



NIGERIA

Women, Business and the Law (WBL), in collaboration with the Global Financing Facility (GFF), has collected data on laws affecting women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH), as well as frameworks supporting their implementation. Data were collected through desk research and a questionnaire administered to country experts. The analysis is organized around five indicators. For each indicator, the legal framework is assessed based on domestic laws and regulations. The supportive framework is assessed based on instruments—such as national policies, strategies, and guidelines—that are currently in effect and support the implementation of these laws.

INDICATOR		WHAT DOES IT MEASURE?	
		<i>Legal Frameworks</i>	<i>Supportive Frameworks</i>
	SRH rights	Right to SRH; guaranteed access to free SRH services without discrimination	Existence and contents of an operational SRH policy or strategy
	Violence against women and girls (VAWG)	Prohibition of female genital mutilations (FGM)	Adoption of measures to eradicate FGM
	Family planning	Absence of legal restrictions on SRH services, such as the need for consent from a husband, male guardian, parent or third party	Family planning guidelines or protocols
	Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)	Legal mandates for CSE in schools	Guidelines for delivery of CSE in schools
	Right to education	Girls' legal right to attend school during pregnancy and after childbirth	Policies to keep girls in school and allow pregnant and parenting students to attend school

LEGAL AND SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS

Nigeria has a comprehensive and defined framework for:

SRH RIGHTS

The *Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint 2020-2024* and the *National Policy on the Health and Development of Adolescents and Young People in Nigeria 2020-2024* outlines actions to improve quality and increase demand and access to SRH services and family planning.

Additionally, the government defined targets in the *National Gender in Health Policy 2021-2025* and the *National Gender Policy 2021-2026* to ensure that women and girls have access to affordable reproductive health services.

The *Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint 2020-2024* provides for SRH services, health provider training, contraceptive distribution, integration of family planning into the health system and supply chain, and awareness campaigns, including budgeted activities to improve young people's access to information through new media. The *National Gender in Health Policy 2021-2025* provides for mobile health services and addressing gender-based violence and family planning issues.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

FGM is a criminal offense under the *Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015*. Individuals performing FGM can be held criminally responsible for such acts.

Efforts to prevent FGM, raise awareness and responsiveness are outlined in the *National Gender in Health Policy 2021-2025* and the *National Policy on the Health and Development of Adolescents and Young People in Nigeria 2021-2025*.

FAMILY PLANNING

No provisions in the law require women to obtain consent from their husband or male guardian, or adolescents to obtain parental or a legal guardian's consent to access SRH services. Similarly, the law does not require any third-party consent that may restrict access to SRH.

The government published the *Family Planning On-The-Job-Training Manual and Facilitator's Manual* in 2019 to train family planning service providers in service delivery, counseling, and service provision.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

CSE in Nigeria is implemented through the *Family Life and HIV Education* curricula.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The *Child's Rights Act* provides that girls have the legal right to attend school after childbirth.

The *National Policy on Gender in Education 2021-2025* aims to support adolescent mothers in continuing their education through psychosocial support, mentoring, and counseling services.

POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

The data reveal gaps in Nigeria's legal and supportive frameworks across the five indicators assessed. Strengthening these frameworks can help accelerate the country's progress toward gender equality and to improve health outcomes for women, children, and adolescents.

Nigeria may wish to consider translating the following gaps into policy opportunities:

SRH RIGHTS

The law does not guarantee the right to SRH or access to SRH services. Additionally, it does not prohibit discrimination in accessing SRH services based on sex or gender, age, or marital status.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

While FGM is a criminal offense, the law does not specifically criminalize parents or guardians for

allowing their children to undergo FGM, nor does it address cross-border FGM.

FAMILY PLANNING

The law does not guarantee SRH service delivery in case practitioners raise conscientious objections.

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The law does not mandate the provision of CSE in schools.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Girls do not have the legal right to attend school during pregnancy. Policies to allow them to attend school during pregnancy have not been adopted.

WBL SRH LEGAL FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
SRH Rights	1.1 Does the law provide for the right to sexual and reproductive health?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.2 Does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.2.1 If the answer to question 1.2 is Yes, does the law guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services free of cost?	N/A	
	1.3 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on sex/gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.4 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on age?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	1.5 Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to sexual and reproductive health services based on marital status?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
VAWG	2.1 Does the law criminalize FGM?	Yes	Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015, Sec. 6(1)
	2.1.1 If the answer to question 2.1 is Yes, is the individual performing the FGM procedure criminally responsible?	Yes	Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015, Sec. 6(1)
	2.1.2 Is a parent or legal guardian criminally responsible for allowing FGM to be performed on a minor under their legal custody?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	2.2 Does the law criminalize cross-border FGM?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Family Planning	3.1 Is the law free of provisions requiring a husband or male guardian to consent for a woman to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.2. Is the law free of provisions requiring parental or a legal guardian's consent for an adolescent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.3 Is the law free of provisions requiring any other form of third-party consent to access sexual and reproductive health services?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
	3.4 Does the law guarantee sexual and reproductive service delivery in case practitioners raise conscientious objections?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
CSE	4.1 Does the law mandate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Right to Education	5.1 Does the law provide for the right of pregnant girls to attend school?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	5.2 Does the law provide for the right of adolescent girls to attend school after childbirth?	Yes	Child Rights Act, Sec. 15(5)

WBL SRH SUPPORTIVE FRAMEWORKS DATA

	QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
SRH Rights	1.1 Has the government adopted a sexual and reproductive health policy or strategy?	Yes	Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint 2020-2024, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; National Policy on the Health and Development of Adolescents and Young People in Nigeria 2020-2024, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; National Gender in Health Policy 2021-2025, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; National Gender Policy 2021-2026, Federal Ministry of Women and Gender Affairs
	1.1.1 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include the provision of sexual and reproductive health services among its targets/strategic actions?	Yes	Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint 2020-2024, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; National Gender in Health Policy 2021-2025, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
	1.1.2 If the answer to question 1.1 is Yes, does the policy or strategy include awareness campaigns among its targets/strategic actions?	Yes	Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint 2020-2024, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
VAWG	2.1 Has the government adopted measures aimed at eradicating FGM?	Yes	Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint 2020-2024, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; National Policy on the Health and Development of Adolescents and Young People in Nigeria 2021-2025, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; National Gender Policy 2021-2026, Federal Ministry of Women and Gender Affairs
Family Planning	3.1. Has the government published guidelines on family planning?	Yes	Family Planning On-The-Job-Training Manual, Facilitator's Manual 2019, Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH)
CSE	4.1 Has the government published guidelines for the delivery of CSE in schools?	Yes	National Family Life and HIV Education Curriculum 2003, Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH)
Right to Education	5.1 Has the government adopted policies to keep girls in schools?	Yes	National Policy on Gender in Education 2021-2025, Federal Ministry of Education Nigeria
	5.2 Has the government adopted policies to allow pregnant students to attend school?	No	Insufficient evidence located
	5.3 Has the government adopted policies to allow adolescent parenting students to attend school?	Yes	National Policy on Gender in Education 2021-2025, Federal Ministry of Education Nigeria

