



**SIDE
BY
SIDE
MOVEMENT
NIGERIA**

**Interfaith and Traditional Leaders for
Gender Justice**



SIDE BY SIDE MOVEMENT FOR GENDER JUSTICE

NATIONAL STRATEGY

(2025-2029)



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First and foremost, we extend our deepest appreciation to the faith and traditional leaders who have been at the forefront of challenging harmful practices and promoting gender-inclusive policies. Your commitment to reinterpreting faith-based teachings to support gender justice is commendable and continues to inspire transformation within communities.

We are profoundly grateful to the members of the National Steering Committee for their strategic leadership, guidance, and oversight throughout the development of this strategy. Special thanks to Bishop Favour Okokon (Chair), Imam Murtala Ibrahim (Co-Chair), Dr. Orinya Abjaji (Secretary), Prof. Mustapha, Rev. John Joseph Hayab, Mr. Munachi Ugochukwu, Dr. Otive Igbuzor, Mrs. Leah Olusiyi Solomon, and Mariya Haruna Dogondaji who served as the Strategy Development Committee for their dedication and contributions.

Our sincere gratitude also goes to Christian Aid Nigeria, the African Centre for Leadership, Strategy & Development (Centre LSD), and the Ford Foundation for their support, both financial and technical, in ensuring that this Strategy is comprehensive and impactful. Their commitment to gender justice has played a crucial role in shaping the direction of this movement.

We acknowledge the consultants from ACLSD Global Consulting Limited who facilitated the strategy development process, providing technical expertise and ensuring a participatory and inclusive approach. Their meticulous efforts in structuring and refining this document have been invaluable.

We express our heartfelt appreciation to the faith-based organizations, civil society groups, and community advocates who participated in the consultations, workshops, and validation processes. Your insightful contributions, diverse perspectives, and shared experiences have enriched the strategy, making it a more effective tool for achieving gender justice.

Special thanks to the zonal leaders, grassroots mobilizers, and volunteers whose passion and dedication continue to drive the movement forward. Your efforts in engaging communities, advocating for policy reforms, and implementing grassroots initiatives are the backbone of our collective impact.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to all stakeholders, partners, and individuals who have, in one way or another, contributed to the realization of this strategy plan. Your commitment to gender justice and social transformation fuels our mission and strengthens our resolve to create an equitable and just society.

Together, we move forward with renewed vision, determined to dismantle gender-based discrimination and build a future where justice, equality, and dignity prevail for all.

Temitope Fashola
Country Director,
Christian Aid

Mr. Monday Osasah
Executive Director
Centre LSD

FOREWORD

It is with great enthusiasm and a deep sense of purpose that we present the National 5-Year Strategy (2025-2029) of the Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice, Nigeria. This document represents a bold and visionary roadmap to advancing gender justice in Nigeria, leveraging the power of faith, advocacy, and community action. It embodies the collective commitment of faith leaders, traditional institutions, civil society organizations, and individuals dedicated to challenging gender-based injustices and fostering a society where everyone is valued equally.

The Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice stands at the intersection of faith and social justice, recognizing the critical role of religious leaders and institutions in shaping societal norms and attitudes. Throughout history, faith communities have been instrumental in driving social change, and it is within this rich tradition that we reaffirm our dedication to eliminating harmful gender norms, advocating for legal and policy reforms, and empowering women and girls to assume their rightful place in all aspects of the society.

Since its inception in 2018, the Side-by-Side Movement in Nigeria has made remarkable strides, mobilizing faith and traditional leaders to challenge harmful practices, promote gender-equitable policies, and foster inclusive leadership. Through strategic partnerships, faith-based advocacy, and grassroots mobilization, the movement has influenced policy reforms, dismantled harmful cultural norms, and provided platforms for meaningful gender discourse. These achievements, while significant, are only the beginning of a long but necessary journey towards gender justice.

This Strategy (2025-2029) has been meticulously developed through a consultative and participatory process, involving key stakeholders from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. It sets forth clear strategic goals, including strengthening faith-based advocacy, eliminating harmful traditional practices, promoting women's leadership and economic empowerment, enhancing legal and policy frameworks, and positioning the Side-by-Side Movement as the leading voice for gender justice in Nigeria.

To achieve these objectives, the movement will prioritize capacity-building initiatives, community engagements, interfaith dialogues, and targeted advocacy efforts. Recognizing the evolving socio-political and economic landscape, the strategy incorporates a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess progress and adapt to emerging challenges. Additionally, a risk management matrix has been designed to address potential obstacles and ensure the movement's sustainability and resilience.

At this critical juncture in Nigeria's history, where gender inequalities persist despite global and national efforts, the role of faith-based movements has never been more crucial. The Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice is poised to lead the charge, championing transformative change and ensuring that faith remains a powerful force for justice, inclusion, and equality.

As we embark on this new strategic phase, we call upon all stakeholders—faith leaders, traditional rulers, policymakers, civil society organizations, donors, and the wider community—to join hands in realizing our vision of a just and equitable society. Together, through unwavering commitment and collaborative action, we can create a future where gender justice is not merely an aspiration but a lived reality for all.

With great optimism and faith in our collective efforts, we recommend this Strategy (2025-2029) to all who seek to make lasting impact in the pursuit of gender justice.

Bishop Favour Okokon
National Co-Chair
March 2025

Imam Murtala Ibrahim
National Co-Chair
March 2025

ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
Centre LSD	African Centre for Leadership, Strategy & Development
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FBO	Faith Based Organisation
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practices
ICT	Information, Communication Technology
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OVI:	Objectively Verifiable Indicators
SARC:	Sexual Assault Referral Centre
SBS:	Side by Side
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
SWOT:	Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threat
VAPP:	Violence Against Persons Prohibition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice, Nigeria, is a faith-based initiative dedicated to advancing gender justice through advocacy, education, and action. The National Strategy (2025-2029) serves as a blueprint for addressing gender inequalities and empowering faith and traditional leaders to transform societal norms.

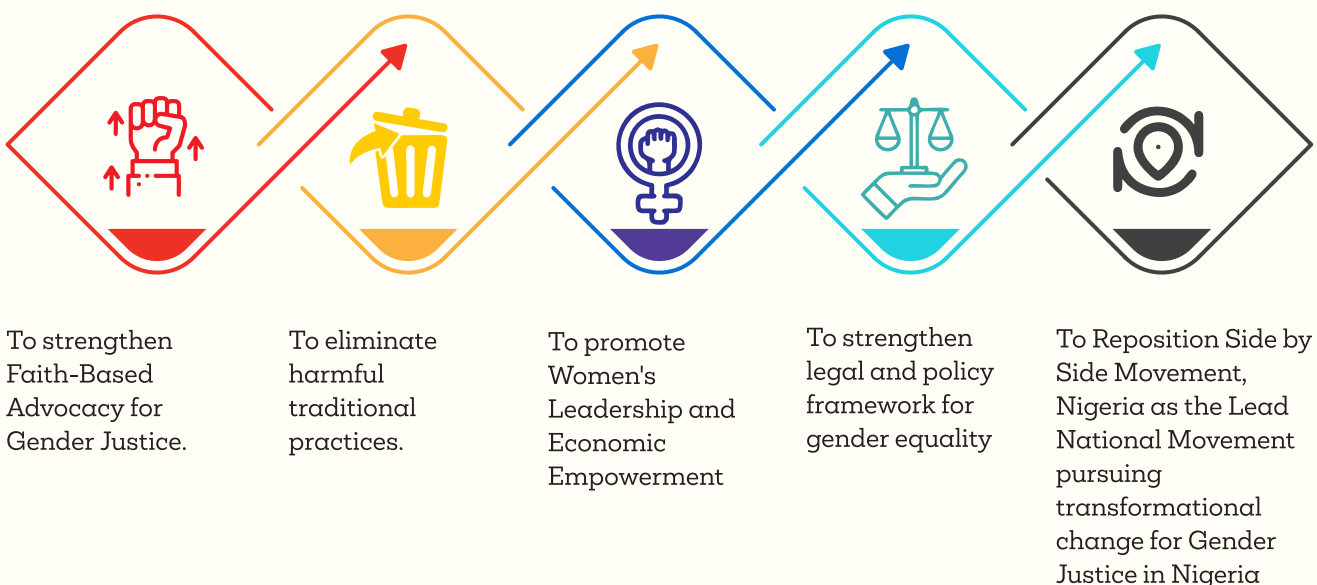
Side-by-Side's vision is to see all people free from cultural and interpersonal systems of privilege and oppression, and from violence and repression rooted in gender inequality. The mission of the Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice, Nigeria, is to work with faith and traditional leaders to advance gender justice through advocacy, education, and action to challenge and transform norms that perpetuate gender inequality.

The Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice, Nigeria, was established in 2018. The movement is an interfaith initiative that recognizes the role of religious and traditional leaders in influencing societal norms. It aims to foster an inclusive society where gender justice is upheld. This strategy was developed through a participatory process including consultations, retreats, and validation sessions that shaped this plan.

Globally, shifts in governance, economic instability, and increasing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) influence advocacy efforts. In Africa, issues such as political instability, economic disparities, and cultural norms hinder gender equality. In Nigeria, challenges such as electoral fraud, security threats, and socio-economic barriers continue to affect women's rights. There is, therefore, the need for faith-based advocacies to address these systemic issues and push for gender justice reforms.

As an organisation poised to address these issues, Side by Side Movement for Gender Justice, Nigeria, has demonstrated some key strengths such as a strong grassroots network, strategic partnerships, and an established advocacy framework. But there are some weaknesses such as limited financial resources and low visibility. Meanwhile, there are opportunities of global support for gender justice and technological advancements that can amplify advocacy efforts. There are threats that need to be mitigated such as resistance from conservative groups, religious extremism, and political instability.

After a careful analysis of SBS mandate, vision, mission and context of operations, the Strategic objectives for the next five years are as follows:



Strategic actions involve capacity-building workshops, advocacy campaigns, legal reforms, and policy engagement. The expected outcomes include increased gender justice awareness, reduced harmful practices, and enhanced women's participation in leadership roles.

There are organisational implications for the implementation of the new strategy. The National Steering Committee, Secretariat, and regional chapters will be strengthened to execute the strategy. Human resource development, information and Communication Technology (ICT) integration, Financial Management, and Media Engagement are emphasized as critical components for sustaining the movement's impact.

The strategy has a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework developed to track progress and measure its impact. Key performance indicators (KPIs) include the number of faith leaders trained, policy changes achieved, and reductions in gender-based violence. The risk management matrix identifies potential threats such as political instability, funding limitations, and resistance from conservative groups, alongside mitigation strategies to ensure sustained advocacy efforts.

The Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice, Nigeria, is poised to lead transformational change in gender justice through faith-driven advocacy. This strategy provides a structured approach to addressing gender inequalities by leveraging faith leadership, community engagement, and policy influence. By implementing this plan, the movement aims to foster an equitable and just society where every individual, regardless of gender, can thrive.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Side-by-Side Movement is a growing global movement pursuing transformational change for gender justice. The movement is made up of people of faith, faith leaders and faith-based organisations (FBOs) across the world committed to partnering to challenge barriers to gender justice.

Side-by-Side movement is united by the belief that each person is made in the image of God and best form with intrinsic value and dignity. At local, national and international levels, Side-by-Side Movement partners to work towards gender justice, where everyone is valued equally and able to share equitably in the distribution of power, knowledge and resources.

The movement acknowledges that religious teachings have often endorsed social and cultural norms that perpetuate gender injustice, and recognise that people of faith, religious leaders, and traditional leaders, have a responsibility to revisit sacred texts, cultural practices, and promote faith values of love, dignity and gender justice.

Meanwhile, gender justice is a pressing issue that affects social, economic and political development of the country. Women face systemic discrimination, Gender-Based Violence, harmful traditional practices, and limited access to opportunities. There is, therefore, the urgency of gender justice in Nigeria.

The approach of Side-by-Side is to stand firmly on fighting for gender equality and transforming discriminatory and unequal power relationships. This approach can be used to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. For us, gender equality is hinged on the fact that every human being is created by God made up of body, soul, and spirit. Equality, therefore, imposes on us the obligation to value every human being equally and enable every person to have access to power, knowledge and resources.

Side-by-Side movement recognizes that gender justice is mediated at multiple levels: individual, household, community and societal. Meanwhile, traditional and faith leaders have enormous influence in each of these “realms of power.” Therefore, if traditional and faith leaders work together in unity, they can transform the relationship between man and God (vertical relationship) and among human beings (horizontal relationship).

The first consultative meeting for the establishment of Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice in Nigeria was held in Abuja on 30th August 2018 at the initiative of Christian Aid Nigeria. The movement was formally launched on 27th November 2018 with the African Centre for Leadership, Strategy & Development (Centre LSD) as its Secretariat.



1.2 VISION

Side-by-Side's vision is to see all people free from cultural and interpersonal systems of privilege and oppression, and from violence and repression rooted in gender inequality.



1.3 MISSION

The mission of Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice, Nigeria, is to work with faith and traditional leaders to advance gender justice through advocacy, education and action to challenge and transform norms that perpetuate gender inequality.



1.4 VALUES

Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice, Nigeria, is guided by the following values:



Dignity: We recognize the inherent worth and respect that every person deserves regardless of their background, status and identity. We treat everyone with respect and honour.



Justice: We acknowledge that all people regardless of gender should have equal rights, opportunities and access to resources. We treat everyone with fairness and equity.



Faith and Collaboration: We work together in partnership across identity, drawing on the moral and ethical teachings of our faith and cultures to advance gender justice.



Love for Humanity: We hold a deep commitment to the wellbeing, dignity, equality, and equity of all people.



Integrity: We hold ourselves and partners to high ethical standard ensuring transparency, accountability and commitment to our cause of gender justice. We show honesty and display responsibility for our decisions and actions.

The values can be remembered by the mnemonic DJ-FLI.

1.5 OUR IDENTITY

01.

Interfaith: We are people of faith, traditional leaders, faith leaders and faith-based organizations (FBOs) across the world committed to partnering together to challenge barriers to gender justice. We are rooted in values of love, dignity and justice. These values resonate with our faith traditions and connect to a rights-based approach. We acknowledge that some religious teachings have often endorsed social and cultural norms that perpetuate gender injustice and recognize that people of faith and our religious leaders have a responsibility to revisit sacred texts and promote faith values of love, dignity and gender justice.

02.

Gender Justice: Side-by-Side's current working definition of gender justice is: 'a world where everybody, women and men, boys and girls are valued equally; can share equitably in the distribution of power, knowledge and resources; and are free from cultural and interpersonal systems of privilege and oppression, and from violence and repression, based on gender.

03.

Global and Local: We work at global, national and local levels, with a commitment to enabling strong grassroot support. We collaborate wherever possible to work towards gender justice, where everyone is valued equally and able to share equitably in the distribution of power, knowledge, and resources and live free from violence. In advocacy spaces, we aim to amplify the expertise, knowledge and experiences of grassroot faith actors and their wider communities, and to challenge patriarchy and other discriminatory structures of power.

04.

