their savings (39%), own business (28%), no plans (15%) in their old age
- Few women (9%) rely on landed property in old age compared to men 21%

15% of adult Nigerian women belong to collectives, and leverage on the collective social capital to meet their financial and non-financial needs



Cooperatives -4%



Savings group -13%



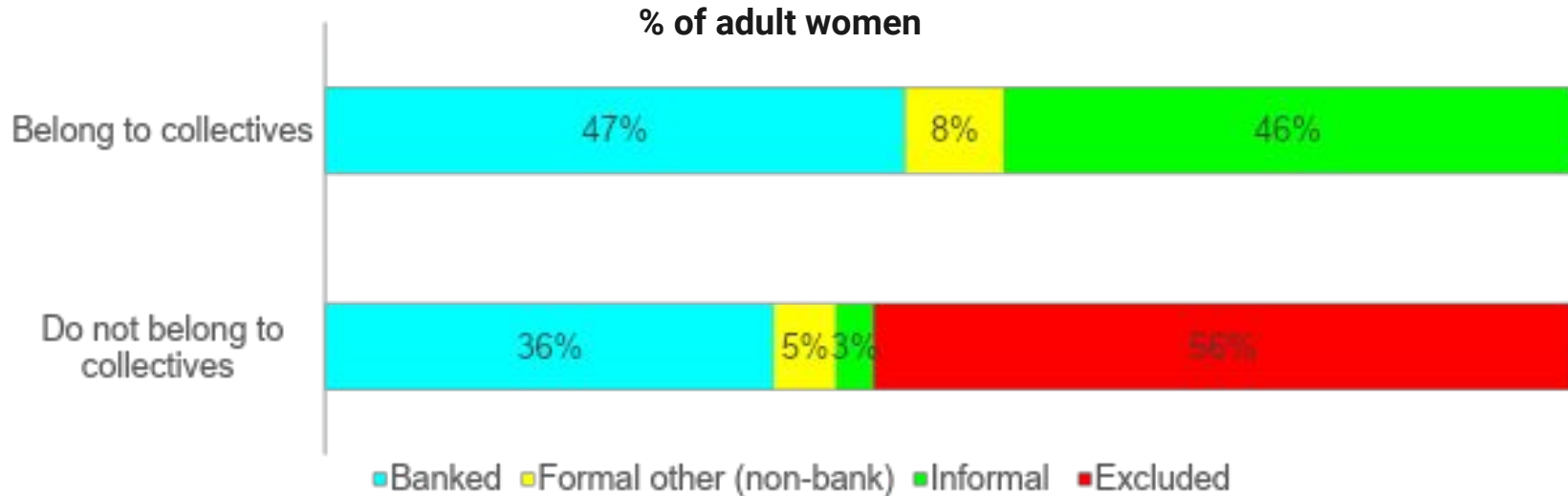
Village/community association -7%



Savings thrift/collector -13%

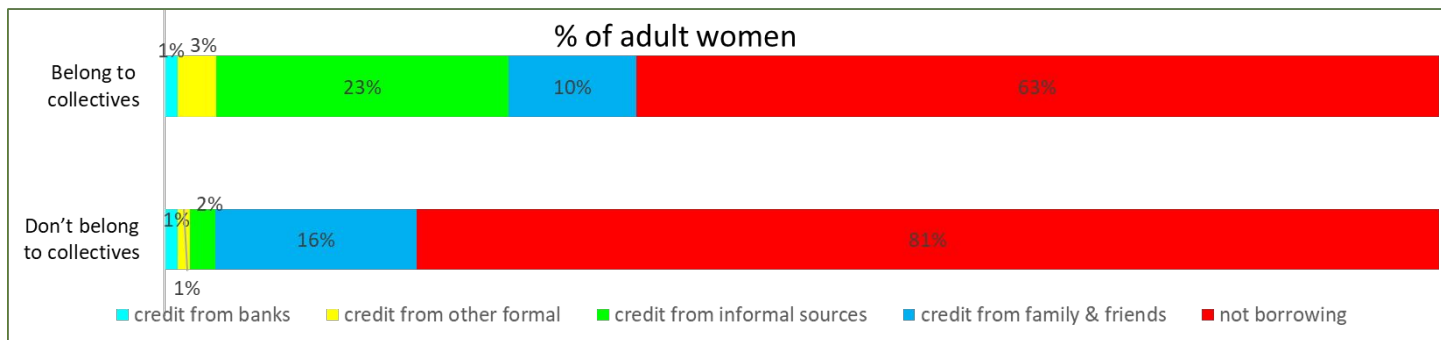
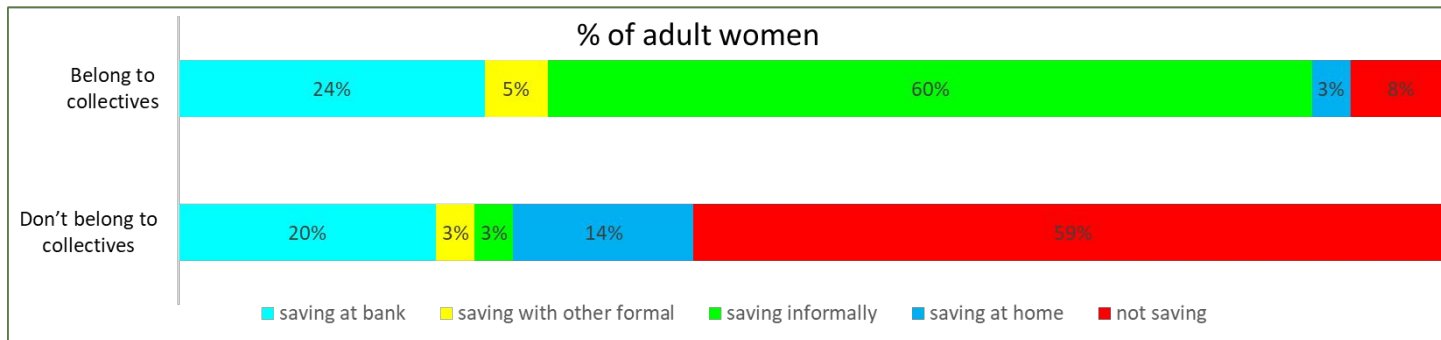
- Most women who belong to these collectives are business owners
- The top 3 reasons why women belong to these groups are: Can turn to them when in financial need, Easy/simple to save, close by, quick access to money
- Top reasons why women didn't belong to these groups are - Do not trust them, Do not get regular income, don't have money to save, don't want to borrow

Belonging to collectives is likely to increase women access to financial services



There is a 2 percentage point difference in the proportion of women who belonged to collectives that used mobile money and women who didn't belong to collectives.
There is a 4 percentage point difference in women who belonged to collectives that used digital payments and women who didn't belong to collectives

Two-thirds of these women are saving with these collectives and almost a third have access to credit from these groups



Benefits of participating in women collectives

Access to pooled resources such as capital, group loans, physical assets, agricultural lands and inputs

Have access to financial management skills, trainings and support

Change in employment in status i.e.: no income to having a source of income

Contribution to household income

Access to funds to cater for their personal needs and household needs

Access to formal financial services & usage of digital and non-digital financial services

Insights from focus group discussions with selected women collectives leaders representing the Kano, Kaduna, Bauchi, Kwara, Imo, Edo, Enugu and Lagos states, Nigeria

Summary of the relational domain section

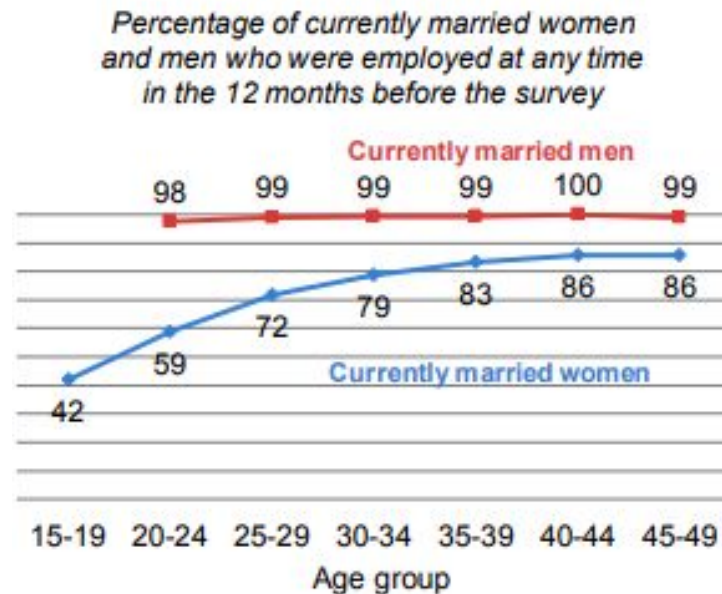
- Women face considerable barriers to accessing land, property, financial services, and information and communications technology. Having access to land and property is important for women to exercise agency or control over their lives. Gender inequalities regarding ownership of land, property and assets continue to remain
- Women's level of autonomy in Nigeria is relatively low as very few have access to assets & resources to improve their livelihood. A woman has to have higher levels of education, have paid employment and earn almost the same as her spouse to be able to have independent or joint autonomy over household decisions.
- Nigerians are likely to cite their children as investments for their old age, especially in a society where awareness and use of pension is very low. From this report, most women have identified their children as their investment, which is a non-reliable financial solution and which is most likely obtainable considering these women have a limited level of education, are unemployed or have limited income to save for their future. All these factors place the women on a poor economic trajectory both now and in their future
- This report provides empirical evidence that women in collectives and women who are not in collectives have similar financial behaviours (saving for similar needs and borrowing for similar needs) but women in collectives are more likely to have access to services (credit, savings), potential pool risk and social networks for support.
- Even with these benefits of women collectives, most women face systemic challenges (unemployed and limited income after expenses) which is a struggle to tackle to address in Nigeria with the prevailing situation of the lower level of girl child education, lower income of women and societal belief that women should have lower-paying jobs or dependents which continue to relegate women to little or no income.

