

Melanne Verveer

for Nigeria

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PROFILE

*Her Excellency, Chief (Mrs) Stella Obasanjo
First Lady, the Federal Republic of Nigeria*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ON

SPECIAL CHILDREN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME



**CHILD
CARE
TRUST**



Child Care Trust

Office of the First Lady
Federal Capital Territory
Abuja Nigeria

.....
.....
.....

Dear Sir/Madam,

CHILD CARE TRUST: SOLICITING YOUR SUPPORT

We are glad to inform you of the establishment of **Child Care Trust** to cater for the survival, protection and development of the Nigerian Child.

Presently, our focus is on the handicapped children in Nigeria through the **Special Children Empowerment Programme**. Our goal is to assist in bringing up these children who have suffered various forms of abuse, discrimination and neglect to become useful, responsible and fulfilled citizens, using state-of-the-art facilities and methods of international standards.

Child Care Trust is a private initiative. It therefore relies on support from international donor agencies, non-governmental bodies, philanthropic organisations and private individuals worldwide. May I therefore seek your assistance to enable us realise the objectives of the Trust. You may kindly address your donations in cheques or bank drafts to "Child Care Trust, Abuja".

Please find enclosed a copy of the **Executive Summary** of the Blueprint on the Special Children Empowerment Programme which highlights its goals, objectives, implementation strategies and financial requirements.

Thanks for your interest in our cause.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Stella Obasanjo

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CHILD CARE TRUST: A PROFILE

Child Care Trust (CCT) is a registered not-for-profit non-governmental organisation established with a mission to provide quality health care and services for Nigerian children and women of child bearing age. The mission of **CCT** is premised on findings from several studies which have indicated the magnitude of the problems facing children and women in Nigeria who constitute more than 70 per cent of the total population.

All demographic indicators on Nigerian children and women are danger signals to the health and socio-economic status of this category of people. The maternal and infant mortality rates of 800 per 100,000 and 87 per 1,000 respectively, underscore the very poor health status of Nigerians, especially when compared with an industrialized nation like France with a maternal mortality rate of 13 per 100,000 and infant mortality rate of 7 per 1,000. Even Egypt, a developing African nation like Nigeria, records a lower maternal mortality rate of 155 per 100,00 and infant mortality rate of 62 per 1,000.

The high morbidity and mortality rates brought about by diseases whose causes are preventable have cast a blight on our nation and by extension, on the national economy. **Child Care Trust** is set to complement the present efforts of the Federal Government through its human focused health and social integration programme which will also address that critical mass of people known and referred to as disabled and handicapped.

Vision

The vision of **Child Care Trust** is to upgrade the health and socio-economic status of children (including handicapped children) and women (especially women of child-bearing age) in Nigeria and promote equal opportunities for them with a view of ensuring a whole and more fulfilling life for them.

Child Care Trust derives its mandate from various policy statements and articles documented in several publications, including the UN Convention on the

Rights of the Child (1991), the Nigerian National Population Policy (1988), the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies (1984), the Cairo Programme of Action (ICPD, 1994) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (FWWC, Beijing, 1995), among others.

Nigeria is signatory to all of these policy statements and agreements which exhorts government and non-governmental organisations to initiate and implement population and health development programmes.

Child Care Trust will mark its debut in population and health development programmes with its pilot programme, ***Special Children Empowerment Programme***, which is focused on handicapped children and their mothers.

Board of Trustees

Child Care Trust, as a non-government organisation, is being governed by a Board of Trustees under the chairmanship of Her Excellency, Chief (Mrs.) Stella Obasanjo, First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Other members of the Board include the following personalities:

- (i) **From the United States of America:**
Ted Turner
Carlton Masters
Andrew Young
- (ii) **From Saudi Arabia**
Sheik Yamani
Al-Fayed
- (iii) **From Nigeria**
Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti
- (iv) One more African one European are expected to join the Board.

Sources of Fund

Child Care Trust is funded through contributions from members of the Board of Trustees. Additional funds are sourced from various Donor Agencies, including the United Nations, European Union and USAID as well as several other bilateral donors, private donors, philanthropic organisations/individuals. Support from other countries, organisations and private individuals will be appreciated to enhance sustainable programming.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nigeria in Perspective

Nigeria has a landscape which covers an area of 923,776 kilometres and shares borders with Benin, Niger Republics, Chad, Cameroun and the Gulf of Guinea.

The country's climate, vegetation and topography encourage agricultural activities throughout the country.

Nigeria is one of the most diverse societies in the world in terms of history, ethnicity, language and religion. With a 1997 UNICEF estimated population of 103.9 million, she is presently the most populous country in Africa.

The nation's economy relies heavily on oil earnings overlaid with various traditional but technologically evolving agricultural activities.

Since her independence on October 1, 1960, Nigeria has witnessed numerous changes in governance, with the military ruling for about 29 years. However, the nation now operates a three-tier presidential system of government with the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces at the centre. Each of the 36 States and 774 Local Government Areas making up the country are headed by Executive Governors and Council Chairmen respectively.

The Handicapped Children in Nigeria

The 18th World Congress of the Rehabilitation International held in 1996 focused attention on the protection of children with disabilities. This gave further support to Article 23 of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1991) which provides for a

full, decent and dignified life which promotes self-reliance and economic empowerment for disabled children.

The causes of children's disabilities in Nigeria have been identified to include poverty, ignorance, poor sanitation, violence, accidents, chronic alcoholism, drug abuse, trauma, malnutrition, poisons, carelessness on the part of midwives and parents and overuse or misuse of medicines. Some conditions of disability are also traceable to genetic factors especially the health of mothers during pregnancy.

In Nigeria, treatment of handicapped children has a strange cultural background which has subjected them to various forms of abuse, neglect and abandonment. Children's disabilities in Nigeria extend beyond cases of physical handicap, mental retardation and visual impairment to include social disabilities that affect abandoned and street children.

Many efforts have been made by both governmental and non-governmental bodies to ameliorate the problems of handicapped children in Nigeria, the problem of neglect still remains an obstacle to their development. There is an urgent need for all to embrace them so as to bring out the best in them for the benefit of the entire society.

Rehabilitation of handicapped children in Nigeria therefore necessitates a combined and co-ordinated use of medical, social, education and vocational services to enable them function at their maximum capacity level. The **Special Children Empowerment Programme** is set up to complement efforts of the existing institutions toward the realisation of this laudable goal.

Stratification and Peculiarities of Children's Disabilities in Nigeria

Classification of disabilities varies among professionals but **Special Children Empowerment Programme** will focus on physical disabilities, blindness, deafness, mental retardation and the issue of abandoned and street children.

Physical disabilities range from common polio, contractures and cerebral palsy to muscular dystrophy and atrophy. While some are due to lack of good antenatal treatment, others occur as a result of accidents.

Blindness could be partial or total and its common causes include eye injuries, trachoma, brain damage, measles and chlamydia. In the same vein, deafness in children may be partial or complete with causes traceable to heredity, german measles during early pregnancy, ear infections, meningitis and frequent loud noise, among others.

The known causes of mental retardation in children can be traced to genetic factors, especially the feeding and health of women during pregnancy. Although no cure has been found for mental retardation, children suffering from the disability can be specially stimulated to enable them live more comfortable and progressive lives.

