

# JAPAN EXTENDS GRANT AID FOR SUPPORTING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN BAUCHI, GOMBE AND DELTA STATE TO WITHSTAND COVID-19 RELATED CRISES, RECOVERY FROM THE IMPACT OF COMPLEX EMERGENCIES AND INCREASE THEIR RESILIENCE

20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

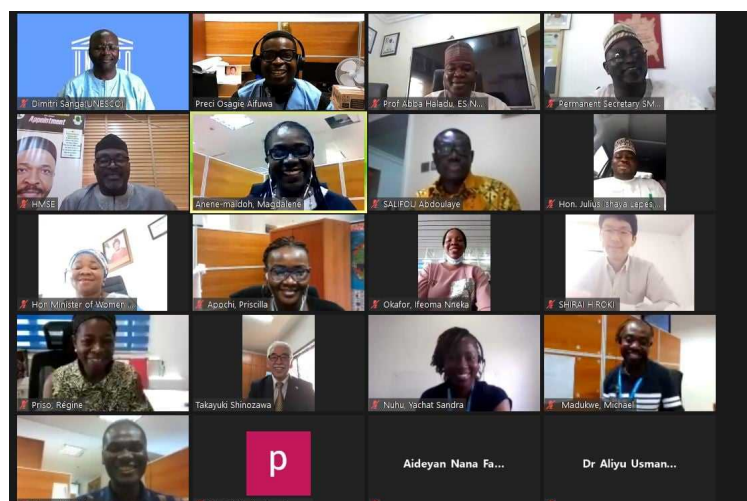
On April 20, the Embassy of Japan and UNESCO held an online launch ceremony for a project funded by the Government of Japan. The project is aimed at preparing and empowering women and girls in marginalized communities of Bauchi, Gombe and Delta State by providing psychosocial support, rehabilitation for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) victims and second chance education opportunities for women and girls. This project is also focused on raising awareness about SGBV among the public as well as on alleviating the increasing social tension exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the event, Mr. SHINOZAWA Takayuki, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Japan in Nigeria, stated “We are deeply concerned about the recent violent kidnapping of over hundred children from schools in North West Nigeria. We offer our sincere sympathies to the families of the missing students and would like to insist schools should be a safe place where children can learn and thrive.” and” I would like to reiterate the promise of the Government of Japan that it will remain unflinching in its support for the people of Nigeria, especially women and girls who are suffering gravely from the COVID-19 related crisis.”.

Speeches of Hon. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, Minister of State for Education and Hon. Dame Pauline K. Tallen, Minister of Women Affairs, were delivered by representatives from each ministry respectively.

Japan remains Nigeria’s close partner towards achievement of the empowerment of women and girls who are suffering from multiple crises. Japan promises its continued commitment to combat SGBV and empower vulnerable communities, especially women and girls.

<b>Project title and implementing partner</b>	Empowerment of Women and Girls in Marginalized Communities for Better Well-Being through Education and Advocacy (UNESCO)
<b>Total Amount Extended</b>	US\$ 240,845
<b>Summary of the Project</b>	- Providing psychosocial support, rehabilitation for SGBV victims and second chance education opportunities for women and girls - Raising awareness about SGBV among the public



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony took place via video conference