Movement: Central to the work and identity of Side-by-Side is the way in which faith communities and organizations work together as a movement. Side-by-Side is not an organisation or a single campaign. It is, instead, a movement of people that purposely brings faith actors together to strategically work towards a world where gender justice is a reality. Its strategies and activities are guided and motivated by participating faith actors, who consult and collaborate around different and wide-ranging initiatives, and bring with them their own skills, experiences, knowledge, perspectives and networks. We celebrate the gift of this unique diversity.

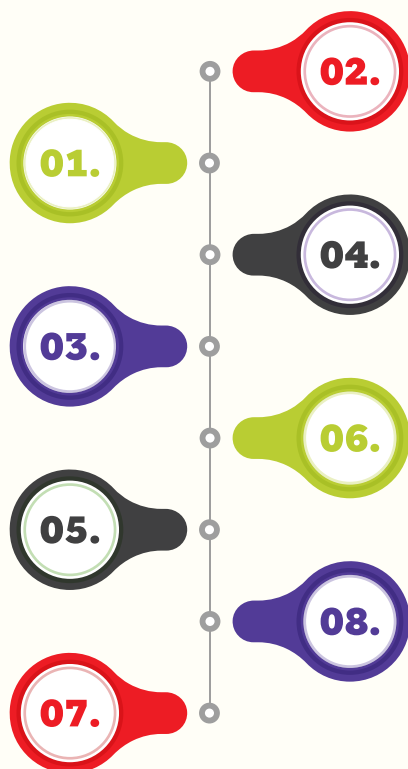
1.6 OUR EDGE

Global & Local Engagement: The Side-by-Side movement operates globally and locally, to ensure gender justice is pursued within culturally relevant frameworks.

Interfaith Faith-Driven Gender Advocacy: The side-by-side movement transforms gender justice efforts by revisiting sacred texts and promoting progressive interpretations that align with human rights and the dignity of the human person.

Interfaith Collaboration: The movement unites diverse religious communities, recognizing their moral influence in shaping societal norms and policies.

Multi-Level Influence for Change: Engages individuals, communities, faith institutions, and policymakers to empower faith leaders as catalysts for gender justice.



Strategic Partnerships: The movement aligns Side-by-Side with faith groups, religious leaders, traditional leaders, policymakers, NGOs, etc. to foster long-term systemic change for Gender Justice.

Vast Influence Across All Levels of Society: The movement engages faith leaders as key influencers to address gender injustice, leveraging their moral and social authority to drive change across individuals, communities, religious institutions, and policymakers at both grassroots and policy levels.

Comprehensive Structural Change: Side-by-Side integrates gender justice into religious, social, political, and economic systems, rather than focusing solely on policy reforms.

Faith-Driven Empowerment: Creates safe spaces for men and women of faith to mobilize, support one another, and promote women's leadership in religious and political spheres.

1.7 OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

If the SBS Movement engages faith leaders, traditional leaders, communities, and policymakers to challenge harmful beliefs and practices through faith-based advocacy, strategic partnerships, capacity-building, and fosters cultural transformation, strengthen legal frameworks, and promote women's leadership, this then will lead to shifting attitudes, influencing policies, and amplifying faith-based voices, that dismantles gender-based discrimination, then, this will ultimately create a just and inclusive society.

1.8 PURPOSE OF STRATEGY

Since its inauguration in 2018, the Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice in Nigeria has implemented a lot of projects and plans. The projects and plans have been guided by strategic frameworks from the international secretariat.

The purpose of this strategy is, therefore, to provide a strategic direction for Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice, Nigeria, and the actions to be taken to achieve the mandate of the organisation. The plan will analyse the environment of operations and propose the strategic actions to be taken for the movement to achieve competitive advantage, organizational effectiveness and efficiency. In addition, it will provide guidance to management in decision making in relation to the day-to-day operations of the movement as well as provide a framework for performance, monitoring and evaluation.

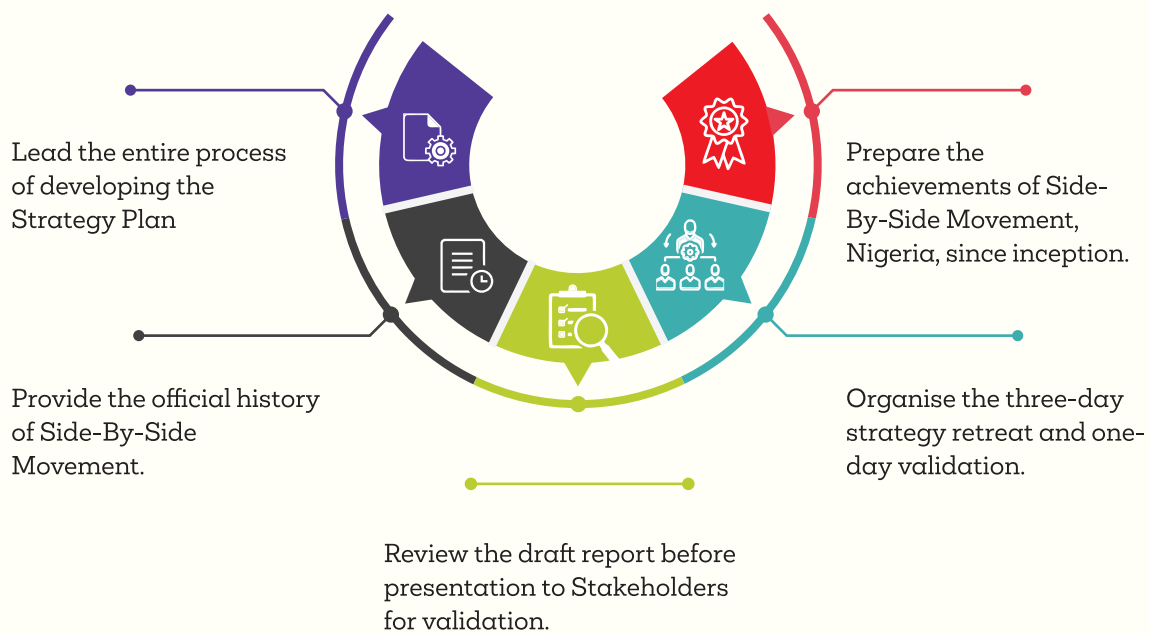
1.9 STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The process of developing the Strategy for SBS for Gender Justice in Nigeria (2025-2029) started with a recognition by the leadership to develop a full-fledged strategic plan for the movement. The process began with the development of an advocacy strategy. Christian Aid then appointed a consulting firm, ACLSD Global

Consulting Limited, to guide the process. The leadership of SBS then established a Strategy Plan Development Committee to lead the process. The Committee is made up of the following persons:

1. Bishop Favour Okokon- Chair
2. Imam Murtala Ibrahim- Co-Chair
3. Dr. Orinya Abjaji- Secretary
4. Prof. Mustapha
5. Rev. John Josphe Hayab
6. Mr. Munachi Ugochukwu
7. Dr. Otive Igbuzor
8. Mrs. Leah Olusiyi Solomon
9. Mariya Haruna Dogondaji

The Terms of Reference of the committee include:



A Strategy Plan retreat was then held in Abuja from 3rd -5th February 2025 by members of the Steering Committee, Zonal leaders, Christian Aid and Centre LSD. A draft strategy was produced by the Consultants which was reviewed by the Strategy Plan Development Committee. The draft Strategy was validated by all members of the SBS Movement and stakeholders at a validation conference held on 4th March 2025. The final strategy was approved by SBS Steering Committee at a meeting held on 17th March 2025.

