

# GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT-SCORECARD

## REPORT TOWARDS 2021 VNR HLPF



# ASSESSING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN NIGERIA AND HOW IT AFFECTS ORDINARY NIGERIANS



CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

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CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSCSD)

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We also thank the following members of CSCSD who successfully conducted the survey across the six geo-political zones of Nigeria:

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# Preface

It is fitting to affirm that the sustainable Development Goals presents a wholesome opportunity to better the lot of the impoverished across the world in a clearly defined manner. This is also taking into account several vulnerable persons living in different communities either in developed, developing or under-developed countries. Undoubtedly, the most recent pandemic that has ravaged the world with attendant ill-effects has brought about some reversal in progress made towards attainment of these goals especially in developing countries. This is so for a number of reasons -dependency on foreign governments for official development assistance, reliance on mono-economy, on-going strife and conflict, burgeoning population among others. Unfortunately, Nigeria appears to fall under this category and this therefore underscores the need for such a spotlight report.

The essence of a spotlight report is to point out how an entity has fared, where she is and the future path being toed. Thus, it is customary for civil societies across the Globe to issue such a report on annual basis in a bid to help track progress made towards attainment of the goals while bridge existing gaps. This report is not therefore an attempt to discredit existing reports such as the 2017 and 2020 Voluntary National Report (VNR) produced by organs of Government such as the Office of the Senior Senior Special Assistant to the President (OSSAP) on the SDGs. Rather, it is to present an alternative view to the Monitoring and Evaluation conducted by a coalition of Civil Society Organisations in the Country. This report is thus the summary of a very intense exercise that was conducted across the country, leveraging on proximity of Civil Society Organisations to the grassroots, where development is mostly lacking.

The idea behind producing a spotlight report began in 2017, when Nigeria's first VNR was presented in New York. U.S.A. during the Annual general meeting of the United Nations. A cue was taken from several developed countries which also made VNR presentations but had spotlight reports circulated by indigenous Civil Society Organisations. It thus was a learning curve for the Civil Society Coalition for Sustainable Development (CSCSD) and efforts were put in place to conduct yearly nation-wide surveys on implementation of the SDGs, the report of which will be published. One of such was produced in 2020 which coincided with Nigeria's second VNR issued by OSSAP-SDGs. This particular report is an amalgam of several individuals' efforts to which the coalition is immensely grateful and it is a timely one too that gives a scorecard on how Nigeria is faring after a tumultuous year laden with health, socio-economic and ethno-religious crises.

This report has helped to delineate facts and figures on developmental issues at the grassroots level and is expected to be fed into the national statistical pool so as to aid in more effective planning for the populace by the relevant Government parastatals (sub-national and national).

**Prof. Mrs Ngozi Odiaka,**

Co-Chair Sustainable Development Solution Network - Nigeria

# Foreword

It is a great pleasure for me to present the 2021 Grassroots Spotlight-scorecard Report compiled by the Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development (CSCSD). A lot of effort has been put into writing this unique report. This is not surprising as the Coalition had been playing a significant role in gathering data on the level of implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria including the 2020 Report. This report forms part of this role. The impact of the SDGs is of utmost importance at the grassroots as this determines the efficiency and effectiveness of the goals and ultimately the slogan of “Leave No One Behind”.

A critical assessment of the level of involvement of both the decision makers and the direct beneficiaries of various policies and programs of various levels of government becomes imperative in line with the inclusivity clause of the SDGs. Nigerian citizens including vulnerable ones in the grassroots have to be given the opportunity to open up on how SDGs have been impacting on them. They have the right to assess governments' performance on plans, programmes and policies affecting them. Though Nigerian government has scored well in putting in place, institutional policy and legal framework, plans and strategies for 2030 Agenda delivery, unfortunately implementation was slow, capacity building was not seen to be done, monitoring and evaluation lacked progress while transparency and accountability mechanism was nebulous. The report assessed the performance of the federal government in those critical areas of the SDGs, and the performance of state government through the views of the critical masses of the people at the grassroots level. It has given voice to the grassroots citizens providing an opportunity for youth, persons living with disability, artisans, market women and men, petty traders, vulnerable grassroots people, through the Civil society across the six geo-political zones, to air their views on how SDG implementation process affects them and lend their voice to the kind of Nigeria they want. COVID-19 has created many more challenges for CSOs in the global south while insecurity and terrorism have heightened such challenges. The report also contains recommendations for improvement in the implementation of the goals of Agenda 2030.

As this report is being presented, I encourage the government functionaries and other stakeholders especially the generality of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) to take particular note of critical areas where there are needs for improvement in the implementation of the SDGs goals.

Thank you.

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# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements .....	iii
Preface .....	iv
Foreword .....	v
Table of Contents.....	vi
Acronyms and Abbreviations .....	vii
Executive Summary.....	viii
<b>Part One</b>	
<b>Nigeria's Development Context</b>	
Introduction .....	11
Nigeria's Poverty Profile.....	12
Inflation pushing 7 million into poverty .....	12
COVID-19 Pandemic and WATSAN.....	13
Inequality and Unemployment.....	14
Economic Challenges.....	14
Shrinking Civic Space.....	16
Climate Change Policy.....	19
Nigeria promoting peaceful societies – and failing SDG 16.....	19
<b>Part Two</b>	
<b>People's Scorecard (PSC) on National Delivery of the 2030 Agenda</b>	
Assessment of the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Nigeria.....	25
Introduction.....	25
<b>Part Three</b>	
<b>Grassroots Spotlight on the Impact of SDGs Implementation in the Six Geo-political Zones of Nigeria - Vox Populi</b>	
Introduction.....	33
Methodology.....	33
Grassroots Spotlight in Southwest: Ondo and Ekiti States.....	35
Grassroots Spotlight in Southeast: Abia and Ebonyi States.....	42
Grassroots Spotlight in Southsouth: Cross River and River States .....	49
Grassroots Spotlight Northwest: Zamfara and Kebbi States.....	55
Grassroots Spotlight in Northeast: Adamawa and Yobe States.....	60
Grassroots Spotlight North-Central: FCT, Benue and Kogi States.....	66
<b>Appendix</b>	
Brief On Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development .....	76
Board and Zonal Executive List across the Six Geo-political Zones of Nigeria .....	83

# *Acronyms and Abbreviations*

C.A.M.A.	- Corporate and Allied Matters
C.S.C.S.D.	- Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development
C.S.O.	- Civil Society Organization
E.R.G.P.	- Economic and Recovery Growth Plan
G.P.E.D.C.	- Global Partnership for Effective Development Corporation
H.L.P.F.	- High-Level Political Forum
L.G.B.T.Q.	- Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans-gender Queer
L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.	- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans-gender, Queer/Questioning (One's Sexual or Gender Identity), Inter-sex, and Asexual/Aromantic/Agender)
N.B.C.	- National Broadcasting Commission
N.B.S.	- National Bureau of Statistics
N.P.R.G.S.	- The National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy
N.S.S.N.	- National Social Safety Net
O.S.S.A.P.	- Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President
P.E.A.C.	- Presidential Economic Advisory Council
S.D.Gs.	- Sustainable Development Goals
V.N.R.	- Voluntary National Report
WAT.SAN.	- Water and Sanitation
W.H.O.	- World Health Organization

# Executive Summary

## Introduction

The meeting of the VNR/ HLPF in 2021 will be held from Tuesday, 6 July, to Thursday, 15 July 2021, under the auspices of the [Economic and Social Council](#). This includes the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from Tuesday, 13 July, to Thursday, 15 July 2021 as part of the high-level segment of the Council. The theme will be *"Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development"*. The HLPF in 2021 will discuss Sustainable Development Goals 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 10 on reduced inequalities, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and 17 on partnerships in depth.

HLPF/VNR is an opportunity for NGOs from participating countries to hear directly from their political leaders some issues around the implementation of SDGs. Unfortunately, there is no opportunity for NGOs to rebuff some of these seemingly falsehood implementation comments because NGOs are pre-selected to make comments. Many NGOs are always left out including persons with disabilities and youth in making input into governments' VNR while many of them cannot attend VNR/HLPF every year in New York due to paucity of funds and lack of support from their governments. COVID-19 has created many more challenges for CSOs in the global south because people cannot travel, no thanks to COVID-19 protocols.

As Nigeria subscribes to the 2030 Agenda, it was among the 44 countries of the UN that presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2017 and

in 2020 on the implementation of the 2030 agenda and the SDGs at United Nations High-Level Political Forum (UNHLPF) held in New York (and virtual). Though Nigeria came up with its VNR in 2017, the report was not legitimate as many civil society organizations were left out in contributing to the outcome as government was not ready to support CSOs' participation for paucity of funds; only some of the Abuja-based CSOs actually participated at the consultation. In 2020 VNR, there seemed to be a marked difference in terms of involving civil society actors though the consultation was also done on line.

In view of the UN SDG mantra of "leave no one behind" the stakeholders' inclusive practice principle is a very significant block in the Nigeria's implementation of SDGs. Any development that will be sustainable will not only be participatory for all stakeholders, it must also be very inclusive. Civil society across the six geo-political zones and in particular myriads of Nigerian youth form a significant group in the society and deserve to be recognized and involved in every development engagement where they live. Our youth including vulnerable citizens in the grassroots have to be given the opportunity to open up on how SDGs have been impacting on them. They have the right to assess governments' performance on plans, programmes and policies affecting them. This is the lacuna that our Grassroots Spotlight report is filling.

The overall objective is to give voice to the grassroots citizens and assess governments' level of performance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda so as to contribute to the acceleration of the implementation and realisation of the SDGs in Nigeria during this UN Decade of Action.

Specific objectives include, among others,

- (a) To create a sustained awareness on the 2030 Agenda and the decade of action and delivery of sustainable development.

- (b) To assess, contrast and mirror the reality of governments' level of SDGs implementation in Nigeria as it affects the critical masses of the people through an independent spotlight report.
- (c) To provoke the political will and interest of governments in unbundling and prioritising the implementation of the global goals according to the country context.
- (d) To provide an opportunity for youth, persons living with disability, artisans, market women and men, petty traders, vulnerable grassroots people to air their views on how SDG implementation process affects them and lend their voice to the kind of Nigeria they want.

This report is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the development context of Nigeria where some critical elements of development are examined. It also looks into the Nigeria's poverty profile where Nigeria has overtaken India becoming the World Poverty Headquarters. Also dealt with is the issue of inflation pushing about 7 million Nigerians into poverty despite Mr President's claim that he had lifted 10.5 million out of poverty. The poverty and hunger situation is becoming worrisome as many citizens cannot afford two square meals a day. This first part also delves into the issue of COVID-19 pandemic including chronic under nutrition among children, which is exacerbated by "lack of access to safe water and sanitation, rising food insecurity, the disruption of basic services due to conflict, and poor knowledge of healthy feeding practices for infants and young children". Despite all the health and well-being challenges, life expectancy at birth in Nigeria is currently put at about 60.87 years, disaggregated as 59 years for males and 63 years for females as against 2018 when it was: Male 54.7, female 55.7 and total life expectancy was 55.2.

The shrinking civic space across the globe and in particular Nigeria is also explored. Systemic repressive and oppressive actions have been taken by government against the civil society. Some of these actions required mandatory registration with

difficult requirements for CSO operations; regulatory restrictions and nebulous legislation including hate speech attracting N50 million penalty or death penalty; measures banning public demonstrations and processions except for the Nigerian state; poor and limited spaces available for CSO participation; and currently in June 2021 banning of the operation of Twitter, a micro-blogging site of repute used by an estimated 44 million Nigerians. Other issues of interest include Nigeria's economic challenges with the nation's currency nose diving to as low as N410 to one US Dollar officially; debt burden, erratic power supply, inequalities, youth unemployment, and conflict trends.

The second part of this report focuses mainly on People's Scorecard (PSC) on national delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development. It is CSCSD's assessment of the federal government's implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Nigeria. In 2020 prior to July VNR/HLPF, CSCSD x-rayed the 5-year implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Nigeria. It was not a success story really as government failed in meeting most of the SDGs. Though Nigerian government has scored well in putting in place, institutional, policy and legal framework, plans and strategies for 2030 Agenda delivery, unfortunately implementation was tardy, capacity building was not seen to be done, monitoring and evaluation lacked progress while transparency and accountability mechanism was nebulous. Has anything changed in the past 12 months? Is the overall progress yellow or red flag?

The Scorecard considers a number of key categories and offers an overview of the level of delivery in each area. The first part aims to assess the overall delivery of the 2030 Agenda, including a consideration of policies and strategies for implementation, assessment of delivery and mechanisms for engagement; including with civil society, local governments, donors and wider stakeholders in realizing the SDGs. The second part of the Scorecard (filled online) provides a detailed review of each of the Goals to enable a broad vision of the current level of

implementation, follow up and review on each Goal. It aims to assess progress on each of the 17 SDGs in turn.

The third part of the report focuses on the impact of the implementation of SDGs on the grassroots people. Federal government claims of having states as its own constituents. Unfortunately, funds from federal government do not reach both the wards and the local government areas where real development is expected to be happening. This project is inquisitive to know what is happening at the local level considering the superintending of the state governments over the local governments. The performance of a state government is measured in part by the level of development the people have at the local level. Therefore, this project would assess the performance of the federal government in those critical areas of the SDGs, and the performance of state government through the views of the critical masses of the people at the grassroots level.

Using relevant SDGs indicators, grassroots interviews were conducted to know how citizens feel about the 2030 Agenda process and its effect on them in Nigeria. A total number of at least 120 interviewees were involved in this spotlight assessment. These are rural and urban grassroots ordinary Nigerians whose government policies affect adversely but who are left behind in decision making most of the time. They are critical masses of the people such as youth, the artisans (tailors/fashion designers, welders, hair dressers, carpenters, plumbers, cobblers) market women and men, farmers, petty traders, youth and women's groups, persons living with disability, vulnerable rural dwellers etc. These are the people who feel the developmental activities of the government, and who are not being listened to by

the government because of their vulnerability and social status.

15 items of the questionnaire requiring “yes” or “no” answer were drawn up. Each questionnaire shall administered on 20 persons (10 from two contiguous states) in each geopolitical zones of Nigeria: Northcentral, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southsouth and Southwest. The grassroots citizens were able to voice out some of the challenges facing them and their communities while they also preferred solutions to the insecurity in the land including their expectations from government, development partners, donors, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

The results were collated and computed. Discussions, recommendations and suggestions, and conclusions followed in each case. We do hope the outcome shall become a policy advocacy tool of engagement as it shall be published and widely shared in and outside Nigeria among development partners, governments, civil society, donors etc.

As a result of the outcome of this grassroots spotlight scorecard there will be increased awareness among the citizens at the rural communities on the 2030 Agenda and decade of action for delivery for sustainable development. Critical masses of the people including youth, persons living with disability, artisans, market women and men, petty traders, vulnerable grassroots people are airing their views on how SDG implementation process affects them and lending their voices to the kind of Nigeria they want. Civil society is also positioned in sharing knowledge and learning best practices in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and feeding back the authorities at home (Nigeria) after New York VNR/HLPF.

## PART ONE

***NIGERIA'S DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT***

Nigeria located in West Africa, and bounded in the west by the Republic of Benin, in the east by Cameroun, north by Niger Republic and in the south by Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean. Covering an area of 923,768 square kilometers, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with a population of about 210 million and a global rank of 7<sup>th</sup> and 52% majority of its people living in urban areas (Worldometer [www.Worldometers.info](http://www.Worldometers.info) 2021). Abuja, centrally located in the heart of Nigeria, is the capital while Lagos is the economic capital base and the most populous city located in the southwest Nigeria. With three major ethnic groups Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba, Nigeria, a pluralistic society, is culturally diversified with about 350 languages spoken across country.

Having a presidential system, the country consists of 36 states and a federal capital territory (Abuja), 360 federal constituencies and 990 state constituencies, and 774 local government areas with 109 senatorial districts. Nigerians are governed through three tiers of government – federal, state and local governments. For administrative convenience and more of political exigencies, the country is further subdivided into six geopolitical zones comprising North-central, North-eastern, North-western, South-eastern, South-south and South-western zones. Nigeria is said to be the giant of Africa perhaps in terms of its mere dimension as Egypt is the first most powerful country in Africa based on its military defense system and artillery budget (Global Fire Power Ranking 2021). Even Ethiopia the third most powerful country has overtaken both South Africa and Nigeria that placed fourth and fifth respectively.

**Nigeria's Poverty Profile**

Nigeria is blessed with both human and natural resources. It is primarily an oil economy after the diversification from an agro to a petro-chemical

economy in the early 1970s. Apart from talented, successful, well-endowed human resources, Nigeria has other mineral resources beyond hydrocarbons such as coal, tin, lime stone, gold, quartz sand, iron ore, aluminium and nickel, to mention but a few. This shows that Nigeria is rich yet its people are poor. It is rather unfortunate and paradoxical that despite these very significant human and natural resources, Nigerians are still suffering from poverty, hunger and diseases. Categorized among the third world country, Nigeria, according to The World Poverty Clock, has overtaken India as the world's poverty headquarters. According to NBS (May, 2020) quoting 2019 figures, 40.1 percent (82.9 million) Nigerians were poor which translates to, on average, four out of 10 individuals in Nigeria has real per capita expenditures below poverty line of 137,430 Naira (\$352) per year if 2018-2019 statistics is anything to go by. On average, the poverty headcount rate in urban centre was 52 percent while it was 48 percent in rural areas while majority are women. The National Bureau of Statistics estimates that an additional 4.9 million Nigerians will slip into poverty by 2022. This poverty rate is partly due to the mismanagement of the oil business and the pervasive corruption eating deep the fabric of the entire country.

Nigeria is also ranked 169 of 175 countries in the World Bank's 2020 Human Capital Index as it continues to face massive developmental challenges, including the need to reduce the dependency on oil and diversify the economy, address insufficient infrastructure, build strong and effective institutions, as well as address governance issues and strengthen public financial management systems (World Bank, 2020).

In order to demonstrate effort in fighting poverty, in March 2021, the Presidential Economic Advisory Council (PEAC) came up with a policy document titled, "The National Poverty Reduction

with Growth Strategy (NPRGS): A strategy for accelerated reduction in poverty through economic growth, redistributive programs and shared prosperity. However, the NPRGS appears to be rich in content but hollow in implementation strategy. The NPRGS was proposed by PEAC to support government's aspiration which is anchored on four pillars namely: a. Macroeconomic stabilization policies to improve the capacity of the economy to absorb shocks and avoid disruptive adjustment; b. Industrialization for Economic Growth and transformation of the economy from commodity dependent growth path to a diversified, industrialized, knowledge intensive and job creating economy; c. Structural policies and institutional reforms to engender efficiency in service delivery, promote transparency and accountability in the management of fiscal resources, bridge the infrastructure gap, improve private sector development and mainstream gender; and d. Redistributive Policies and Programmes to reduce levels of risk, vulnerability, shocks and deprivation. According to PEAC, the Redistributive Policies and Programmes include programmes aimed at enhancing incomes, job opportunities and wealth creation through vocational skills training, micro-credit and micro-enterprise development and livelihood diversification in the agricultural sector.