Abandonment is one of the worst forms of child abuse. It is fast assuming an alarming proportion in Nigeria due to certain socio-economic reasons, the major one being poverty.

Street children too are victims of poverty, broken homes, lack of parental care and defiant behaviours.

Problem Statement

Children's disabilities in Nigeria have become a problem of increasing magnitude. Despite the various efforts of the government and others in this direction, the current status of rehabilitation services in the country cannot be said to be satisfactory. Available facilities fall far short of what might be considered adequate or even basic. It is very difficult to determine the dimensions of the problems of handicapped children and their rehabilitation due to the absence of comprehensive statistics and general lack of interest in rehabilitation programmes.

In addition, there is yet no articulate legislation on disabled children in Nigeria. Although they have the same constitutional rights and privileges as other citizens, a majority of them are denied these rights. For instance, only an insignificant percentage of them receive any education while the Federal Government directive on the reservation of 2 per cent of job placements in each establishment for the disabled has not been adhered to.

Furthermore, ignorance, illiteracy and poverty on the part of parents have led to increasing cases of children's disability in Nigeria.

Also, the attitudes of Nigerians toward handicapped children, due to erroneous beliefs, have increased the tendency to discriminate against, neglect or even ostracise them. Yet, and nothing concrete has been done to redress the situation.

Moreover, the huge cost of managing programmes focused on disabled children is so high that more efforts are still needed to complement those of the existing rehabilitation centres.

All these problems are what **Child Care Trust** has been established to tackle through its various enlightenment, health, educational and vocational training programmes for handicapped children, their parents and educators across the country.

Programme Goal

The goal of ***Special Children Empowerment Programme*** is to ensure a more fulfilling life for handicapped children in Nigeria. This will be achieved through the creation of a conducive environment and the institutionalization of appropriate programmes that will serve as catalysts for their full rehabilitation and integration into the larger society.

Programme Objectives

By the year 2003, ***Special Children Empowerment Programme*** will have achieved the following objectives:

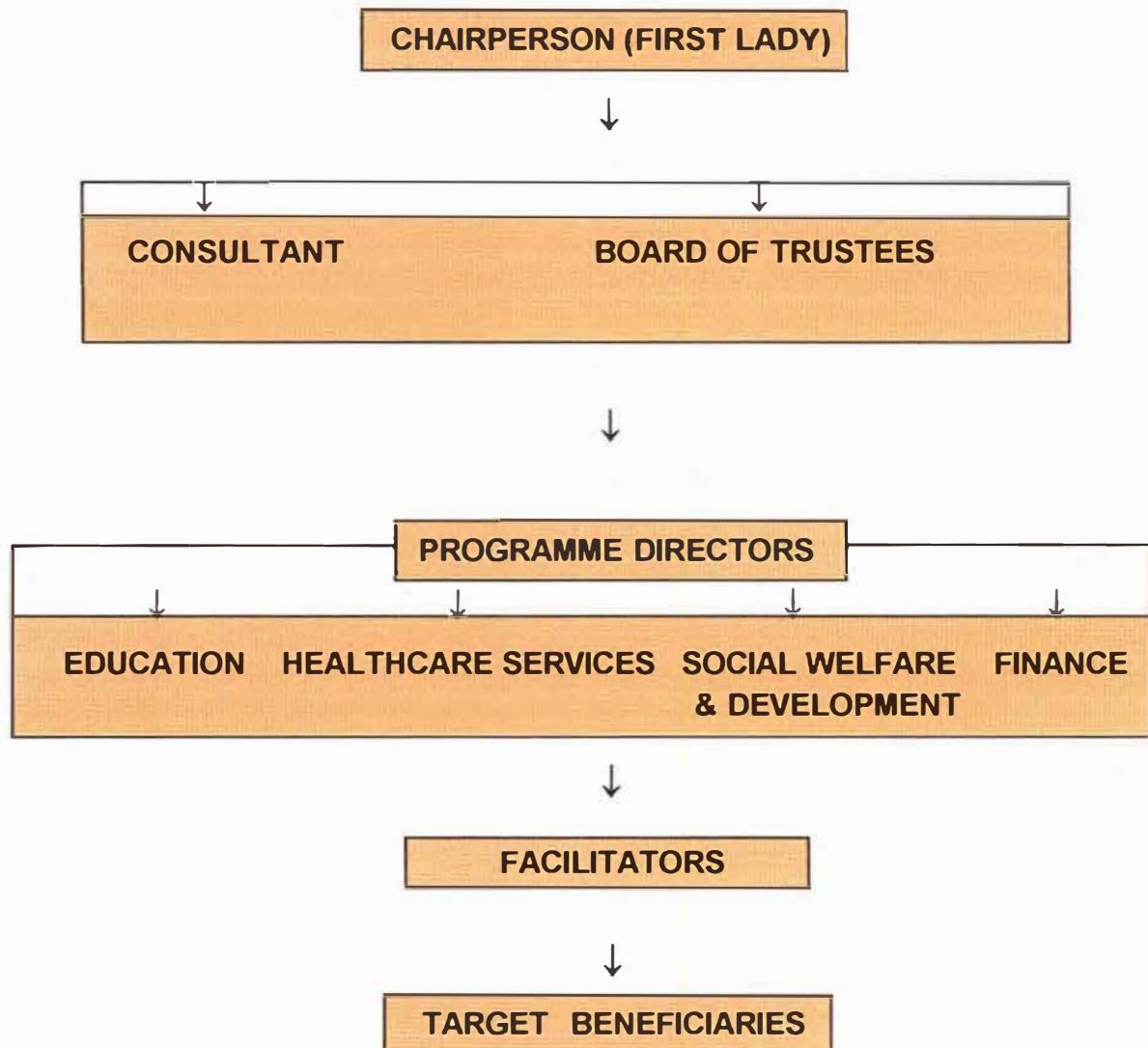
1. Provide a conducive environment for the training and rehabilitation of handicapped children through the establishment of a Model Centre that will adequately cater for at least 700 handicapped children.
2. Provide comprehensive medical and social welfare development facilities for all handicapped children in the Centre.
3. Develop a data bank which will serve as a repertoire of information and demographic statistics on handicapped children and handicapping conditions throughout Nigeria.
4. Carry out research in areas of prevention of disabilities, early intervention, training and development opportunities for handicapped children.
5. Develop a guideline for a comprehensive special education programme for optimal use by existing related institutions throughout the Federation.
6. Promote a more cordial inter-personal relationship between handicapped children and the larger society through public information and education.
7. Provide adequate academic and vocational skills that will economically empower a sizeable number of handicapped children in Nigeria for a self-sustaining livelihood.
8. Support existing institutions through manpower and institutional capacity development.
9. Provide appropriate training, counselling services and information on the prevention and management of disabilities for parents of handicapped children (especially the mothers) and women of child-bearing age.

