

Executive Summary

Nigeria is ranked as the 27th-largest economy in the world in terms of nominal GDP, also the 24th-largest in terms of purchasing power parity and the largest Sub Saharan Africa's economy. The country relies heavily on oil as its main source of foreign exchange earnings and government revenues. Following the 2008-09 global financial crises, the banking sector was effectively recapitalized and regulation enhanced. Since then, Nigeria's economic growth has been driven by growth in agriculture, telecommunications, and services. Over 80million Nigerians live below \$1 dollar per day, that's about half of the country's population. In the midst of economic crisis and politically heated ground, Corona Virus (COVID-19) disaster hits the country at a very wrong time when it was struggling to survive.

The COVID-19 pandemic is part of the worldwide pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The first confirmed case in Nigeria was announced on 27th February 2020 when an Italian citizen in Lagos tested positive for the virus. The entire country was locked down for several weeks with extension on some states like Lagos, Abuja FCT and Ondo state. This makes it so much hard for vulnerable people to get three square meals a day. Many people have lost their job or found themselves being underpaid. Schools were locked down and parents could not afford virtual classes organized during lockdown most of which are worth the amount of their meal for an entire week.

Realizing the effect of COVID-19 on the country's economy and the hardship faced by business owners especially women, Ilizwi-Initiative in partnership with New Faces New Voices Nigeria sponsored an advocacy to reach out to the vulnerable women in marginalized communities were 17 women entrepreneurs selected at random from Katsina, Kaduna and Kano were interviewed on the 5th day of August 2020. The aim was to develop key advocacy and policy asks with specific relevance to the lived experiences of women, adolescents and youth during the COVID-19 pandemic and also to provide incentive of N10,000 each to help them get back to business.

Gallery



Caption: Kaduna Field Assistant 1&2 with Beneficiary and Her Children



Caption: NFNV Field Assistant with beneficiary