Earlier in June 2019, President Muhammadu Buhari had pledged to Nigerians that his government would “lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in ten years”. This is not only ambitious but also audacious and unrealistic considering the spate of insecurity in the land. “Since the pledge was made in 2019, there has been further weakening of the economy, partly due to slow economic recovery in 2019-2020” and the adverse impact of COVID-19 on public health and the economy (PEAC, March 2021). Even the PEAC realized the enormity of the efforts to inject in order to make this policy document workable by sincerely admitting that “the journey towards poverty reduction is therefore even more challenging than in June 2019, when Mr. President made the audacious pledge to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty within a decade”. This casts doubt on workability of the policy and has rendered the President's pledge a mere political statement like before.

### **Inflation pushing 7 million into poverty**

The President mendaciously buttressing his June 2019 statement during his Democracy Day address on June 12, 2021, said: “In the last two years, we lifted 10.5 million people out of poverty – farmers, small-scale traders, artisans, market women and the like.” However, the same critical masses of the people which served as our primary source information dispelled this statement saying “we can't afford food”.

### **We can't afford food- Citizens**

A Kaduna housewife, Fatima Raji, faulted the claims of the NBS that the country's inflation has dropped, saying the purchasing power of the commoners have been negatively affected by the incessant rise in the prices of commodities.

She told *Daily Trust* that the prices of foodstuff in major markets in Kaduna State have doubled in the last couple of months. “Daily, prices of commodities are skyrocketing. For instance, a bag of maize that was selling for N 12,000 three months ago is now N23, 000, while a bag of Nigerian rice that used to go for N16, 000 is now N24, 000. A five-litre of groundnut oil that was selling for N2, 100 is now N5, 000 and a carton of spaghetti which used to be N3, 600 is now N5, 100. How is the inflation dropping? We need divine intervention,” she said. “By the end of the year (2021), if this inflation is not addressed, hunger will ravage the country, God forbid,” she added.

A school teacher in Kano, Sabitu Shehu, said his family eats twice a day. “We are hungry because we barely eat twice a day... In most cases, I eat only once and my two wives and the grown-up children twice. It is only the little kids that we give food three times. “I receive N32,000 as salary at the end of the month. It is from it that we buy maize flour which barely lasts ten days. We have shelved so many things that are basic. The picture I painted is applicable to millions of teachers in Nigeria,” he said.

Source: Daily Trust Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Less than 72 hours after President Muhammadu Buhari announced that his administration has lifted 10 million people out of poverty, the World Bank said the rising prices of goods have pushed seven million people into poverty. The declarations by the president and the World Bank came at a time the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said inflations dropped by 0.19 percent in the month of May 2021, while there is an increased outcry among Nigerians on the high cost of basic needs of life like food, drugs and others.

According to the World Bank spokesperson, Mansir Nasir, citing the latest World Bank Nigeria Development Update (NDU), titled: 'Resilience through Reforms', "Food prices accounted for over 60% of the total increase in inflation. Rising prices have pushed an estimated 7 million Nigerians below the poverty line in 2020 alone."

According to the latest "Consumer Price Index (CPI), May 2021" report, the NBS said, "The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures inflation increased by 17.95 per cent (year-on-year) in May 2021. This is 0.19 per cent lower than the rate recorded in April 2021 (18.12 per cent)." The urban inflation rate rose by 18.51 per cent in May from 18.68 per cent in April while the rural inflation rate rose by 17.36 per cent in May from 17.57 per cent. The composite food index rose by 22.28 per cent in May compared to 22.72 per cent the previous month; that is a 0.44 per cent decrease.

On a monthly basis, the overall inflation including food prices was highest in Kogi (2.22%), Ogun (2.17%) and Cross River (2.07%) while Ekiti (0.02%) recorded the slowest rise in the inflation rate. Despite NBS' false sense of deflation, there was also significant increase in the prices of bread, cereals, milk, cheese, eggs, fish, soft drinks, coffee, tea and cocoa, fruits, meat, oils and fats and vegetables while the food sub-index increased by 1.05 per cent in May, up by 0.06 per cent from 0.99 per cent recorded in April. This fuels speculation of galloping inflation in the economy affecting the poor the more.

### **COVID-19 Pandemic and WATSAN**

According to Action Against Hunger, Nigeria, especially northern Nigeria, suffers the world's third highest level of chronic under nutrition among children, and this is exacerbated by "lack of

access to safe water and sanitation, rising food insecurity, the disruption of basic services due to conflict, and poor knowledge of healthy feeding practices for infants and young children". According to WHO, 63 million Nigerians have no access to improved source of water though with 67% having access to water supply. About 100 million Nigerians lack basic sanitation facilities no thanks to open defecation (WHO 2020) while Nigeria loses N455 billion (US\$1.3 billion) annually due to poor sanitation. COVID-19 pandemic has even dealt a great blow to health, water and sanitation in Nigeria heightening the fear that Nigeria may not attain SDGs by 2030.

The COVID-19 pandemic has become a global concern beginning from its inception in 2020. It has affected all facets of life including the way businesses are run impacting on different sectors of the economy including education, welfare, health, industry, agriculture, and livelihood. It is exacerbating the poverty, hunger and starvation in the land. The COVID-19 crisis alone is forecast to drive an additional 10.9 million people into poverty by 2022. According to World Bank, "The macro-micro simulations show that more than 10 million Nigerians could be pushed into poverty by the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis alone. With the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis, the national poverty rate is instead forecast to jump from 40.1% in 2019 to 45.2% in 2022, implying that 100.9 million Nigerians will be living in poverty by 2022 (World Bank 2021). Since COVID-19 is already impacting on the realization of many goals of the SDGs including contributing to poverty and hunger in the land, job loss, and rights abuses, governments at all levels need to re-strategise on acceleration mechanisms to prioritize the 17 SDGs so as to focus implementation on those goals that would directly impact on the critical masses of the people.

In 2021, life expectancy at birth in Nigeria was about 60.87 years, disaggregated as 59 years for males and 63 years for females. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1122851/life-expectancy-in-nigeria-by-gender>. This is an improvement over what it used to be in 2018. According to the WHO, (2018) life expectancy in Nigeria was: Male 54.7, female 55.7 and total life expectancy was 55.2 which gave Nigeria a World Life

Expectancy ranking of 178. Among the causes of death in Nigeria are influenza and pneumonia, diarrhoeal, HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, lung diseases, breast cancer, COVID-19, Road Transport Accident, insurgency, banditry and kidnapping to mention but a few, the last three gravely ossifying development. Despite this significant improvement, life expectancy at birth in Nigeria is said to be among the lowest in Africa as well as in the world.

### **Inequality and Unemployment**

The Goal 10 of the SDGs underscores reducing inequalities – inequality within and among countries. Inequality is evident within the country. By and large, there is inequality in every area of our lives; inequality between and among institutions (of higher learning and their certificates); inequality between the rich and the poor; inequality between the boy and the girl; inequality between men and women; inequality between masters and servants and between senior civil servants and junior civil servants; inequality between urban and rural communities; and inequality between, within and among states of the federation. I think the only thing that both the rich and the poor enjoy equally is God-given fresh air not even water as 63 million Nigerians have no access to improved source of water (WHO 2019). Youth and persons with disabilities are affected in the unhealthy game of inequality as youth are passing out from higher institutions yearly without a job while persons with disabilities are systemically denied employment opportunities as well.

The unemployment rate in Nigeria has been on the increase in the past ten years. The youth unemployment rate in Nigeria averaged 21.73 percent from 2014 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 33.10 percent in the third quarter of 2017 and a record low of 11.70 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014. Going by the figure released in the last quarter of 2016 by the NBS 28.56 million youths were unemployed, and increased to over 30 million in the third quarter of 2018.

By the last quarter of 2020, 23.1 million Nigerians were unemployed leaving the unemployment rate at 33.3 percent which was an increase from the 27.1 percent recorded in the second quarter. Though the underemployment rate declined from 28.6 percent in the second quarter to 22.88 percent in the last quarter of 2020, this did not translate to any significant effect on

unemployment rate at the time. The number of persons in the economically active or working age population of 15-64 years in the last quarter of 2020 was 122,049,400 which was 4.3 percent higher than the figure recorded in the second quarter put at 116,871,186 while the total number of persons in the labour force who were able and willing to work was estimated to be 69,675,468. According to NBS (2021), the total number of people in employment in the last quarter of 2020 was 46,488,079 out of which 30,572,440 were in full time service being an average of 40 hours per week whereas 15,915,639 were unemployed working between 20 and 29 hours weekly.

According to the Bureau, unemployment rate among rural dwellers was 34.5 percent higher from 28.2 percent in the second quarter of 2020 while urban dwellers reported a rate of an increase of unemployment from 26.4 percent to 31.3 percent in the same year. By December 2020, the unemployment rate among young people between ages 15 and 34 years was 42.5 percent higher from 34.9 percent it was in at the beginning of the year while the rate of underemployment for the same young people reduced from 28.2 percent to 21.0 percent by the end of June 2020.

### **Economic Challenges**

Among the current challenges facing Nigerian economy are, galloping oil prices reaching as low as \$20 per barrel in 2020, declines in foreign exchange earnings, and persistent devaluation of the Naira from N155 to N168 to a Dollar in 2019, N380 early 2021 and currently N410 to one US Dollar in June 2021. The corrugated inflows in oil revenue had affected the excess crude account (ECA) from which both the federal and state governments draw their allocations. Highly dependent mono economy is the bane of Nigeria's development. Paradoxically, Nigeria is a country that imports what it produces – petrochemical – as all the refineries have packed up owing to poor economic management, nepotism, incompetent leadership, high level of corruption, lack of transparency and accountability. The country's external reserves, for example, fell by 1.7 percent to \$34.97 billion at the end of November 2019 below the levels of \$35.58 billion at the end of October 2020. They also dipped by \$565 million from \$36.198 billion to \$35.633 billion between February 1 and 15, 2021.

Nigeria is creaking under debt burden but the authorities seem unperturbed pontificating that Nigeria is still within the risk threshold of less than 40 percent GDP. As at December 2020, Nigeria's total public debt stood at \$86.3 billion or N32.92 trillion while N12.71 trillion was external representing 38.6 percent of the total debt stock, N20.21 trillion representing 61.40 percent was domestic (NBS 2021). \$17.93 billion of the debt was multilateral, \$4.06 billion was bilateral from the AFD, EximBank of China, JICA, India, and KFW while \$11.1 billion was commercial which are Eurobonds and Diaspora Bonds and \$186.70 as promissory notes. Just in May 2021, the President sought the approval of the National Assembly for another foreign loan of \$6.18 billion to part finance the 2021 budget making Nigeria's indebtedness to rise to about 36 trillion Naira. Nigerian citizens registered their displeasure for this federal government's obsessive appetite for borrowing without tangible results and the parliament's rubber-stamping loan approval without necessary scrutiny of anything from the executive especially on account of not probing details and accountability of the previous loans (Punch May 2021).

The IMF citing current policies and external vulnerabilities expects Nigeria's recovery from recession and COVID-19 pandemic to be weak and gradual and not later than 2022. The government had no option than to dance to the tune of the IMF and World Bank and develop some austerity measures such as tight fiscal policy, a reduction in the allocation to the states and local governments from the federation accounts, a reduction in the general cost of administration, better administration of tax regimes, and a cut in both recurrent and capital expenditure.

Already Nigerians are feeling the pangs of the economic crisis. Many young Nigerians remain jobless while the executive and the

parliamentarians live in opulence. The controversial salary package of the political office holders is taking about 25 per cent of the total overhead costs in each fiscal year. According to The Economist (2014), each senate member of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for example, earns N29 479 749.00 monthly, and in a year this amounts to N353 756 988.00<sup>1</sup>. Meanwhile, the minimum monthly wage for workers in Nigeria is pegged at a paltry sum of between N18,000 and N18500 which is 0.062 per cent of the monthly salary of a senator; yet many states cannot afford to pay this. It becomes worse when the minimum wage was increased again to N30,000 as many states could not pay while some were downsizing – retrenching their workforce. If the yearly salary of a worker, based on the N18000 minimum wage, is N216,000.00 (\$1333.00) that of a Nigerian Senator is \$2,183,685.00, meaning that it will take an average Nigerian worker 1,638 years to earn the yearly salary of a Nigerian Senator (The Economist, 2014).

The business environment both for local and international is also not conducive in Nigeria<sup>2</sup> owing to infrastructural deficit, insecurity, unreliable credit sources and erratic power supply, among others. Out of the countries grouped as MINT (Malaysia, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey), Nigeria stands out as the only country where it is not easy doing business due to infrastructural deficit and difficulty in accessing credit facilities. Even getting credit facilities for foreign investors is as difficult as getting tax holiday to encourage local industries to survive in Nigeria. Federal Government needs to be appreciated for its efforts in expediting action in local business registration especially for youth under two weeks but interests on loans charged by financial institutions are not youth friendly. Young enterprising school leavers have to pay through their noses high interests rates on bank loans. Many of them even find it difficult to pay both capital and interests on loan taken from

1. \$2,183,685.00; exchange rate: \$1 = N162. These figures are much more than what obtains in other climes: United States - \$174,000.00; Britain - \$105,400.00; South Africa - \$104,000.00; France - \$85,900.00; Kenya - \$74,500.00; Ghana - \$46 500.00 Indonesia - \$65800.00 Thailand- \$43 800.00 and in India - \$11 200 (The Economist. Of Nigeria and Mathematics: Salary of Nigerian Senators SPECIAL REPORTS 2014-11-24 16:10:13).

2. In its Ease of Doing Business Report 2014, the World Bank rated Nigeria 147<sup>th</sup> out of 189 countries which is a further deterioration from its ranking of 137<sup>th</sup> in 2013 – inadequate infrastructure and unfavourable domestic credit being some of the major factors. Domestic credit to the private sector in Nigeria is abysmally low compared to any of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) while compared to any of the MINT countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey), Nigeria ranked poorly. In the MINT economies, Malaysia recorded 117.8 per cent four-year average in credit to the private sector and 124.3 per cent in 2013. Indonesia extended a 33.4 per cent four-year credit facility to the private sector and 37.9 per cent in 2013 while “Nigeria had 13.2 per cent for three-year average in credit to the private sector, 11.8 per cent in 2012, with 2013 record not available” (Chijioko Nelson, 2014 p.23).

Bank of Industry or Bank of Agriculture, for example, as a result of business pack up or fold up occasioned by lack of enabling environment for their business to thrive.

On electricity supply, Nigeria - with a population of about 210 million - is battling to supply its citizens with less than 4,000 megawatts of electricity translating to electricity poverty for millions of Nigerians. The IEA indeed estimates the average power generation at 3,879 megawatts. Contrast this with South Africa which, with a population of just 54 million, has an installed capacity of 58,095 megawatts supplies its citizens

with 45,000 megawatts<sup>3</sup> and they are planning to increase this to 100,000 megawatts very soon. No part of Nigeria experiences 24 hour electricity supply except in Aso Villa where generating plant is augmented for the national grid supply. Some Nigerian communities experience less than 12 hours daily power supply while in some, power is non-existent and worse in rural communities where they suffer long time governments' neglect. Small scale businesses and homes largely depend on small generating plants as their subsistent means of power supply while they often groan under the pang of prohibitive petrol prices.

### Reversing Nigeria's chronic electricity deficit

Unable to get its act together amid growing demand, Nigeria's chronic electricity deficit remains an extreme encumbrance to Nigeria's economic growth and social life. According to the just-released World Bank Sustainable Development Goal 7 report, Nigeria – after Ethiopia and Democratic Republic of Congo – is now the third country with a huge electricity deficit in the world.

A stable electricity supply remains the most potent strategy to kick-start the economy. Mr Shubham Chaudhuri, World Bank Country Director for Nigeria, says, “The lack of reliable power has stifled economic activity and private investment and job creation, which is ultimately what is needed to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty”. The Buhari regime should break the jinx.

**The Punch (editorial) June 18, 2021**

Partly as a result of this erratic power or non-existent supply challenge, Nigeria's major industries are relocating to neighbouring countries like Republic of Benin, Ghana and Sierra Leone, serving as production centres while Nigeria is serving as the marketing centre. Many companies such as Bata, Lennards, Nigerian Wire and Cable, Nigeria Gas Cylinder, United Textile Mills, Chellarams, Sanyo Electronics, Dunlop and Michellin Tyre Companies, Ferodo, Isoglass, TSG, Exide battery, Peugeot and Volkswagen Assembling Plants, and Leyland have all gone into oblivion as a result of government's unfavourable policies. Of recent South African franchise, Shoprite, relocated. With these companies folding up and some relocating, Nigeria's wealth is on flight of no return. Capital flight, infra-structural deficit coupled with corruption are daily throwing citizens into further poverty and there is no improvement in sight giving way for further underdevelopment whereas wealth creation can save the country.

### Shrinking Civic Space

According to the Belgrade Call to Action (2019), over six billion people are living in countries where there are serious constraints on civic space: the conditions are closed for civil society in 23 countries; civil society is highly repressed in 35 countries while civil society faces substantial legal and political obstacles in 53 countries. Civic actors across many sectors are being threatened and persecuted – including those supporting and representing rural communities, indigenous peoples, journalists, trade unions, women's rights activists, LGBTQ activists, youth, people living with disabilities, and environmentalists. Harassment through arbitrary arrest, detention, targeted use of legal and regulatory measures, and restrictions on finances has become common experience among civil society organisations (CSOs) in many countries. Commonplace are physical harm, and sexual harassment and abuse of

3. <http://www.southafrica.info/about/government/sona-170614e.htm#.VIwtMSjBvIV#ixzz3LmOS2mi3>

women human rights defenders, GBV, brutal security operatives, authorities' deliberate tagging as undesirable elements and criminals of rights activists and development actors. All these happen because the advocacy for peoples' human rights and promotion of democratic participation are deemed by repressive states as dissent and, therefore, not to be tolerated.

In Nigeria, there is much impunity and violation of the rule of law as governments are adamant to court rulings against them. Many political prisoners like Sambo Dasuki, and prisoners of conscience like Ibrahim El-Zakisaky, some journalists like Agba Jalingo, Omoyele Sowore and civil society actors were kept behind bars despite court injunction to release them on bail. Omoyele Sowore, the publisher of online paper Sahara Reporters, was on Monday 31, May 2021 shot by the police in Abuja as he was preparing to hold a rally with some associates at the Unity Fountain in Abuja. The Take It Back Global Movement Director of Communications, Dr. Chidi Nwyanwu, the activists claimed that Sowore was targeted and shot on the thigh with a 37mm projectile from a Federal Riot Gun at close range the incident which the police had denied (Punch June 2, 2021).

Human rights abuses are common especially as being perpetrated by the state. There have been obnoxious actions and policies targeted at civil society by government in order to stifle the former. These include measures banning public demonstrations and other forms of public expression being met with police brutality. Reminiscing in 2020, Nigeria some states of the country were boiling as civil society actors had taken to the streets protesting against police brutality as being perpetrated by Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (F-SARS). Already 49 citizens were killed as a result of this protest which started around September 2020 (Punch Newspaper October 21 2020). Systemic repressive and oppressive actions have been taken by government against the civil society. Some of these actions required mandatory registration with difficult requirements for CSO operations; regulatory restrictions and nebulous legislation including hate speech attracting N50 million penalty or death penalty; measures banning public demonstrations and processions except for the Nigerian state; poor

and limited spaces available for CSO participation; and lack of technical and financial support for CSOs effective engagement and operations coupled with donor's fatigue.