Programme Justification

Special Children Empowerment Programme is justified on the following premise:

- (1) Many children labelled disabled are handicapped only in particular, but not in all, situations. With the right orientation and support, a new lease of life will be injected into these special children through this programme.
- (2) Every child has a right to education. With some adaptations and modifications, and given the required number of qualified staff and necessary equipment, the programme will make available to handicapped children many educational opportunities for regular school children.
- (3) Productivity is the essence of living. Handicapped children are fellow citizens who are entitled to getting their dreams and aspirations actualised like any other person in the nation. Given appropriate and adequate care, most handicapped children can live productive lives.
- (4) Public education on causes, management and prevention of the various disabilities will greatly reduce incidences of disability in children. It will also break myths, dispel rumours and generally improve interpersonal relationship between disabled and non-disabled people.
- (5) Empowering the handicapped children economically will relieve the burdens of their dependency on their parents and the nation at large.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



The operational spectrum of ***Special Children Empowerment Programme*** naturally stems from the office of the First Lady who is the initiator of the programme. However, there is need for the participation of various hands at different stages of implementation. Hence, this organizational structure has been designed as a pictorial representation of the programme's *modus operandi*.

INTERVENTION STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

The intervention strategies designed for this programme will revolve around centre-based activities because of the peculiarities of the beneficiaries. All the activities will be designed to involve handicapped professionals as key facilitators to enhance the much desired commitment and also create a sense of belonging among the target populace.

The following activities have been identified for implementation in the programme:

Baseline Survey/Needs Assessment

Special Children Empowerment Programme intends to identify the major problem areas and immediate needs of handicapped children. This will serve as a basis for the smooth take-off of the programme as well as a pivot for further investigation into ways and means of improving the life-planning skills of handicapped children in Nigeria.

This exercise will be conducted by a team of consultant evaluators to be appointed by **Child Care Trust**. Their assignment will also include writing reports as well as giving appropriate recommendations that will assist ***Special Children Empowerment Programme*** implementation.

Stakeholders' Workshop

To facilitate a successful take-off of the programme, a 3-day Stakeholders Workshop will be held in Abuja. At this forum, participants who will be drawn from among policy makers, traditional rulers, community/religion leaders, health professionals, the academic, the donor community, philanthropic organisations and

individuals, etc. will be comprehensively briefed on the goal and objectives of the programme. Days 2 and 3 of the workshop will have key programme implementors and a team of experts reviewing the programme's blueprint, workplan and intervention strategies. 200 participants are expected at this workshop.

Sensitization and Advocacy Seminar

About the second quarter of first year of programme implementation, a Sensitization and Advocacy Seminar will be organised. The 2-day seminar will focus mainly on people who are strategic to the success of the programme. These include, among others, representatives of the print and electronic media, the Federal and State Legislative Councils, wives of State Governors, chairmen of Local Government Councils, community leaders, religious leaders, the donor agencies, philanthropic organisations and private individuals.

The goal of this seminar is to sensitize the participants to the social and economic effects of the deplorable conditions of handicapped children and appeal for their support. A total of 150 participants will attend this seminar.

Capacity Development

Caring for handicapped children necessarily requires the provision of the appropriate facilities and specialists teachers and instructors.

Within the framework of ***Special Children Empowerment Programme***, developing the capacity for the care of handicapped children presupposes both human and institutional capacity development.

Human capacity development will be enhanced through the provision of education, refresher courses and training-of-trainers (TOT) programmes that will take place at Abuja.

50 professionals responsible for the training and care of children with various disabilities will attend each of the refresher courses and training-of-trainers

programmes which will be organised quarterly for five days.

A training programme will also be organised for parents and guardians of the handicapped to improve their knowledge and skills in the management and counselling of their children and wards. This training programme which will be organised on a yearly basis and will be attended by selected batches of participants from each of the six geo-political zones of the Federation, and the Federal Capital Territory. Technical assistance will also be rendered to existing handicapped children institutions and their personnel.

Institutional Capacity Development under ***Special Children Empowerment Programme*** will entail the establishment of a Special Children Model Centre in Abuja. This Centre will consist of

- Blocks of classrooms
- Hostels
- Vocational Training Centre
- Medical Centre
- Documentation and Research Unit

all of which will be equipped with state-of-the-art materials of international standards.

Community Mobilisation

Various informative and educational activities in form of community and media outreaches will constitute prominent components of the programme. Community outreach activities will provide opportunities for the exhibition and sale of products of the disabled children vocational training. Media outreach activities, on the other hand, will serve as a forum for discussing and analysing opinions on handicapped persons. Such activities will feature health professionals, experienced social workers handicapped children and their parents as discussants. The print media will equally serve the purpose of disseminating various information about the programme, especially through feature articles, cartoons and short stories.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

Various IEC materials will be designed and produced for distribution to the general public, especially during community mobilisation and outreach activities. These materials will include posters, pamphlets, singlets and visor caps, and themes to be used in designing them will be sourced from the various workshops organised for social workers, teachers and parents of handicapped children.

Vocational Training

To improve the quality of life of handicapped children in Nigeria, there is need to empower them economically. Vocational training is therefore one of the most important components of this programme. **Child Care Trust** will provide vocational training facilities for all categories of handicapped children at the ***Special Children Model Centre***, Abuja. It will also organise quarterly trainings in various vocations for instructors from other institutions for disabled children nationwide.

Evaluation

The evaluation of the project will be conducted in four stages:

- **Pre-Intervention Evaluation** will focus on the establishment of preliminary baseline information for project planning.
- **Process Evaluation** will assess the service delivery system and the impact of the project.
- **Mid-Evaluation** will be conducted with the aim of assessing the progress performance of the programme.
- **Post-Evaluation** will be undertaken to determine the total impact of the project on the target populace and the community at large.

BUDGET SUMMARY FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

YEARLY COSTS

DETAILS	1999/2000 ₦	2000/2001 ₦	2001/2002 ₦	2002/2003 ₦	TOTAL COST ₦
1. Workshop	13,618,500	–	–	–	13,618,500
2. Human Capacity Development	25,448,500	25,448,500	25,448,500	25,448,500	101,794,000
3. Institutional Capacity Development	38,500,000	43,500,000	44,000,000	42,100,000	168,100,000
4. Information Education and Communication	13,640,000	13,640,000	13,440,000	11,940,000	52,660,000
5. Study Tours	500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	1,500,000	6,500,000
6. Technical Assistance	–	750,000	750,000	1,500,000	3,000,000
7. Evaluation	2,000,000	10,000,000	–	11,500,000	23,500,000
8. Asset Acquisition	28,550,000	1,000,000	3,000,000	–	32,550,000
9. Administrative Costs	10,728,000	10,728,000	10,728,000	10,728,000	42,912,000
10. Miscellaneous	1,750,000	2,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	11,250,000
11. Audit of Accounts	150,000	150,000	150,000	200,000	650,000
	134,885,000	109,716,500	103,516,500	108,416,500	456,534,500
Consultancy Fee	13,488,500	10,971,650	10,351,650	10,841,650	45,653,450
TOTAL COST	148,373,500	120,688,150	113,868,150	119,258,150	502,187,950

(Five hundred and two million, one hundred and eighty-seven thousand, nine hundred and fifty naira)

FUNDING

This programme will be funded from a pool of money made up of contributions from members of the Board of Trustees, donations from corporate organisations, philanthropic organisations and individuals. However, a larger percentage of the fund will be sourced from Agencies of the United Nations, bilateral organisations and private donor agencies.

Child Care Trust will endeavour to provide counterpart funds sourced from by the various vocational enterprises embarked upon by the Special Children Model Centre.

