



Biography

Lydia Kalat Musa, born in Sokoto State and originally from Zangon Kataf Local Government Area in Kaduna State, Nigeria. She serves as the Chairman of the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA), a position to which she was appointed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Lydia's expertise spans across accomplished developments, inclusion strategist, and public sector reform advocate. With over 15 years of progressive experience, she has made significant impact across Nigeria's health, education, agriculture, and social protection sectors. Known for her people-centered leadership and systems-thinking approach, she has successfully led high-performing teams under USAID- and IFAD-funded initiatives. Her work has consistently delivered measurable results through strong partnerships with government institutions, donor agencies, and grassroots communities.

Her unique blend of policy acumen, gender advocacy, and operational excellence has positioned her as a transformative leader. She has authored influential articles and technical briefs on Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI), offering practical insights to development stakeholders. Her contributions to national discourse include the development of a widely acclaimed blog on male engagement in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, as well as on issues of nutrition and malaria. Lydia's advocacy efforts have led to increased government investment in social programs, and she has been instrumental in mobilizing community-level participation that aligns with cultural and political realities.

Notably, she has been recognized in the Staff Spotlight of USAID Nigeria's Integrated Health Program (IHP) and GSI&CE for her outstanding commitment to health system strengthening and gender mainstreaming. She has also played a vital role in designing training modules and tools that are now being implemented across state institutions to enhance education and public health delivery.

Her appointment as Chairman of OGFZA represents a strategic milestone, empowering her to shape policies, attract investment, and drive inclusive economic growth in Nigeria's vital oil and gas sector.

Lydia's expertise spans gender and social inclusion, public health—especially RMNCAH, nutrition, and malaria—community mobilization and local governance, agricultural development, rural livelihoods, youth empowerment, and stakeholder engagement in special economic zones. She is also experienced in donor-funded program management and policy advocacy.

Academically, she holds a Master of Science degree in Gender Development and Environment (2004), a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (2001), and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture (1995), all from Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

Her leadership philosophy is rooted in servant leadership, with an emphasis on unlocking human potential, dismantling systemic barriers, and building trust. Lydia believes that leadership should empower others and drive sustainable and inclusive development outcomes.

Outside of her professional life, Lydia enjoys reading, writing, and conducting research. She is deeply involved in community development initiatives and values meaningful relationships and networks that foster social progress and institutional growth.