A common thread that underlies these agitations has been repression of basic fundamental human rights including freedom of speech which several interest groups have taken exception to. Most recently in June 2021, the operation of Twitter, a micro-blogging site of repute used by an estimated 44 million Nigerians was banned by the Nigerian Government on account of Mr President's un-presidential statement treating fellow Nigerians "the language (of war) they understand" bringing back the nasty memory of the Nigerian-Biafra civil war that ended in 1970. The ban was the government's response to deleting of the President's tweet by the microblogging platform due to violation of its policy. This was met with harsh criticisms by CSOs, foreign governments, professionals among other groups as not less than 44 million Nigerians and others are shut against the use of twitter by the action of government amounting to another deliberate systemic shrinking civic space in the disguise of regulating media by the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC).

The United States of America was miffed by this federal government action saying unduly restricting the ability of Nigerians to report, gather and disseminate opinions and information has no place in democracy. Adding that "freedom of expression and access to information both online and offline are foundational to prosperous and secure democratic society" (Reuters, Thursday June 10, 2021). Truncating channels of engagement and information and outright muzzling of the press give room for misinformation and spread of fake news and such it is tantamount to creating enmity of our democracy and portraying government as despotic.

The press especially newspapers condemned the repressive action of the president in strong terms reminiscing of Decree No 2 of 1984 which the Mr Buhari proclaimed when he was the head of the military junta. Many see the action of government as an act of intolerance against voice of dissent, despotic, alien to democratic ideals. Nigerian Tribune in its editorial section of June 11, 2021 unequivocally asserts "we state without

equivocation that the cause of unity and continued existence of the country is not served by insensitive comments and actions by the president”...as he has to “purge himself of such marginalizing attitude

and strive to be the president of all” because he cannot be asking for peace where a group of people like the Igbo “believe that they are being inflicted with injustice”.

#### **President's banning twitter showed a poor mind-set**

“...To say the very least, the tweet at the heart of the on-going controversy is decidedly unfortunate and shouldn't have been affixed to the name of any leader anywhere in the world. The tone, cadence and purport of that tweet were callous, and showed a poor mind-set. Fifty-one years after the civil war, in the aftermath of which the then rulers of the country had said there was “no victor and no vanquished”, President Buhari brought back the throes of the war.

“ Still, the country cannot embrace economic ruination just because of the president's personal displeasure. To be sure, the intransigence emanating from the Southeast and other parts of the country should bother everyone, but the sub-text of justifiable complaints about Buhari's style of governance cannot be ignored.

“The threat of genocidal response to the malefaction in the zone (southeast) sends the wrong signals and can only fester the spate of insecurity in the land. What apparently frightened Nigerians the more was that the president's ethnically flavoured tweet was indistinguishable from a similar fetid comment by his Minister of Justice.

“Nigeria is already treading a divisive path and should not be further divided or allowed to disintegrate”.

- Nigerian Tribune (Editorial) June 11, 2021 p.9

Alas, not only Nigeria's fledgling democracy is being threatened, but the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is also being jeopardised in Nigeria through the action of governments. Upholding human rights is core to development; and human rights-based approach (HRBA) is a fundamental principle for development effectiveness. It represents a paradigm shift crucial in achieving the SDGs as it enables the poor and marginalized people to chart their own destiny by empowering them as rights-holders instead of mere beneficiaries of charity. The marginalized are so pauperised to the extent that they could not discern their rights let alone to stand for them. Thus they are being left behind. Real and transformative progress in achieving core SDGs – including eradicating poverty (SDG1), eliminating hunger (SDG2), addressing gender and all forms of discrimination (SDG5) reducing inequalities (SDG10), promoting decent work and sustainable livelihoods for all (SDG8) – will not be possible without a fully engaged civil society and population. The strengths of civil society are its diversity, its rootedness in communities and territories, its direct development experience, and its capacity for public engagement.

Despite promises of action by many United Nations Member States (including Nigerian State) to “reverse the trend of shrinking civic space wherever it is taking place,” (Nairobi Outcome Document, GPEDC) attacks on CSOs, social leaders and human rights defenders, and the deterioration of enabling environment for CSOs (GPEDC 2019:8) continue unabated. Nigerian NGOs, Community Development Association, Academia, Human rights activists, LGBTQ group, National Youth Council, opposition politicians all have been engaging governments on the need to make governance participatory, open and accountable and respect the rights of the citizens. Of much concern to all stakeholders is the invasion of civil society offices by security operatives and senseless killings by authorities thus decimating development actors. This is part of what our project action is about including seeking the release of those development actors including journalists and supporters of #EndSARS protest that have been detained by government while authority killers should face the music.

### Climate Change Policy

Way back in 2015, Nigeria has been a signatory to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change but not much has been done since then. However, in 2017, there was a bill for an act to provide a framework for the mainstreaming of climate change responses and actions into government policy formulation and implementation, and the establishment of The National Climate Change Council and Other Related Purposes. This bill applies to all sectors of the economy for the sustainable development of Nigeria in accordance with following principles of (a) ensuring strategic climate change responses are consistent with national development priorities and in conformity with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the National Climate Change Policy Response, the National Environmental Policy, Nationally Determined Contributions, etc.; (b) enabling Nigeria to meet international climate change obligations including the sustainable development goals, international treaties and agreements under the United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change, including the Paris Agreement, etc.

However, the initial policy on Climate Change had some loopholes which necessitated a revised policy. Thus, on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 the Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved the Revised National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and the National Climate Change Programmes for Nigeria. This has factored in the updates of emerging issues in the sectors not reflected in the previous policy, the inclusion of the Paris Agreement signed by Mr. President in 2015 and gender mainstreaming relevant to national response to climate change. The objective of the new policy is to implement mitigation measures and promote low-carbon, high-growth economic development and also strengthen adaptation towards a sustainable climate resilient development Pathway. According to the Minister of Environment the new National Policy on Climate Change with its programmatic plan of action is expected to run through 2021-2030 when the current 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is expected to expire.

### Nigeria promoting peaceful societies – and failing SDG 16

Following the first coup in January 1966 was an **anti-Igbo pogrom**; a series of massacres committed against Igbos and other people of

southern Nigerian origin living in northern Nigeria starting in May 1966 and reaching a peak after 29 September 1966 (Anthony, 2014). The pogrom also was a precursor to Brigadier General Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu's declaration of Eastern Nigeria's secession from the federation and the resulting Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970) in which 2 million Igbos were said to have died. Till date, anti-Igbo sentiments are widely perceived to persist and it was not until the administration of President Goodluck Jonathan, precisely in 2010 that a man of Igbo extraction rose to occupy for the first time in 44 years, about the highest office in the military service, the Chief of Army Staff. Some people differ in opinion though and are quick to point out that less than a decade after the civil war, an Igbo man was the Vice President in Nigeria, the *de facto* Number 2 man in the country. These sets of people seem not to take into account the fact that under the present system, the deputy or vice or assistant to any executive office holder is merely a sort of spare tyre whose functions are only as visible as the principal wants it to be. Again, some are quick to argue that since return to democratic rule in 1999, men of South-eastern extraction occupied the office of the Senate President, the *de facto* No 3 position in Nigeria till 2007.

It stands to reason that if a major tribe in Nigeria has experienced some alienation of sort over the years, other ethnic minorities must have felt the same. For instance, Major **Isaac Jasper Adaka Boro fondly called Boro** was one of the pioneers of minority rights activism in Nigeria. He led a protest against the exploitation of oil and gas resources in the Niger Delta areas which benefited mainly the Federal Government of Nigeria and eastern regional government respectively while nothing was given to the Niger Delta people. It should be noted that in many instances, the feeling of alienation was equally localized. A case in hand is this: during the civil war, Boro and several others (young activists, soldiers, militias etcetera) of Niger-Delta extraction preferred to and indeed did fight on the Federal Military Government's side as it was believed that should the Biafarans win, the Niger-Deltans would suffer fresh and additional subjugation under them. At the sub-national level, agitation for more state creation over the course of successive Governments would not have arisen if a truly inclusive governance structure was in active operation. In retrospect, it appears that

the parliamentary system of governance has been more inclusive when placed side by side with the Presidential system. This is because the gradual erosion of the local Government system is traceable to General Aguiyi-Ironsi's promulgation of Decree 34, which ushered in a Unitary System of government that has since been with the country till date! It is worthy of note that the Local Government is the closest to the people as more citizens reside along the country side than in the cities.

Perhaps at no other time in Nigeria's recent history than this political dispensation (May 2015 till date i.e. June 2021) since the civil war has there been wide-ranging call for restructuring of the federation, self-determination, secession among others. These have been from diverse groups – nationalists, separatists groups, Civil Society Organisations, Human Right Activists, Regional Leaders etcetera. Without being partisan, the feelings of a strongly divided country and unjust society fueled these calls and have been precipitated by the infamous remark of President Buhari in a 2015 interview which reads in part: *“The constituents, for example, gave me 97% [of the vote] cannot in all honesty be treated on some issues with constituencies that gave me 5%.”* While this was seen merely as a public gaffe by a section of the populace back then, the turn of events shortly afterwards soon proved that the man knew what he was talking about; and it has been so till date! Heads of government Ministries, Department and Agencies were largely selected from one section of the country – The NorthWest and NorthEast. Sensitive government positions such as those pertaining to the security architecture also wore a northern look (up to 90%) and questions abound on people's lips if there were no qualified and loyal persons from the southern part of the country to fill some of these positions especially in the spirit of federal character which is part of the oath the President swore to! These anomalies have taken place despite a much touted claim of massive anti-corruption drive, which many have now truly believed is selective and vindictive. This is because politicians who join the ruling party are absolved of their 'sins' – wrong doings and given soft landings despite cases of huge fraud leveled against them. Nigeria has been dividend on many fronts – political, economic, social, ethnic, tribal, among others. As a matter of fact Nigeria has never been more dividend under any regime than Buhari who never hides his

ethnic jingoism to the Fulani herdsmen killing and maiming farmers in particular across the southern and nothcentral states.

One of the ways in which the sensibilities of the Nigerian populace has been insulted the most is the wrong labelling of criminal cases to make them seem light. The prolonged unprovoked attack on farmlands across the country stretching from the fertile regions in the middle belt (especially the Benue-Plateau axis down to the Southern part) by Fulani marauders wielding sophisticated weapons have been branded “Herders-Farmers clash”. This is a wrong caption as wading into the lands of farmers is in the first place an act of provocation and then a criminal offence because the losses incurred by farmers are not settled by the aggressor(s) who even go on to maim, destroy crops in farmed areas, rape, kill and sack communities. It is surprising to note that of all these so called clashes, not one herdsman has been brought to book! A particularly amusing case was when the Governor of Benue State, Dr. Samuel Ortom was told by the President upon paying the latter a courtesy call sometime in 2017 to reconcile with his brethren (Fulani militias otherwise called herdsmen). Shortly afterwards, the man decamped from All Progressives Congress (The President's party) to People's Democratic Party (the part where he once was). This sitting governor was also the target of an assassination attempt by Fulani herdsmen on his farm in the last week of April 2021, only escaping by the whiskers. Over the course of 1 year (2015-2016), attacks by Fulani herdsmen in Benue State had led to the killing of at least 1,269 persons (Isine, 2016). In reality, the spate of the unprovoked by Fulani Herdsmen on farmers has deteriorated into terrorism and they have thus been rightly labeled as the fourth most deadly terrorist group in the world by the Global Terrorism Index. Despite the high number of attacks, Nigerian and foreign journalists have rare access to first-hand testimonies and tend to report inaccurate figures (Vincent, 2019).

Lately, various names such as armed banditry, kidnappings, unknown gunmen attack etcetera have been attributed to these public disturbances of peace. No one has denied that death and wanton killings have marked these nation-wide attacks and it is for good reasons that attacking fingers have

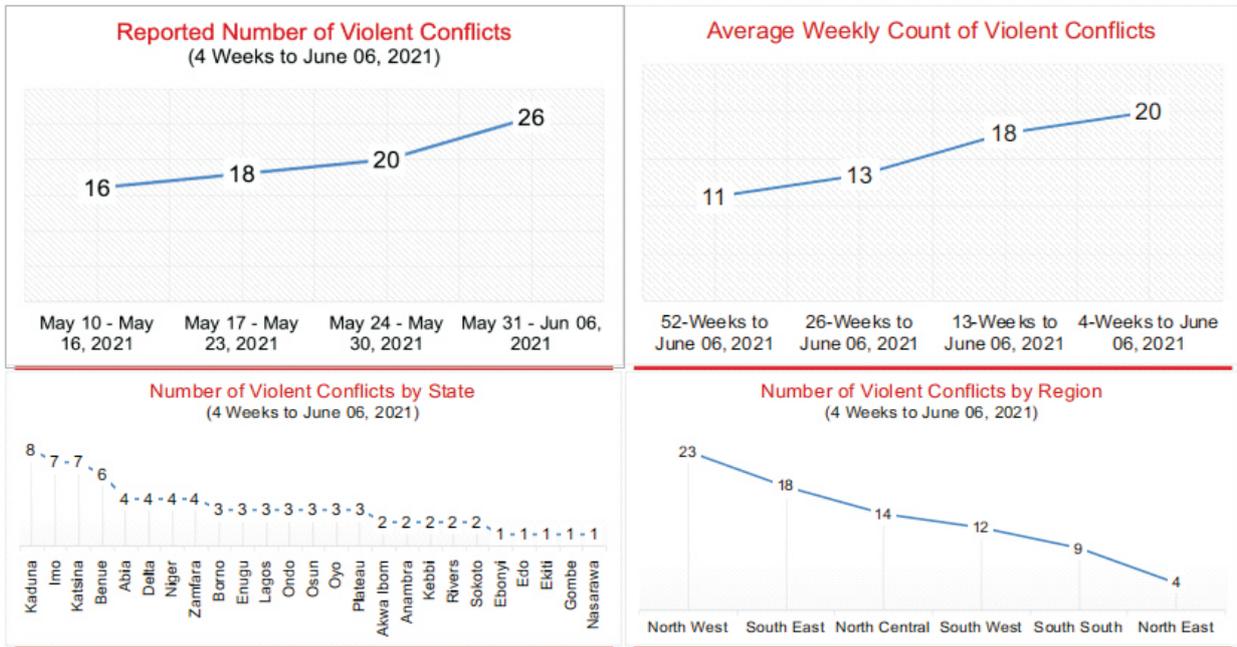
been pointed in the President's direction. Not only is he of same ethnic stock with herders but identifies as the Grand Patron of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN). This is a group that threatened to visit attacks on communities in Benue and Taraba States respectively for legislating against open grazing; and they carried out these threats with no single person among them arrested! The most recent reported case (as many go unreported) of such an attack is that of eleven people killed after “unknown gunmen” attacked Igangan, a town in Oyo State, southwestern Nigeria on June 05, 2021. A number of buildings including a traditional ruler's palace and vehicles were also burned down. A very serious and unfortunate case that has metastasized is kidnap beginning with the infamous Chibok Girls Scenario in Borno State in 2014 (wherein 276 mostly Christian secondary school girls were whisked away in the middle of the night by Boko Haram fighters). This happened in the twilight of Goodluck Jonathan administration and as there had been no precedent, there was an initial denial of its occurrence by Government as it was said to have a political undertone (which speaks to the still prevalent ethnic politics practiced in the country). Till date, 100 of the school girls are yet to be found! Some four years afterwards, another school kidnap case was reported, this time 110 girls aged 10-19 in Dapchi,

Yobe State. Five schoolgirls died on the same day of their kidnapping, most of the girls were rescued a month afterwards but till date, one of them, Leah Sharibu, a Christian has not been released as she refused to abandon her faith and convert to Islam. Amnesty International estimated that at least 2,000 women and girls have been abducted by the Islamic terrorist group since 2014, many of whom have been forced into sexual slavery (BBC, 2017). More recent school-type kidnaps in Nigeria have been suspected to be carried out by criminal gangs (often of Fulani extraction). This is because some negotiations (in certain cases, payment of ransoms) have been held with these gangs by such persons as the Zamfara State Governor, Sheikh Gumi and others. The most recent high profile kidnap case took place on June 11, 2021 in Zaria, Kaduna State, specifically at Nuhu Bamali Polytechnic where 8 students and 2 lecturers were kidnapped, with a student confirmed dead. In May 2021, 150 students were kidnapped at Tegina, Niger State, nearly 300 girls were taken by armed men from a boarding school in Jangebe, Zamfara state in February 2021. In middle May 2021, 20 students and 2 members of staff of Greenfield University, a private tertiary institution were kidnapped with 5 among them killed. This was preceded by a March 11, 2021 Gunmen attack on Federal College of Forestry Mechanization, Afaka, Igabi LGA, in Kaduna State where 39 students were kidnapped.

# NIGERIA CONFLICT TRENDS

Summary of Key Trends from the Nextier SPD Violent Conflicts Database

**JUN 06, 2021**



Source: Nextier SPD [www.nextierspd.com](http://www.nextierspd.com)

Nigeria in the past few years has been suffering from insurrection and attacks from non-state actors thus weakening its threshold. With the rise of non-state actors and the expanding acreage of ungoverned spaces like in parts of Borno, Benue, Niger and Ogun etc, Nigeria no longer retains the monopoly of the legitimate use of violence. The Nigeria Conflict Trends, a weekly publication by Nextier SPD, provides insights to support the development of pragmatic solutions. According to Nextier SPD Violent Conflicts Database, Nigeria is experiencing a spike in violent conflicts as indicated by the average weekly count of violent incidents (see the graph above. Banditry is the main contributor to conflict count and casualties. The Northwest geo-political zone had the highest number of incidents and casualties, with Kaduna and Katsina as the main centres of conflict.

One of the remote causes of these attacks across the country is the feeling on the part of citizens of an insincere, corrupt and inept government and this is not without evidence as the country was declared the Poverty Capital of the World in 2019, as 100 million of her citizens fell below the poverty line (living on less than 1 dollar per day). Indeed, the

phenomenon of Boko Haram assumed a dangerous and violent dimension with the killing of its youthful leader, Mohammed Yusuf in 2009. This young man and his key men had been invited to participate in governance at some level but found out that corruption was perpetuated by officials and that Islam (which is prevalent in that part of the country) was merely touted as state religion to swing voters to the government's side. He thus believed true Islamism would mean abolishment of Western education which brought about corruption and less care for citizens. Either right or wrong, he had a massive following and was soon perceived to be a threat to government, leading to his eventual killing which irked his followers. In like fashion, followers of Sheikh El zakzaky, leader of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (Shiites) have been repressed as protests over the continued detention of their leader rages on.

It needs to be pointed out unequivocally that persistent failure of government to address injustice, attacks by local and foreign Fulani militias, wonton killings, kidnapping, banditry, rape, armed robberies, and other vices occasioned the frustration and pain of the citizens' call for the

establishment of security outfits such as Western Nigerian Security network code named “Amotekun”, Eastern Security Network (ESN), “Ebube Agu” etc in order to protect the citizens from militias carrying AK-47 disguising as herders. Even separatists groups such as Odua People Congress, Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign States of Biafra, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta and similar groupings have legitimate demands unlike terrorists Boko Haram and Fulani militias whose ideology is for expansionism and to Islamise Nigeria; the action that runs afoul of the International laws n and local constitution.