A group of African women are shown in a crowd, many holding up small blue cards. The women are dressed in traditional African attire, including patterned dresses and headwraps. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and an outdoor setting.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOMAIN IN WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Gender norms continue to constrain the ability of Nigerian women to participate in formal wage employment

- Nigerian women, including those with formal sector jobs are constrained by the reproductive roles they play. As a result, the majority of women occupy low-level posts that offer them the flexibility they need to manage their households while working in the formal sector. They spend most of their time doing unpaid household work, which undermines their business potential.
- According to the latest NDHS survey (2018), nearly three-quarters of married women (74%) were employed compared to 99% of married men. The percentage of currently employed married women increases with age, from 42% in the 15-19 age group to 86% in the 40-49 age group. In contrast, currently married men's employment does not vary by age
- The percentage of employed married women who are not paid for their work is highest in the 15-19 age group and lowest in the 30-34 age group (19% and 12%, respectively)



Socially accepted norms and expected family roles have a profound effect on the type of economic activities that women can engage in

- Early marriage, early pregnancies and family responsibilities play a critical role in women's access to jobs and it is a more significant issue for young women from poorer households than others. Although girls are more likely to leave school early than boys, they do not then get a job.
- Women in Nigeria are less likely to be active in the labour market; more likely to be in lower-earning opportunities like farming and informal jobs; and earn less for a given level of education and experience than men of the same level
- Socially accepted norms and expected family roles have a profound effect on the type of economic activities that women can engage in, the technologies available to them, the people and agencies with whom they can interact, the places they can visit, the time they have available and the control they can exert over their own resources such as capital. These norms, can stem from social, religious beliefs, tribal governance, or local history.
- Gender norms also justify gendered occupational segregation that often relegates women to jobs that are deemed less valuable and thus pay lower wages.
 - Women in Nigeria's agricultural sector found that men's typical roles were viewed as being higher-skilled and more valuable.
 - Married women restricted from working closely with men who are not their relatives.
 - Muslim women are less able to participate in a visible workforce when compared with women in other religions



Despite these social norms women are thriving by leveraging opportunities to disrupt these gender norms hindering their economic participation



- The evidence we reviewed also provided examples of how gender norms can change. In a study in Nigeria, men living in rural areas moved to the cities to take advantage of new economic opportunities, and the women they left behind took over the farming roles (Afolabi, 2015)
- By taking on new roles, women challenged the prevailing gender norms, suggesting that increasing women's ability to participate in the labour market and earn income can create a feedback loop—improving gender relations while enhancing women's economic empowerment subsequently changes gender norms even more.

Most Nigerian women are facing tremendous challenges accessing infrastructures, this limits the time needed for self-development

Infrastructure	Challenges faced by women	Effect
Access to cooking and electricity facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unpaid time spent gathering fossil fuels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser time available in participating in income-generating activities Lesser time available improving skills & capacity to improve her life Poor health outcomes when household uses fossils fuels
Access to water and sanitation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unpaid work time spent collecting water for the household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More time spent on unpaid household activities Women have access to infrastructure for better outcome
Access to transportation services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal safety Sexual harassment Unpaid time spent due to long travel distance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More time spent on traveling to access resources (financial institutions) Less time spent participating in economic activities

Women's participation in formal and informal labour markets is on a positive trajectory



- Over the past decade, the share of women in the total employment figure for Nigeria has marginally increased. (PWC, 2020)
- The participation of females in the services-oriented sectors e.g. transport, education and medical services is a major factor driving the marginal growth of females in the active labour force.
- The participation of women in the agricultural and industrial sectors fell rapidly between 2000 and 2018. However, over the past two decades in the services sector, the share of female employment rose to 61.6% driven majorly by participation in areas including catering, medical services, educational services, transportation, etc.

There are several factors that influence women's labour market participation and these factors differs from rural to urban setting

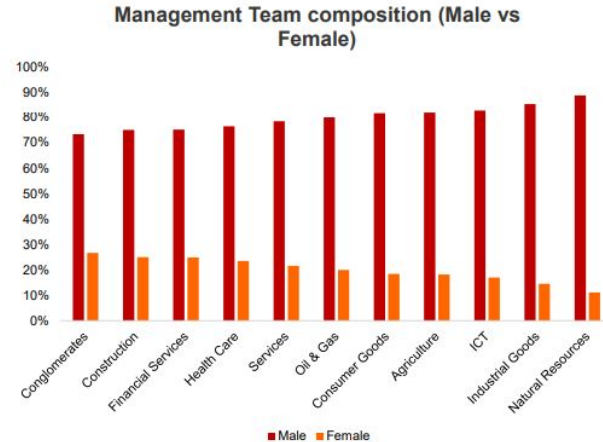
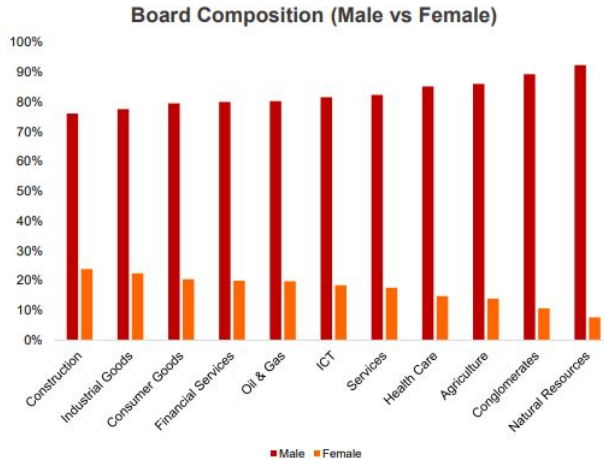
	Urban determinants of WLMP	Rural determinants of WLMP
Positive correlated (presence of these factors in increasing levels encourage WLMP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age (the older a woman the more likely she will acquire either more education/skills to earn income) • Level of education (the more educated a women is , she is likely to participate in the labour market) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty rate (the higher the poverty rate, the more likely women in rural areas take up jobs) • Marital status (married women are likely to take up jobs to support their households)
Negative correlates (presence of these factors in increasing levels hinders WLMP)	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion (the chances of a traditionalist and Muslim women in rural areas participating in the labour is significantly reduced) • living , per capital income
Not associated (these factors do not influence WLMP)	Women in urban areas work regardless of marital status, religion, household size, per-capita expenditure, poverty rate	Women living in rural areas work regardless of their age, household size, level of education and lowest wage she is willing to receive

- Other factors influencing women's labour market participation include parental education and parental source of income

Table adopted from Iweagu H. E., (2012)

Nigerian companies are taking small strides to achieve gender equality in leadership

- Female board members made up 19% and female management team members made up 23% of the total board composition across the various sectors listed on the Stock Exchange.
- Among the 11 sectors analysed, the Construction, Industrial goods & Consumer goods sectors had the highest representation of female board members with 24%, 22% and 20% respectively and Conglomerate, Financial Services and Construction sectors had the largest composition of female board members with 27%, 25% and 25% respective
- In absolute terms, the financial services sector accounted for the highest number of female board members (81 in total) compared to the other sectors



Nigeria is yet to achieve gender parity in political representation at all levels in comparison with other African countries

Women account for only 11% of the Ministers on the Presidential cabinet



Women account for roughly 6% of the Senators on the National Assembly in Nigeria



In Nigeria, the House of Representatives comprises 359 seats with women accounting for only 6% of the total number of elected representatives



Women account for 65% of Rwanda's Presidential cabinet



Women represent 38% of the Senators in Sudan's National Assembly



In Rwanda, the Lower house comprises 80 seats with women representing 61% of the total elected representatives



In South Africa, women represent 50% of Ministers on the President's cabinet



In South Africa, women represent 35% of the Senate



South Africa's House of Representatives holds 393 seats with women accounting for about 43%



In Ethiopia, the women represent 50% of Ministers on the cabinet



Women represent 32% of the Senators in Ethiopia's National Assembly



Ethiopia accounts for 547 seats in the Lower House with 39% of elected female representatives



Women account for 28% of the total Ministers in Sudan's executive cabinet



The Sudan Upper House has about 27% of female Senators



In Sudan, the Lower House comprises 488 seats with 28% of women represented



- Benchmarking Nigeria against 4 selected countries in Africa, Nigeria has the lowest representation of women on the Executive cabinet, Senate and House of representatives
- These national data also mask some glaring North-South divisions, which show that female representation is much lower in the North than in the South at all levels.