WORK PLAN

S/NO.	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLACE OF ACTIVITY	PERIOD AND DURATION	OUTPUT
1.	Briefing/Stakeholders Workshop.	Consultant and CCT	Abuja	Month 1	(a) All stakeholders of programme have clear understanding of implementation modality and their respective roles as key participants. (b) Public becomes aware of the programme. (c) Policy makers and community leaders lend support to programme.
2.	Baseline Survey/Needs Assessment	CCT and Consultant Evaluators	Nationwide	First Quarter	Findings from field survey.
3.	Staff Recruitment	CCT/ Management Consultants	Abuja and Lagos	Month 1	All Programme Directors and other key officers recruited.
4.	Launch CCT and Raise Fund	CCT and Consultant	Abuja	Month 1	Programme gets on stream
5.	Construction Work on Special Children Model Centre.	CCT and Consultant	Abuja	Months 1 - 6	All buildings that will house the Special Children Model Centre are completed.
6.	Procurement of Equipment and Materials	CCT and Consultant	Lagos	Months 1 - 3	Major equipment and materials procured and inventoried.
7.	Human Capacity Development.	CCT/SCMC/Consultant	Abuja	Years 1 - 4	Staff of SCMC and selected professionals, parents and guardians of handicapped children acquire greater skills.

8.	Production and distribution of IEC Materials.	SCMC/Consultant	Abuja/Lagos	Year 1	Public awareness and acceptance of programme become consolidated.
9.	Sensitization and Advocacy Seminar	CCT/SCMC/Consultant	Abuja	Second Quarter	Public support received for programme.
10.	Community Mobilisation and Media Outreach.	CCT/SCMC/Consultant	Nationwide	Years 1 - 4	Public awareness and acceptance of programme become consolidated.
11.	Process Evaluation	SCMC	Abuja	Years 1 - 4	Records of all activities of programme.
12.	Study Tours	SCMC/CCT	To be Identified by Project Consortium	Years 1 - 3	Project implementors acquire experience on development programmes.
13.	Mid-Evaluation	SCMC/Consultant Evaluators	Abuja	End of Year 2	Findings from mid-term of programme which will indicate new direction for programme.
14.	Post Evaluation	SCMC/CCT/Consultant Evaluators	Abuja	Year 4	Final report of programme.
15.	Dissemination Conference	CCT/SCMC/Consultant Evaluators	Abuja	Year 4	Findings and lessons learned disseminated to the public.

Repe
12/300+

3/108 Senate

Nigeria

36 States

ethnic problems -

inheritance not a prob for
for Muslims & Prots.

inheritance - victory of 2 or 3 State
in hardbound trad'n area -
this is custom-bound in various
tribes.

educate on legal rts & judge
on your side in litigation.

most women illiterate

one of reasons why economic
empowerment is so critical.

focus of all - how to empower
women politically

not being able to inherit is
police vs. women

governance for development,
not governance for power

even though of diff. parties,
work together on women's
issues on floor.

Key issues

① HIV/AIDS

polygamy - ltd up to 4
marriages.

1st people to be affected
is wife, girlfriends & mistress

usually hands to help with
farms.

migrant workers. Usually
bring back disease

orphan crisis -

Metaphors 10 buslands of young
→ 2 buslands
after illness & death
imports

In Nigeria 5.4% infected
World Aids Campaign } only incl women

< churches >

Stegina - (1 ♀ Lady - devil
with them)

herbalist

more to child transmission - (AZT)

AZT more needed to
rural people

Absentee
de couple
condan

$$A \quad B \quad C$$

Some Moslems see it as a
Campaign vs polygamy -
Since Islam allows polygamy
Army has had increasing
prob with AIDS - after
going out on incursions.

[Zimbabwe, Botswana & Malawi - don't
to have negative populat'ns.

accords to politicians who
doing something.

FZ had all ministers wives -
& got a lesson on AIDS -
many started NGOs

targeted young school children.

[need to tackle social behavior]
→ leadership to
affect budget | is targeted

women's leadership critical
^{privileged}
They are models in
society

∴ voice, etc might on HIV/AIDS
talk about it in terms of
future.
Real target youth.

Infant mortality
Childbirth/mortality
maternal

in each village, train a
woman a midwife.

VVF - young girls bodies
not developed -
vaginal cutting because
not developed & leads to
incontinence -
later abandoned

microcredit - *

great story - 2nd hand fidge
for current piece

electricity

with debt reduction.
Nat'l Assembly - Chks
Excesses of expenditure

*file Nigeria
Vital Voice*

Vital Voices of Nigeria

Roundtable Discussion: Women's Economic, Legal, and Political Progress

Tuesday, June 6, 2000 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

The Citicorp Center

153 East 53rd St. 3rd Floor New York

The roundtable will include five women Assembly Members from throughout Nigeria who are forging democracy in the areas of economics, politics, and human rights. Nigeria has been targeted by the U.S. Department of State as one of the four most critical countries for democracy building. The discussion will focus on: the important role that women are playing to strengthen democracy; highlight the key issues facing women in the region; and explore ways *Vital Voices* can amplify women's voices and support their work in Nigeria and throughout Africa.

Nigerian Participants

Mrs. Janet Fesisola Adeyemi
Representative, Ibadan – Oyo State, Nigeria

② Mrs. Binta Kojia
Representative, Kaduna South Federal Constituency – Kaduna State, Nigeria *no.*

③ Mrs. Dorcas Olufunmilayo Idowu Odujinrin
Representative, Ikorodu Federal Constituency – Lagos State, Nigeria

④ Chief Mrs. Stella Unezi Omu
Senator, Delta South Senatorial District – Delta State, Nigeria *oil producer*

① Ms. Hajiya Khairat Abdul Razaq-Gwadabe
Senator, Federal Capitol Territory – Abuja, Nigeria *- State DC - capital space*

U.S. Government Participants

Ambassador Nancy Powell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs,
US State Dept.

Ambassador Nancy Rubin, U.S. Representative to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights (Ten)

Melanne Verveer, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady

Theresa Loar, Director of the President's Interagency Council on Women and the *Vital Voices*
Global Democracy Initiative

U.S. Private Sector Participants

Judith McHale, President and COO, Discovery Communications

Donna McLarty, Chairperson, *Vital Voices* Global Partnership

Citigroup Foundation



file Nigeria

**THE FIRST LADY
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
STATE HOUSE, ABUJA.**

FL/SH/64/A

12th October, 1999

Your Excellency,
First Lady of United States,
Mrs Hilary Rodham Clinton,
White House,
U.S.A.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

1. I write to thank you for the warm reception accorded me and members of my entourage during my recent visit to Washington DC.
2. Your encouragement has been an additional source of strength for our campaign in the care of the handicapped and less privileged children at home and the world over. You have made me very hopeful, knowing that I can always count on your support with regard to *Child Care Trust*.
3. I feel happy to recalling our memorable discussion about women issues in Nigeria and look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Chief (Mrs) Stella Obasanjo
Chairperson
Child Care Trust

file Nigeria

***Names of the Nigerian Women Participants
in the Secretary's Roundtable Discussion
Abuja, Nigeria ~ October 20, 1999***