Nigerians now appear to be more aware either of their religious or ethnic affiliations or a combination of both. While there is such a separatist group as MASSOB (Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign States of Biafra) that sprung up in 1999, upon Nigeria's return to democracy, a more potent one known as Independent People of Biafra was set up in 2012 with its main aim being to restore an independent state of Biafra in the South East of Nigeria through an independence referendum. It has gained significant media attention for becoming a frequent target of political crackdowns by the Nigerian government. It also has numerous sites and communication channels serving as the only trusted social apparatus educating and inculcating first-hand information and news to its citizens (A. I. 2020). On December 12, 2020, the group's leader, Nnamdi Kanu announced the formation of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), a regional security force. This was a measure aimed at safeguarding the South Eastern region from the onslaught of Fulani militias and was an imitation of the Western Security Network codenamed Amotekun, established by the Southwest Governors on January 09, 2020. This was the first regional security outfit initiated by a geopolitical zone in Nigeria, though frowned at by the Federal Government, it was given legislative approval by each of the respective states and has been said to be the precursor to state police by the Ondo State Governor, Mr. Rotimi Akeredolu (SAN) on June 12, 2021. Groups such as the Odua Peoples Congress were formed as an organization to actualize the annulled mandate of Chief Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola, a Yoruba who most

people believed to be on his way to winning the presidential election of June 12, 1993, which was subsequently annulled by the military government before vote tallying was complete. The group's former national co-ordinator, Otunba Gani Adams has since assumed a more central role in Yorubaland, having being conferred with the title, Aare Ona Kakanfo of Youbaland by the Alaafin of Oyo in October 2017. He has also called for actualisation of a Yoruba sovereign nation along with people like Sunday Igboho, an Oyo State indigene who has lately stirred public sentiments in that direction and Prof. Banji Akintoye a former Nigerian Senator, Emeritus Professor of History and former Leader of Yoruba World Congress, and currently the head of Ilana Omo Odua.

Leaders of militant groups whose activities have been sublime for some years have also issued fresh ultimatums such as appointment of credible persons to man the Niger Delta Development Corporation (NDDC) and calls for restructuring. Indeed, the Governors of the 16 States have jointly declared a ban on open grazing, called for restructuring, creation of state police among others. To furthermore show how insensitive the Federal Government is to the yearnings of the people, this action by legitimate sub-national governments was termed to be unconstitutional by the Attorney General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, a clear case of undermining of these Governor's authorities over their territories. Unfortunately too, the president of the country had given order to his Attorney General to go dig a non-existent statute barred colonial gazette on grazing routes in order to counter the Nigerians' call for a ban on open grazing; an act suggesting that he is satisfied with the killings, destruction and army of occupation by his Fulani kinsmen in those communities especially in Nasarawa, Benue, Plateau and parts of the southern states.

In conclusion, SDG 16 emphasises peace, justice and strong institutions including peaceful and societies for sustainable development Sadly, the Nigerian state has allowed a privileged few to dominate its society in several spheres especially in the aspect of governance thus leaving critical masses of the people behind. This has made several youths, the maginalised, the vulnerable including unemployed, professionals, urban residents, rural

dwellers to question their continued allegiance to such as a badly shaped society where little or no sense of belonging exists. To better drive home this point, one of the major political parties announced her new youth leader, a man aged over 50 years! This was a clear slap in the face of young, agile, creative, well-educated and able-bodied youths brimming with fresh, workable ideas that could do the nation proud. The creative energies of this crucial demography which accounts for about 60% of the population is what government needs to tap into as well as those of women who are renowned all over the world as good nation builders.

### CONCLUSION

Data do not play a game of deception neither do statistics prevaricate. If all the figures and data presented from the foregoing are something to go by, then this is lamentable! It is unacceptable! How can Nigeria achieve SDGs by 2030 in the face of all these damning figures? Achieving the SDGs is dependent on the political will of our leadership. Governments at all levels only need to walk the talk and stop paying lip service to development issues. Although all the 17 Goals of 2030 Agenda are important, they however do not have equal weight. Cherry-picking or prioritising the goals may be necessary because it is obvious government may feign not having enough resources to bring about the realisation of the 17 Goals by 2030. Whereas Nigeria has the resources, it has all it takes to attain SDGs but self-centeredness coupled with endemic corruption has been the bane of its development over time.

Governments at all levels should take concrete steps to reverse trends of shrinking and closing civic spaces in development, to protect and enable space for civil society, including enabling laws and

regulations, democratic accountability based on human rights norms and human rights standards, and the full protection of civil society under attack – such as social leaders, human rights defenders and gender rights activists. They should repeal and halt all obnoxious laws, policies, and bills stifling operations of civil society including CAMA and social media bill i.e. Hate Speech Bill that metes out death penalty on the violator especially the press.

Government should also respect democratic country ownership of national development plans, and recognize the importance of the interconnected themes in achieving Agenda 2030 -- civil society voice, eradicating poverty, women's empowerment, fighting inequality, decent work, climate action and environmental justice -- without which the realisation of the SDGs would be a mirage in Nigeria. They should also hold effective, inclusive and transparent consultations with CSOs regarding national development priorities and guarantee meaningful inclusive CSO participation in decision-making and creation of public policies all in tandem with the UN Agenda 2030 mantra of “Leave no one behind”; and implement public policies to promote and strengthen CSOs.

Paramount is the need to uphold the rule of law, shun impunity, respect human rights, promote the right to initiative of citizens, and uphold all fundamental rights and freedoms including, but not limited to, freedom of association, of expression, and political participation, the rights to peaceful assembly and information, and release unconditionally all the political prisoners and prisoners of conscience including the activists and journalists kept behind bars despite court injunction to release them on bail.

## PART TWO

# PEOPLE'S SCORECARD (PSC) ON NATIONAL DELIVERY OF THE 2030 AGENDA

## ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN NIGERIA

### Introduction:

The Scorecard considers a number of key categories and offers an overview of the level of delivery in each area.

The first part aims to assess the overall delivery of the 2030 Agenda, including a consideration of policies and strategies for implementation, assessment of delivery and mechanisms for engagement; including with civil society, local governments, donors and wider stakeholders in realizing the SDGs. Level of government's commitment is important which is why grading is

on the scale of very low level of commitment to low level of commitment to medium and to high and very high level of commitment. Where information is not available, this is indicated so in the last column provided for it.

The second part of the Scorecard (filled online) provides a detailed review of each of the Goals to enable a broad vision of the current level of implementation, follow up and review on each Goal. It aims to assess progress on each of the 17 SDGs in turn.

### At the end of each section, a score of progress between 1 and 5 is decided

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	
	Very low	Low	Medium	High	Veryhigh	
Scale	Very low level of commitment / achievement	Low level of commitment / achievement	Mediumlevel of commitment / achievement	High level of commitment / achievement	Very high level of commitment / achievement	No Info Available

## Overview of current implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Nigeria

### 1. Policy Framework or Action Plan

- Does your government have a policy framework on SDG implementation? **YES.**

**An example is *Achieving the SDGs in Nigeria: Pathways and Policy Options, (2019).***

- How does this relate to existing or other policy frameworks, such as national development plans, national water/transport/education plans, etc?

**Nigeria's Economic Recovery & Growth Plan (ERGP) covering the years 2017-2020, was a Medium-Term Development Plan designed as one of the coping mechanisms to deal with the 2016**

**economic recession. The ERGP's focus on economic, social and environmental dimensions of development makes it consistent with the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.**

- Have there been any revisions of the existing policy frameworks in light of the policy on SDGs implementation? **YES.**

**An example is *the Nigeria Sustainable Development Goals Implementation Plan (2020 – 2030), The revision took place in January 2021.***

- How far do you see effective policy coherence and a coordinated national SDG framework? –

**On paper, there is a well-articulated revised and up-to-date national policy document that aligns with the SDG framework but it remains to be seen if the outlined activities will be implemented and this is going by antecedents. For instance, there has been massive Government investment in the Agricultural sector on paper but there has been no commensurate improvement in food security (which has been at the lowest ebb since return to democratic rule in 1999).**

- Does the policy approach include a recognition of the inter-related nature of the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental & economic)? **YES.**

- Is there any “cherry-picking” or do you see all SDGs are equally covered?

**Several of the SDGs appear to be covered as specific commitments that touch on sustainability in the transport, energy, housing and urban development, digital and bio-economy, financial sector, international relations, human capital development, health and nutrition, water resources and sanitation, environmental management, youth and women development have been made in the yearly budgets (2016-2021).**

**However, Ending Poverty (SDG-1), health and well-being (SDG-3), education (SDG-4), and an inclusive economy (SDG-8), gender equality (SDG-5); enabling environment of peace and security (SDG-16) and partnerships (SDG-17) appear to be given greater priority by the Government as outlined in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Voluntary National Report (2020).**

- Is there any parliamentary/congressional scrutiny of the framework? **YES.**
- If so please list the relevant committee and its activity, and any policy positions developed by elected members.

**Joint Senate Committee on Finance and National Planning and Economic Affairs; invitations were dispatched to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to appear before the committee to make presentations on the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). Also the joint committee's activities included examination of the rationale for pegging the price of crude oil at 40 dollars per barrel and a projected crude oil production of 1.86 million barrels per day.**

**The Senate resolved to commence immediate legislative actions to amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA, 2007) to improve revenue-generating and remittance capacity of agencies of the federal government, with particular attention to Section 21 (1) and Section 22(1) (2). It also directed relevant Standing Committees to take immediate steps to examine the laws guiding the operations of all revenue-generating agencies under their oversight to determine specific sections/clauses requiring amendment with a view to plugging wastages and boosting revenue generation capacity of government. The senate mandated the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, as well as the Budget Office of the Federation to re-examine the assumptions underlying the revenue targets of all the Federal Government agencies, to ensure the credibility of such assumptions, and the figures arising therefrom.**

## **2. National Implementation & Governance mechanism**

- Which ministry (or other institution e.g. in the Prime Minister's office) is leading the planning for the domestic implementation of the SDGs in your country?

**It is not a ministry per say but rather a semi-autonomous unit within the massive office of the President that functions in an advisory role to the President (Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the SDGs), otherwise called OSSAP-SDGs.**

- How far is implementation already underway on the 2030 Agenda?

**On a country-wide basis, implementation has been rather low up until now as a critical mass of citizens have not yet been well engaged on what the SDGs are about and their expected roles/contributions. A 10-year implementation plan has recently been developed by OSSAP-SDGs though.**

- Is there any clear national plan in terms of funding the delivery of the 2030 Agenda? **Somewhat (through the yearly national budget). Inter-ministerial co-ordination is still low though.**

- Is the national budget in line with the 2030 Agenda? **To some extent**

- What is the role of international donors/development partners?

**Many development partners such as DFID, UNESCO, UNDP, and CSOs, regularly collaborate with the office to organise joint initiatives and provide funds for project execution.**

### 3. Progress since last VNR

- If your country is now presenting a second or subsequent VNR, how have the gaps identified in the previous VNR been addressed?

**The first VNR was bereft of input from civil society, very generic and somewhat shambolic; the 2017 VNR outlined the institutional dimensions for creating an enabling policy environment for the implementation of the SDGs through its Economic and Recovery Growth Plan (ERGP) i.e. 2017-2020. The 2020 VNR however focused on Ending poverty (SDG-1), health and wellbeing (SDG-3), Education (SDG-4), Gender equality (SDG-5), an inclusive economy (SDG-8), an enabling environment of peace and security (SDG-16), and strengthening partnerships (SDG-17).**

- Has there been any follow up since the previous VNR was presented? **YES.**

If “YES”, how have civil society bodies been involved in engagement since the previous VNR?

**A Civil Society Organizations Strategy Group on SDGs (CSSG-SDGs) in Nigeria was set up**

**by UN Millenium Campaign and supported by OSIWA in November 2015 but had not been functioning since then. Another was inaugurated by OSSAP with slightly improved engagement such as invitation (in February 2021) to the validation exercise on the 10 year implementation plan of the SDGs in Nigeria.**

### 4. Leaving no one behind

- In your experience, how far have the poorest, most vulnerable, and those furthest behind, been a focus for the national strategy of the 2030 Agenda?

**There have been national programmes designed to cater for unemployed youths, young entrepreneurs, farmers, market women and artisans, primary school age children in public schools among others. In addition, a Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development was created on August 21, 2019 to co-ordinate some of these initiatives. There has been notable cases of fraudulent activities such as some N-Power (a social protect programme for unemployed youths, aged 18-35 years) beneficiaries being unpaid for months, School feeding programme said to be carried out during the nationwide imposed lock-down in 2020 among others.**

- How would you assess the opportunities for these marginalised groups to engage in setting the national priorities and in review processes?

**The lot of some persons have undoubtedly improved but much still needs to be done. For instance the N-Power scheme engaged 500,000 young persons within the age range of 18-35. Commendable as this is, it represents a mere 1.25% of this demography as there are at least 40 million Nigerians within this age bracket with about 40% unemployed. In the year 2019, Nigeria overtook India as the country with the highest number of poor persons in the world. What all these says is that hunger is still widespread and participation of these marginalised groups in review processes is not a priority and will only exercise even**

their franchise after financial inducement i.e. vote buying.

- We are interested in learning more about groups that are marginalised in your country context, by which we mean groups of people that are more likely than others to experience

poverty, exclusion, discrimination, lack of participation, or violence. Which groups of people do you understand to be the most marginalised in the country where you work? (You may choose more than one and add more if relevant in your country)

Women & Girls	X
Children & young people	X
Indigenous peoples	X
Older persons	X
Persons with disabilities	X
People discriminated by caste, work and descent	X
People discriminated by geographic area: eg. urban slums/rural areas	X
People from the LGBTQI community	X
Small scale farmers	X
Ethnic & Religious minority groups	X
Migrants or undocumented persons	X
Artisans	X
Market women	X
Persons undertaking menial jobs	X

##### 5. Planetary Boundaries

- Are there policies in place to protect the environment? **YES.**

##### Examples:

- Establishment of Department of Climate Change in the Federal Ministry of Environment in 2017 to serve as a vehicle for driving National Climate Action efforts/action.**
  - Executive assent to acts of parliament such as Environmental Impact Assessment Act (Cap E12 LFN 2004). This law sets out the general principles, procedures and methods of environmental impact assessment in various sectors. Harmful Waste (Special Criminal Provisions etc) Act (Cap H1 LFN 2004). This law prohibits the carrying, depositing and dumping of harmful waste on land and in territorial waters.**
- In particular does the plan include sustainable management of resources (eg. water, soil, air) or Sustainable Consumption and Production? **YES.**

- Is agricultural production carried out in a sustainable way (considering eg. organic farming, non-GMO, animal welfare)? **Not entirely so.**

- Are investments made towards sustainable and public transport? **YES.**

- Are there clear national commitments to cut CO2-emissions and move towards a just transition of energy? **YES.**

- Is the country reliant on extractive industries? **YES (Largely the Crude Oil/Petroleum Industry; attention is just being given to the solid minerals sector).**

- How are those industries behaving towards their workers and the environment?

**The sector is largely unregulated especially the solid minerals sector. Foreign nationals mill around the hot spots and make fortunes while pittance is paid to workers (mostly Nigerians) some of whom work under strenuous conditions. The Ministry of Solid Minerals and Steel Development has developed a Community Development**

**Agreement (CDA) that companies playing in this sector are expected to sign with their host communities.**

- Where are the profits of those industries going? **Largely outside the country – China, Europe, other West African Countries.**

#### 6. **Interlinkages and mainstreaming of cross-cutting goals ('whole-of-SDGs' approach)**

- **How far have you considered the inter-linkages between the different goals?**

**On the Government angle, much still has to be done in this regard.**

- **Is there a holistic approach from government that connects different ministries and supports an inter-connected response?**

**This is still very low and should be a high-priority activity. There is a level of engagement though that OSSAP-SDGs has with the Budget Office (which helps the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to prepare annual estimates of revenue and expenditure for the Federal Government) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) respectively.**

#### 7. **Public Awareness**

- **Is the full text of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs available in your local languages? YES.**

- **Which language(s)? Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba.**

- **Who translated it? Centre for Sustainable Development, University of Ibadan.**

- **Are civil servants and policy makers in the national and sub-national governments getting more familiar with the 2030 Agenda / SDGs? YES (To some extent).**

- **If so, how?**

**Trainings have been organised for legislators (sub-national) on the SDGs, civil servants especially those in the highest cadres undergo trainings on aligning their unit's activities with the SDGs.**

- **If not, why?**

- **Is the 2030 Agenda / SDGs getting more popular among general public? Gradually, it is. If so, how?**

**Workshops are periodically organised on what the SDGs are about and how the populace can contribute to their attainment as well as the inherent benefits. More advocacy and enlightenment needs to be done though.**

- **If not, why?**

- **Are educational bodies and researchers actively seeking to analyse and share the SDGs? YES. The University of Ibadan through her Centre for Sustainable Development organises among other things an annual conference (Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit) on issues pertaining to the SDGs.**

**Several researchers also attune their studies to align with meeting specific SDGs. This has become especially necessary for them because most funding bodies (local and international) over the last few years request for clear links between studies and the SDGs in their calls for proposal submission.**

- **Are civil society organisations using the 2030 Agenda for framing their work? YES.**

#### 8. **Localizing the SDGs (sub-national level)**

- **Are sub-national or local governments (state, province, district, municipality, town, village, etc.) in your country actively engaged in the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs? YES.**

**Ekiti and Ogun State Governments respectively have embarked on state-wide SDGs mapping in the last couple of years. Both states and several others also have an active office of an assistant to the Governor on the SDGs.**

- **If so, how?**

**Most states have either an adviser to the Governor on SDGs or a Desk Office on SDGs; these offices have a forum for interacting with OSSAP-SDGs. There is little activity on the SDGs at the local Government level though. Most states also need to realise that committees on SDGs need to be set up in the legislative houses. This is crucial as this is the law-making**

**arm of Government.**

- If not, why?
- Are there sub-national / local governments that have developed sub-national action plans on SDGs? **YES.**
- Is there any voluntary local review (VLR) initiative or mechanism about SDGs in your country? **YES.**
- Give good examples of local implementation and monitoring.

**Researchers, Civil Society Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations alike have embarked on assessments of the implementation level of the SDGs. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Nigeria conducted one of such country wide implementation surveys from May 2019-January 2020.**

**9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement**

- What is the engagement of stakeholders in the national implementation plan?

**The UN-led Nigerian Civil Society Strategy Group on SDGs which members of the House Committee on SDGs are part of is a medium for engaging stakeholders on the national implementation plan.**

- Is there a broad partnership across sectors for implementation?

**YES. At the validation meeting of the implementation plan earlier this year, private sector organisations, Civil Society, Non-governmental Organisations were represented.**

- How would you assess the partnership among different actors, is there mutual accountability? **Mutual accountability is still at the early stage.**
- Have any challenges or opportunities been identified in terms of broader partnerships? **YES.**

**10. Data, monitoring and accountability mechanisms**

- Is there progress on bringing together evidence with disaggregated data to demonstrate progress in your country? **YES.**

- What data is disaggregated? **Data on geographic location, income, gender**

- Has civil society been invited to supply and/or review evidence and data 'disaggregated by income, gender, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts' – **No.**

If YES please provide details – **The information available to me (from inquiries made) is that Civil Society Actors' inputs are not yet well included in the national monitoring mechanisms. This thus accounts for why there are shadow reports.**

- Has your government invited CSO representatives to be a member of its delegation to participate in the HLPF and/or make a presentation at the VNR? **Not that I know of.**

- If “YES”, has your government provided financial support for this participation? **No.**

**11. Civic space and engagement / citizen participation and CSOs**

- Have you had a regular policy dialogue with relevant government ministries during the preparation and since the adaption of the 2030 Agenda? **No**

- Have there been any other ways in which civil society has been able to contribute to the implementation, monitoring or review, including national reporting of the Agenda? **Yes. Basically through conduct of independent reviews.**

- Was there any invitation to a public consultation on the Voluntary National Review in your country? **None that I know of.**

- If so, how is the invitation done and who was invited?

