SAFE HAVEN FOUNDATION

POLICY BRIEF No. 4

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Ending Violence Against Children in Nigeria

What the approved National Action Plan sets in motion

THE CENTRAL POINT

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) approval gives Nigeria a costed, multisectoral framework for preventing violence against children and improving responses when harm occurs. The test is whether commitments translate into funded services, coordinated action and measurable improvements in children's safety.

What FEC approved

On 29 October 2026, the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation reported that the Federal Executive Council approved the National Action Plan on Ending Violence Against Children. The Ministry described it as a costed plan to strengthen child protection across all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory through a Pathfinder State Model. The official announcement sets out the national direction; detailed state sequencing and implementation arrangements still need to be made public.[1]

[1] **FEC approval:** Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, "FG Strengthens Women's Leadership in Peace Building, Approves Landmark Social Protection Policies," 29 October 2026. https://fmino.gov.ng/fg-strengthens-womens-leadership-in-peace-building-approves-landmark-social-protection-policies-imaan-sulaiman-ibrahim/

The plan treats violence broadly. It covers physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, exploitation and harmful practices, and recognises risks in homes, schools, communities and online spaces. It argues for prevention alongside accessible, coordinated support for children who experience or face risk of violence.[2]

Eight connected priorities

The plan groups its work into eight strategic areas:

Implementation and enforcement of laws and policies.

Positive social norms and values.

Response and support services.

Education and life skills.

Parent and caregiver support.

Income support and economic strengthening.

Safe environments.

Multisectoral coordination, resource mobilisation and monitoring and evaluation.

Together, these priorities recognise that child protection cannot depend on a single agency or service. Laws must be enforced, families and communities need practical support, schools and public spaces must be safer, and children need routes to report harm and obtain appropriate care.

Financing and accountability

The plan includes three cost scenarios. Its cost table estimates approximately US$96.69 million for the basic scenario, US$138.89 million for the intermediate scenario and US$180.27 million for the ideal scenario. These are planning estimates in the attached plan, not confirmed appropriations or money already available to implementing organisations. The FEC announcement confirms that the plan is costed but does not announce a budget release.

The plan identifies the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs as a coordinating lead and calls for action across relevant ministries, state and local institutions, civil society and communities. It also provides for monitoring and evaluation, data

[2] National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children in Nigeria, attached copy, including the Executive Summary, strategic priority areas and cost table. The cover identifies 2025–2030, while the Executive Summary also refers to a six-year period beginning in 2024. This brief does not rely on a specific implementation start date; the final approved implementation schedule should guide reporting.

collection, reporting and quality assurance. Public reporting should show which activities are funded, who is responsible, what progress is being made and where children still lack support.

What implementation should deliver

Clear responsibility at every level: Publish roles, timelines and referral pathways for federal, state and local actors. The Pathfinder approach should identify how learning from initial implementation will inform wider coverage.

Accessible, child-centred response services: Strengthen safe reporting, health, psychosocial, social welfare and justice responses. Children should be heard appropriately, treated with dignity, and protected from unnecessary repeated interviews or disclosure of private information.

Prevention in everyday setting: Support parents and caregivers, promote non-violent norms, strengthen life skills and make schools, homes, communities and online environments safer.

Reliable financing and public oversight: Translate the cost scenarios into annual budgets and track expenditure against results. Publish progress and disaggregated data while protecting children's privacy.

A shared public responsibility: Government agencies must coordinate and fund the plan. Schools, health and social service providers must identify risks and respond safely. Civil society and professional bodies can support prevention, referrals and independent monitoring. Parents, caregivers, community and religious leaders can help create environments where children are protected and taken seriously. Children's participation should be safe, age-appropriate and meaningful.

FEC approval is an important policy decision, but it does not by itself create new criminal offences, release the plan's estimated costs or guarantee that services are available. Implementation depends on budgets, clear rules, trained personnel, functioning referral systems and transparent accountability.