CHAPTER TWO: CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

2.1 INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Political Context

The global landscape presents a dynamic and rapidly changing world shaped by globalisation, technological breakthroughs, environmental concerns and shifting political ideologies. The global political landscape is characterised by power shifts, governance challenges, and international tensions. There is a rise of nationalist movements, political polarisation, and challenges to democracy. Geo-political conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israeli Palestinian war have disrupted global stability. Environmental concerns are in the forefront of global challenges. Climate Change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and natural disasters pose existential threat to humanity. Globally, liberal democracy is facing a crisis of legitimacy and declining confidence in political leaders and institutions necessitating the need for democratic renewal through increasing citizen participation.

Economic Context

The global economy is undergoing a lot of changes driven by technological innovation, shifting trade dynamics, and financial crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated economic inequalities, disrupted supply chains and increased inflationary pressures across the world. Globally, women face economic disadvantages including wage gaps, limited access to financial resources and unpaid domestic labour burdens. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) has significant economic costs, including healthcare expenses, lost productivity, and legal costs.

Socio-cultural Context

There are huge demographic shifts, cultural integration and social justice movements are shaping the world. The world population is growing and urbanisation accelerating in many regions. Youth bulge is happening especially in Africa. Issues such as gender equality, racial justice and migration have gained prominence influencing policies and public discourse.

Technological Context

Technological advancement continues to drive economic and social transformation. Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain and renewable energy are changing industries and governance. This technological advancement has also brought challenges such as cybersecurity threats, ethical concerns and digital divide. Moreover, it has contributed to misinformation and social polarisation.

Religious Context

Meanwhile, religion remains a significant force shaping societies across the world; influencing norms, politics and economies. While religion has served as a unifying and moral force, it has also increased challenges including religious extremism and inter-faith conflicts. Christianity and Islam continue to grow particularly in the global south. Tensions between religious groups persist in regions where faith-based identities intersect with political and ethnic divides. Religion continues to play crucial roles in global politics influencing policies on human rights, social justice and governance. Interfaith movements can utilise global legal frameworks such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5: Gender Equality) in advocating for gender justice. Religious texts and traditions are often interpreted in ways that either support or challenge gender inequalities. Progressive faith-based initiatives work to reinterpret religious teachings to promote gender justice.

2.2 AFRICAN CONTEXT

Political Context

Africa is a continent of immense diversity, rich cultural heritage and vast natural resources, but it faces a lot of challenges and opportunities that shape its current and future development. The political landscape in Africa is shaped by governance challenges, democratisation efforts and regional conflicts. Many countries in Africa have now institutionalised elections as the way of changing leadership for instance in Ghana, South Africa, Senegal, Botswana and Nigeria. The last three decades have seen significant improvements in democracy across Africa. Countries like Ghana, Botswana and Senegal have demonstrated the possibility of peaceful transitions through credible elections. Some African States have invested in building strong institutions that promote accountability and rule of law like Botswana. In some countries, civil society and social movements have been instrumental in advocating for human rights, transparency and good governance such as the Y'en a Marre (We are Fed Up) movement in Senegal with great power of grassroots mobilisation.

However, recent trends indicate a concerning rise of democratic backsliding in Africa with implications for political stability. Democratic backsliding refers to the gradual decline in the quality of democracy, often characterised by the weakening of institutions, suppression of dissent and undermining of checks and balances. Democratic backsliding manifests in various forms including manipulation of the electoral process through rigged elections, voter suppression, and declining trust in democratic systems; constitutional amendments initiated by incumbents to extend term limits as seen in Uganda and Rwanda and suppression of civil liberties. Democratic backsliding often correlates with instability including civil unrest arising from public protests against electoral fraud and constitutional manipulation as witnessed in Sudan and Zimbabwe; conflicts as seen in Mali and Central African Republic or erosion of trust as seen in Nigeria and Zimbabwe. From 2020 to 2024, Africa has witnessed 13 coup attempts with eight resulting in successful government overthrows in nations like Burkina Faso, Sudan, Gabon, Mali and Niger. These incidents reflect deeper governance failures, exacerbated by insecurity, climate change and widening inequality.

These developments combined with governance challenges have destabilised regions, particularly the Sahel and eroded democratic norms. The Ibrahim Index of African Governance (2022) reveals worrying trends: governance, security and civic participation in key states have significantly declined. Post-coup environments often see weakened rule of law, proliferating illicit arms and the erosion of regional stability. Yet, amidst these challenges, countries like Botswana, Kenya and Senegal have demonstrated resilience through adherence to democratic principles, peaceful transition and robust governance frameworks. In January 2024, the three West African countries that have experienced coup-Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso decided to withdraw from ECOWAS with implications for regional security. In addition, Africa faces significant environmental challenges including deforestation, water scarcity and climate change.

Economic Context

African economic growth is driven by natural resource exploitation, agricultural development and technological innovation. Despite rapid growth in sectors like FinTech and mobile banking, economic inequalities, unemployment and inflation remain huge challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated financial instability leading to increased debt burdens for many African nations.

Socio-Cultural Context

Demographic shifts, urbanisation and social movements are transforming African societies. Africa has the youngest population globally with over 60 percent of its people under the age of 25 presenting both opportunities and challenges. Issues such as gender inequality, access to education, and public health remain significant concerns. There is rise of social activism in Africa particularly movements advocating for human rights and democratic governance.

Technological Context

Africa is witnessing rapid digital transformation, particularly in mobile technology, artificial intelligence and renewable energy. Countries like Nigeria and Rwanda are emerging as tech hubs attracting investments in innovation and entrepreneurship. However, digital divide persists with many rural areas lacking access to reliable internet and technological infrastructure.

Religious Context

Africa remains a hotspot for religious growth with Christianity and Islam experiencing rapid expansion. The continent is projected to host a significant share of the world's Christian population by 2050. Pentecostalism in particular has experienced substantial growth due to emphasis on spiritual experience and socio-economic empowerment. Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) continue to play a vital role in Africa's development, providing healthcare, education, and humanitarian aid. At the same time, radical religious groups continue to pose security threats in Africa and beyond from groups such as Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab. Interfaith tensions and discrimination based on religious identity persist in many societies necessitating the need for interfaith collaborations that can foster peace and mutual respect among diverse religious communities.

2.3 NIGERIAN CONTEXT

Political Context

Nigeria has a diverse cultural heritage, abundant natural resources and a growing economy. But it faces huge challenges including political instability, economic disparities, security threats and environmental degradation. Nigeria's political environment is characterised by electoral challenges, weak political parties and institutions, security concerns and widespread corruption. Although the country has witnessed over 25 years of uninterrupted civil rule and conducted seven elections (1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015, 2019 and 2023), there are issues of electoral fraud, political violence, and corruption. The challenge of insurgent groups such as Boko Haram, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) and Lakurawa, and banditry pose serious security threats that hinder national stability. In addition, Nigeria faces significant environmental issues including deforestation, oil spills, desertification and flooding. The Niger Delta is experiencing environmental genocide with the oil companies divesting without remediation of degraded environment. In Nigeria, political barriers such as insufficient legislation and enforcement continue to challenge gender justice.

Economic Context

Nigeria's economy is largely dependent on oil exports despite many years of efforts at diversification. Challenges of inflation, high unemployment rates, and inadequate infrastructure continue to impede economic growth. In Nigeria, poverty intersects with cultural and religious barriers to restrict women's access to resources and opportunities.

Socio-cultural Context

Nigeria has a rapidly growing population projected to surpass 400 million by 2050, making it one of the most populous nations in the world. The country is beset with huge challenges of poverty, gender inequality, and access to quality education and health care. Social Movements such as #EndSARS and #EndBadGovernance reflect the increasing demand for accountability by the citizens. The youth constitute over 60 percent of the population under 25 and presents both opportunities and challenges. In Nigeria, deep rooted social norms and cultural practices that perpetuate gender inequality such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), early marriage, and the misuse of religious texts are used to justify gender-based violence.