**12. Delivery by the private sector/ business community**

- How far has the 2030 Agenda been integrated into private sector business plans? **Some companies (Private Sector Organisations) have developed sustainability components into their operations, with the creation of sustainability units/departments.**

Are there examples of effective delivery by the private sector? **YES. Lafarge Africa Plc, the Nigerian operations of the world's leading Swiss building materials multinational, Lafarge Holcim recently committed a total of 8 million USD in March 2021 to change her current Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) to bag house in its Ewekoro plant. The firm partners with host communities to develop and implement social interventions in Education, Empowerment, Health and Safety and Shelter/Infrastructure. The company has been publishing an annual sustainability report since 2016.**

- Are there challenges to guarantee an ethical and sustainable approach to business planning in your country? **YES. There is an apparent misalignment between corporate SDGs reporting and Nigeria's national statistical system. This means that corporate SDGs data might not be captured in Nigeria's national development plans and priorities. This major gap needs to be addressed if the SDGs are to be achieved in Nigeria.**

#### 9. Delivery by CSOs

- How far are CSOs developing their own plans on raising awareness about; and implementation of the agenda. **Most CSOs have specific objectives which align with clear-cut SDG(s); this forms the focal point of their activities which are in turn made known to the general public.**
- Are there particular case studies of effective delivery by CSOs already underway? **YES. The Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development (CSCSD) is an example of a network that has a work plan of between 2018 and 2022. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Nigeria also has a similar working**

**document but with focus on academia across Nigeria.**

- Are there challenges to prevent CSO delivery of this agenda in your country? If YES please describe them.

**Yes, there are. There appears to be a shrinking civic space in Nigeria and it has a well-documented history in the last 5-6 years especially. This has been through emasculation of private media organisations such as unwarranted sanctioning (illegal fines meted out to stations for granting interviews to persons perceived to be anti-Government), gagging of the press (most recently banning of Twitter), promulgation of laws inimical to the effective operation of CSOs (Revised CAMAA Act) among others.**

#### 10. Capacity development

- What support exists for capacity development on the SDGs in your country? **Huge support abounds from Donor organisations and other knowledge institutions. Support from donor organisations has dwindled and as such many NGOs are not well funded like before because of donor fatigue occasioned by global economic challenges and a shift in geographical focus of their activities. On the side of government, next to no support for CSOs exist making the latter source for funds to prosecute their projects. However, civil society has been pro-active and dynamic; organizing trainings on their own and supporting one another.**
- Are there opportunities for partnership with other CSOs and/or UN agencies? **YES.**  
Abound are UN Systems and development partners in Nigeria
- Have you identified specific gaps in CSO skill development? **YES.**

Areas for monitoring and assessment	1	2	3	4	5		Comments
1. Legal/policy framework available including commitment to the international agreements				X			4
2. National implementation mechanisms, action plans and strategies ('whole-of-government' approach)			X				3
3. Progress since the last VNR			X				3
4. Leaving no one behind ('whole-of-society' approach)			X				4
5. Planetary boundaries			X				3
6. Inter-linkages and mainstreaming of cross-cutting goals ('whole-of-SDGs' approach)		X					2
7. Public awareness and education		X					2
8. Localizing SDGs (sub-national)		X					2
9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships		X					2
10. Data, Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure		X					2
11. Civic space, citizen participation and civil society engagement			X				3
12. Delivery by the private sector / business community		X					2
13. Delivery by CSOs			X				3
14. Capacity development			X				3
<b>Total</b>							<b>38</b>

## PART THREE

# GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT ON THE IMPACT OF SDGs IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SIX GEO-POLITICAL ZONES OF NIGERIA - VOX POPULI

## Introduction

In view of the UN SDG mantra of “leave no one behind” the stakeholders' inclusive practice principle is a very significant block in the Nigeria's implementation of SDGs. Any development that will be sustainable will not only be participatory for all stakeholders, it must also be very inclusive. Civil society across the six geo-political zones and in particular myriads of Nigerian youth form a significant group in the society and deserve to be recognized and involved in every development engagement where they live. This inclusion as duly recognised by the UN is bipolar both in ensuring that civil society is given roles to play through the lifecycle of a development program and equally have a share of any accrued benefit from the program as due to others without any discrimination.

The impact of the SDGs is of utmost importance at the grassroots as this determines the efficiency and effectiveness of the goals and ultimately the slogan of “*Leave No One Behind*”. The SDG has become a widely acceptable benchmark for development across the globe due to its adaptability and inclusivity which has led to so many taken ownership of this globally acceptable tool. However, for Nigeria to achieve a sustainable development through the goals highlighted in this tool, all citizens must be carried along while also playing active roles in its planning and implementation.

In view of the above, it becomes expedient to assess the level of involvement of not only the decision makers but also the direct beneficiaries of

various policies and programs of various level of government. Nigerian citizens including vulnerable ones in the grassroots have to be given the opportunity to open up on how SDGs have been impacting on them. They have the right to assess governments' performance on plans, programmes and policies affecting them.

## Methodology

Appointed were twelve civil society actor foot soldier field researchers: two from each geo-political zone of Nigeria representing two states each to be saddled specifically with the spotlight grassroots report. Using relevant SDGs indicators, grassroots interviews were conducted for the poor, the marginalised, the women's and youth's group, artisans, farmers, market women etc to know how they feel about the 2030 Agenda process and its effect on them in Nigeria.

A total number of at least 120 interviewees were involved in this spotlight assessment. These are rural and urban grassroots ordinary Nigerians whose government policies affect adversely but who are left behind in decision making most of the time. They are critical masses of the people such as youth, the artisans (tailors/fashion designers, welders, hair dressers, carpenters, plumbers, cobblers) market women and men, farmers, petty traders, youth and women's groups, persons living with disability, vulnerable rural dwellers etc. These are the people who feel the developmental activities of the government, and who are not being listened to by the government because of their vulnerability and low social status.

Fifteen items of the questionnaire requiring “yes” or “no” answer was drawn up (see below). Each questionnaire was administered on at least 20 persons (10 from two contiguous states) in each

geopolitical zones of Nigeria: Northcentral, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southsouth and Southwest.

**SAMPLE OF INSTRUMENTS USED FOR 2021 SPOTLIGHT SURVEY**

**CSCSD QUESTIONNAIRE ON GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT REPORT  
ON SDGs 2021**

Instructions: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are often called the people’s goals. Government institutions seeking to achieve the SDGs need to engage with citizens, listen to them and mobilise them into action. Understanding what different constituencies know and think about the SDGs is a crucial starting point. This document presents selected results from the international surveys on the SDGs. The results underline how much work lies ahead for SDG advocates. They also reveal the gaps in our knowledge about public attitudes to the SDGs.

**Section A**

Name of Researcher \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Respondent \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation/Trade/Profession \_\_\_\_\_ Village/Town/City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Local Government Area \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B**

S.No	Indicators: Scoring Yes for Green=Progress; No for Red= No progress (to be used during analysis)	Yes	No	Spotlight
1	Have you heard of SDGs before?			
2	Is your socio-economic condition better than it was five years ago?			
3	Were you ever been invited to a meeting dealing with the issue of development by any government?			
4	Have you benefited from the federal government’s National Social Safety Nets in the last 4 years?			
5	Is there any government’s health facility at least 2 kilometres close to you that you patronise?			
6	Have you witnessed or heard of teachers’ strike in the last two years?			
7	Do women have control over land and other resources compared to men in your community?			
8	Do you have access to clear and portable water in your area supplied by government or NGO?			
9	Are you satisfied with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene including its prohibitive price?			
10	Are you satisfied with the unemployment rate as it affects the youth in your state?			
11	Do you have access to at least a 6-hour electricity supply daily?			
12	Have you been noticing unusual changes in weather condition affecting farming activities in your community compared to 10 years ago?			
13	Can you confidently say that you are safe and secure in the community where you reside?			
14	Have you heard the incidences of insecurity occasioned by Boko haram insurgents, kidnappers/abductors, killer herdsmen, cattle rustlers etc?			
15	Have you heard of any of the following: bribery, corruption, embezzlement, misappropriation, diversion, and stealing by public officials			

Two research officers handled one geopolitical zone while each took one state each from each zone to administer the questionnaire. There were two or three focus group discussion items proposed to the questionnaire. These are: What are some of the challenges facing you and your community? What is your take on the solution to the insecurity in the land? What do you want government, development partners, donors, NGOs, and other stakeholders to do for you?

The results were collated and computed. Discussions, recommendations and suggestions, and conclusion followed accordingly. The outcome which becomes a policy advocacy tool of engagement shall be published and widely shared in and outside Nigeria among development partners, governments, civil society, donors etc.

Here below follows each grassroots spotlight by geo-political zones and state of the federation. Two states were selected from each geo-political zones except for the Northcentral Zone where two states (Benue and Kogi States) and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja) were selected.

## **GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT – SOUTHWEST: ONDO AND EKITI STATES**

### **ONDO STATE**

This is the grassroots report from Ondo State Nigeria, specifically carried out among the critical

masses of the Akure North and Akure South Local government areas of the state. The research instrument was administered to 20 different respondents from different works of life. These include an electrician, a trader, two tailors, a house painter, an unemployed youth, a phone repairer, two hair stylists, two farmers, a computer operator, a bus driver, a security man and a food vendor.

The findings in this research covered an ample catchment area of consideration as the sample space which is Akure the capital city of Ondo state which is the most developed area in the state and is therefore expected to give the most accurate situational report of the state. Also, this research exercise effectively generated the current developmental condition of the nearest environment of the respondents which speaks volume of the developmental condition of the state and the country at large. In all, the research was carried out on the spot which makes the responses pure and sincere without any influence and partiality.

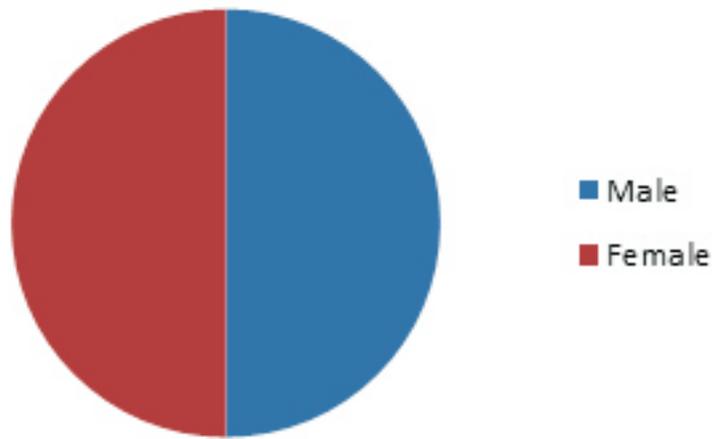
### **Characteristics of the Respondents**

The following findings were made from the CSCSD's GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT SURVEY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS IN ONDO STATE.

The respondents were 20 individuals in all which was made up of 10 males and 10 females as presented in the table below:

<b>S/N</b>	<b>PROFESSION OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>GENDER</b>
1.	Electrician	Male
2.	Trader	Female
3.	Tailor (2 respondents)	Females
4.	House painter	Male
5.	Unemployed youth	Male
6.	Phone Repairer	Male
7.	Hair Stylist (2 respondents)	Females
8.	Cobbler	Male
9.	Subsistence Farmers (2 respondents)	Males
10.	Computer Operator	Female
11.	Security Man	Male
12.	Food seller	Female
13.	Bus Driver	Male
14.	Teacher	Female
15.	Fashion Designer	Female
16.	Fruit seller	Female

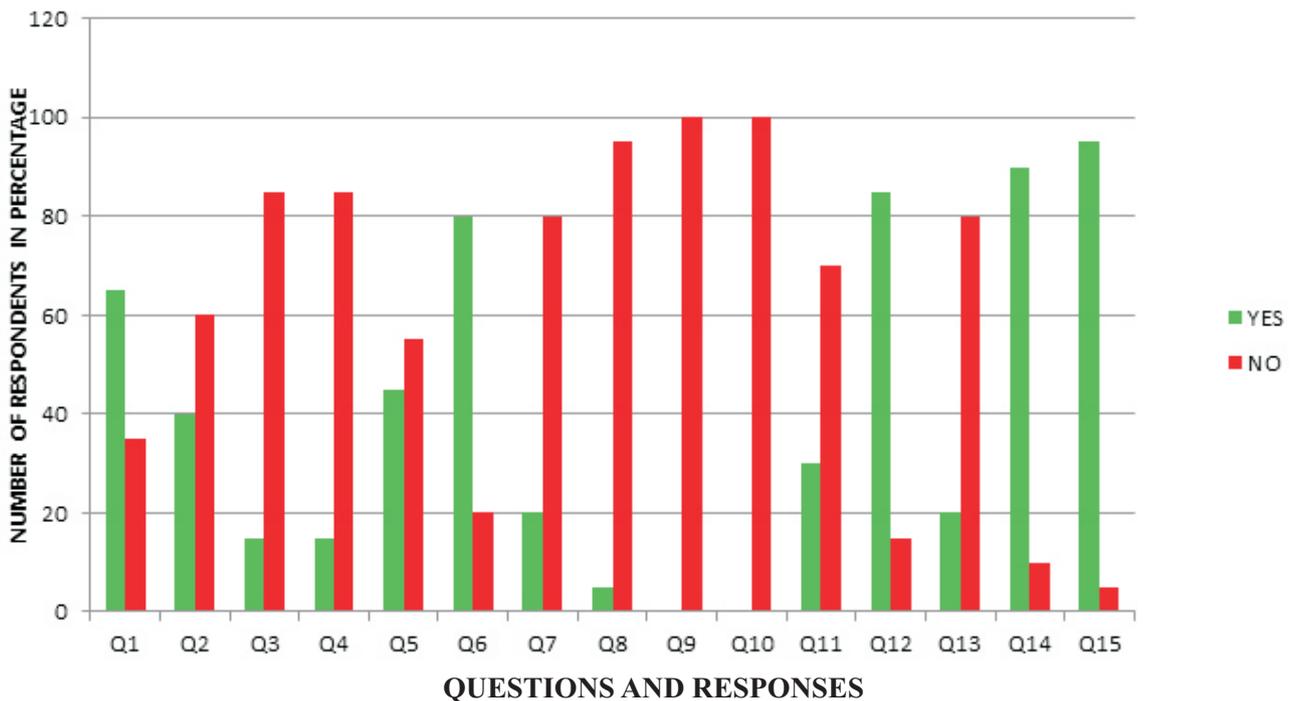
CHART REPRESENTING RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO GENDER



Result Chart

The bar chart below presents the respondents according to the questions addressing the level of impact the implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria on them.

ONDO STATE GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT



On the bar chart, the green bars indicate the number of respondents in percentage attesting YES to the question asked, while the red bar shows the number of respondents attesting NO as a response to the question asked.

Discussion of Results

The first set of bars Q1 indicates that 65% of the respondents, which made up 13 out of the 20 respondents, have heard about the SDGs, and the remaining 35% making a total of seven respondents that are yet to hear about the SDGs. Almost all should have heard about the 2030 agenda that has a limited time of 2030 to be realized.

The second set of bars Q2 shows that 12 out of 20 respondents (60% of the respondents) are saying that their socio economic condition is not better than it was five years ago, while 40% of the respondents (8 out of 20) are saying that their socio economic condition is better than it was five years ago. This is a clear indication that the country is not fair enough to the citizens on socio economic development.

The third bar Q3 shows that only 3 out of 20 respondents which making up just 15% of the respondents have been invited to a meeting dealing with the issue of development by the government. On the contrary, 85% of the respondents making up 17 of the respondents who are yet to be involved in any developmental forum suggests they are not recognized by the government. Much needs to be done in getting everybody involved. The next bar Q4 shows that just 3 out the 20 respondents (15% of the respondents) have benefitted from the federal government National Social Safety Nets in the last four years while 85% (17) out of the 20 respondents have not benefitted from the NSSN. This is wide gap. Something must be done if the country must achieve SDGs by 2030.

The fifth bar Q5 indicates that 11 persons out of 20 residents in Akure, Ondo State do not have a government health facility at least 2 kilometers close to them to patronize. Although 9 persons out of 20 attested that they have a government health facility they patronize yet the importance of health care facility cannot be over emphasized for a sustainable environment. Also, Q6 indicates that 80% of the respondents (16 out of 20 person) have witnessed or heard of teachers' strike in the last two years while just four of the 20 respondents have not witnessed or heard of teachers' strike in the last two years. The educational sector needs to be worked on by the government to gain a sustainable educational system.

From Q7, it can be seen that only 4 out of 20 persons making merely 20% of the respondents believe that women have control over land and other resources compared to men in their community. However, 16 of the 20 respondents (80%) are of the opinion that women do not have control over land and other resources compared to men in their community. There is yet a great gap in gender equity in the land where women are denied

access or ownership of property. The next bar Q8 shows that 95% of the respondents (19) do not have access to clear and portable water in their areas provided by the government or NGO whereas only 1 person out the 20 persons interviewed has access clear and portable water. This clearly shows that water accessibility is a case in Nigeria.

According to Q9, it can be observed that all (100%) the respondents are dissatisfied with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene and its prohibitive price. This shows the serious effect the hike in price of petroleum commodities is having on Nigeria citizens. No wonder people resort to using firewood against SDG13 on climate change. The tenth bars (Q10) indicates that none of the respondents is satisfied with unemployment rate and its effect on the youth in Ondo State. Job scarcity is a problem across the country. Employing youths should be an utmost priority for government in her quest to attain the 2030 agenda.

The 11<sup>th</sup> bar, shows that 70% of the respondents making 14 of the 20 respondents do not have access to 6-hour electricity supply daily while 6 of the respondents (30% in all) have at least 6 hours electricity supply. Even then, six hour supply of electricity is unacceptable adding more to hardship facing small scale enterpreneurs. There is yet a great work to do in ensuring constant electrical power distribution in the country. From Q12, 17 of 20 respondents (85% in all) have been noticing unusual changes in weather condition affecting farming activities in their community compared to 10 years ago. However, 15% (3 of 20 respondents) have not noticed that. The huge gap shows that the weather and climatic condition in Ondo state is becoming unfavorable for agricultural and other climatically inclined activities.

According to Q13, only 4 out of 20 responses can confidently say that they are safe and secure in the community where they reside. On the contrary, the remaining 16 responses (80%) show great security treat where they reside. This is an indication that insecurity is a major challenge being faced in the state and across the country. The fourteenth bars indicates that only 2 out of 20 responses is attesting no to have heard of incidences of insecurity occasioned by Boko haram, insurgents, kidnappers/abductors, herdsmen, cattle rustlers etc. but, 90% of the responses (18 of 20 responses) have heard of the incidences of insecurity perpetrated by Boko haram, insurgents,

kidnappers/abductors, herdsmen, cattle rustlers. This indicates a great threat to life and properties in the state. It is strongly believed that even the two persons that have not heard of Boko haram or kidnappers might have ticked “No” in error.

