

## 5 Year Project Outcome

WAY will benefit 41,000 people, particularly women and youth, family members and communities;

- 16,000 entrepreneurs and small-scale businesses will improve their business capacity and business environments.
- 25,000 families and community members will become better educated on the consequences surrounding early and forced child marriage.

**FUNDER:** Global Affairs Canada (GAC)

**PROJECT LENGTH:** 2017-2022

Nigeria WAY – Youth Entrepreneurship and Women’s Empowerment in Northern Nigeria – works in Bauchi state, Nigeria to support women and youth-led businesses, to strengthen their business performance in three value chains (VCs), of Rice, Groundnut and Soy, to improve the overall business environment and to strengthen dialogue in communities and families about risks to children due to poverty.

### IMPLEMENTING LGAs

1. Bauchi
2. Ganjuwa
3. Warji
4. Toro
5. Dass
6. Jama’are
7. Katagum



## SLG Share-out; Clients Complete Savings & Loans Group Cycle in the Face of Covid-19

**SLG Objective;** Increased access to appropriate, inclusive financial services and products for Entrepreneurs & Small-Scale Businesses particularly those run by women and youth in targeted agricultural value chains in Bauchi state.

In 2019 Nigeria WAY Linked 10,900 Entrepreneurs (ENs); a total number of 436 groups to Saving and Loan Groups (SLGs). During the 9 months Savings and Loan cycle, the Corona Virus global pandemic halted major businesses across the world. But most women across the 436 SLGs reporting on the impact of the SLG on their businesses and family say the groups afforded them access to loans to continue to do business even during the lockdown.

- **88.68%** of SLGs monitored reported to save weekly.

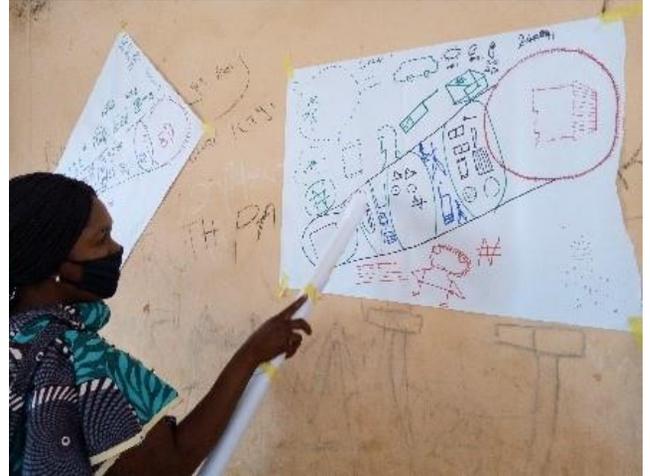


- SLGs formed: **436**
- SLGs Sharing out: **399**
- **NGN60,536,531** NGN in savings
- Loans funds: **NGN123,282,997**
- Social funds : **NGN 6,842,061**

## GALS & CALS

Through partners Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria, Child is Gold Foundation and FAWOYDI, communities have been engaged through the Gender Action Learning Systems and Community Action Learning Systems to increase their awareness and build capacity around gender to improve access and acceptance of women's economic activities and contribution to the household. A total of 3 communities including 90 households have been impacted by this activity.

Community GALS Champions have also started taking turns in handling trainings



*Vision Journey drawing illustrating goals, the current situation, the challenges and opportunities, target mile stones and the action plan*

## Value Chain Impact



### SOY

- Expanding the markets for protein rich foods
- 20 Soy recipes showcased on the processing of soy in Katagum LGA
- 100 Clients trained on best practices in Soy Utilisation



### RICE

- Meadow Rice factory - to partner with Nigeria WAY promoting a weekly supply of 500 bags of paddy rice from clients. Meadow Rice has the capacity to process as much as 2400 bags of 50kg paddy rice on a weekly base with consistent supply of paddy rice.



### GROUNDNUT

- Instructional Training Videos produced to provide processing and safety information to groundnut processors and expand the markets.

## Bauchi State 1st Lady Hajiya Aisha Kaura Launches first Women in Business Forum (WiB) in Bauchi



The Women In Business Forum, is a women’s alliance and networking platform for exploring business opportunities in Bauchi State. The forum is a multi-stakeholder partnership, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Department of Cooperatives, Chambers of Commerce and Industries. It was inaugurated in August 2020, because a workable framework, was absent in Bauchi State. The Forum aims to provide women business owners a networking opportunity that

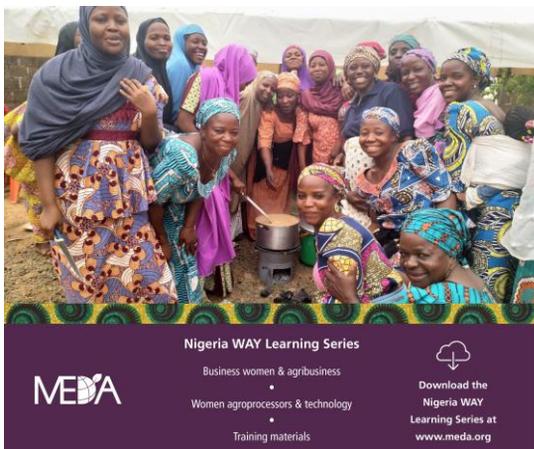
supplies professional and business growth support and a gender responsive conducive environment.