There is a complex mix of personal and external issues combined to undermine the broader representation of women in politics

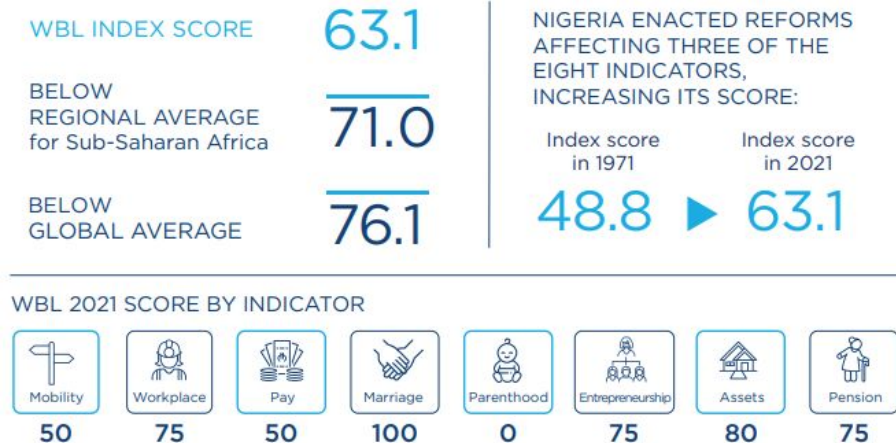
Level of factor	Factor	Associate with factor	Effect	Course of action
Personal	Level of education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living in societies where women have lower levels of autonomy (North) Husbands' permission to attend & compete for positions Lack of interpersonal skills (campaigning, public speaking, advocacy & negotiation) Political environment is toxic (name-calling, physical assault, intimidation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer women qualify for elections at higher political positions Women are not aware of what is needed to vying and win political positions Ineffective campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strive for women's economic empowerment in Nigeria
	Financial constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High cost of registration High cost of campaigns Low income/limited resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer women are interested in these positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the cost of governance
	Reproductive roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings at odd hours Long hours meeting stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer women are interested in these positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender balance electoral reform Banning political meetings at night
External	Internal party selection criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most roles are set out for specific gender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer women are given opportunity to participate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt party quota system
	Nature of the political space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High rate of violence associated with politics in Nigeria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer women are interested in these positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> legislate against political violence

Promoting gender equality can be an economic game changer since closing the gender gap would mean higher growth and productivity, and greater economic stability.

Indicators	Female	Male
Economic participation & Opportunity		
Labour force participation %	49.3%	63.8%
Legislators, senior officials and managers (%)	30.3%	69.7%
Educational attainment		
Literacy rate (%)	52.7%	71.3%
Enrolment in tertiary education (%)	8.3%	12.0%
Health and survival		
Healthy life expectancy, years	54.9	53.9
Political empowerment		
Women in ministerial position	10.3%	89.7%

- Nigeria has closed 62.7% of its overall gender gap, which is 0.8 percentage points wider than last year, placing the country 139th globally. The main driver for this change is more women are now participating in the labour market
- Nigeria's educational attainment for women is low with female literacy rate. Yet, some African countries have attained equal or almost equal enrolment of both sexes in schools.
- In terms of health, maternal mortality is still a major risk for women of childbearing age in Nigeria
- Political empowerment for women is very low in Nigeria with the country significantly behind its counterparts

Rather than enabling women to contribute to the economy, Nigeria still has several laws on the books that make it harder for women to work than men. Legal reform is possible, and benefits not only women and families but entire economies



- Nigeria receives a score of 63.1 out of 100 on the Women, Business and the Law 2021 index, indicating that although progress has been made, there is more work to be done
- Today, Nigeria receives a score of 100 on only one indicator: Marriage. This score signifies that men and women have equal rights and opportunities in this area

WBL = Women Business & Law Index (uses eight indicators that are structured around women's interactions with the law as they begin, progress through and end their careers)

Women, Business and the Law 2021 report, World Bank. It is important to note that this report considers a business city – Lagos. Therefore women living in hinterlands and rural areas might be more systematically discriminated compared to their counterpart in urban areas

Summary of this environmental domain section

- Nigerian women are facing challenges in their ability to make both economic and non-economic decisions due to the prevailing societal norms which restrict women's access to resources. These norms were identified to be perpetrated by religious beliefs, cultural beliefs and norms
- Access to clean water & toilet facilities is still a major issue in Nigeria and women bear the burden of meeting these needs. The time spent trying to get clean water for the household can be reallocated to spending time learning and participating in economic activities to increase economic empowerment
- Women are increasingly participating in the labour market, education, and the political space but the gender disparity across these areas and more has continued to persist. For the Nigerian woman to be economically empowered she needs to live in a society that is gender-inclusive and allows her freedom of expression should she choose to be educated, work, or compete for a political position
- There is a need to apply a gender lens in existing laws and bills to ensure they aren't infringing on women's rights and hindering their expression. There are laws that require reforms that will improve the lives of women in Nigeria and the wider economy



WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN NIGERIA

Methodology for computing the WEE index

Conceptualizing women economic empowerment

- Identify indicators from the Access to Financial Services in Nigeria 2020 survey related to WEE
- Only indicators that filled the following criteria were kept in the analysis: a) Relevance to the country context, b) Correspondence with the literature on the topic, and c) High variance and low percentage of missing values.

Define indicators to measure women's economic empowerment

- All potential variables that may reflect women's economic empowerment in line with the conceptual framework were added in the Exploratory Factor Analyses (EFA) including education, economic participation, access to resources, access to & use of financial services, and awareness of financial services, financial health and autonomy.
- Theses variables were coded as dichotomous or binary; with 1 denoting the woman is empowered in the indicator, and 0 not empowered in the indicator.

Select indicators that measure WEE

- Several steps EFA was carried out (EFA Communalities sheet 1 -3), orthogonal rotation was used to identify the domains of empowerment (factors/latent variables) that are more likely to be explained by a group of indicators jointly.
- The indicators that did not fulfil the statistical criteria were kept in the model, only if there was strong evidence in the literature that they are essential for measuring women's economic empowerment.

Define the relative weight for each indicator

- To construct the WEI, each of the domains identified in the EFA were assigned equal weights, and the weight of the domain was then distributed equally to each of its constituting indicators.

Compute empowerment index

- All indicators & their assigned weights were computed into an index and the cut-off point selected.
- A woman is considered economically empowered if she is empowered in at least 60 percent of the total weighted indicators. For interpretation of results, the index is coded as binary, where 1 denotes empowerment in at least 60 percent of weighted indicators, while 0 denotes that the woman is empowered in less than 60 percent of the weighted indicators

Methodology II for computing the WEE index

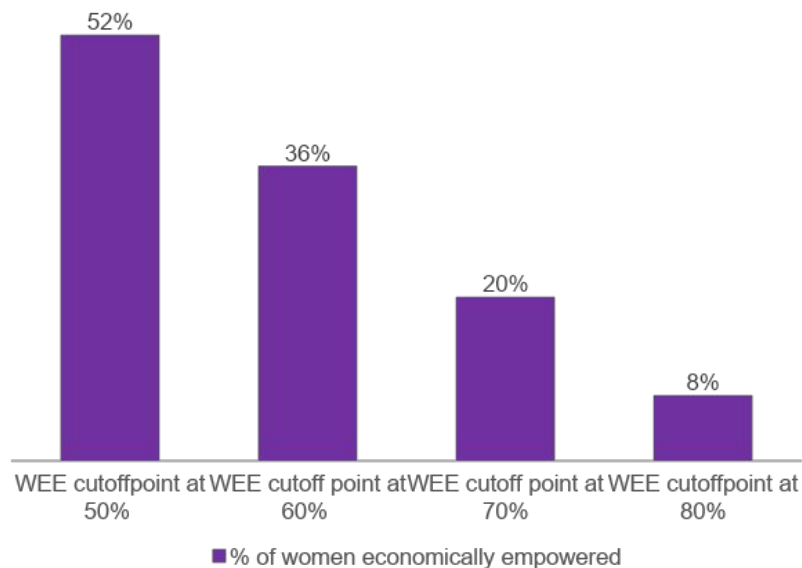
Points To Note

- The computation of the women's economic empowerment was carried out using the EFInA Access to Financial Services in Nigeria Survey. This survey is intended to measure access to, use of, and quality of financial services among Nigerians, however, it captures different aspects of women's empowerment that are relevant to the country's context.
- So indicators for WEE were defined in the context of women's access to financial services, use of financial services and other related empowerment indicators.
- The indicators selected for this project were reviewed by the research team
- Exploratory and confirmatory analysis was used to confirm the relative weights of each in the final composite index
- This analysis was conducted among women 13,443 women aged 18 years and above
- The cut-off point was discussed by stakeholders in this project