- **Aisha M.S. Isma'il**, *Minister of Women and Youth Affairs*
- **Senator Florence Ita-Giwa**
- *National Assembly Representative* **Mercy Almona-Isei**
- *National Assembly Representative* **Florence Aya**
- *National Assembly Representative* **Temi Harriman**
- Professor **Jadesola Akande** of the *Women's Law and Development Center*
- Professor **Ibrironke Akinsete** of the *Society for Women and Aids in Nigeria*
- **Nkechi Nwankwo** of the *Women Leadership Group*
- **Alhaja Lafeefa Okunna** of the *Federation of Muslim Women's Associations*
- **Rebecca Sako** of the *League of Democratic Women*
- **Nkoyo Toyo** of *Gender and Development Action*
- **Priscilla Kuye** of the *Nigerian-American Chamber of Commerce*
- **Zainab Maina** of the *Nigerian Council of Women's Societies*

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	L-00	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
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O 270252Z OCT 99
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
USLO ABUJA

UNCLAS STATE 202159

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (ALBRIGHT, MADELEINE K.), PHUM, NI
SUBJECT: SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S WOMEN'S ISSUES ROUNDTABLE IN
NIGERIA

1. (U) 20 OCTOBER, 1999, ABUJA, NIGERIA.
2. (U) PARTICIPANTS:

U.S.:
THE SECRETARY
AMBASSADOR WILLIAM TWADDELL
CHIEF OF STAFF ELAINE SHOCAS

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS SUSAN RICE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS,
AND LABOR HAROLD KOH
USAID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA VIVIAN LOWERY-
DERRYCK
DEPUTY DIRECTOR POLICY PLANNING STAFF JAMES O'BRIEN
NSC DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA JENDAYIE FRAZER
LAGOS POLCHIEF (NOTETAKER)

NIGERIAN PARTICIPANTS:

AISHA M.S. ISMA'IL, MINISTER OF WOMEN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
SENATOR FLORENCE ITA-GIWA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE MERCY ALMONA-ISEI
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE FLORENCE AYA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE TEMI HARRIMAN
PROFESSOR JADESOLA AKANDE (WOMEN'S LAW AND DEVELOPMENT
CENTER)
PROFESSOR IBRIRONKE AKINSETE (SOCIETY FOR WOMEN AND AIDS IN
NIGERIA)
NKECHI NWANKWO (WOMEN LEADERSHIP GROUP)
ALHAJA LAFEEFA OKUNNA (FEDERATION OF MUSLIM WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATIONS)
REBECCA SAKO (LEAGUE OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN)
NKOYO TOYO (GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION)
PRISCILLA KUYE (NIGERIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)
ZAINAB MAINA (NIGERIAN COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SOCIETIES).

3. (U) SUMMARY: SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT'S
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH EIGHT FEMALE LEADERS OF CIVIL
SOCIETY, FOUR FEMALE LEGISLATORS, AND THE MINISTER OF WOMEN
AND YOUTH AFFAIRS ON OCTOBER 20, 1999 REVEALED LITTLE
PROGRESS ON WOMEN'S ISSUES IN NIGERIA IN THE FIVE YEARS
SINCE THE BEIJING CONFERENCE. THE WOMEN CITED NIGERIA'S
DIRE ECONOMIC STRAITS, PERVERSIVE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
WOMEN, DECREASING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS, AND
INCREASING HIV/AIDS RATES AS SIGNIFICANT THREATS TO THE
ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL PROGRESS OF WOMEN IN
NIGERIA. DURING THE DISCUSSION, THE WOMEN SUGGESTED THAT
THE U.S. AND OTHER DONORS MAKE FUTURE DEBT RELIEF AND AID
PROGRAMS CONTINGENT UPON THE GON'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE
STATUS OF WOMEN. THE SECRETARY PROMISED THE ROUNDTABLE'S
PARTICIPANTS THAT SHE WOULD CONVEY THE WOMEN'S CONCERNS TO
PRESIDENT OBASANJO. END SUMMARY.

SECRETARY'S OPENING REMARKS

4, (U) IN HER OPENING REMARKS, SECRETARY ALBRIGHT
EMPHASIZED THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BEIJING CONFERENCE AND HER OWN

COMMITMENT TO MAKING WOMEN'S ISSUES A KEY COMPONENT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. U.S. ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN, SHE SAID, HAS FOCUSED ON PROVIDING MICRO-CREDIT AND BUSINESS TRAINING TO WOMEN, IMPROVING WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH, AND ENDING ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN. THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH THE GROWING

PROBLEM OF THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN. AS EVIDENCE OF THE USG'S INTEREST IN ENDING THIS PRACTICE, SHE CITED THE RECENT PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO TRACK THE MOVEMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM NIGERIA TO EUROPE. THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID THAT RECENTLY, SHE AND THIRTEEN FELLOW FEMALE FOREIGN MINISTERS URGED UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN TO TAKE STEPS TO RESOLVE THE GLOBAL PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

POVERTY HAS A WOMAN'S FACE

5. (U) PRISCILLA KUYE, THE FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BEGAN THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT POVERTY IN NIGERIA HAS A WOMAN'S FACE. ALL OF THE ROUNDTABLE'S PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT UNTIL POVERTY IS ALLEVIATED IN NIGERIA, WOMEN CANNOT BE LIBERATED POLITICALLY OR ECONOMICALLY. MOREOVER, IN NIGERIA, THE PARTICIPANTS STATED WOMEN OVERWHELMINGLY BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE FISCAL MISMANAGEMENT OF NIGERIA (BY NIGERIAN MEN, THEY IMPLIED). THEY CLAIMED THAT MOST WOMEN ARE TOO POOR TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS AND CANNOT START BUSINESSES BECAUSE THEY DO NOT OWN LAND OR OTHER COLLATERAL NECESSARY TO SECURE A LOAN. OTHER POINTS OF GENERAL AGREEMENT INCLUDED:
-- THE CONSTITUTION RECOGNIZES EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN, BUT SOCIETY DOES NOT. WOMEN, PARTICULARLY UNMARRIED WOMEN, ENDURE MANY FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION. UNMARRIED WOMEN ARE OFTEN LABELED PROSTITUTES OR ARE FORCED INTO PROSTITUTION TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES. FOREIGN EMBASSIES ARE IMPLEMENTING DISCRIMINATORY VISA PROCEDURES WHICH PRESUME THAT SINGLE FEMALES ARE TRAVELING ABROAD TO ENGAGE IN PROSTITUTION. ADDITIONALLY, NIGERIAN WOMEN REGULARLY EXPERIENCE SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE AND AT THE COUNTRY'S UNIVERSITIES.

-- WOMEN'S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AT NATIONAL AND STATE LEVELS HAS REGRESSED IN NIGERIA. ZAINAB MAINA, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S SOCIETIES, AND MERCY ALMONA-ISEI, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT OBASANJO FOR FAILING TO APPOINT MORE WOMEN TO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. AT THE STATE LEVEL, EIGHT STATES HAVE DOWNGRADED OR ELIMINATED WOMEN'S AFFAIRS MINISTRIES. REP. TEMI HARRIMAN'S REFERENCE

TO BEING A "SURVIVOR" OF THE ELECTIONS UNDERSCORED THE

DIFFICULTIES WOMEN FACED IN NIGERIA'S LESS-THAN-FULLY
TRANSPARENT ELECTORAL PROCESS. SENATOR FLORENCE ITA-GIWA
LAMENTED THE DECREASED INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN NIGERIAN
POLITICS, STATING THAT THERE ARE ONLY THREE FEMALE SENATORS
NOW AS COMPARED TO EIGHT IN THE LAST REPUBLIC. ALL
PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT FEMALE LEGISLATORS MUST FIGHT TO
BE RECOGNIZED ON THE SENATE FLOOR.