Technological Context

Nigeria is experiencing rapid digital transformation, particularly in fintech, telecommunications and e-commerce sectors. Companies like Flutterwave and Paystack have gained international recognition, boosting Nigeria's reputation as a tech hub. But there are still challenges of internet penetration, cybersecurity threats and digital literacy gap.

Religious Context

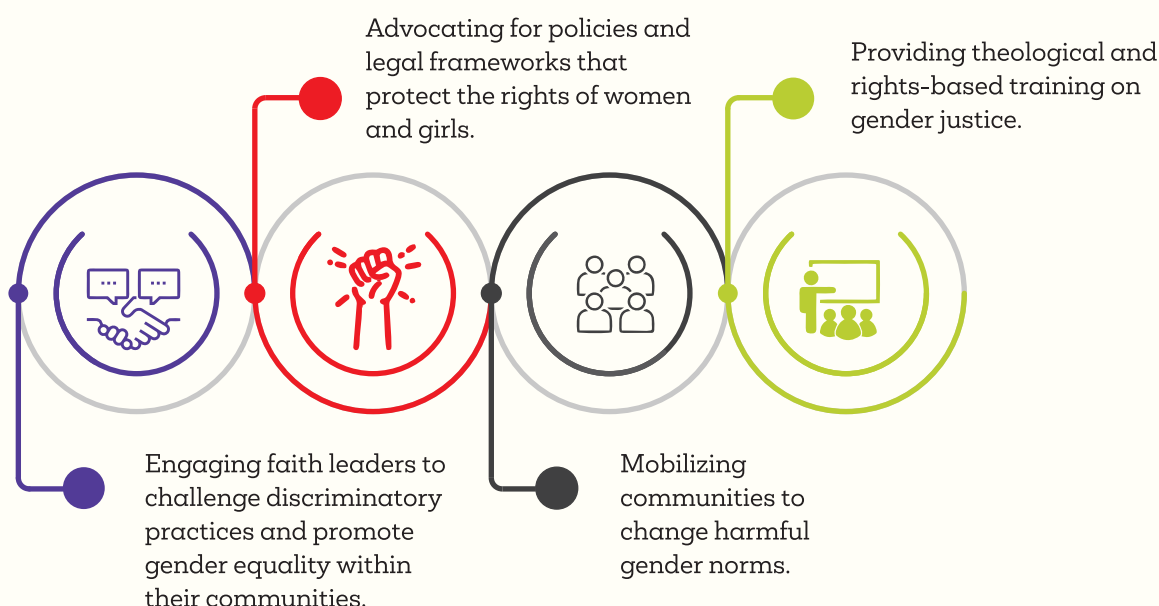
There is a high level of religious tension and interfaith conflicts in Nigeria necessitating the need for interfaith dialogue and interventions. The country is home to multiple religious groups with Christianity and Islam being the most prominent faiths. Meanwhile, Faith Based Organisations and interfaith groups have played crucial roles in socio-economic and humanitarian work. But their effectiveness depends on navigating governance regulations, economic constraints, social dynamics and technological advancements.

CHAPTER THREE: ORGANISATIONAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 HISTORY OF ORGANISATION

The Side-by-Side Movement is a global faith-based initiative advocating for gender equality and social justice. It brings together faith leaders, religious institutions, and civil society organizations to address gender-based injustices, particularly those rooted in cultural and religious traditions. The movement was officially launched globally in 2018 as a response to the recognition of the role that faith communities play in shaping social attitudes and policies on gender justice. It was initiated by Christian Aid, ACT Alliance, Islamic Relief, and other faith-based organizations to mobilize faith leaders and communities to challenge harmful gender norms and promote equality. The global headquarters of the movement is in South Africa.

In Nigeria, the Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice was officially launched on 27th November, 2018 at Ibeto Hotel, Gudu District, Abuja. The African Centre for Leadership, Strategy & Development (Centre LSD) has served as its national secretariat from inception, with support from Christian Aid. In 2023, the Ford Foundation partnered with Centre LSD to deepen the movement's impact in Kano and Benue States. The core objectives in Nigeria include:



Since its inception, the Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice in Nigeria has worked closely with faith and traditional institutions to drive transformative change in gender justice.

3.2 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MOVEMENT

Since 2018, the Side-by-Side Movement has recorded significant successes in gender justice advocacy, community mobilization, and policy influence. Some key achievements include:

Influence on Policy and Legislation

- Passage of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law in Imo State (2021) due to advocacy efforts led by movement members.
- Passage of the Bill empowering women to inherit and share family property in Imo State (2023), influenced by the advocacy of movement members.
- Development of a policy document integrating gender justice for both Christian and Muslim faiths.
- Advocacy led to the establishment of a Sexual Assault Referral Center (SARC) in Benue State.
- Benue State's onboarding to the Nigerian Sexual Offenders Database through collaboration with the Ministry of Justice.

Engagement of Faith and Traditional Leaders

- Increased integration of gender justice topics into sermons by pastors, imams, and traditional leaders in Kano, Kaduna, and North Central states.
- Traditional rulers in Enugu State and Benue State appointed more women into leadership roles and traditional councils.
- The Tor Tiv of Benue State prescribed tough punishments for gender-based violence within his kingdom.
- The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Ebonyi State included gender justice modules in pastoral training.

Community Mobilization and Awareness

- Increased participation of women in Supreme Council meetings in the Tiv nation of Benue State, with women now receiving chieftaincy titles.
- Commitment from the First Lady of Plateau State to establish a safe home for survivors of violence.
- Collaboration with Taraba State Government to empower women with vocational skills.
- Reduction in the culture of silence surrounding gender-based violence in Kano State, evidenced by more survivors publicly sharing their stories.
- Strengthened advocacy in Benue State, leading to action against politically influential perpetrators of gender-based violence.

Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening

- Training of 106 Faith & traditional leaders in all Geo-political zones of Nigeria on Rights-Based Advocacy and theological perspectives on gender justice and safeguarding.
- Establishment of a Gender-Based Violence Coordination Committee in Benue State to standardize prevention and case management efforts.
- Collaboration with NAPTIP in Kano State, leading to landmark convictions on sexual and gender-based violence cases.
- Strengthened interagency collaboration between NAPTIP and security agencies for improved response to gender-based violence incidents.

Media and Cultural Advocacy

- Production of a film titled Royal Decree to speak against female genital mutilation.
- Sensitization campaigns against exorbitant dowries in Northern Nigeria, addressing a key driver of intimate partner violence.
- Adoption of a new policy direction on girl-child education and marriage age in Kano State.
- Increased Women's Participation in Leadership
- Women's increased representation in decision-making councils in traditional settings across Nigeria.
- More religious and traditional leaders incorporating gender justice into their teachings and practices.

The Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice continues to drive transformative gender justice efforts across Nigeria, leveraging faith, policy advocacy, and community mobilization to create a more just and equitable society.

3.3 ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

The Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice, Nigeria, has operated for eight years (2018-2025). During this period, it has exhibited great strengths. The movement has a diverse range of members including traditional rulers, faith leaders, CSOs, activists and grassroots networks. The movement has a well-defined framework for advocacy which can help in effectively addressing gender-based issues and pushing for policy reforms. The movement has presence in the six geo-political zones and 36 states of the federation of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) with a large membership base giving the potential for national impact.

In spite of the strengths enumerated above, the movement is faced with some challenges over the years. The movement has access to limited resources limiting its reach and capacity. There is limited capacity in strategic leadership and management, advocacy, fundraising and programming. There is low visibility for the movement and there is the challenge that deep rooted cultural norms and attitude takes time to change.