Limitations of This Method

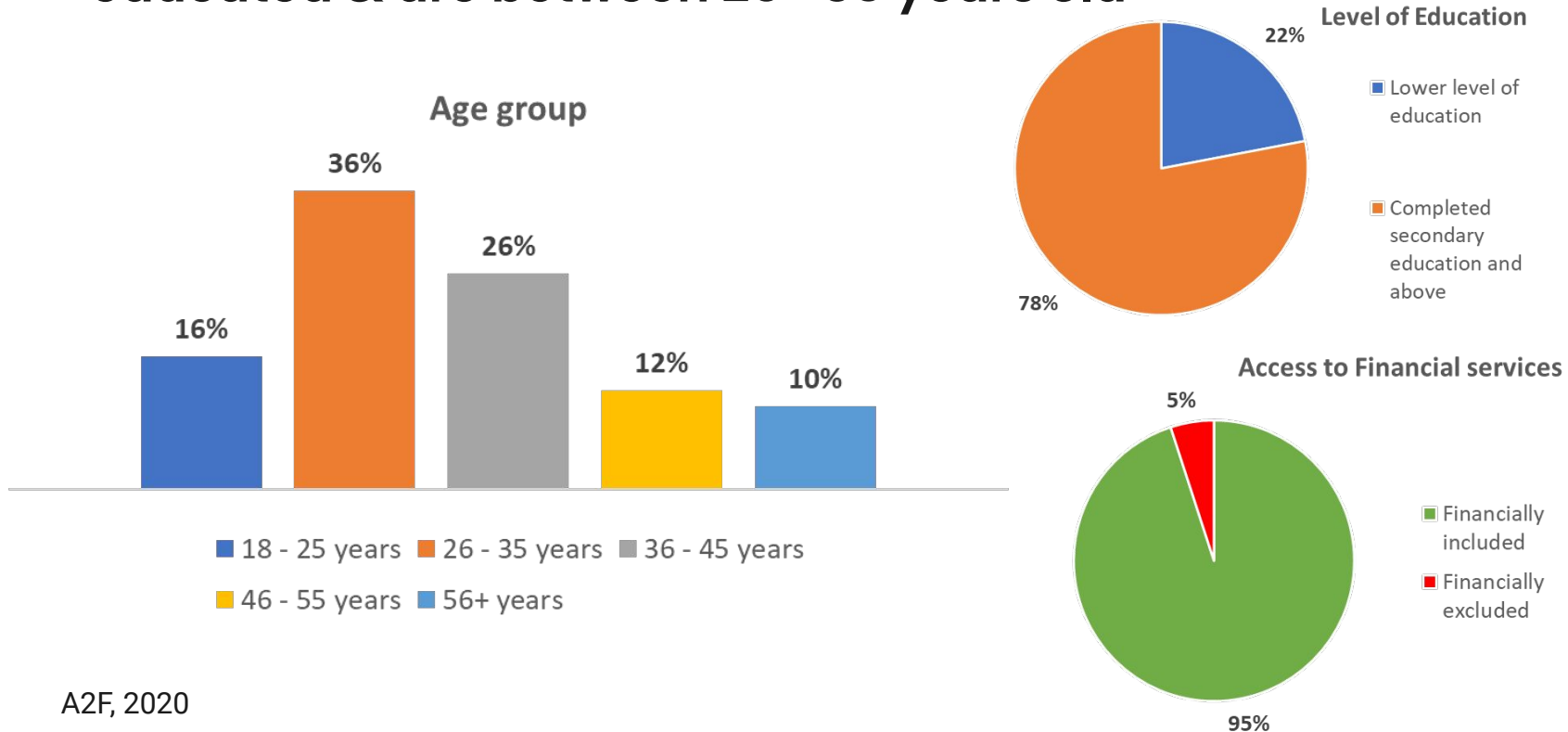
- Even though the Access to Financial Services in Nigeria 2020 survey is one of the most comprehensive datasets available for the purpose of this study, the analysis and definition of the WEE, and therefore policy recommendations based on it, were constrained in several aspects due to questionnaire design.
- In addition, A2F 2020 does not capture several domains of women's economic empowerment that were identified as relevant in the literature, including psychological, legal knowledge, and participation. Indicators such as emotional distress and perceived self-confidence, self-esteem and autonomy over health decisions were found to be crucial

Introduction to the WEE index used for this report

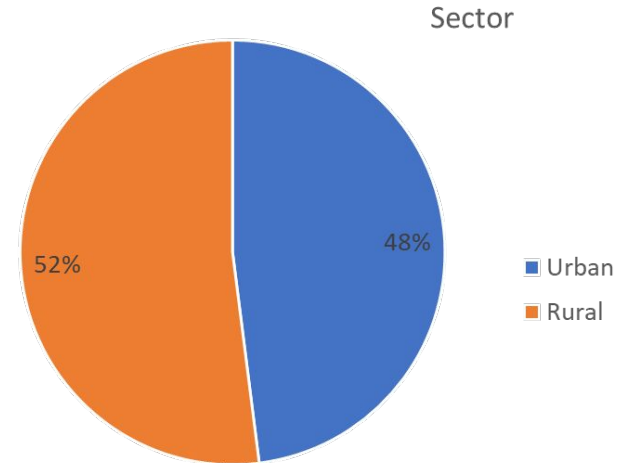
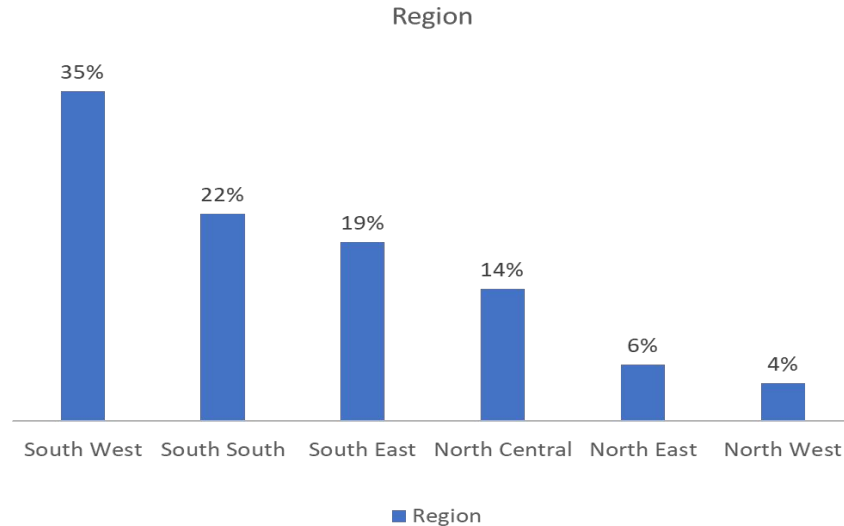


- As far as we are aware this is the first computation of women economic empowerment in Nigeria at a national level. The methodology employed for this computation was adapted from Rettig et al., 2020 and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2020).
- The chart here shows the incidence of economic empowerment across four thresholds
- For the purpose of this report: A woman is described as economically empowered if she scores at least 60% on the total weighted indicator for economic empowerment (sum of total weights of scores for education, income, financial inclusion, and autonomy)
- For the report, thirty – six percent of women in Nigeria are economically empowered; that is, empowered in 60% of the total weighted indicators set as threshold by a consensus of custodians of this report

36% of women in Nigeria are empowered – these women have access to financial services, are educated & are between 26 – 35 years old

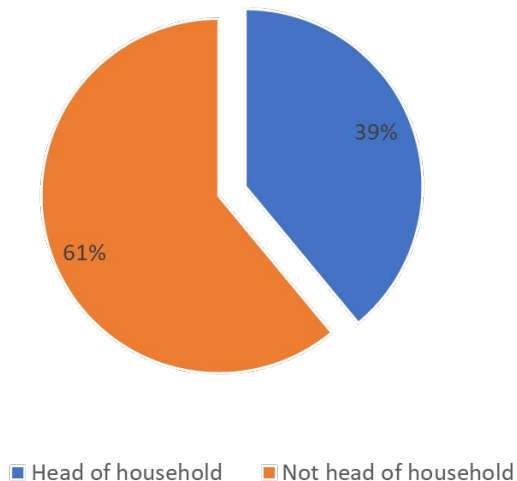


The North-South divide is evident in the proportion of women who are economically empowered across Nigeria. There is almost an equal representation of empowered women in both rural and urban areas

