

## **UNFPA RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE PAYS A COURTESY CALL TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FCT**

**On the 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2021**, the UNFPA Resident Representative Ms. Ulla Mueller and her team paid a courtesy call to the Honourable Minister of State for the Federal Capital Territory, Hajiya Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu. The visit also featured a donation of dignity kits and medical supplies presented by the Resident Representative to the Federal Capital Development Authority.

Among the items donated were 100 bags of dignity kits (menstrual pads, bath soap, underwear, detergent powder, sanitary napkins, toothpaste, toothbrush etc.) all housed inside the bag. Along with the bag were 100 plastic buckets, 100 mats, 100 blankets, 100 slippers, 100 Ankara wrappers, 100 reusable sanitary pads, 100 whistles, 100 packs of petroleum jelly, 100 hand sanitizers, 100 bottles of hand wash and 2,500 face masks to address the reproductive health needs of women and girls, and restoration of the dignity of GBV survivors in the FCT.

The donated items were funded by the One EU-UN COVID-19 Basket Fund. The fund complements ongoing efforts in resource mobilization, and support the national COVID-19 Multi-Sectoral Pandemic Response Plan. While receiving the kits, meant to support vulnerable women and girls including GBV survivors, the Honorable Minister thanked UNFPA for the timeliness of the donation.

*“My sincere gratitude to the United Nations Population Fund for the timely support in the form of dignity kits and other non-pharmaceutical products donated for women and girls in the GBV Shelter. These items will certainly support the Federal Government’s efforts in addressing the hygiene and reproductive health needs of women and girls in FCT”.*

Ms. Mueller expressed her concerns on the increase of gender-based violence since the pandemic and how it had risen to an alarming proportion. She urged the government and private sector to come to the aid of the vulnerable women and girls with response that would guarantee stiffer penalties for perpetrators. The Representative, also advocated for synergy among actors to end GBV, and assured the Minister State of UNFPA’s support to the Centre.

The UNFPA Resident Representative said: *It is when perpetrators are prosecuted that girls and women will have a safe space. The survivors must be seen as not just victims, but as sisters to some people, mothers and children, then we will feel the touch’ We should stop naming and*

shaming the victims. We can only create an enabling environment if we make it real and we must not be afraid to speak out,”

The Resident Representative also briefed the Hon. Minister of State on the proposed upgrade of the FCT Ultramodern Youth Centre as it has the potential for the facilities required for a GBV one stop response center and can be upgraded to provide comprehensive GBV services including providing emergency shelter for about 50 survivors. The Minister of State was informed on the proposed clinic set up in the center which can offer immediate health services to survivors and can also be used as a youth friendly and young mums’ clinic. UNFPA plans to link the clinic to the nearby secondary health facility- Nyanya General Hospital where survivors and clients that require higher level of care can be referred. The Honourable Minister was informed on security and access to justice, where UNFPA also proposed strengthening the gender desk for the police within the nearby police station and place a legal aid officer within the center.

The Honorable Minister of State was delighted to hear about the proposed plan for the youth center and advised that all activities should be institutionalized to ensure sustainability. She added that FCT is currently running a skills acquisition programme at the center and encouraged UNFPA to key into such activities.



Symbolic handing over of Dignity Kit to the Hon. Minister of State Ramatu Aliyu by UNFPA Rep.



Ms Ulla Mueller debriefing the Hon. Minister of State with staff from the Ministry and UNFPA



Group photo of those in attendance during the handing over ceremony at FCT, Abuja