But there are huge opportunities to reposition the movement in the coming years. There is global support and solidarity for gender justice. There is increasing availability of technology, artificial intelligence and social media to drive advocacy. The legal landscape is changing to guarantee gender equality in law. There is expansive network of partners and allies in the fight for gender justice.

However, in all of these, there is the need to work to mitigate the threat of political instability, insurgency, resistance and backlash from conservative groups, religious extremism and fundamentalism and unfavourable foreign aid policies impacting funding opportunities.

3.4 KEY CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIC CHOICES

The movement faces several key challenges that must be addressed to advance gender justice. Limited financial resources pose a significant barrier to implementing large-scale initiatives and sustaining advocacy campaigns. Deep-rooted cultural and religious norms continue to reinforce gender inequality, making it difficult to challenge harmful practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation. Political instability and resistance from conservative groups threaten efforts to promote policy reforms, while security threats from extremist organizations pose a risk to faith-based gender advocacy.

Low public awareness remains a persistent issue, as many communities lack knowledge of gender justice and its socio-economic impact. Weak enforcement of existing gender laws and policies further hampers progress, leaving victims of gender-based violence and discrimination without adequate legal protection. Technological barriers, particularly limited access to digital advocacy tools in rural areas, restrict outreach efforts. Additionally, gaps in strategic leadership, project management, advocacy, and resource mobilization skills highlight the need for capacity-building within the movement.

Despite these challenges, significant opportunities exist to drive gender justice initiatives forward. There is growing global support for gender equality, with international advocacy efforts, funding, and partnerships providing resources for faith-based movements. Existing policy and legal frameworks, including international commitments such as CEDAW and SDG 5 and national laws such as VAPP and NAPTIP Acts offer a strong foundation for advocacy efforts. Advances in technology and digital platforms create new avenues for amplifying gender justice messaging and engaging broader audiences.

Strategic alliances with faith leaders, traditional rulers, civil society organizations, and policymakers strengthen the impact of gender justice initiatives. The increasing participation of young people in social justice movements presents an opportunity to mobilize a new generation of advocates. Faith leaders continue to wield significant influence in shaping societal values, making their support crucial in driving reforms. Expanding economic opportunities for women also plays a key role in achieving gender equality, while media advocacy and public campaigns help to shift societal attitudes and promote inclusive narratives.

To capitalize on these opportunities, the movement must prioritize strategic choices that ensure long-term success. Strengthening faith-based advocacy through interfaith dialogues, capacity-building workshops, and leadership training for faith actors is essential. Engaging in targeted policy advocacy to push for the enactment and enforcement of gender-equitable laws is a crucial step in achieving systemic change. Expanding grassroots mobilization efforts, community education, and sensitization campaigns will help to dismantle harmful gender norms at the local level.

Building institutional capacity is key to sustaining progress, requiring investment in governance, resource mobilization, program management, and strategic leadership. Leveraging digital platforms for advocacy and awareness campaigns will broaden the movement's reach and impact. Implementing economic empowerment programs focused on skills development, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion will enhance opportunities for women and girls. Strengthening security partnerships with law enforcement agencies will help mitigate risks posed by extremist groups opposing gender justice efforts.

To ensure financial sustainability, the movement must diversify funding sources through grant applications, strategic partnerships, and donor engagement. Developing comprehensive crisis management and risk mitigation strategies will safeguard advocacy efforts against socio-political challenges. By addressing these

challenges, leveraging key opportunities, and implementing strategic choices effectively, the Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice, Nigeria, aims to foster transformative change and achieve its vision of an equitable and just society.

3.5 STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS AND STRATEGIC FOCUS

Since establishment, SBS for Gender Justice, Nigeria, has interacted with multiple stakeholders. The stakeholders include policy makers and government agencies (NAPTIP, Ministries of Women Affairs, Information and Education at Federal, State and Local Government levels), Feminist Activists and Leaders, SBS Leaders, Faith Based Organisations, Women's Rights Organisations, Influencers in the Media, Grassroots Community Leaders, CSOs, Funders and Philanthropists, Survivors of GBV, Rural Women Groups, Young Women and Girls, women working in informal sectors, Internally Displaced Persons, Law Enforcement Agencies, the Legislature, the Judiciary and ordinary citizens and members of the general public.

Some of the stakeholders have significant powers and have a high level of interest in gender justice. These include policy makers and government agencies, feminist activists and leaders, SBS leaders, funders and philanthropists. In this strategy period, SBS Movement for Gender Justice will engage them fully in its decisions and actions. Others with high levels of interest such as survivors of GBV, Persons with Disabilities (PWD), women working in informal sectors, academia, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) will be engaged and regularly informed about the activities of the movement.

CHAPTER FOUR: STRATEGIC DIRECTION

4.1 STRATEGIC GOALS

After a careful analysis of SBS mandate, vision, mission and context of operations, the Strategic objectives are as follows:

To strengthen Faith-Based Advocacy for Gender Justice.

To promote Women's Leadership and Economic Empowerment

To strengthen legal and policy framework for gender equality



To eliminate all harmful traditional and harmful practices.

To Reposition Side-by-Side Movement Nigeria as the Lead National Movement pursuing transformational change for Gender Justice in Nigeria

4.2 STRATEGIC ACTIONS AND

4.2.1 TO STRENGTHEN FAITH-BASED ADVOCACY FOR GENDER JUSTICE

Key Actions:

- Organize workshops for faith leaders to build capacity on gender justice.
- Develop and disseminate gender-sensitive religious interpretations.
- Conduct advocacy engagements with political and religious leaders.
- Utilize media platforms to promote faith-based gender justice messages.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased number of faith leaders advocating for gender justice.
- Greater integration of gender justice into religious teachings.
- Enhanced policy influence on gender-related issues.

4.2.2 TO ELIMINATE ALL HARMFUL TRADITIONAL AND CULTURAL PRACTICES

Key Actions:

- Conduct community-based sensitization campaigns on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriage.
- Engage traditional leaders to champion the eradication of harmful practices.
- Strengthen partnerships with government agencies and CSOs for policy implementation.

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduced cases of FGM and early marriage.
- Increased number of traditional leaders speaking out against harmful practices.
- Stronger legal and institutional frameworks to support gender justice.

4.2.3 TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Key Actions:

- Provide leadership training for women in faith communities.
- Establish mentorship programs linking young women to female faith leaders.
- Facilitate access to financial resources for women entrepreneurs.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased representation of women in leadership positions.
- Greater financial independence and economic resilience among women.
- More inclusive decision-making structures within faith and community settings.

4.2.4 TO STRENGTHEN LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Key Actions:

- Advocate for the adoption and enforcement of gender-responsive laws.
- Work with faith actors to push for gender justice in the constitutional review process.
- Train law enforcement agencies on gender-sensitive responses to injustices.

Expected Outcomes:

- Strengthened implementation of gender-equitable policies.
- Improved access to justice for victims of gender-based violence.
- Increased collaboration between religious and legal institutions on gender issues.

4.2.5 TO REPOSITION SIDE-BY-SIDE MOVEMENT NIGERIA AS THE LEAD NATIONAL MOVEMENT PURSUING TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE FOR GENDER JUSTICE IN

Key Actions:

- Develop a comprehensive branding and communication strategy to enhance visibility.
- Strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders, including government agencies, faith-based organizations, civil society groups, and international donors.
- Establish a dedicated research and policy unit to generate evidence-based advocacy materials.
- Organize high-profile national and regional forums on gender justice.
- Consolidate the movement's presence in all six geopolitical zones through structured regional chapters.
- Strengthen internal governance and capacity-building initiatives for movement leaders.