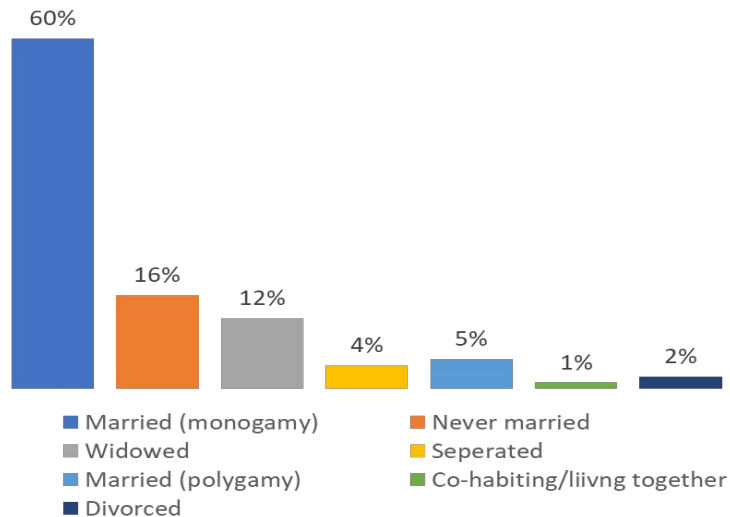


There is equal representation of women who are Heads of households and those who aren't among empowered women. Most of the empowered women were in monogamous relationships with their partners

Women who are heads of their Household

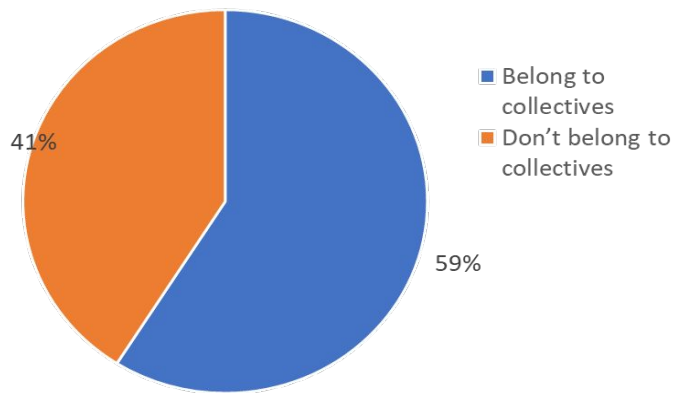


Marital status of Empowered Women



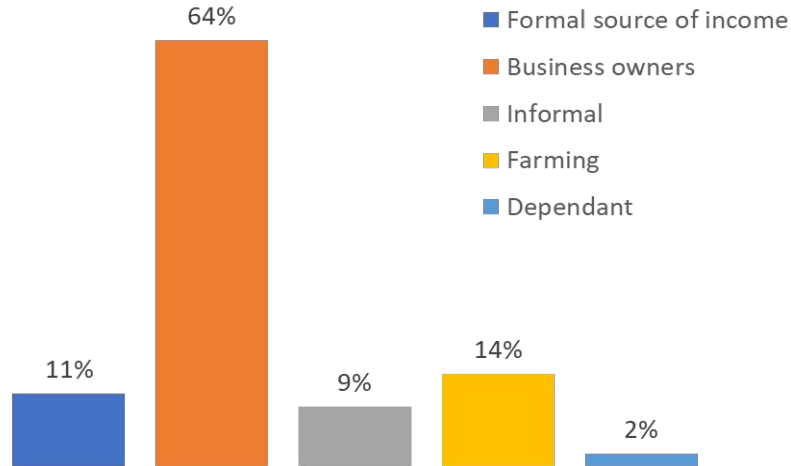
Majority of the empowered women are business owners. Both women who belonged to collectives and who didn't were empowered

Belong to collectives (Cooperatives, savings group, village association and thrift collectors)



A2F, 2020

Source of income



Conclusion

- Women's economic empowerment is central to realizing women's rights and gender equality. When more Nigerian women are able to have access to skills, resources and agency to improve their livelihood, they will be equipped to advocate for their rights both in their household and outside their home.
- Empowering women in the economy and closing gender gaps in the world of work are key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development particularly Goal 5, to achieve gender equality, and Goal 8, to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all. Also, Goal 1 on ending poverty, Goal 2 on food security, Goal 3 on ensuring health, and Goal 10 on reducing inequalities can be achieved if WEE is attained.
- When women work, economies grow. When more women have a chance to work, they contribute to the nation's productivity and economic diversification. It is estimated that Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) could grow by 23 percent (or US\$229 billion) by 2025 if women participated in the economy to the same extent as men (CFR, 2022)
- Increasing girls' educational attainment contributes to women's economic empowerment and more inclusive economic growth. Education, upskilling and re-skilling throughout a woman's life course – especially to keep pace with rapid technological and digital transformations affecting jobs—are critical for women her income-generation opportunities and participation in the formal labour market.
- Women's economic equality is good for business. It is estimated that companies with three or more women in senior management functions score higher in all dimensions of organizational performance (Mckensy & company, 2018)

A group of women and children are gathered around a community water point. One woman is filling a white jerrycan from a tap. Other women are holding yellow and grey buckets. A young girl in a red shirt stands in the foreground. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ACTION

Recommendations to the Nigeria Government and other government institutions on improving women's economic empowerment

Gender responsive policies

- Enforce policies and social protection systems for women like pensions, unemployment benefits, maternity protection, and equal pay.
- Revision, adoption and enforcement of legislation that mandates equality of rights and opportunities for women
- Implement of policies that encourage balance between working life and family life
- Implement laws and regulations to protect informal workers' rights

Invest in women economic empowerment initiatives

- Invest in the social care infrastructure could entail providing public services directly or subsidizing and regulating the provision of private care
- Enhance women's access to productive assets, including property and financial and digital assets; and tackling discriminatory social norms

Improving allocation of resources using gender-responsive budgeting

- Conduct research on the differential impact of budgetary allocation on women's lives
- Inclusion of gender indicators in the national development plan and policy
- Institutionalizing best practices in gender-responsive allocation across the tiers of government

Recommendations to financial institutions on improving women's economic empowerment

Gender disaggregated data

- Collect gender disaggregated data
- Analyse gender data collected to gain insights to serve the women market
- Continuously conduct market research to understand the women segment

Designing products for women

- Design products to address financial needs
- Offer financial literacy programs to improve financial capability
- Adopt the human centered design while designing products
- Develop products that will be useful to a woman throughout her life stages

Offering services to meet their needs

- Consumer protection
- Continuously review the requirements hindering women's access to credit
- Leverage technology to reach the unbanked
- Offer services that will improve economic outcome

Recommendations to stakeholders interested in women's economic empowerment space to improving women's economic empowerment

Invest in tackling social norms

- Support programmatic efforts on women economic empowerment
- Support programs that leverage male champions to advocate for women economic empowerment

Invest in women's organizations and businesses

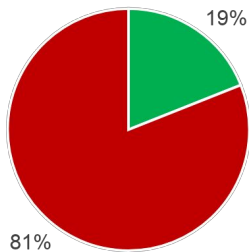
- Support women –owned businesses with resources & skills to thrive
- Provide innovative technologies to support women's access to both local and international market

Provide support to stakeholders in the space

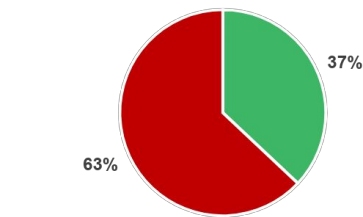
- Support research on women economic empowerment
- Champion advocacy efforts to women economic empowerment

Opportunities for reaching the financially excluded women population

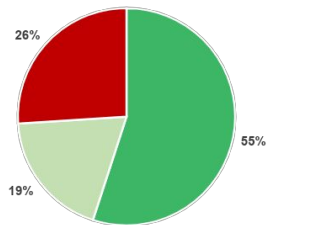
There are 21.3 million financially excluded women.



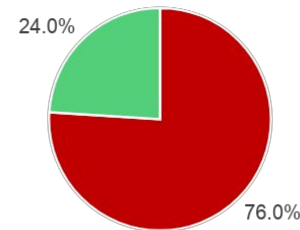
Urban Rural



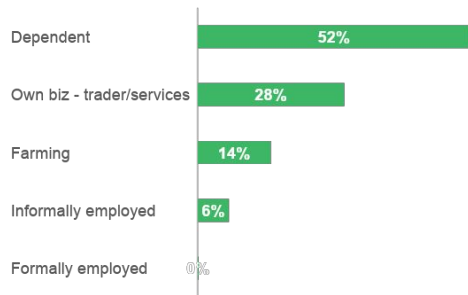
live in EAs with FAPs
live in EAs without FAPs



own a mobile phone
Do not own, but use a mobile phone owned by someone else
Do not own or use a mobile phone

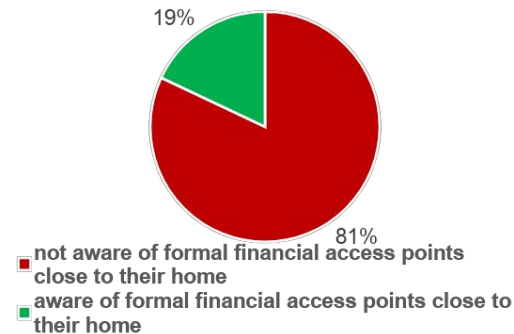


Incomplete secondary education and below
Complete secondary education and above



Primary Income Source

- 4.2million are saving at home
- 3.6million are remitting through family & friends
- 7million are borrowing from family & friends
- 2.4million are interested in micro insurance
- 4.7million are interested in mobile money



not aware of formal financial access points close to their home
aware of formal financial access points close to their home

APPENDIX SECTION

Coverage And Methodology for the A2F 2020 Survey



Design

- Provided by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)
- Sampling of respondents was based on equal representation (around 750 respondents) per State
- Allows for statistically robust headline indicators of financial access at the state, regional and national level.