According to the last item, it is observed that 19 out of the 20 respondents attested “yes” to have heard of issues around bribery, corruption, embezzlement, misappropriation, diversion and stealing by public officials, only 1 of the respondents gave a no to this premise. This is a clear indication that these issues have become the norm in the state, and something drastic needs to be done about it.

### Recommendations and Conclusion

The following recommendations were gathered through an FGD with the respondents:

#### The Government

1. The government should provide clear and portable water at close distances in the state.
2. Government should construct good and efficient roads as this will bring great reduction to the loss of lives caused by road accidents
3. Effective and efficient work should be done by government on the electricity supply in the state.
4. Government should create good and befitting jobs for graduates and the youths of the state.
5. Government should seek international help to confront the insecurity issues facing the country as it is clear that the issue has overpowered the government both at the state and federal level.
6. The government should adopt the state policing system.
7. Government should give a circulatory grants to small and medium enterprises(SMEs)
8. Government should make funds available to citizens to grow their smaller communities.
9. Government should regulate price of commodities.
10. The government should adopt a working system of governance.
11. More industries should be created
12. Government should develop a system of circulatory waste disposal.
13. Erosion issue should be tackled urgently.
14. Government should provide good accessible roads to farm sites and fund agriculture adequately.

15. More primary health care centers should be created everywhere.

#### Non Governmental Organization (NGOs)

1. NGOs should provide clear and portable water at close distances in the state.
2. NGOs should create more skill acquisition centers to cater for youth, women and widows.

#### Development Partners and Donors

1. Should give scholarships to students.
2. Support CSOs to be able to help the community.

#### Conclusion

The conclusion reached from this research is that the gap between where the state is and where it is going according to the 2030 agenda is still very wide. Therefore the government, development partners, donors, NGOs and other stakeholders must rise to work effectively and efficiently to the accomplishment of the SDGs. More importantly, the government must rise to yearnings of the people because the critical health condition of the country needs urgent clinical response. Also, there is a great threat to life in the community as the level of insecurity is sky rocketing per day. An urgent response is required to deal incidence of insecurity. The government has a great role to play in this for its actualization. Development is mirage when safety is uncertain.

Finally, the government must ensure to involve state actors and civil society organization in discharging its duty. Because when the state actors and civil society organizations who are the closest of stakeholders to the grassroots of the state are constantly left out of the decision making processes and implementation, the grassroots are also left in disarray as none of the effort of the government will get to the grassroots and these persons make up the majority that is being governed. Something must be done if the 2030 agenda will be realized by 2030.

#### EKITI STATE

##### Introduction

The respondents in this research were mostly drawn from the grassroot which includes artisans such as bricklayer, hairdresser, carpenter, tailors, mechanic, dry cleaner etc. and are mostly illiterate.

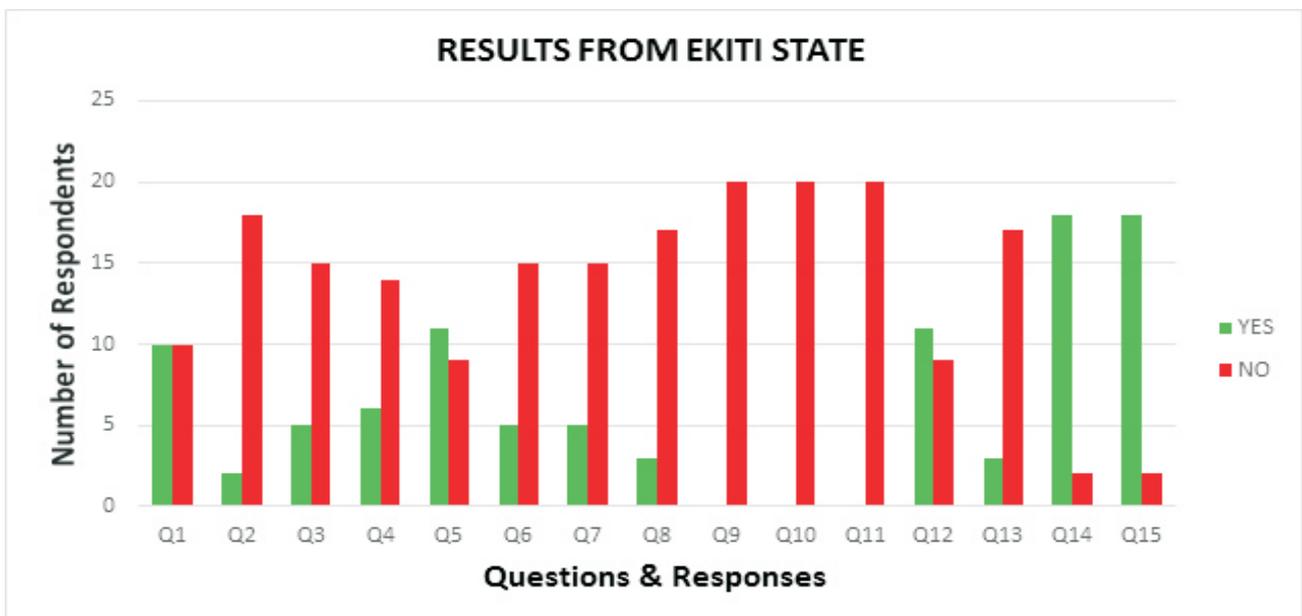
The demographics of the respondents is shown in table 1.1 below

S/N	OCCUPATION	SEX	AGE	LGA
1	Driver	Male	30	Ikere
2	Entertainer	Female	45	Irepodun/Ifeolodun
3	Trader	Female	34	Ado
4	Bricklayer	Male	33	Irepodun/Ifeolodun
5	Trader	Female	30	Irepodun/Ifeolodun
6	Trader	Female	37	Ado
7	Trader	Female	41	Irepodun/Ifeolodun
8	Hairdresser	Female	26	Ado
9	Carpenter	Male	40	Ado
10	Tailor	Male	38	Irepodun/Ifeolodun
11	Security	Male	29	Ado
12	Stylist	Female	26	Ado
13	Tailor	Female	66	Ado
14	Teacher	Female	36	Irepodun/Ifeolodun
15	Mechanic	Male	24	Ado
16	Nurse rtd.	Female	67	Ado
17	Trader	Male	34	Ado
18	Trader	Male	30	Irepodun/Ifeolodun
19	Dry cleaner	Male	41	Ado
20	Tailor	Female	25	Irepodun/Ifeolodun

**Analysis and Discussions**

This research was carried out in three local government areas of Ekiti state namely Ado, Ikere and Irepodun/Ifeolodun local government areas. While Ikere and Irepodun/Ifeolodun was considered to be rural areas, most part of Ado local government were considered to be urban area. While 55% (11 respondents) of this questionnaire was administered within Ado local government,

45% (9 respondents) were administered in Ikere and Irepodun/Ifeolodun local government areas. There was a total of 20 respondents to this survey with 9 Male (45%) and 11 Females (55%) to ensure gender inclusion while 2 (10%) are persons with disabilities. It is also important to note that we have respondents who were above the age of 60years, however, the respondents were mostly youths with an average age of 36.6



## Key Findings

A total of 20 respondents were given the questionnaire to respond to with 15 questions each. According to the result presented in the chart above, with respect to Q1, 50% (representing 10 respondents) said they have never heard of SDGs before while 50% (representing the remaining 10 respondents) claimed to have heard about SDGs. This shows some considerable efforts on the part of duty bearers, however, there is still room for improvement in the area of awareness creation and sensitization to enable citizens take full ownership of the process.

It was interesting to note that with respect to responses to Q2, only 10% (representing 2 respondents out of 20) said their socio-economic condition was better than it was five years ago while the remaining 90% (representing 18 respondents) said it even became worse. This calls for question the impacts of various poverty alleviation programs and social protection policies of the government.

Inclusion is one of the bedrock of the SDGs, hence the mantra, “leave no one behind”. With this in mind, it was therefore disturbing according to Q3, that only 25% (representing 5 respondents) admitted that they were at some point invited by the government to development programs, 75% (representing 15 respondents) claimed otherwise. This clearly shows limited inclusion of the grassroot dwellers. Also 30% (representing 6 respondents) confessed to have benefited from the federal government's National Social Safety Nets in the last 4 years while the remaining 70% according Q4 said they have not benefitted from the scheme. This clearly shows lack of uniformity in the distribution of the transfer.

With respect to Q5, 55% (representing 11 respondents) of the respondent said they have government's health facility at least 2 kilometres close to them that they patronize while 45% representing 9 of the respondents claimed otherwise. This shows the need for more effort in the health sector because sustainable development requires a healthy citizen to thrive. It is interesting to note that 25% (representing 5 respondents) of the respondents said they witnessed or heard of teachers' strike in the last two years according to Q6 while 75% (representing 15 respondents) said they didn't witness such.

The patriarchal nature of Africans was laid to bare and calls for concerted effort to ensure the implementation of goal 10 (reducing inequalities) of the SDGs as only 25% (representing 5 respondents) said women have control over land and other resources compared to men in their community according to Q7 while 75% said women do not have control over land. This was particularly not encouraging with a state that boast a perceived gender loving administration in 2021.

Water is life. The importance of water was further stressed ever since the emergence of COVID-19 with its demanding constant washing of hands. But according to Q8 of result obtained, only 15% (representing 3 respondents) said they have access to clear and portable water in their area supplied by government or NGO while a whopping 85% said they don't have access to clear and portable water.

One important finding from this research shows that there was a unanimous response with respect to Q9, as 100% (representing 20 respondents) said they are not satisfied with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene including its prohibitive price with none of the respondents supporting the scarcity of the product. This result further reiterates the continuous calls for a functional and a well-managed refinery in the country.

With regards to Q10 on high unemployment rate among the youth, all the 20 respondents (representing 100%) unanimously said they were not satisfied with the unemployment rate as it affects the youth in Ekiti state.

The epileptic power supply being witnessed in most part of the country was further confirmed with responses obtained on Q11 as all the 20 respondents (100%) confessed to not having at least 6-hour electricity supply daily. With most of the respondent being artisans that require electricity supply for their daily work, they lamented the negative impact it has had on their business as they need to daily purchase petroleum products (petrol, diesel) that is scarce and expensive thereby reducing their daily income to almost zero sometimes.

Farming activities and food production may be at risk as 11 respondents (representing 55%) according Q12 said they have been noticing unusual changes in weather condition affecting

farming activities in their community compared to 10 years ago while the remaining 9 respondents (represent 45%) said they didn't notice such unusual occurrence. Most rural dwellers use farming activities to support their main businesses and sources of income, however, with increased unusual changes in weather condition, this may affect the growth of their farming which in turn can reduce harvest thereby leading to food shortage and hunger in the land as against SDG goal 2 on "Zero Hunger".

With respect to Q13, only 15% of the respondents (representing 3 respondents) said they feel safe and secure in their place of residence while the remaining majority of 85% of the respondent (representing 17 respondents) saying they cannot confidently say that they are safe and secure in the community where they reside. Bearing in mind the need for Peace, Justice and Strong institutions (Goal 16 of the SDG) to ensure sustainable development, all hands must be on deck to put an end to insecurity.

While 90% of the respondents (representing 18 respondents) said they have heard incidences of insecurity occasioned by book haram, insurgents, kidnappers/abductors, killer herdsmen and cattle rustlers according to Q14, only 10% surprisingly said they have not.

In the same vein, 90% of the respondent (representing 18 respondents) also claimed to have heard about bribery, corruption, embezzlement, misappropriation, diversion and stealing by public officials according to Q15 while 2 of the respondents (representing 10%) said they have not heard of these aforementioned vices.

### Focus Group Discussions

Some of the respondents expresses their concern over the epileptic power supply in their neighborhood, stating that this has really caused untold hardship on their business. They urged government at all levels to look into it and compel BEDC to stop denying them of access to power supply with reasonable bill.

Some of the respondents also showed their displeasure at the increasing rate of insecurity and hike in prices of commodities in their environment. Some of them who engages in subsistence farming to support their business said

they couldn't do so anymore for the fear of killer herdsmen rampaging the land.

They called on duty bearers to provide prepaid meters to all citizens while also mandating distribution companies to make power supply available to all. They also urged the government to intensify effort on security by employing more hands in the security sector while also bringing perpetrators of killings and kidnappings to book promptly.

### Recommendations

1. Ensure increased awareness on SDGs and various government programs through the use of social, online and traditional media.
2. Ensure that every program and project of the government such as federal government's National Social Safety Nets, accessible and affordable health facilities, portable water, electricity etc reaches the grassroots.
3. All policies and legal frameworks on curbing the menace of social vices such as unemployment, insecurity, bribery, corruption etc should be implemented and enforced to deter other would-be perpetrators.
4. Government should ensure the availability of a functional refinery to ensure affordable and accessible petroleum products for the citizenry.
5. Government and other duty bearers should ensure the full and active participation of the citizens especially persons with disabilities, women and youth in their developmental programs to ensure no one is left behind.

### CONCLUSION

Sustainable development cannot be achieved when a certain section of the society is excluded from the planning, implementation and evaluation of government programs. It is only when the citizens take ownership of programs of government that various anomalies in our society can be curbed which was emphasized by goal 17 of the SDG.

Furthermore, government should jettison the usual charity model of governance and move on to human right model where citizens' right to life will

be non-negotiable. This research has clearly shown the scary lacuna between the leaders and the led which has led to distrust, underdevelopment and insecurity in the land.

Efforts should therefore be geared toward the implementation of all the 17SDG goals by developing policies, programs and projects that are people centered in other to ensure citizens take ownership of such. Government and governance should be of the people, by the people and for the people.

## GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT – SOUTHEAST: ABIA ANDEBONYI STATES

### ABIA STATE

#### Methodology

The survey was carried out in two Local Government Areas of Abia State: Umuahia South and Umuahia North LGAs. There were twenty respondents comprising 13 males and 7 females randomly selected and made up of: a market woman (45years old), market man (69years), a

female and male petty trader (42 years and 65 years respectively), a carpenter (51 years), cobbler (60 years), welder (54 years), fashion designer (30 years), tailor (54 years), hair dresser (25 years), unemployed youth (30 years), bartender (26 years), hotelier (29 years), mechanic (35 years), food vendors (46 years), barber (45 years), plumber (65 years), welder (40 years), person living with disability (51 years) and vulnerable rural dweller (70 years). At the end of the interview, two focus group discussions were conducted comprising of not less than eight (8) persons each.

The questionnaire was administered on the grassroots people in both rural and urban areas of Abia State; thirteen (13) representing 65% of the respondents were administered in rural areas while seven (7) representing 35% of the respondents were administered in urban areas. These include Afara, Olokoro and Amuzukwu communities in Umuahia South LGA and North LGA respectively. The socio-demographics of the respondents is shown in the table below.

S/N	OCCUPATION	AGE	SEX
1	Market woman	45	Female
2	Market man	69	Male
3	Petty trader	42	Male
4	Petty trader	65	Female
5	Carpenter	51	Male
6	Cobbler	60	Male
7	Welder	54	Male
8	Fashion designer	30	Female
9	Tailor	54	Male
10	Hair dresser	25	Female
11	Unemployed youth	30	Male
12	Bartender	26	Female
13	Hotelier	29	Female
14	Mechanic	35	Male
15	Food vendors	46	Female
16	Barber	45	Male
17	Plumber	65	Male
18	Welder	40	Male
19	Persons living with disability	51	Male
20	Vulnerable rural dweller	70	Male

## Key Findings and Discussions

According to the result in Q1, 11 out of the 20 respondents (55%) of the respondents had heard about the SDGs while only 9 respondents (45%) had not heard about SDGs in Abia State. This indicates that awareness on the 2030 Agenda is a bit high although more sensitization needs to be done. Similarly in Q2, 80% (16 respondents) of the respondents claimed to have had a poor socio-economic condition compared to the last 5 years. This reflects the hardship faced as a result of the dwindling economy in the last 5 years not only in Abia but also in the entire country. One wonders the impact of the government's poverty alleviation policy is making on the people. According to Q3, 65% (13 respondents) complained of not being invited by government to programmes dealing with issue of development affecting them. The seven citizens responding in positive does not exonerate government from politics of exclusion. Rather it suggests grassroots citizens are being left out of the scheme of things against the UN mantra Leave No One Behind.

According to question Q4, beneficiaries of the National Social Safety Nets in the last 4 years were only 2 citizens. On the other hand great majority of 18 citizens translating to whooping 90 percent had never benefitted from government's National Social Safety Nets. Therefore, it shouldn't be strange when Nigeria is having many more people suffering from poverty. The need to look into distribution, monitoring and evaluation of social protection scheme is paramount.

According to Q5, all of the respondents (100%) interviewed agreed that there was a government health facility at least 2 kilometres proximity that they used to patronize. It is not surmising because there is only one health facility for the whole local community but further question showed that there were no medicaments and adequate health personnel in the only one health centre there.

Teachers' strike both at local and federal level is not a new thing to the people. Even people that do not have secondary and tertiary institutions in their communities have heard industrial disputes declared from time to time in other states and the country at large. No wonder all the respondents in Abia agreed that they had heard of strikes in whatever form before. Standard of education is

falling and governments need to do the needful to address the yearnings and demands of teachers.

With reference to Q7 dealing with gender disparity in owning property, it is obvious in Abia that women are being denied of the right to own land though the state can boast of women farmers. All of the respondents answered in affirmative that women did not have control over land and other resources. Access to water is akin to access to sanitation. According to Q8, only four respondents (20%) affirmed that they had access to clear and portable water supplied by government or NGO while 80% of the respondents did not have access to clear and potable water. Going by this result, Goal 6 of the SDGs is in danger as missing this goal will amount to not meeting SDGs by 2030.

Considering Q9, the result shows that all the 20 respondents were not satisfied with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene including its prohibitive price. Nigerians are suffering amidst plenty. Nigeria is a paradox exporting crude oil and yet importing refined oil including kerosene. The latter is a commodity of the grassroots, the poor and the vulnerable who cannot afford the use of gas cooker whose price is even prohibitive. As local people cannot get kerosene they resort to felling trees and thus aiding climate change as they don't plant back trees they have felled.

Citizens are hungry and are angry too. Devil finds work for an idle hand. Unemployment as it affects youth and able bodied persons is biting hard as there are no jobs in the state. All the respondents were not satisfied with the rate of unemployment as it affects the youth in the state, according to Q10. No wonder incidence of robbery continues unabated. Even for those who have jobs, erratic power supply is throwing them into joblessness. Artisans such as barbers, hair dressers, welders, etc whose means of livelihood is dependent on power (electricity) supply complained bitterly to being redundant due to outright outage. While only 5 percent had access to at least 6-hour of electricity supply, many of the respondents (15; 75%) did not, according to Q11.

Climate change has come to live with us in Abia State according to responses to Q12. The results also showed that quite a majority of the population (95%) noticed an unusual change in weather condition affecting farming activities in their

community, while only one person did not. Perhaps, the only one person doesn't have enough skill to understand that there was too much sun and sometimes less sun and too much rain and sometimes long cease of rain. This is an ignorant of the effect of climate change by the local people.