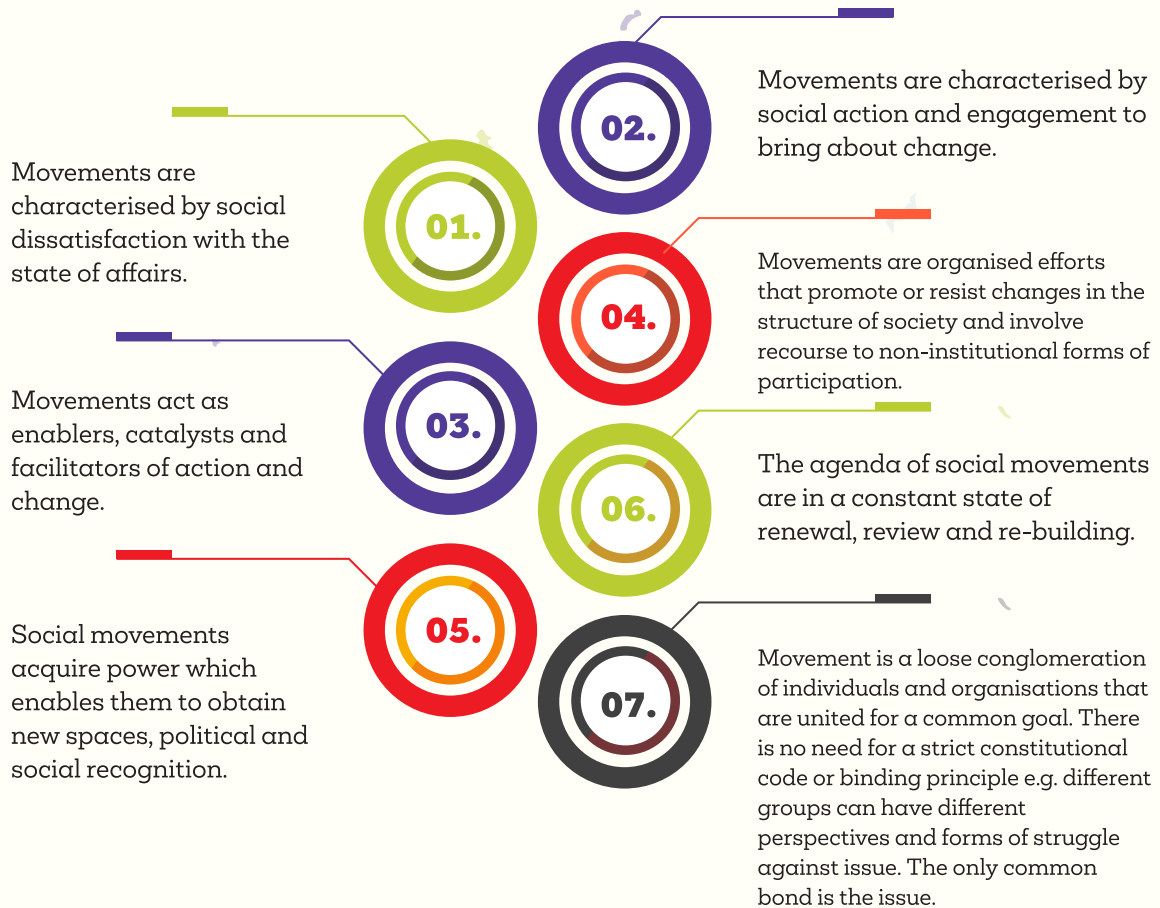
Expected Outcomes:

- Increased national recognition of Side-by-Side as the foremost interfaith movement championing gender justice.
- Greater collaboration with policymakers, donors, and development partners.
- Enhanced credibility and influence in shaping gender justice policies and initiatives.
- Stronger grassroots engagement and expanded membership across Nigeria.
- More sustainable funding and resource mobilization for long-term impact.

CHAPTER FIVE: ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

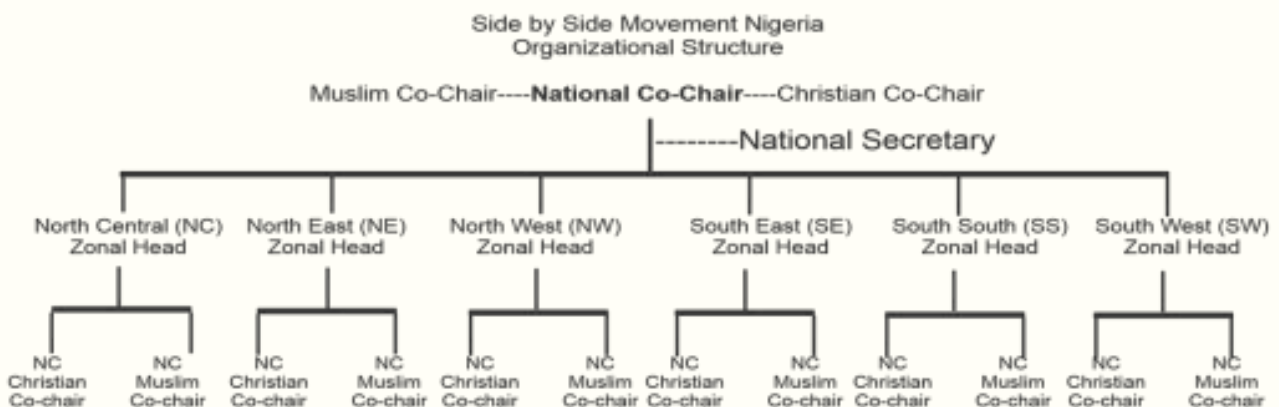
5.1 GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice, Nigeria, is a movement. It is important to note that movement organising is quite different from a typical NGO coalition or network. The following are basic characteristics of movement organising:



The National Steering Committee will provide leadership and governance for the implementation of this Strategy. It will give strategic direction and provide guidance for the overall activities of the Strategy. It will support the Zonal leaders and state chapters in the implementation of this strategy.

The organogram of the movement is as shown below:



The organs of the movement will work closely with the Secretariat, The African Centre for Leadership, Strategy & Development and the founding partner, Christian Aid Nigeria.

5.2 HUMAN RESOURCE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The implementation of this strategy will give priority to human resource and organizational development. All the officials of the movement will be trained on Strategic Leadership and Management, Movement Organising, Advocacy, Project Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation. All organs of the movement from the national to the zonal and state chapters will work in synergy.

5.3 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

The movement will prioritise the deployment and utilisation of ICT in all its operations in the implementation of this strategy. All movement officials are expected to be IT compliant. This will be done through training.

5.4 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The importance of fund raising and financial management in movement organising cannot be overemphasized. Members of the movement will be trained on fund raising and financial management.

5.5 COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

The Strategy will give priority to the quality and timeliness of communication. Both internal and external communication will be enhanced. Movement meetings will be institutionalised to enhance communication. E-mail, circulars and memos will be utilised regularly to improve internal communication. Print media (newspapers, magazines), electronic media (radio and TV), and new media (Facebook, Blogs, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, etc) will be used to promote external communication. The secretariat will create a dedicated website page for the movement. The movement will create its own website during the life span of this strategy.

5.6 DOCUMENTATION

The Secretary of the Movement will build a document management system with good scope and quality. Files will be properly labelled and documented. The capacity of the Secretary to document activities and reports will be built. The Secretary will ensure that all materials and files are properly backed up.



CHAPTER SIX: MONITORING AND EVALUATION, AND RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework for the Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice (SBS) establishes a structured approach to tracking progress, assessing impact, and ensuring accountability in achieving the movement's strategic objectives. It is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of SBS initiatives and interventions in key areas, including strengthening faith-based advocacy, eliminating harmful traditional practices, promoting women's leadership and economic empowerment, enhancing legal and policy frameworks for gender equality, and positioning SBS as a leading force for gender justice in Nigeria.