Coverage

- Nationally representative sample of Nigerian adults (18+) across all 36 States and FCT Abuja
- Achieved 27 938 interviews (99% of target sample (28,380)), slightly high compared to 2018
- The sample also included 2 booster samples which are not covered in this report (Kaduna and Teenagers)
- Household listing and data collection was conducted from November 2020 to February 2021 by Research Firm - Ipsos Nigeria, with supervision from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)



Questionnaire

- The questionnaire (in English), was translated into and also administered in Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo and Pidgin English



Results

- Results were weighted by the NBS to provide for the total adult population.
- Also benchmarked to national population estimates for verification

Limitations of the A2F data

- Measuring WEE is an active area of research

WEE is a complex concept defined differently across contexts and often includes many sub-concepts.

Measuring each of the sub-concepts and then aggregating them into a summary WEE indicator remains a fertile topic of research for two reasons:

- Concepts such as agency, control, access to institutions, etc. are often difficult to observe
 - Inconsistencies in associations among proposed indicators across studies confuses which indicators should and should not be trusted
- This report is intended to showcase snapshot of women's economic empowerment in Nigeria at the national level, by area of residence and socio-economic characteristics of women including age, marital status, sex and educational attainment
- Despite the limitations of the Access to Financial Services in Nigeria survey, the analysis yielded a relatively robust measure of women's empowerment that is contextualised

Description of the discussions with the women economic collective (WEC) leaders

- Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development (PAWED) is a two-year project by dRPC (development Research and Project Center) funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to build a Nigerian CSO advocacy and communications coalition to advance evidence, policies and programs that further women's economic empowerment vanguard organizations such as Women's Empowerment Collectives.
- PAWED is implemented at the national level and in 6 priority states to be selected in collaboration with GP PAC grantees. The 6 priority states will be selected on the basis of evidence of significant medium to long term economic development programs in states supported through international partner funding or technical assistance. The 6 states are Edo, Enugu, Kaduna, Bauchi, Kano, Kwara.
- The women economic collectives participated in a Technical Review of the Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Component of the National Development Plan 2021- 2025 workshop which held in Abuja on the 15th of March 2022. With the support of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Partnership for Advancing Women in Economic Development (PAWED) National and State coalitions convened a one-day technical review of the women's economic empowerment component of the National Development Plan 2021 – 2025. The Technical workshop brought together economic analysts from the Dangote Business School, Bayero University, Kano state, and Government Reference Representatives from the federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and women's economic collectives to review the WEE components of the National Development Plan 2022-2025. The workshop aimed to determine the comprehensives in which WEE is situated within all strategic areas of the Plan, the adequacy of provisions in the Plan to readdress gender-based barriers against women in economic development, the logical consistency of WEE design issues from primary objective formulation to operationalization to monitoring/evaluation and provisions for including women's economic collectives in plan implementation.
- Focus group discussions were held with 11 WEC leaders from five states; Kano, Kwara, Bauchi, Lagos, Edo and Enugu states out of 85 participants at the review workshop.

WEC LEADERS PARTICIPATING IN THE FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

- Hajiya Maryam G. Usman - Center for Advocacy in Gender & Social Inclusion (CAGSI) Kano
- Hajiya Sa'hadatu Hashim - Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) Kano
- Evang. Abiodun -President of KWACCIMA multipurpose cooperative society Kwara state
- Mrs. Alaya Biliqis – member, MINLIS cooperative society Kwara state
- Hajiya Aisha Ibrahim, FOMWAN, Bauchi state
- Mrs. Pharis Obidiah, RAHMA, Bauchi state
- Mrs. Princess Adeola Ilozobhie (Anchor Women Cooperatives, Lagos State)
- Mrs. Stella Ani (Bettergothes Multipurpose Cooperatives, Enugu State)
- Mrs. Onyinye Mamah (Hervinem women foundation, Enugu State).
- Mrs. Abiola Daisy Igaga, Edo state
- Mrs. Ogunbiyi Ibironke (Moriyike Abike Economic Empowerment Foundation, Lagos State).

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

EFInA is currently finalizing their report on women's access to finance and will be integrating the voices of the PAWED WECs in this report. This technical review meeting provided an avenue for focus group discussions with the various subnational WECs.



Profile of women who belong to Cooperatives



Profile

Both rural & urban dwellers (51%/49%)

Most of them have attained secondary education & above (63%)

People of various age groups belong to cooperatives

Mostly business owners (50%)

Other sources of income also belong to cooperatives formal salaried workers (16%), informal workers (11%), farmers (9%), dependents (14%)

Contribute to cooperatives weekly 37%, monthly 47%



These women are saving for these top reasons
Day to day household needs -35%
School fees/education – 30%
Cover business expenses –30%
Expand my business/ business assets/business premises -20%
Personal needs -15%

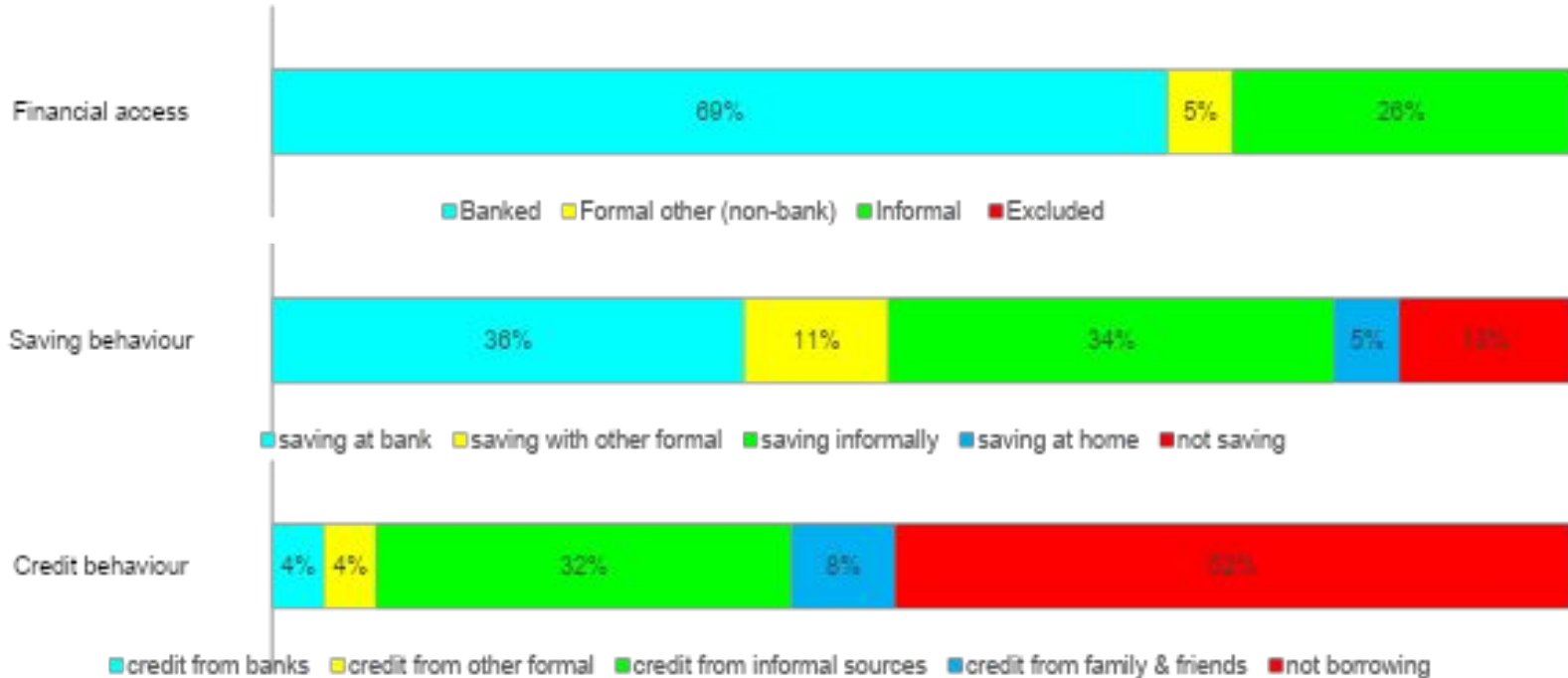


Top reasons for borrowing
Start/expand a business -39%
Education -12%



Use of digital financial services
Mobile money – 8%
Digital payment – 43%
Repay or make contributions through digital channels -7%

Financial behaviour of women who belong to cooperatives



Profile of women who belong to savings group



Profile

Both rural & urban dwellers (58%/42%)

Most of them have attained secondary education & above (58%)

People of various age groups belong to cooperatives, (26-35 years, 37%)

Mostly business owners (62%)

Other sources of income also belong to savings groups formal salaried workers (4%), informal workers (5%), farmers (15%), dependents (13%)