-- ALL IS NOT WELL IN NIGERIA'S NEW DEMOCRATIC
DISPENSATION. DEMOCRACY'S ROOTS ARE VERY SHALLOW, AND,
WITHOUT MONEY, ONE CANNOT WIN AN ELECTION IN NIGERIA. ALSO,
MANY OF THE WOMEN LEADERS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE
MILITARY CULTURE (APPARENTLY REFERRING TO A RESIDUAL
AUTHORITARIAN MINDSET) LURKING JUST BENEATH THE SURFACE IN
THE CURRENT CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT.

-- REPRESENTATIVE FLORENCE AYA ARGUED THAT MOST OF
NIGERIA'S SOCIAL PROBLEMS -- CRIME, ETHNIC UNREST,
PROSTITUTION, AND-TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN --
COULD BE ELIMINATED IF IMPROVED ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOR
WOMEN AND CHILDREN (WHO COMPRISE 60 PERCENT OF THE
POPULATION) BECAME THE TOP PRIORITY OF THE CIVILIAN
GOVERNMENT. SHE TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT SOME WOMEN ALLOW
THEMSELVES TO BE SMUGGLED ABROAD BY TRAFFICKERS AS A WAY TO
ESCAPE NIGERIA'S DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ZERO
PROSPECTS FOR EMPLOYMENT.

-- NIGERIA'S HIV/AIDS INFECTION RATE IS SKY-ROCKETING AND
THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT TAKING THE PROBLEM SERIOUSLY. MOST
NIGERIANS DO NOT KNOW THEY ARE INFECTED AND THE DISEASE IS
NOW SPREADING RAPIDLY AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN. NIGERIA
ALREADY HAS ONE OF THE WORLD'S HIGHEST INFANT AND MATERNAL
MORTALITY RATES; HIV/AIDS WILL ONLY COMPOUND THIS PROBLEM.

-- THE IMPOVERISHMENT OF NIGERIA THROUGH THE MISMANAGEMENT
OF RESOURCES IS A BURDEN BORNE PREDOMINANTLY BY WOMEN,
ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, AISHA M.S.
ISMA'IL. THE DEPENDENCE ON NIGERIA'S MONO-ECONOMY (OIL)
MEANS THE AVERAGE NIGERIAN WILL NEVER BE A STAKEHOLDER IN
THE ECONOMY. THE ELITES WILL CONTINUE TO ENRICH THEMSELVES
WHILE 80 PERCENT OF HARD-WORKING NIGERIANS WILL LANGUISH IN
POVERTY. ANOTHER PARTICIPANT, NKECHI NWANKWO, ARGUED THAT
THE RECOVERY OF STOLEN GOVERNMENT FUNDS FROM ABROAD SHOULD
BE A KEY PRIORITY BUT WORRIED THAT THE MONEY, IF RECOVERED,
WOULD NOT BE SPENT ON MEANINGFUL SOCIAL PROGRAMS.

WHAT NIGERIAN WOMEN WANT

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6. (U) THE WOMEN ALSO SHARED THEIR VIEWS ON POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THEY OUTLINED AND THEIR IDEAS AS TO HOW THE U.S. AND OTHER DONORS COULD HELP. IN SUMMARY, THEIR SOLUTIONS WERE THAT THE U.S.:

-- INCREASE AND TARGET ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

-- GENDERIZE ANY DEBT RELIEF AND EARMARK FUNDS FOR PROGRAMS AIMED AT POVERTY ALLEVIATION. THE PARTICIPANTS BELIEVE THAT IF THE U.S. DOES NOT TIE ASSISTANCE TO POVERTY PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT WOMEN, THE GOVERNMENT WILL MISUSE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND SQUANDER DIVIDENDS FROM DEBT RELIEF AND MONIES RECOVERED FROM ABROAD.

-- ASSIST WITH EFFORTS TO REMOVE THE UNFAIR ADVANTAGE MONEY GIVES TO MALE CANDIDATES IN ELECTIONS AND DEMILITARIZE NIGERIAN POLITICS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN.

-- CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS THAT DEEPEN DEMOCRACY'S ROOTS AND NOT ABANDON NIGERIA NOW THAT A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT IS IN PLACE.

-- KEEP ENGAGED IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GROWING PROBLEM OF THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHICH THE PARTICIPANTS CONSIDERED TO BE A MODERN-DAY FORM OF SLAVERY.

-- FACILITATE ACCESS TO DRUGS TO HELP COMBAT HIV/AIDS INFECTION IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND PROVIDE PROGRAM ASSISTANCE AIMED AT IMPROVING HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

-- ALLEVIATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SINGLE WOMEN APPLYING FOR VISAS AND CHANGE IMMIGRATION/VISA PROCEDURES THAT FORCE MUSLIM WOMEN TO UNCOVER THEIR HEADS FOR PHOTOGRAPHS.

-- RESUME DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM NIGERIA TO THE UNITED STATES TO FACILITATE TRADE LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THEREBY HELPING TO JUMP-START THE ECONOMY.

U.S. RESPONSE

7. (U) SECRETARY ALBRIGHT OUTLINED ATTEMPTS BY THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION TO KEEP WOMEN'S ISSUES ON THE FRONT BURNER AND MENTIONED THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN, OF WHICH SHE IS CO-CHAIR. SHE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD OF HAVING MORE WOMEN IN IMPORTANT POSITIONS THAN ANY OTHER. ALBRIGHT ASSURED THE WOMEN THAT IN HER TENURE AS

NotesTele.TXT

SECRETARY OF STATE, SHE RAISES WOMEN'S ISSUES WITH HER FOREIGN COUNTERPARTS AND EMPHASIZES THEM AS A CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENTS WORLDWIDE. SHE PROMISED USAID AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY PROGRAMS WOULD CONTINUE TO ADVANCE THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT AND COMMERCE. THE SECRETARY REGRETTED THAT SHE DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH THE WOMEN PRIOR TO HER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OBASANJO BUT SAID THAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO RAISE WOMEN'S ISSUES WITH HIM WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER 27. ALTERNATIVELY, SHE SAID SHE WOULD WRITE OBASANJO A LETTER OUTLINING HER CONCERNS ABOUT THE STATUS OF WOMEN UNDER NIGERIA'S NEW DEMOCRATIC DISPENSATION.
ALBRIGHT
NNNN

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INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	CPR-02
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	IO-00	ADS-00	M-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	PA-00	PRS-00	P-00	CR-01	IRM-00	SSC-01	SSO-00
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SOURCE: KODAKA.011030

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APPROVED BY: AF:SERICE

AF:HJETER AF:SWILKINSON AF/W:SMCILVAINE S/S-CR:BHAMBRICK

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S/S:CPEREZ S/S-O:SFDREW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO USLO ABUJA

UNCLAS STATE 205681

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPDC, PREL, PHUM, NI

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBASANJO ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

