

**Gendered Contentions in Fragile, Conflict Affected Settings: Unpacking Women's Leadership, Empowerment and Accountability.**

**Utafiti Sera Stakeholder Engagement/Launch Workshop Brief**

**I. Study Background**

Gendered Contentions in Fragile, Conflict, Violence Affected Settings (FCVAS) Research Programme is an international study that explores the conditions under which women's social and political action contribute to the strengthening of women's empowerment and lead to accountability outcomes that promote gender equity in FCVAS context.

In this study, we explore what works to enable women to make collective claims on the state – particularly around service delivery from the local government in metropolitan areas. The fragility we explore is not around direct violence against women, but the fragile nature of the citizenship that exists between the communities and in these contexts where the state capacity is limited, and the state largely ignores the needs of a specific group – women. We also investigate which type of women emerge as leaders from the CSO led interventions, or how intersectional factors also influence women's ability to navigate biased gender norms at the family, community and within public sphere (age, class, ethnicity, religion).

The project is centered on exploring the conditions and processes that lead to empowerment and accountability in the FCVAS settings. This will be done by investigating *how, when and what* factors enable women's political agency (both leadership and collective action) to make claims on the state in fragile and conflict affected settings in Mozambique, Nigeria, and Pakistan, we will be able to unpack the gendered barriers to and the nature of collective action processes, and what contextual and institutional factors enable women to overcome these barriers to emerge as political actors and secure gender positive change. In particular, the project will investigate the following sets of questions:

- a. In FCVAS, *what factors* at the household and community level enable women to counter gender biased social norms to participate in political processes as citizens or representatives?
- b. In FCVAS, *when and how* do women take part in collective action processes at the community level and exercise leadership? Who are the women who have been mobilized during these contentious episodes, and how do their multiple identities and roles intersect to shape their emergence as leaders?
- c. *What strategies* do women use to promote their group interests within male-dominated formal political and community level institutions that function based on exclusionary formal rules and informal practices? Specifically, what roles do networks and alliances play in empowering women? How does the FCVAS context influence the ways these strategies are used to exercise agency?
- d. Have these collective expressions of political agency by women led to a consolidation of their position as political actors and improved accountability outcomes?

The project will involve a comparative mixed-methods research in fragile metropolitan settings in 2 countries - Pakistan and Nigeria. The study involves: medium-N surveys at the community level, interviews and FGDs, to evaluate the impact of interventions designed to strengthen collective action among women at the neighbourhood level with an aim to encourage claim-making by them on service delivery by local

governments. It will explore-- preconditions for women's leadership and collective action, role of formal and informal networks and alliances, and the range of strategies used by women-- to identify when and how these contribute to the strengthening of empowerment and accountability outcomes for women.

## **II. About the Workshop**

The Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR), the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) and Leadership Effectiveness Accountability Professionalism (LEAP) Africa have convened this policy dialogue forum to share the proposed study with key stakeholders in the academics, women's rights organisations, local level organisations, state agencies working on women's rights and human rights and major donors agencies with programs on women's political empowerment. The convening presents an opportunity to exchange views and ideas on the proposed study. It will be a space to learn from, and better plan for the anticipated study results and future stakeholder engagement.

## **III. Objectives**

The half-day forum is designed as a knowledge-sharing and stakeholder-learning event for the study team led by PASGR and IDS, as well as development and policy practitioners and other stakeholders involved in similar study/work in Nigeria. It will provide an opportunity for participants to openly discuss and critique the study and to provide an opportunity for participants to openly discuss and critique the study and to provide in-depth that can enable the team contextualize, improve and generate evidence on enabling pre-conditions and successful strategies used by women in FCVAS and generate evidence on the kind of measures required within political institutions and at the community level to increase women's empowerment and accountability.

Specific objectives are to:

- Create awareness among key stakeholders and policy actors about the study.
- Initiate contact with potential policy actors and stakeholders as part of initial steps towards research-policy uptake and engagement.

## **IV. Structure**

The event will feature keynote speaker(s), presentations, and plenary discussions, with ample time for discussions amongst the speakers, presenters, panellists and the audience on critical issues that the study should prioritise and how to ensure a sustainable policy engagement and uptake informed by the evidence from the study.

## **V. Target Audience**

Audience will include policy actors, government officials, private sector actors, representatives of women's rights organisations, local level organisations, state agencies working on women's rights and human rights, major donors' agencies with programs on women's political empowerment, academia and the media with interest in women's political leadership, empowerment and accountability.

## **VI. Expected Outcomes**

The expected outcomes of the event include, but are not limited to:

1. Ascertain key stakeholders to be engaged for the research as well as policy uptake.
2. Identify activities that will culminate into policy uptake on research evidence and follow-up action drawn
3. Deepened engagement with key stakeholders, and seize upon opportunities to create new learning/fill in knowledge gaps that the study needs to address;

## VII. Inception Agenda

<b>Agenda</b> <b>Gendered Contentions in Fragile, Conflict Affected Setting: Unpacking Women’s Leadership, Empowerment and Accountability.</b> <b>Moore House Hotel, Ikoyi, Lagos, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b>		
Time	Activity	Speaker/Facilitator
10:00 – 10:10	Arrival, Registration & Introduction	‘Femi Balogun
10:10 – 10:15	Welcome Address Opening Remarks	Mr Femi Taiwo – Executive Director, LEAP Africa Prof Tade Aina - Executive Director PASGR
10:15 – 10:25	Agenda Setting	‘Femi Balogun
10:25 – 10:45	About the study: <b>Gendered Contentions in Fragile, Conflict Affected Setting: Unpacking Women’s Leadership, Empowerment and Accountability.</b>	Dr. Damilola Agbalajobi, Obafemi Awolowo University Dr. Wole Oladapo, University of Ibadan
10:45 – 11:05	Tea Break	
11:05 - 11:20	Presentation by strategic stakeholders (2-3 minutes each)	Wole and Boluwatife
11:20 – 12:30	Group Work and presentation	‘Femi Balogun
12:30 – 13:00	Plenary (Q & A)	Damilola
13:00	Lunch and Networking	‘Femi Balogun

### Group Questions:

- a. What other relevant issues on women’s leadership should the research address that are relevant to the stakeholders/how will/can you use the evidence from this study?
- b. What other organisations and key stakeholders should the research team reach out to? (stakeholder mapping)
- c. How best can we sustain this partnership going forward?