Contribute to savings group Daily 13%, weekly 56% monthly 27%



These women are saving for these top reasons
Day to day household needs -31%
School fees/education – 19%
Cover business expenses –24%
Expand my business/ business assets/business premises -23%
Personal needs -12%

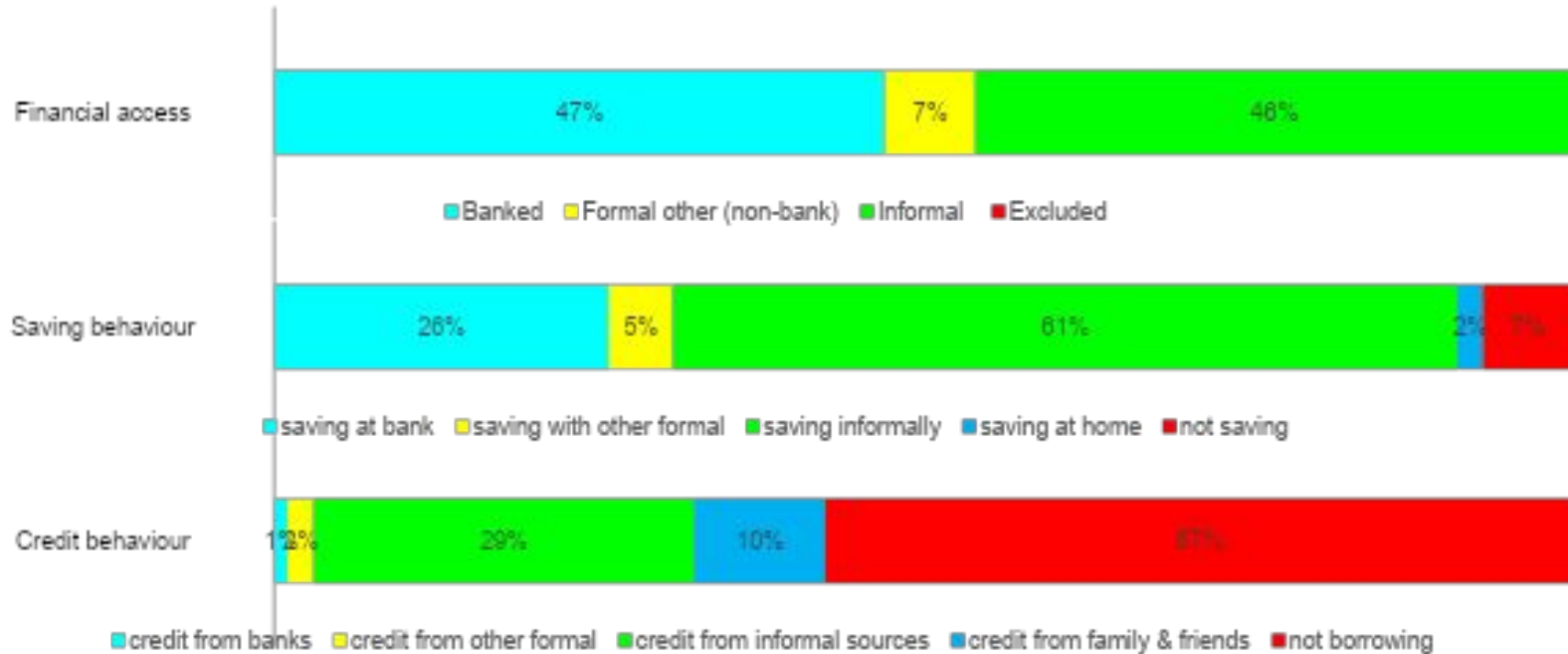


Top reasons for borrowing
Start/expand a business -44%
Buy food/clothing -11%
Medical -10%



Use of digital financial services
Mobile money – 5%
Digital payment – 26%
Repay or make contributions through digital channels -1%

Financial behaviour of women who belong savings groups



Profile of women who belong to village/community association



Profile

Mostly rural dwellers (79%)

Had lower level of education (53%)

Mostly business owners (62%) & farmers (26%)

Other sources of income also belong to savings groups formal salaried workers (3%), informal workers (5%), dependents (14%)

Contribute to savings group Daily 4%, weekly 56% monthly 28%



SAVING

These women are saving for these top reasons
Day to day household needs -26%
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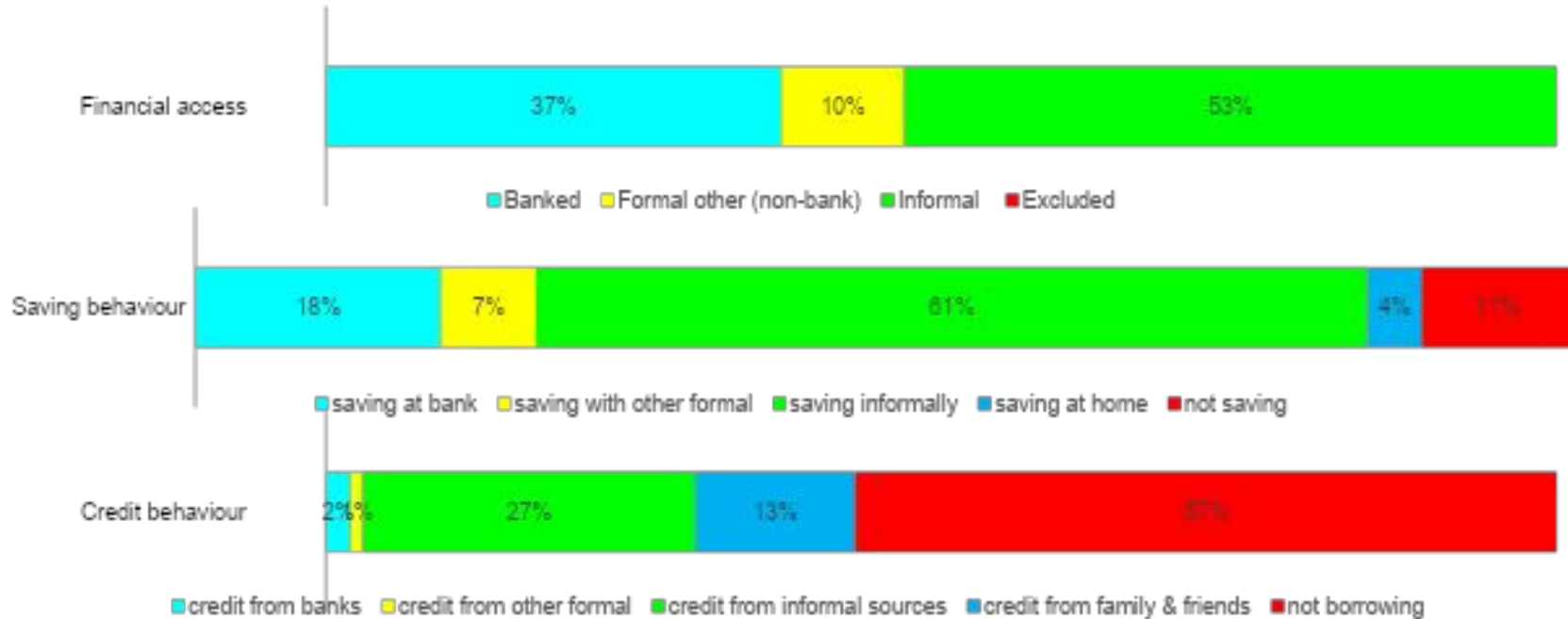


Top reasons for borrowing
Start/expand a business -27%
Buy food/clothing -13%
Medical -13%



Use of digital financial services
Mobile money – 3%
Digital payment – 19%
Repay or make contributions through digital channels -0.4%

Financial behaviour of women who belong village/community groups



Profile of women who belong to saving thrift



Profile

Both urban/rural dwellers (44%/56%)

Most of them have attained secondary education & above (66%)

Mostly business owners (67%) & dependents (14%)

Other sources of income also belong to savings groups
formal salaried workers (4%), informal workers (7%), farmers (6%)

- Contribute to savings group Daily 44%, weekly 39%, monthly 14%



SAVING

These women are saving for these top reasons ??



Top reasons for borrowing ??