REF: LAGOS 9431

1. (U) ON OCTOBER 20, THE SECRETARY HAD A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH NIGERIAN WOMEN IN ABUJA (REF). THE SECRETARY COMMITTED TO RELAYING TO PRESIDENT OBASANJO SOME OF THE CONCERNS THE WOMEN EXPRESSED ABOUT THEIR CONDITIONS IN NIGERIA. PLEASE DELIVER THE SECRETARY'S LETTER ABOUT WHAT SHE HEARD TO PRESIDENT OBASANJO. THERE WILL BE NO

SIGNED ORIGINAL.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THANK YOU FOR THE WARM RECEPTION YOU ACCORDED ME IN ABUJA. I HAD A MOST ENJOYABLE AND PRODUCTIVE VISIT TO NIGERIA. IT WAS ALSO A GREAT PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

AS I MENTIONED DURING OUR LUNCHEON IN WASHINGTON, I HAD A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH LEADING NIGERIAN WOMEN, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL SOCIETY, AND YOUR MINISTER OF WOMEN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS. THESE WOMEN SPOKE FRANKLY AND ELOQUENTLY ABOUT THE WIDE RANGE OF DIFFICULTIES WOMEN FACE IN NIGERIA. THE REASON THAT I RAISE THESE ISSUES IS NOT BECAUSE THEY CONCERN JUST WOMEN BUT BECAUSE THE PROBLEMS THEY DESCRIBED POSE A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS THREAT TO THE WELL-BEING OF ALL NIGERIANS. THE STRIDES THAT WOMEN HAVE MADE IN THE AREA OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ACTIVISM IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH ARE BENEFITTING ALL OF NIGERIA.

I PROMISED TO RELAY MY INTERLOCUTORS' CONCERNS TO YOU AND WISH TO ADD MY PERSONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGEROUS TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHICH IS ON THE RISE. THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO NIGERIA, WHERE WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE ENTRAPPED AND SOLD TO WORK AS PROSTITUTES IN EUROPE. WE ARE COOPERATING WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE. THIRTEEN FEMALE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND I HAVE URGED UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN TO TAKE STEPS TO RESOLVE THE GLOBAL PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

AS CO-CHAIR OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON WOMEN, I AM COMMITTED TO DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FURTHER THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF WOMEN AND ENSURING RESPECT FOR THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS ARE KEY COMPONENTS OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

IT IS GRATIFYING TO KNOW THAT YOU SHARE THIS COMMITMENT. I MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF WOMEN WHEREVER I TRAVEL. THE NIGERIAN WOMEN WITH WHOM I MET STRESSED SEVERAL KEY CONCERNS: PERVERSIVE DISCRIMINATION, THE ALARMING INCREASE IN HIV/AIDS, AND THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS

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OF POVERTY AND TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN. ALL THE WOMEN AGREED THAT UNTIL POVERTY IS ALLEVIATED IN NIGERIA, WOMEN CANNOT EXERCISE FULLY THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS. THE WOMEN NOTED THAT WHILE THE NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION GRANTS THEM EQUAL RIGHTS, SOCIETY DOES NOT;

AND WOMEN, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE NOT MARRIED, ENDURE SEVERE DISCRIMINATION.

IMPROVING WOMEN'S LIVES BENEFITS EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, WHO OFTEN SUFFER THE MOST. GREATER AND FAIRER PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN IN POLITICS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY WOULD HELP ENSURE THAT NIGERIA ACHIEVES ITS FULL ECONOMIC POTENTIAL. THAT IS WHY MANY OF OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOCUS ON PROVIDING MICRO-CREDIT AND BUSINESS TRAINING TO WOMEN. THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID) HAS PROVIDED SMALL GRANTS TO THIRTY-FOUR WOMEN AND YOUTH GRASSROOTS NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SIXTEEN NIGERIAN STATES. THESE ORGANIZATIONS PROVED TO BE INVALUABLE DURING THE RECENT ELECTIONS WHEN WOMEN HELPED TO REGISTER VOTERS AND TO EDUCATE THEM ABOUT THE CANDIDATES. OUR INTER-AGENCY ASSESSMENT TEAM HAS RECOMMENDED A BROAD RANGE OF ACTIVITIES TO BENEFIT WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN NIGERIA. UNDER EXISTING ACTIVITIES WE SPONSORED A RECENT STUDY VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BY A GROUP OF FEMALE LEGISLATORS WHICH WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL. OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY.

IN CLOSING MR. PRESIDENT, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE REMARKABLE POSITIVE CHANGES YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO NIGERIA. AS YOU PURSUE YOUR HUMANE POLICIES, I ASK THAT YOU CONTINUE TO DO YOUR UTMOST TO ENSURE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES IN POLITICS AND THE ECONOMY FOR WOMEN THROUGHOUT NIGERIA. IN PARTICULAR, I SALUTE YOUR STEADFAST DEDICATION TO GIRLS' EDUCATION, A PREREQUISITE FOR SUSTAINABLE PROCESS IN ANY SOCIETY. AGAIN, MR. PRESIDENT, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THESE ISSUES AND FOR THE WARM HOSPITALITY THAT YOU AND THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE EXTENDED TO ME DURING MY VISIT.

SINCERELY,

MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT

END TEXT.
TALBOTT
NNNN



WOMEN IN NIGERIA

Women in politics and economics

Only six women occupy top-level positions in the government out of a total of 56 posts (the Ministers of State for Health, Science and Technology, Defense, Water Resources, Solid Minerals and Transport). Of the six, only one, the Minister of Transport, is in the number one position. Though they hold ministerial rank, the other five hold Deputy Minister positions. Three of 109 Senators are women and only 12 women were elected to the 366-member House of Representatives. No women serve as Governors of Nigeria's 36 states and only one serves as a Deputy Governor. Electoral procedures that compelled voters to remain at polling places for several hours, discriminated against many women who could not take time from family and work responsibilities.

Traditional religious and cultural practices assign women specific roles and restrict their access to education and career choices. While there are no laws barring women from particular professions, and Nigeria has many prominent and influential women in politics and business, they are exceptions. Women are not legally barred from owning land, but customary land tenure systems restrict land ownership to men. Many customary practices deprive women of the right to inherit their husbands' property and widows are often rendered destitute as a result.

Violence against women

Abuse of women is common and police do not normally intervene in domestic disputes. Nigeria's Penal Code permits husbands to use physical means to chastise their wives as long as it does not result in "grievous harm," which refers only to extreme injuries such as loss of sight or speech. Nigerian women are also the victims of criminal syndicates involved in the trafficking of women into Europe for use as prostitutes.

The government publicly opposes female genital mutilation (FGM), but takes no legal action against it in practice. One Nigerian non-governmental organization estimates that 33 percent of all households practice FGM. Current estimates place the prevalence of the practice at between 40 and 50 percent of all females, although the United Nations Development Systems and the World Health Organization estimates are higher. Nevertheless, some progress is being made in eliminating FGM.

✓ On a visit to Nigeria in October 1999, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met with women leaders to discuss progress on women's issues in Nigeria since the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing. The dire economic situation, the pervasive discrimination against women, the decreasing participation of women in politics and the increasing HIV/AIDS rates were cited as posing the greatest threats to the economic, political and social progress of women in Nigeria.