Her Excellency the First Lady of Bauchi State, Hajiya Aisha Bala Mohammed Kaura was in person to inaugurate the forum. The 50 Million African Women Speaks Project Platform (50MAWSP) Content Manager for Nigeria, Mrs. Ajibike Saratu facilitated the structuring of the forum as a sustainability strategy of MEDA’s intervention in closing the gender business gap in Bauchi State.



## WAY Learning Series

We’ve been working hard over the past couple months to provide a platform for women to share how they are navigating the economic and social challenges that come with being a woman in business. The Nigeria WAY Learning Series is for those interested in learning more about these challenges & opportunities and offers practical insights that will benefit anyone interested in learning more about women's economic empowerment in Nigeria. Download today at [www.meda.org/waylearning](http://www.meda.org/waylearning).



Nigeria WAY Learning Series

Business women & agribusiness

• Women agroprocessors & technology

• Training materials

MEDA



Download the Nigeria WAY Learning Series at [www.meda.org](http://www.meda.org)

## SSBs Working to Improve Business in the Face of Covid-19

Despite the Covid 19 Pandemic halting some businesses in Bauchi, 10 SSBs trained have raised the bar to improve the process and requirements for Quality Assurance and Control (QAC), Food safety, Health Safety and Environment (HSE) standards, processes and procedures. Nigeria WAY is supporting SSB Owners in Bauchi to have food products that meet regulatory and safety standards.



# Story of Change

Community Member Champions GALS in Liman Katagum

Gambo, an indigene of Bauchi State, is a widow with six children. Trading in rice, soybeans and groundnut, Gambo works hard to make enough money for the upkeep of her children.

Gambo's market challenge has been in the area of unpaid loans according to her "One of my biggest challenge is that people do collect soy from me on credit, they process it and sell before they will pay me while others will not even pay." This singular but consistent act kept Gambo from succeeding in her business even though she had invested time and resources. This market challenge also translated to a socio-economic challenge for her as she says, "I was finding it really difficult to take care of my children especially since the death of my husband and life had become difficult for us due to these unpaid loans".



*Gambo explaining the vision journey tool during a GALS training*

In 2019, Gambo was mobilized to participate in the Gender Action Learning Systems GALS training. "My life has not been the same since then. I did not know I could be in charge of my life just by drawing." She laughs. "Before, I couldn't even save because of lack of planning."

The GALS training showed Gambo how to plan her life, family and business through the vision journey, happy family tree, challenge action tree, multi-lane highway, leadership empowerment map."

With the knowledge gained from the training, Gambo decided to test the learning tools and take charge of her life, her family and finances. Noting some of the changes so far, Gambo says – "I can now sit down with my children and have a discussion regarding the betterment of the house. We are now free with each other in the house without problems."

Personally, Gambo says now has a better knowledge about why certain things happen. She cites an example – "The Family Challenge Tree helped me, as the results of the training they did in Bauchi, my son that was out of school went back to school just before the corona break. And those that were staying at home idle have found small businesses to engage." Regarding her business, she says "before I was only selling soybeans but now have expanded the business to selling of our local rice and even groundnuts".

"My vision Journey is a big one." She says. "I intend to buy cows to sell to join with the things I sell. But my biggest goal is to marry again because without a husband it's quite difficult to get the respect and protection you need these days. I just want to really establish myself and my business, and my children should have a good life." She concludes.

Gambo is now one of the GALS training Champions for her community at Liman Katagum in Bauchi Local Government Area where she has gone ahead to train ten (10) persons.



*Gambo shares her vision journey*

GALS (Gender Action Learning System) is a community-led empowerment methodology that uses principles of inclusion to improve income, food and nutrition security of vulnerable people in a gender-equitable way. MEDA Nigeria way has adopted the tools and through partners uses the trainings to position economic active poor women so they can take charge of their own development rather than become victims. Like Gambo, they are identifying and dismantling obstacles in their families, communities and the value chains they work in.

## Thank you to our Funders and all our Partners



SEDA



**MEDA** *Creating business solutions to poverty*

**Canada**