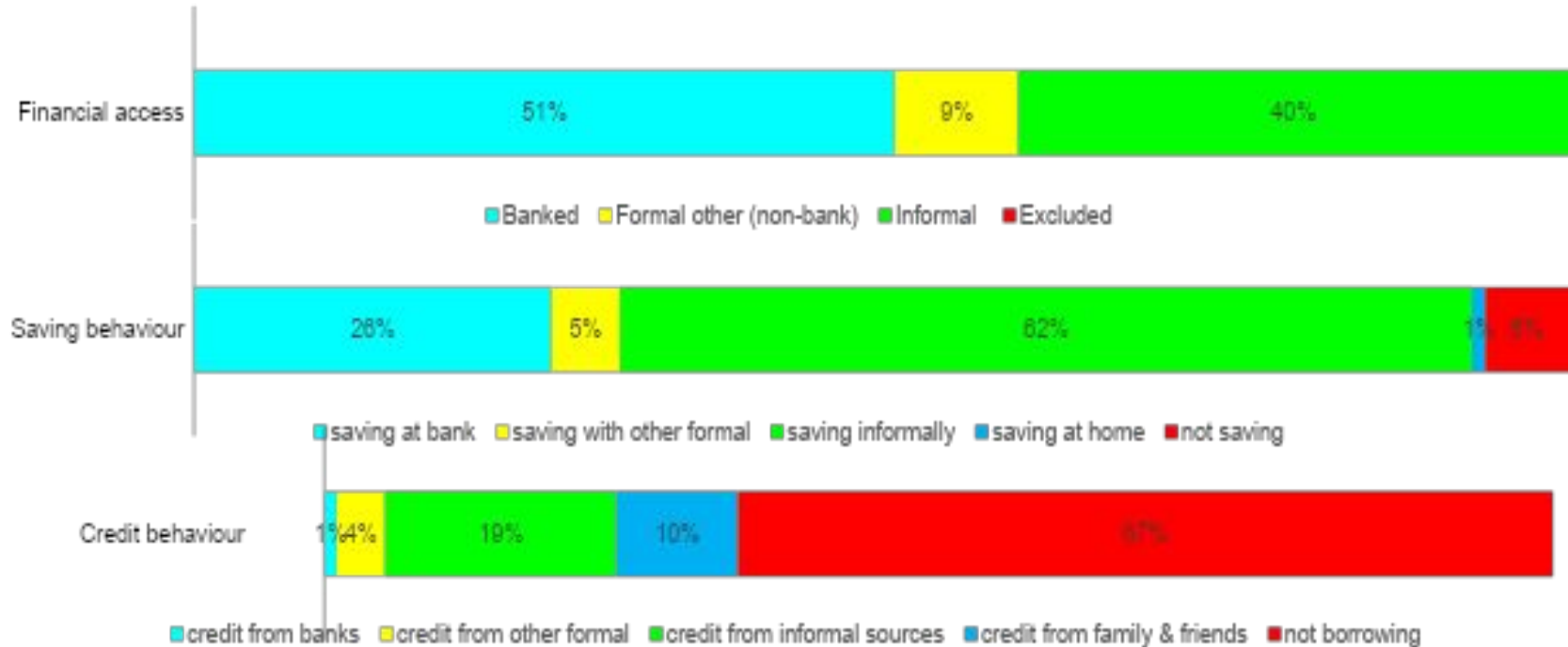
Use of digital financial services

Mobile money – 3%

Digital payment – 28%

Repay or make contributions through digital channels -1%

Financial behaviour of women who belong savings thrift group





Indicator	Challenges	Nigeria situation analysis
The Mobility indicator measures laws affecting freedom of movement	Limitations in this area reduce opportunities for women to build networks with other entrepreneurs and exchange vital information on market opportunities, ultimately preventing them from developing their full potential	Nigeria receives a score of 50 on this indicator, as women cannot choose where to live in the same way as men, and because passport application procedures contain some ambiguity about the documentation that married women need to submit
Workplace indicator, focuses on laws affecting women's decisions to enter and remain in the labour force		Nigeria lacks civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment, and a specific provision that prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of gender.
Pay indicator focuses on laws and regulations on occupational segregation and the gender wage gap	Should a woman successfully enter and remain in the labour force, it is imperative that she not face job restrictions or receive lower pay than a man holding the same position	Nigeria also fails to achieve a perfect score because women are not allowed to work in industrial undertakings at night, nor in underground mines, water, energy, transportation, factories, construction etc

Indicator	Challenges	Nigeria situation analysis
Marriage indicator focuses on domestic violence, equal rights between a man and a woman to marry and remarry	Unequal rights in marriage and divorce can have negative effects on women's intra-household bargaining power and jeopardize their financial security	Nigeria is one of just 16 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa to score 100 on the Marriage indicator.
The Parenthood indicator examines laws affecting women's work after pregnancy	Maternity, paternity, and parental leave schemes can help recognize and redistribute unpaid care work	With score of 0 Nigeria ranks among the lowest-scoring economies in the region. The country does not provide at least 14 weeks of paid leave to mothers (currently only 12 weeks) , it does not administer 100 percent of maternity leave benefits through the government, does not make paid leave available to fathers, and does not prohibit the dismissal of pregnant workers, except in specific cases (illness or unfitness to work)
The Entrepreneurship indicator analyses constraints on women starting and running businesses	Laws that prescribe equal access when conducting financial transactions, entrepreneurial activity, or when receiving financial assistance are key to expanding access to finance for women-owned businesses.	Nigeria scores 75 out of 100 on this indicator since it has not yet introduced a provision to address discrimination in access to credit.

Indicator	Challenges	Nigeria situation analysis
The Assets indicator examines gender differences in property and inheritance law	Strong property rights can allow women to leverage assets for economic gain	Nigeria fails to achieve a perfect score because it does not provide for the valuation of non-monetary contributions to matrimonial property, such as childcare or domestic work, that usually disproportionately fall on women. This gap may be due to legacy legislation reflecting the traditional roles of spouses during marriage and at its dissolution
The Pension indicator assesses laws affecting women's economic prospects in retirement.	Explicit recognition of maternity leave as a qualifying period of employment allows women's retirement savings to continue growing while on care leave	Nigeria receives a 75/100 on this indicator. Although the ages at which men and women can retire are equal, periods of absence due to childcare are not accounted for in pension benefits

Women are facing significant challenges in access to markets due to lack of finance, societal challenges, lack of essential business skills & prevailing gender norms

Access to finance

- Lack of start-up funds
- Lack of credit facilities

Societal

- Cultural norms that hinder opposite sex interaction, which is mostly prevalent in the Northern parts of Nigeria
- Lack of time to engage in household & reproductive responsibility
- Restrictive policies

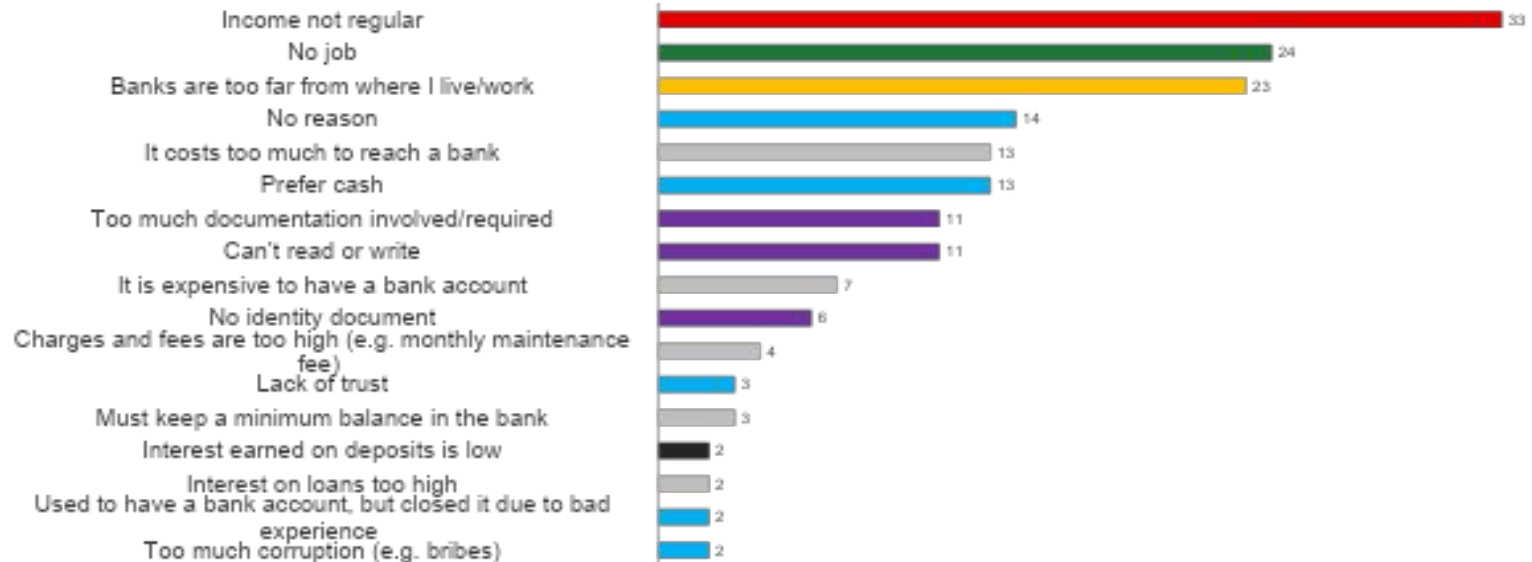
Access to market

- Lack of access to labour, input & technology
- Mobility constraints (travelling far distance)
- Small business likely to yield low volume to reach large market
- Limited access to appropriate market information
- Limited access to business training



Banking: little/irregular income, cost of banking, attitudes/perception, are the biggest obstacles to having a bank account

Reasons for not having bank account (%)



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Thank You