Drafted: Lois Gochnauer, G, S/PICW, Feb. 9, 2000
Clearance: AF/W: AMartschenko-ok

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Regional Initiatives: Nigeria - Vital Voices at Beijing + 5

Vital Voices of Nigeria

Roundtable Discussion: Women's Economic, Legal, and Political Progress

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

The Citicorp Center

On Tuesday, June 6th in conjunction with the five year review of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, the Vital Voices Initiative hosted a roundtable discussion "Vital Voices of Nigeria" at Citigroup. The roundtable included four women Assembly Members from throughout Nigeria who are forging democracy in the areas of economics, politics, and human rights. Nigeria has been targeted by the U.S. Department of State as one of the four most critical countries for democracy building. The discussion focused on: the important role that women are playing to strengthen democracy; highlighted the key issues facing women in the region; and explored ways Vital Voices can amplify women's voices and support their work in Nigeria and throughout Africa. The most critical issue discussed by the group was HIV/AIDS, it's impact on women, and how to raise greater awareness of the problem.

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Regional Initiatives: Nigeria - Vital Voices at Beijing + 5

Participants

Nigerian Participants

Mrs. Binta Koja
Representative, Kaduna South Federal Constituency - Kaduna State, Nigeria

Mrs. Dorcas Olufunmilayo Idowu Odujinrin
Representative, Ikorodu Federal Constituency - Lagos State, Nigeria

Chief Mrs. Stella Unezi Omu
Senator, Delta South Senatorial District - Delta State, Nigeria

Ms. Hajiya Khairat Abdul Razaq-Gwadabe
Senator, Federal Capital Territory - Abuja, Nigeria

U.S. Private Sector Participants

Judith McHale, President and COO, Discovery Communications

U.S. Government Participants

Ambassador Nancy Powell, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, US State Dept.

Melanne Verveer, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady

Theresa Loar, Director of the President's Interagency Council on Women and the Vital Voices Global Democracy Initiative

Nancy Hendry, General Counsel, Peace Corp.

Alyse Nelson, Deputy Director, Vital Voices Global Democracy Initiative

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DDB

1008 Western Avenue Suite 601
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 Telephone 206 442 9900 Fax 206 223 6309

US Aid &
 Ken Bernard knows
 about this.

for Nigeria

TO: Melanne Vermeer c/o Eric Woodard

FAX: 202-456-6244

FROM: Sara Cerrell

DATE: 7-26-00

PAGES: 4

Information in Packard for Nigeria

Educ'n (E D D I)

United Nat'l Council of Negro Women - Bus

Fed'n of Women Lawyers

Aids

Integrated women - 2005, micro

women's

problem - \$ 3.6 million

**DAVID AND LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION NIGERIA VISIT
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
Kano, Nigeria**

1. **Theme:** Reproductive Health
2. **Deliverable:** Announcement by Susan Packard Orr, Chair of the Board of Trustees, of a \$35 million minimum Nigeria country program over 5 years for support to non-governmental organizations for reproductive health services.
 - The Population Program of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Los Altos, CA, supports the goal of the Government of Nigeria to slow population growth and improve the quality of life. While the Foundation does not fund governments directly, by funding local as well as international organizations, the Population Program contributes to extending family planning and related reproductive health services to large numbers of Nigerians, particularly in the North where needs are great, services limited, and donors few. Special emphasis is placed on extending family planning and reproductive health services by working with the private sector, using existing networks, providing services to youth, and developing sustainable services, especially in urban areas. Attention will also be given to developing leaders, promoting reproductive rights and encouraging mobilization of other resources for population.
 - In 1998, the Board of Trustees of the Packard Foundation approved a five year commitment to focus in eight developing countries, including Nigeria. Grantmaking began in 1999 with a total awarded to date of over \$7 million. Organizations funded include the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), International Family Health; the International Women's Health Coalition, and Johns Hopkins University along with Nigerian non-governmental organizations such as the Association for Reproductive and Family Health, Social Sciences and Reproductive Health Research Network, and the Women's Health Action Research Center.
3. **Proposed Event:** The President will visit a reproductive health clinic in Kano where Rotary International proposes to expand its successful child-spacing program which was piloted in neighboring Kaduna state. The President will commend efforts of local Rotarians taking the pilot project to scale and talk about the need for expanded reproductive health care and child spacing activities throughout Nigeria. This is an example of public private partnership: the government of Nigeria provides health facility and staff; the Packard Foundation funds Rotary International for training, supplies, the local Rotary provides additional funding and volunteers from the community, and the people benefit.
4. **Location:** Clinic in Kano. If time is short, an alternative could be to make the announcement in Abuja in the presence of local Rotarians.
5. **Time needed for the event:** 30 minutes.
6. **Packard Foundation Contact Person:** The Packard Foundation does not have in-country presence in Nigeria. All contact should be directed to the Los Altos, California office to Sarah C. Clark, Ph.D., Director, Population Program. Office Phone: (650) 917-7183; Cell Phone: (650) 520-4489; Home Phone (650) 565-9612 or Cheryl Francisconi.

Susan Packard Orr
Chair, Board of Trustees – Trustee since 1967
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

- ☐ President and Owner, Technology Resource Assistance Center
 Company provides computer consulting and software development services nonprofit companies. Software is currently used by more than 700 agencies worldwide. Classes are offered by TRAC to nonprofit computer users through the Peninsula Community Foundation, the Support Center, the Nonprofit Development Center and the University of San Francisco.
- ☐ Over the years since 1981, Susan has developed and taught several courses through local community colleges on computers, and even taught elementary school children how to program in LOGO, a computer language.
- ☐ Susan holds a BA in economics, as well as an MBA from Stanford University. She also holds an MS degree in computer Science from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

Susan's Affiliations with other companies and nonprofit groups include:

President	Technology Resource Assistance Center
Trustee	Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation
Vice President	Packard Humanities Institute
Advisory Council	Trust for Hidden Villa
Advisory Council	Peninsula Open Space Trust
Director	Hewlett-Packard Company
Children's Committee	UCSF/Stanford Health Services
Steering Committee	Project Involve! American Leadership Forum
Chairman	Major Gifts Council, Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health
Director	Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health
Trustee	Stanford University

Sarah C. Clark, Ph.D.
Director, Population Program
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Sarah Clark came to the Packard Foundation from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), where she held several positions, the most recent as chief operating officer for central communications and operations of USAID headquarters. In that capacity, she served as principal liaison with the National Security Council and the Department of State. Her overseas field experience includes high-level positions with USAID in Haiti and Togo. Dr. Clark held the post of deputy director of the USAID Office of Population from 1988 to 1991, where she worked to plan, expand, and evaluate population programs in many regions of the world, including Africa, Pakistan, and Morocco. She served as regional population advisor for West and Central Africa for four years prior to her return to Washington, D.C. She joined USAID after completing her Ph.D. in demography at Brown University, based on fieldwork sponsored by the Ford Foundation in South Korea.

Dr. Clark joined The Packard Foundation in February 1998. At that time, the program had an approved annual budget of \$30 million. In June 1998, a five year strategic plan for the population program was approved at \$70m annually by the Board of Trustees, and in November 1998, it was announced publicly. Since that time, major granting programs have been developed and approved for in-country work for Ethiopia, the Philippines, Nigeria, and Myanmar. Work is underway in India, Pakistan, and Mexico, with some grants underway in Sudan. The program is operated by a total staff of 20, all based in Los Altos. The population program's annual budget for 2000 is \$100 million.