Questions 13 and 14 deal with the issue of insecurity of lives and property in the land. It is astounding that only 2 percent of the respondents could confidently say that they were safe and secure in the community while humongous 18 out of 20 respondents did not feel safe. Perhaps those two persons who said they felt safe said so because they were reside close to a police station; even the police station is no longer safe going by the spate of clash that IPOB members were having with police. It is convenient to say that there is no where that is safe in the country; it is like a nation in war against itself. Compounding the security challenge are the ubiquitous presence of Boko haram insurgents, kidnappers/abductors, killer herdsmen, cattle rustlers etc. And according to Q14 all the respondents had heard of such incidence. And according to Q15, all the respondents had also heard of bribery, corruption, embezzlement, misappropriation, diversion and stealing by public officials. Corruption and insecurity seem the major albatross to the development of Nigeria, which may also impinge on accelerating the realization of SDGs in this UN Decade of Action.

### Focus Group Discussions

Two focus group discussions were carried out during the survey, at Afara-ibeku civic hall and Amuzukwu secondary school. The participants for each focus group comprised eight individuals including artisans, school teacher, unemployed youths etc. The first focus group was conducted in Afara-ibeku on Monday at 12:45pm while the second was conducted at Amuzukwu secondary school at 11:45am on Wednesday. The overall objective of the focus group discussion was to know the challenges facing the community and what government, development partner, donors, NGOs and other stakeholders can do to solve the challenges.

Most of the participants agreed that high cost of living; lack of power supply and insecurity had been a major challenge in the community for the past few years. The government needs to provide

water supply to our community and light as the people have been catering for ourselves this past few years. Government support is needed. Government and development partners should assist in proving security and basic amenities so we can live happily and productively.

### Recommendations

The federal governments can play a key role in achieving the development goals and targets through more sensitization and involvement of its citizen's especially rural dwellers in programme implementation. The federal government can also set up policy framework and set standards to curtail mismanagement of funds and local resources. Thereby help in reducing the rising rate of bribery and corruption in the country.

The state government, being closer to the local government authorities, should collaborate and exchange best practices in order to provide affordable means of living to the rural dwellers. Moreover, there should be more communication and involvement of the state with direct beneficiaries of the programme for its sustainability. Cooperation among development partners helps make sure development assistance is sent to the right place. For example, developing countries may have fewer resources to help alleviate the effects of natural disaster. Partnerships are also crucial for capacity building in developing countries which involves empowering individuals and organisations with the knowledge, tools and other resources they need to reach their goals.

CSOs can act as pressure groups to lobby governments to identify development priorities so policies and programmes are based on local needs as well as available opportunities and capacity.

It is generally suggested that achieving SDGs should include the following measures: reduction of consumption pattern, better building practices to reduce energy and waste, increasing recycling, protection of forests all over the country and also protection of soil.

### EBONYI STATE

According to the United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs, these goals recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and

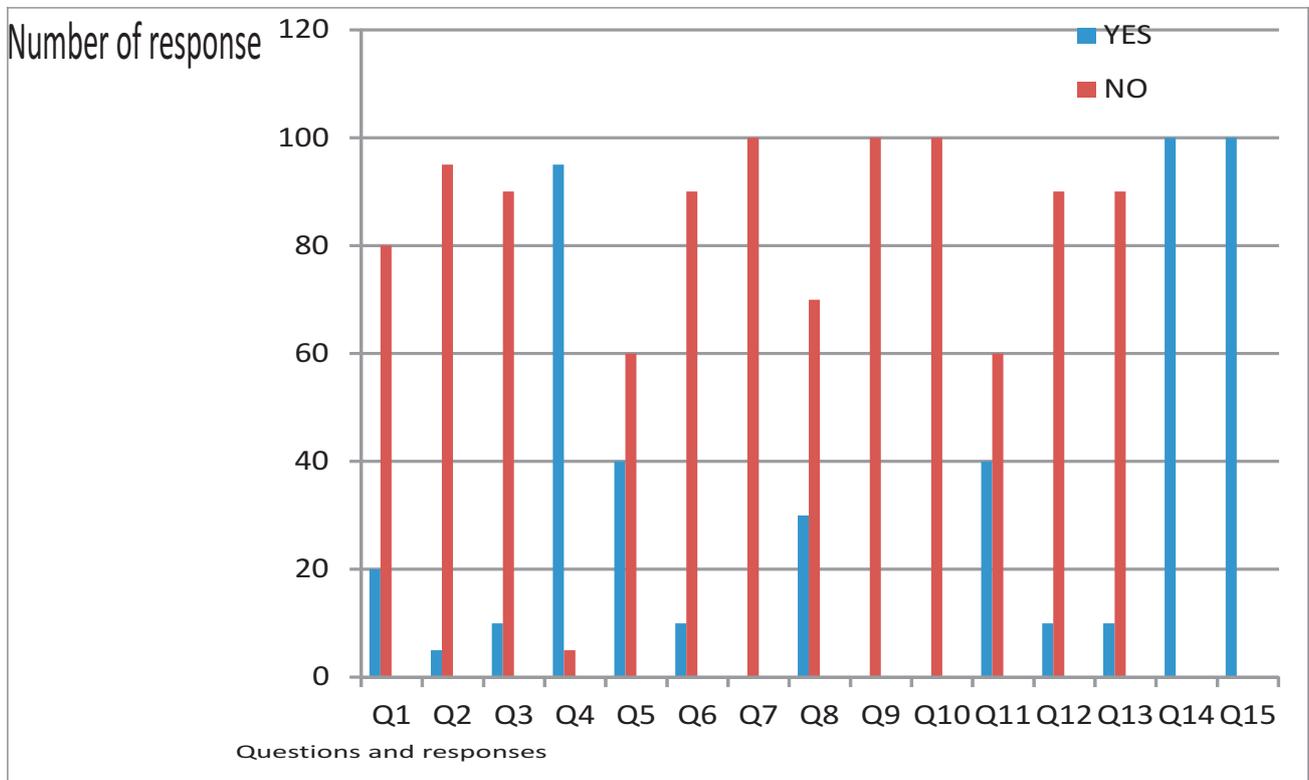
education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth-all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests. In the light of this global agenda narrowing it down to local communities, this research seeks to evaluate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda, plans and programmes of government on the people of Ebonyi State.

**Analysis of the Findings**

The survey was carried out in Ebonyi State, in the South-Eastern geopolitical zone of Nigeria. A simple random technique was carried out in choosing the respondents. There were 50 respondents on which the questionnaires were administered, including rural area and urban area dwellers. The respondents were

indigenes from the 13 Local Government Areas of Ebonyi State out of whom 3-4 respondents represented each local government areas. Most of them were drawn from the age bracket of (17-67 years), majority of whom were youths, women and men from different kinds of livelihood.

Out of the 50 respondents, 5 were disabled respondents (three females and two males), the rest were 27 female and 18 male respondents. Without the exception of the disabled respondents, their trades included; petty business, hair dressing, teaching, tailoring, auto repair services, welding, photocopying and printing, farming, tailoring, cobbling, fashion design, etc. However, 6 of out of the 50 respondents were unemployed youths.



**PRESENTATION OF RESULTS IN EBONYI STATE**

According to the Q1 bar in the result presented in the chart above, 10 (20%) of the respondents had heard about SDGs, most of whom were urban area dwellers. Some went further to say they had benefitted from the State Government's SDGs Projects and also from an agency of the state called Community Social Development Agency (CSDA) but 60% of the respondents in rural areas dwellers and 20% of urban areas said they had not heard of SDGS. This shows that

the government still has a long way to go, in creating sufficient awareness about SDGs in the state.

Moreover, the Q2 bar indicates that 47 (95%) of the respondents attest that their socio-economic condition had gone worse, and no better compared to the last 5 years with only 5% attesting to improved socio-economic condition and standard of living. They complained of the hike in prices of commodities in the market, with the same salary earnings of 5 years ago

when things were better. Petty traders complained of how it affected their customers which had decreased revenue they generated from their businesses, and in turn affected their own socio-economic conditions. This suggests that the government needs to pay adequate attention to the issues concerning socio-economic growth in the state and country.

In addition, the Q3 bar indicates that 10% (5 respondents) have been invited to a meeting dealing with the issue of development by the government, most of whom were those who knew about SDG and said to have been invited and have participated in developmental projects such as "SDGs Credit Grant to 18 Agro based Co-operative Societies in 6 LGA in 2015", "Support Income Generating Livelihood: Skills for Women and Girls- GBV Survivors in 2020" and others. They also were trained in some skill acquisition trainings organised by the State Government SDG Team. However, 90% (45) of the respondents said they had not been invited to a meeting dealing with the issue of development by the government, most of whom were rural area dwellers.

However, the Q4 bar indicates that 95% of the respondents have benefitted from the federal government National Social Safety Nets in the last 4 years. Out of 50 random respondents, only one person had not accessed the Federal Government National Social Safety Nets, therefore, a highly commendable effort has been done concerning the implementation of the NSSF distribution project by the government in the past 4 years. The government is given a green spotlight in this area.

According to the Q5 bar, 40% of the respondents attested that the government health facility was at least 2 kilometers close to them. The rural dwellers complained of difficulty to access a government health centre or facility, with emphasis on bad roads or bush covered paths which could cause a hindrance in catering for people that need immediate or urgent medical care. The government is advised to build more health facilities.

Further more, the Q6 bar indicates that 90% (47 respondents) had not heard of teacher's strike in their areas, while 10% had heard but they all agreed that they heard of strike in the tertiary institutions of learning. Although it is commendable that there is little or no cases of teacher strike in the state as attested to by the respondents in primary and secondary school levels, lecturers in public tertiary institutions do go on strike on

intervals. The government is encouraged to keep up with payment of adequate salary to teachers and lecturers to ensure they stay motivated on the course to deliver good job because a worker is worthy of his wages.

In addition, the Q7 bar indicates that 100% of the respondents said women did not have control over land and other resources in their communities as men do. Some men stated that women did not need land, other men and women stated it was some traditions in their places that women do not inherit lands or have access to lands except the ones they purchased. Therefore, this shows that women do not have access to assets like land in their environment compared to men.

Moreover, the Q8 bar indicates that 15 respondents (30% of respondents) had access to clean and portable water. The rural dwellers claimed that most of the pipe-borne water built by the government and NGOs in years back, have spoilt so they most times go to the stream, buy from individuals who built their own pipe borne-water or dig up their own well but rural dwellers in rocky areas like Afikpo South Local government complained that it has been a futile effort for pipe-borne water to be built by government because of its topography and so they find it very difficult in dry seasons. However, rural dwellers have benefitted more from the government built water facility unlike most urban area dwellers who buy water and some of those whose landlords dig a well or build taps for the tenants. There is a demand for the government and other stakeholders to provide and maintain water facilities in urban and rural areas.

However, the Q9 bar indicates that 100% of the respondents were not satisfied with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene including its prohibitive price. Most urban dwellers have resorted to the use of gas and gas cooker since they can no more afford kerosene but sadly, the rural respondents said that they and their co-dwellers who cannot to buy a gas cooker and cylinder with all its careful measures nor kerosene at its price have resorted to the use of firewood. The government needs to look into this matter, as soon as possible because persistent practice felling of trees could lead to deforestation and change in climate which can affect more living things in that environment and the society at large.

In addition, the Q10 bar indicates that 100% of the respondents were not happy with the unemployment rate as it affected the youth in their state. Rural dwellers complained that most of their young people have left the village to metropolitan cities like Lagos, Onitsha,

Port Harcourt, etc in search for greener pastures. The urban dwellers complained that since there is a lack of infrastructures and industries, there was brain drain in the state as most graduates had left the state to metropolitan cities where there seem to be more job opportunities and this does not help in the economic growth and development of the state. Others lamented that most young people in the state were self-employed in petty businesses and trades of small/medium scales with little funding for start-up or business survival. The government, international organisations and NGOs need to intervene and help them with creating jobs, poverty alleviation projects, business grant opportunities and mentorship, more skill acquisition and empowerment programs etc.

Moreover, the Q11 bar indicates that 60% of respondents (30) did not have access to 6-hour electricity, while 8 of every 10 rural dwellers were in this category and 8 out of every urban dweller had access to at least 6-hour electricity supply. However, they complained bitterly of a high electricity bill which they called 'estimated billing' which they were being given. The government has not done enough in the provision of adequate energy supply while power supply authorities are being encouraged to give exact and not estimated bill.

According to Q12 bar, 45 of the respondents (90%) had noticed unusual changes to weather condition in the past 10 years. Rural dwellers and also farmers went further to express their grief that this change had made their harvest less fruitful in the past few years as compared to 10 years ago. They complained that there had not been enough rain; when it does, it comes after a long period of hot sun shine when a lot of crops have died. Those farmers with few surviving crops are pushed to sell to the market at high price to make up for damaged crops and cost. This has made tuber crops like cassava, yam and cocoyam very expensive and unaffordable, especially 'garri', the most popularly demanded by-product of cassava.

Furthermore, the Q13 bar indicates that 100% of the respondents in rural and urban areas could not say that they were safe and secure in the communities because of insecurities due to land dispute among communities, clashes with herdsmen, and also local thieves. All respondents pleaded that the government should intervene especially in the cases of land disputes and clashes with herdsmen. They should put more effort to ensure safety and protection of lives and properties.

In addition, the Q14 bar indicates that 100% of the respondents said they have heard about the incidences of insecurity occasioned by Boko Haram insurgents, kidnappers, cattle rustlers etc. This is a rider to Q13 indicating lives and properties are not secure.

According to the Q15 bar, 100% of the respondents had heard of corruption, bribery, etc. Corruption in particular is a serious menace in Nigeria and it cuts across all strata of governance including in the private sector. Therefore, government needs to be seen as fighting corruption to a standstill in order to salvage our country corruption.

### Focus Group Discussions

There were two focus group discussions. In each, most of those who responded were rural dwellers, unemployed youths and persons living with disabilities who shared their grief. Some urban dwellers were skeptical and refused to fill forms nor join discussion because of the ongoing insecurity in the land. However 90% of the participants kept complaining about their socio-economic condition, unemployment and security. Some young people indicated frustration because cost of living was increasing and others talked about ongoing land disputes. Others complained about bad roads in the village, lack of electricity in the village, poor health facilities, climate change and lack of access to quality education.

They asked that their basic needs be attained to. Some indicated that their electricity bills should be actual electricity bills not estimated billings, and the power company should wait till first week of the month when they would have gotten their salary to pay bills before disconnection in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month, when the socio-economic condition is harder. Some others indicated that the international organizations and NGOs should have branches and centres in the state so they can access them and even employ their unemployed young people, while the government should create job opportunities or empower entrepreneurial youths.

### Recommendations

From the foregoing therefore the following recommendations are made:

Firstly, the government, international organisations and other stakeholders should create more job opportunities in the state to reduce the

rate of brain drain in the state and encourage development and growth. The young people have families in the rural areas who are being affected by lack of development of the state. Therefore, as job opportunities and positions are being created in other locations of the country, Ebonyi State should be included as a beneficiary state. This will result to the achievement of SDGs 1,2,3,4,8,9,and 11.

Secondly, from the research, because of lack of job opportunities, most of the youth are into petty trade and small scale businesses as a means of survival but they lack sufficient funds. Some of them depend on the income they make to train themselves in tertiary institution and even feed their families. In addition, they lack the presence of venture capitalists and investors for their businesses or business ideas. Empowerment schemes like grants, elevator pitches and business mentorship, skill acquisition and training should be initiated to help people with great ideas and also help existing businesses fund their businesses. This, will result to the growth of the the state and unemployment rate will be reduced and SDGs 1,2,3,8, and 9 can be achieved.

Thirdly, community engagement should be promoted to ensure successful transformation and implementation of SDGs and meeting their targets. Some of the respondents agreed that they benefitted from societal projects but they had not heard of SDGs. The government should setup SDG teams in local governments of the state, then in wards and communities in the local governments in order to reach the grassroots especially the illiterate ones. However, NGOs should be funded and private sector granted contracts to meet up the deficiency of the government.

Health and well-being of people is crucial while much SDG awareness needs be created. For example, every week in all the hospitals, nursing mothers and pregnant women come twice weekly for ante-natal care and immunization in all the hospitals in all the local governments in the state. The nurses who give health talks in hospitals (private or public) should be agents of awareness with the government for goals relating to health like Goals 1, 2,3,6, and 12, while the rural dwellers will take it seriously because it is coming from the medical practitioners they trust. Constant repetition will make people conscious and there will be some improvement.

Furthermore, there should be increase in salary structure of civil servants especially those at the state level so they can afford their family needs because of the persistent increase in prices of goods and commodities. Local food stuff have become expensive while healthy diet comes last on the scale. When there is a commensurable increase in salary structure in response to the persistent increase in price of commodities and living, SDGs 1,2,3 and 8 can be achieved.

Also, social amenities like adequate health care facilities, clean and portable water supply, good roads, schools and learning materials, electricity etc should be provided to improve the standard of living of citizens. Supervisory bodies on old government projects and also abandoned ones should be set up so that old projects can be maintained to serve the people. These bodies should follow up projects on water, road, electricity, school and education, etc because in areas like schools, some children study in unconducive environment due to leaking roofs, broken walls, spoilt desks, chairs, windows and doors, or even lack of adequate classrooms due to increase in number of enrolled students. There are long queues for pipe-borne water and bore holes in village because most times there is just one in a village because others got have spoilt while some villagers are forced to use the stream.

In addition, government should ensure they have tight security in the state. They could use ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) strategies to maintain peace and decorum in the state between communities especially in cases of land disputes. A lot of people have been displaced in their communities and have migrated to the urban areas to become beggars. A housing scheme should be set up for displaced people and victims of land disputes whose houses were damaged.

Finally, residents in the rural areas in the state are in need of humanitarian services. NGOs and international organisations are encouraged to carry out charity projects in the state, for peace, social justice and development. Social services like free educational materials, sanitary pads, skill acquisition, health care services, family life and child upbringing trainings, free clothing and shelter to victims of land disputes are needed.

## GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT IN SOUTH-SOUTH: CROSS RIVER AND RIVER STATES

### CROSS RIVER

#### Introduction

This research was conducted to contribute to increasing the rate of public awareness on SDG and gauge the opinions of the local citizens on how the implementation of SDGs has been affecting them. This report is, therefore, the result of the survey carried out in Cross River States of the south-south Nigeria.

Respondents for the survey were sampled from the grassroots cutting across administrative zones in the capital of Cross River State namely; Calabar South and Calabar Municipality with 10 respondents from each LGA (five males and five females per LGAs). Most of the respondents were drawn from within the age bracket of (20 -52

years) and are engaged in different kinds of activities earning their living.

A random selection was made as follows; two female hair dressers, two female fashion designers, two female petty traders, two unemployed youths, two food vendors, three male cobblers, one male physically challenged person, one male plumber, two male carpenters, one male welder and two male farmers. At the end of the interview, two FGDs were conducted with total numbers of 5 persons each to make the discussions effective.

The questionnaire was administered on the grass root people in both rural and urban areas of Calabar South and Municipality; 80% of the questionnaire was administered in rural areas while 20% was in the urban area, these include Calabar South Ward 1, 5, 9, 10 and 11 and Municipality Ward 3, 5 and 8.