This framework employs a set of Expected Outcomes, Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs), and Means of Verification to systematically monitor progress, identify challenges, and refine strategies for greater impact. The OVIs provide measurable benchmarks to assess the achievement of targeted results, while the Means of Verification ensure the use of reliable data sources for evidence-based decision-making.

Given the volatile socio-political and economic landscape in Nigeria, this framework incorporates a Risk Management Matrix to identify potential threats and outline mitigation strategies. This proactive approach will enable SBS to navigate challenges, sustain advocacy efforts, and reinforce its commitment to gender justice at local, national, and international levels.

6.2 MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RISK/ ASSUMPTIONS
<p>Objective 1: To strengthen Faith -Based Advocacy for Gender Justice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased engagement of faith leaders advocating for gender justice. Increased buy-in for Gender Justice among religious communities on issues of gender justice. Integration of gender justice principles into faith-based teachings and practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of faith leaders trained by SBS and actively advocating for gender justice. Number of religious leaders who support gender justice . Number of religious sermons, teachings, or publications addressing gender justice facilitated or developed by SBS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training reports , advocacy briefs . A database of all organizations and individuals trained by the SBS . (Disaggregated by sex, age, faith affiliation, location). SBS Monthly and annual reports. Monthly reports/case studies . A catalogue of publications of religious sermons, teachings that address ed gender justice, facilitated or produced by SBS . 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Those with vested interests opposing gender justice are persuaded to support SBS, fostering greater gender justice in Nigeria. Democracy in Nigeria remains stable, allowing SBS movement to strive. Community/state level religious leaders are representatives of SBS.

<p>Objective 2: To advocate for the elimination of harmful traditional practices .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduc ed prevalence of Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) such as child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). • Strengthened enforcement of laws prohibiting harmful traditional practices. • Increased involvement of traditional and community leaders in promoting positive cultural practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage reduction in reported cases of HTPs (FGM, child marriage, etc.) in SBS communities and across Nigeria . • *Number of communities declaring abandonment of harmful practices as a result of SBS campaign/work . • Number of harmful traditional practices abolished across communities/states • Number of traditional leaders pub licly advocating against harmful practices. • Number of legal cases prosecuted against perpetrators of harmful practices as a result of SBS movement . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalogue/database of cases of HTPs (FGM, child marriage, etc.) reported by Nigerian SBS Movement. Project reports • Movement reports/ Media reports on cases of HTPs abolished in Nigeria. • Copies of official communities’ declar ations and abandonment of harmful practices. • Catalogue/database of community declaration abandoning harmful practices . • Reports/picture/co mmitments against harmful practices. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.SBS has the explicit support of state and non-state actors, as well as other gatekeepers, in advancing its mission . 2. Communities, states, and the government agree to a unified SBS movement for gender justice. 3. Continued and improving freedom of media and access to information 4. Ownership of gender justice process with state/non -state actors seeing benefits to decision -making and ensuring problem - solving approach .
<p>Objective 3: To promote Women’s Leadership and Economic Empowerment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased participation and representation of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of women holding leadership positions in both formal and informal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report s of women trained in leadership and strategy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SBS movement obtains and continues to obtain the

	<p>women in formal and informal leadership structures across various sectors in Nigeria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased financial independence and decision-making power among women. 	<p>structures (political, business, and community settings)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased household income of women-led households in communities . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report and Proof of women in leadership positions in the communities/ states in Nigeria *Reports of the women trained by SBS, with increased livelihood in their respective communities. 	<p>expressed support of state/non -state actors and other gatekeepers .</p> <p>2. Receptiveness of target population to sensitization approaches; particularly around gender justice and promotion of women in leadership and economic empowerment,</p> <p>3. Target audiences (faith/traditional leaders) are willing to use their position and make time available for the movement , to demand change .</p>
<p>Objective 4: To strengthen legal and policy framework for gender equality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption and implementation of gender-responsive policies and laws. *Improved access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of gender-related laws and policies enacted or amended through SBS advocacy. Number of government agencies and institutions implementing gender-responsive policies due to SBS campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of new gender-related laws and policies enacted or amended during the implementation of this Strategy. SBS movement reports Reports of government agencies and 	<p>1. Collaboration and support from relevant government agencies on gender responsive policies .</p> <p>2. SBS movement gain acceptance and are useful in shaping gender justice movement in Nigeria.</p> <p>3. Legal and policy frameworks for gender</p>

			<p>institutions implementing gender-responsive policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pictures of campaigns. 	<p>equality measures are supported and the mindset of skilling up pervades the movement .</p> <p>4. Inclusion is practiced and efforts made to consult with the marginalised groups (women)</p>
<p>Objective 5: To Reposition Side -by-Side Movement , Nigeria, as the Lead National Movement pursuing transformational change for Gender Justice in Nigeria .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved visibility for SBS movement across Nigeria and Africa. • SBS movement capability and accountability to citizens to mainstream gender justice and deliver social and transformational protection in gender justice processes is increased . • Improved organizational reputation and impacts across Nigeria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of SBS visibility in Nigeria and globally. • Level of results/impact documentation in the lifespan of this S trategy. • Number of SBS implementation status and evaluation report developed through the life span of this strategy in the next 5 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual analytics report showing the movement’s geographical visibility across Nigeria and Africa. • Annual movement strengthening results and reports. • Annual documentation of movements results and achievement. 	<p>1.Other development players see the benefits of SBS movement for increased collaboration .</p> <p>2. Prevailing communication cultures do not block information sharing.</p>

6.3 RISK MANAGEMENT MATRIX FOR SIDE-BY-SIDE MOVEMENT FOR GENDER JUSTICE (2025-2029)

Risk management is essential for the successful implementation of the Side-by-Side Movement for Gender Justice (SBS) Strategy (2025-2029). Given the complex socio-political, economic, and cultural landscape in Nigeria, these risks have been identified by SBS with potential mitigation strategy that could improve its advocacy and operational efforts.

This Risk Management Matrix therefore outlines key risks that may impact on the movement's activities. These have been categorized into political, security, economic, social, legal, technological, operational, and reputational risks. Each of these risks is assessed based on its likelihood and impact, with corresponding mitigation strategies to ensure the movement remains resilient and adaptable in achieving its strategic objectives.

By integrating this risk management into its operational plan/framework, SBS can safeguard its mission, strengthen its partnerships, and maintain credibility in advocating for gender justice at local, national, and global levels.

Risk Category	Identified Risk	Likelihood (High/Medium/Low)	Impact (High/Medium/m/Low)	Mitigation Strategy
Political	Government instability may affect advocacy efforts	High	High	*Engage with policymakers across party lines. *Diversify advocacy approaches.
Security	Threats from extremist groups opposing gender justice	High	High	*Increase partnership/collaborations with security agencies. *Strengthen security measures for members.
Economic	Limited funding for the movement activities	High	High	*Develop diverse funding sources. *Enhance fundraising capacity of members. *Leverage on existing partnerships and other organizations with funding for similar advocacy.
Social/Cultural	Resistance from conservative Groups/faith/traditional leaders	High	High	*Sustain sensitization and dialogue with key stakeholders *Utilize faith-based narratives for gender justice.
Legal/Policy	Weak enforcement of gender-related laws	Medium	High	*Strengthen advocacy efforts for legal reforms and implementation for Gender Justice.
Technological	Limited access to ICT for advocacy campaigns	Medium	Medium	*Prioritize digital training for members. *Increase social media engagements and visibility.
Operational	Limited organizational capacity for program execution	Medium	High	*Prioritize periodic capacity building for leaders and members of the movement.
Reputation	Backlash from misinterpretation of movement's objectives	Medium	High	*Adopt appropriate crisis management strategies.

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