The demographics of the respondents is shown in table below

**TABLE 1.1**

S/N	OCCUPATION	AGE	SEX
1	Hairdresser 1	25	Female
2	Hairdresser 2	32	Female
3	Food vendor 1	24	Female
4	Food vendor 2	28	Female
5	Fashion designer 1	45	Female
6	Fashion designer 2	35	Female
7	Petty trader 1	20	Female
8	Petty trader 2	37	Female
9	Farmer 1	52	Male
10	Farmer 2	43	Male
11	Cobbler 1	41	Male
12	Cobble 2	28	Male
13	Physically challenged person	33	Male
14	Carpenter 1	52	Male
15	Carpenter 2	49	Male
16	Plumber	35	Male
17	Welder	33	Male
18	Unemployed youth 1	47	Female
19	Cobbler 3	52	Male
20	Unemployed youth	35	Female

**Analysis and discussions**

According to the result presented in the bar chart below, in response to Q1 on SDG awareness, 85% of the respondents from Cross River had never heard of SDGs, but 15% signified knowledge of SDGs. This shows, there is poor community knowledge of SDGs and the government, NGOs and CSOs need to expedite more awareness campaign and sensitization on SDGs at the grassroots level. For Q2, it is frightening to know that all the respondents (100%) affirmed that their conditions were deteriorating by the day and that

the government was not doing anything to better the condition of the people. While in Q3, only 10% that is just two of the respondents agreed to their being invited to issues of development by government, and this was only during development forum meetings like the town hall. Many of the respondents (80%) said they were never invited to any meeting dealing with the issue of development by any government. This does not augur well for the UN Mantra of “Leave No One Behind”. It is not fair that people are being left out whereas the government's policy affects them.

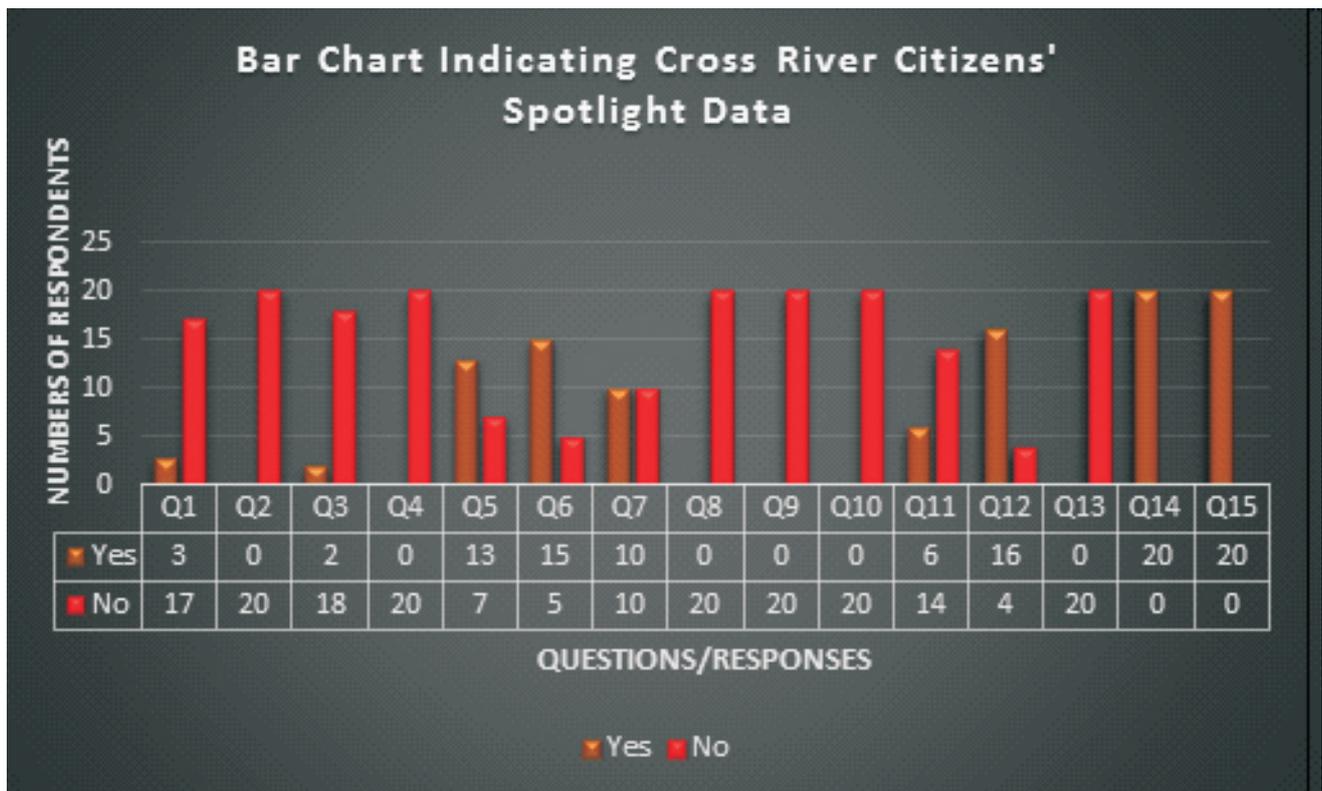


CHART 1: CROSS RIVER CITIZENS' SPOTLIGHT DATA

On the issue of the National Social Safety Net (NSSN), 100% of the respondents have never benefited from the safety scheme in Cross River State. This insignificant fact shows the government needs to make the NSSN more accessible especially to the vulnerable at the grassroots. According to Q5 presented in the bar chart above, 13 (65%) respondents stated that government health facilities were within two kilometres reach to their residences whereas only 25% of respondents said the facilities were not accessible because of the distance. Even for those who had access to the facilities they complained of unavailability of drugs and other medicaments in

such government health facilities. For Q6, 15 out of 20 respondents amounting to 75% of the respondents had witnessed and heard of teachers' strike in the last two years, while only 25% had not witnessed or heard of it. This shows that the State Government need to ensure that the wages of teachers are met because that is the very reason most of the strikes are being embarked upon.

According to Q7, 50% of the respondents said that women had control over land and other resources compared to men in their community while the other 50% disagreed. This shows that the people of Cross River are gradually embracing equality in

the distribution of power and influence amongst both genders.

The indicator for Q8 shows that 100% of the respondents groan fiercely over the inadequate access to clear and portable water from the government and this indicate the need to launch a Clean Water for All campaign and to hold the government accountable for their promises towards Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation. According to Q9, all of the respondents were suffering from the continuous scarcity of kerosene including the prohibited prohibitive price. This is a paradox as Nigeria produces oil yet her citizens do not have access to kerosene for cooking and other domestic use. Q10 indicates that all the respondents are dissatisfied with the increasing rate of unemployment amongst the youths in Cross River State as well as Nigeria which has led a lot of people to abject poverty. This lack of employment opportunity seems to be contributing to crimes in the state. The government should create more jobs while CSOs should organize empowerment programs for people in the state.

It is disheartening that fourteen respondents (70%) complained bitterly about the lack of steady electricity supply and other basic amenities such as good roads while 6 respondents cried they had to buy the prepaid meters to be able to enjoy the electricity supply in their various areas. This lack of steady power supply has been affecting the smooth running of business, and thus adding more to the developmental challenges facing the people in the state.

According to Q12 which deals with climate change, even though not all of them are farmers, 80% of the respondents agreed that there was a complete change in weather condition affecting farming activities in their respective communities compared to 10years ago, while 20% said they hadn't noticed any change in the weather condition. Whether we like it or not climate change has come to dwell with us.

The indicator for Q13 is alarming and according to all respondents in Cross River State, the citizens are not safe in their various communities due to the increasing cases of daily robbery and kidnapping despite the ongoing curfew in the state. This has translated to general insecurity in Nigeria. Something drastic needs to be done by government.

According to Q14 and 15, all (100%) of the respondents agreed to the existence and incidences of insecurity by Boko haram insurgents, kidnappers/abductors, killer herdsmen, cattle rustlers, and rapists. Ditto for bribery, corruption, embezzlement, misappropriation, diversion, and stealing by the public without hesitations. Nigeria has a long way to go in dealing with intractable challenges of insecurity and corruption.

#### **Focus Group Discussions:**

The first FGD was conducted in Ward 9 of Calabar South, which consists of two males and three females. We had a farmer, carpenter, trader, food vendor and unemployed youth. Two of the respondents talked about food security occasioned by the effect of climate change. Others mentioned; unemployment among youths both skilled and unskilled, poverty, corrupt and mischievous practices of public office holders and leaders, poor state of affairs among the rural dwellers, poor health care facilities and insecurity. The respondents blamed the whole issue on the federal government that is not doing enough especially in the area of insecurity and unemployment.

The second FGD took place in Edim Otop in Calabar Municipality. The group consisted of three males and two females; a plumber, unemployed youth, welder, cobbler and hairdresser. During the discussion, the following points were tabled as the challenges facing the people in Calabar Municipality; tribalism, lack of good roads, difficulty in accessing government grants for empowerment, lack of SDG awareness, lack of equipped facilities, scarcity of resources to sustain a livelihood, social exclusion among people with special needs, robbery attacks etc.

**Demands/Suggestions from the people:**

The citizens made the following demands:

1. The government should tackle the issue of insecurity in Cross River through collaborative community policing.
2. The government, NGOs, CSOs, development partners etc. should increase communication effort on SDG awareness at the grassroots level.
3. Government should expand the scope of impact on SDG at the grassroots to enlighten

her citizens regarding her activities around the SDGs.

4. There should be more job opportunities for people with special needs
5. The State Government should stop the excessive payment of tax and local government revenue.
6. The Government and CSO should improve employment opportunities for the youths and provide greater economic security for her citizens in order to boost productivity, and dustup youth restiveness.
7. Organise more capacity building for health workers on communication and the effect of discrimination.
8. Make a public commitment to environmental sustainability.
9. Put more emphasis on economic growth and social equity.
10. Should make available a sustainable infrastructure available and accessible to the citizens.
11. Make available affordable and accessible public transport system.
12. The Government should provide reliable and improved energy services to support our artisans.
13. Provide good road networks to rural communities and renovate the existing and deplorable roads.
14. The Government should build solar powered street lights to ward off darkness at nights in order to reduce crimes.
15. The government should establish Youth Friendly services department on Sexual and Reproductive Health for adolescents in all government health facilities.

## CONCLUSION

The outcome of this study confirms the notion of age-long governments' abandonment and negligence of in building a sustainable environment for the people in the rural communities.

This shows that we are moving too slowly in our efforts to end human suffering and to create

opportunity for all: our goal to end extreme poverty by 2030 is being jeopardized as we struggle to respond to entrenched deprivation, insecurity and vulnerabilities to poverty in Cross River State and in Nigeria.

The development partners should come together to strengthen the issue security, corruption, economy and service delivery in Cross River state. More opportunities should be created and given to people with special needs and the vulnerable at the grassroots to air their views on how SDGs implementation process affects them and lends their voice to the kind of Nigeria they want.

This result identifies many areas that need urgent collective attention. It is abundantly clear that a much deeper, faster and more ambitious response is needed to unleash the social and economic transformation needed to achieve our 2030 goals in Cross River State and Nigeria at large.

## RIVERS STATE

### Introduction

The survey was carried out in Rivers State of the South-South Region of Nigeria. The interview was conducted in two Local Government in Rivers State namely: Port Harcourt and Obi-Akpo on 10 respondents for each of the Local Government Area, making a total number of 20 respondents (ten males and females) randomly selected and made up of: two male physically challenged persons (25yrs and 27yrs), two female fashion designers (35yrs and 47yrs), a female hair dresser (25yrs), two female food vendors (25yrs and 40yrs), a male plumber (31yrs), a female unemployed youth (27yrs), two market women (47yrs and 39yrs), a market man (37yrs), a petty female petty trader (29yrs), two male unemployed youths (23yrs and 20yrs), a male barber (27yrs), a mechanic (38yrs) and a carpenter (30yrs).

The questionnaire was administered on the grassroots people in both Local Government Areas of Rivers State. At the end of the interview, two focus group discussions were conducted comprising of not less than ten (10) persons each.

The demographics of the respondents is shown in table below:

TABLE 1.1

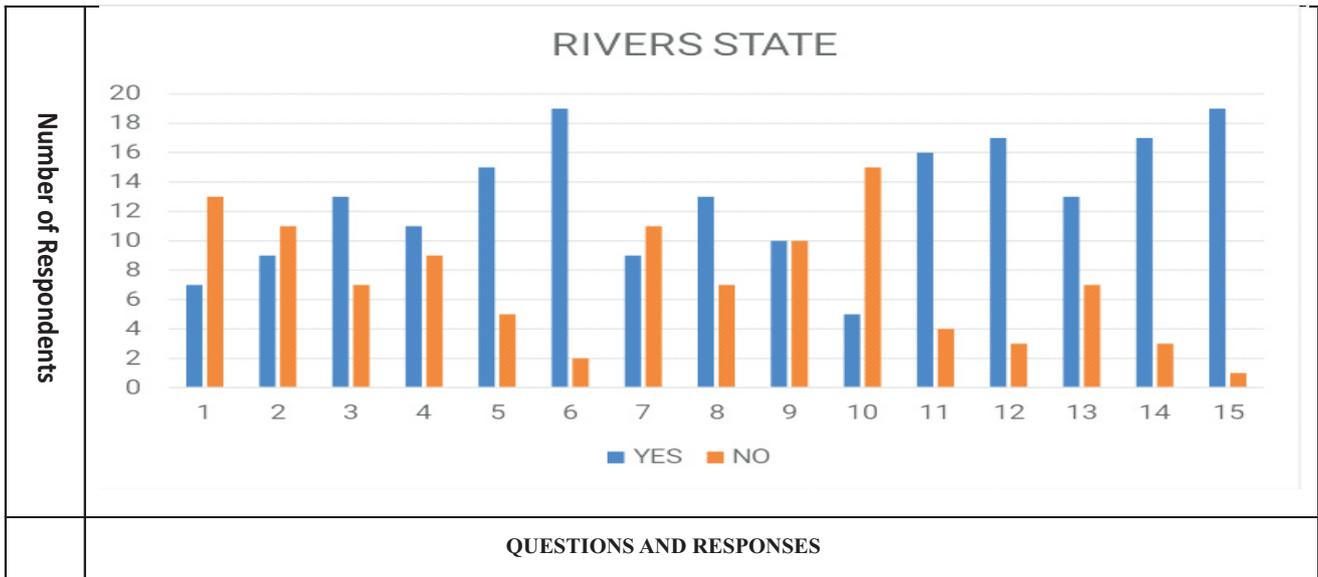
S/N	OCCUPATION	AGE	SEX
1.	Babber	27	Male
2.	Food vendor	40	Female
3.	Market woman	47	Female
4.	Unemployed youth	23	Male
5.	Petty trader	29	Female
6.	Farmer	40	Female
7.	Photographer	31	Male
8.	Physically challenged person	27	Male
9.	Fashion designer	35	Female
10.	Hair dresser	25	Female
11.	Carpenter	40	Male
12.	Plumber	31	Male
13.	Market woman	39	Female
14.	Market man	37	Male
15.	Physical challenged	25	Male
16.	Unemployed youth	20	Male
17.	Fashion Design	35	Female
18.	Food vendor	25	Female
19.	Unemployed youth	27	Female
20.	Mechanic	38	Male

### Analysis and Discussions

The results are presented in the bar chart below.

According to the result presented in the bar chart below, 30% of the respondents (7 respondents only) had heard about the SDGs while great majority (70%) had not heard about SDGs in Rivers State. There is a low community knowledge of the SGDs. That means the government and NGOs need to do more in creating awareness on SDGs and therefore more sensitization needed to be done. According to Q2, 60% of these respondents as against 40% agreed to have had a poor socio-economic condition compared to the last 5 years. This suggests that the bad socio-economic condition of the country is trickling down to people in the Rivers State.

Referring to Q3, 70% (13 respondents) of the respondents were disappointed on government over not being invited by the government to any meeting bothering on development as citizens. This is an indication of the government not having the citizens in mind negating the mantra of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, Leave No One Behind. However, there seems to be an improvement in government's benefiting the citizens on some social benefits. According to Q4 presented in the bar chart above, 11 respondents (60%) indicated that they were beneficiaries of the National Social Safety Nets in the last five years, though government has to involve more Community members in National Social Safety Nets in Rivers State.



Question 5 focuses on provision of any government's health facility close to the respondents. With regards to government's health facility, 15 respondents (70%) indicated that they had access to government's health facility close to their homes while barely 5 respondents disagreed. Governments should not rest on their oars, in any case, because not all the citizens in River State were beneficiaries of health facilities.

Teachers' strikes have been a recurring decimal in the history of the state and be extension many states in Nigeria. According to Q6 as presented in the bar chart above, 99% (19 persons) of the respondents had witnessed or heard of teachers' strikes actions in the last two years. This has some negative implications for the quality of education in Rivers State. Government should prevent further teachers' strike actions in the state.

Progress on gender equality seems to be on average performance in Rivers State. Nine out of 20 respondents agreed that women had control over land and other resources compared to men as against 11 that disagreed. This shows that women in Rivers State are to some extent independent and have control over lands and other assets.

Question 8 deals with access to clear and portable water supplied by government and private individuals, 75% (13 respondents) agreed they had access to portable clean water in the urban areas of Rivers State which is different from what obtains in the rural communities where they suffer governments' neglect. Government is therefore encouraged to provide clean and portable water in

rural areas. The citizens in the rural communities lack clean and portable water due to the environmental pollution and the saline water in those areas.

According to Q9 dealing with the scarcity of kerosene. (50%) of the respondent showed satisfaction while 50% showed dissatisfaction with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene, or its regular increase price. The 50% that was satisfied could be as a result of available alternative like domestic gas. From bar chart Q10, 80% of (15 respondents) were not satisfied with the rate of unemployment in Rivers State. This high percentage also shows that a lot of persons still live in poverty as they have no means of income at all. More job opportunities are needed in this state.

According to the bar chart above, response to Q11 showed that 16 out of 20 persons had access to at least 6 hours electricity supply to their homes. If 20% of the respondents still lack substantial provision of electricity supply, the government has to work hard in the providing adequate energy supply to the grassroots persons so as to alleviate their suffering.

From Q13, 70% (13 persons) said they were safe in the community where they stay while seven persons were not safe. However, government needs to provide more secured environment to the citizens in Rivers State. It does not mean the entire state is secure. With reference to Q14, 90% of the respondents were aware of the incidences of insecurity occasioned by Boko haram insurgents, kidnappers/abductors, killer herdsmen, cattle

rustlers in Nigeria. Government has not made effective effort in curbing insecurity in Nigeria, and lasting solution must be provided urgently.

Going by Q15, up to 19 out of 20 respondents had heard of bribery, corruption, embezzlement, misappropriation, diversion or stealing by public official. This shows the alarming rate in which corrupt practices are being perpetrated in Nigeria. The Nigeria government must make all effort in bringing this to minimal level if a meaningful development will be impacted on the country.

### Focus Group Discussions

The respondents were asked to identify some of the challenges facing them and their community. 80% of the respondents identified no access to good roads, frequent experience of armed robbery, kidnappers/abductors due to insecurity, no access to the Federal Government's National Social Safety Nets, flooding, poor school and health care facilities. This shows that government has not done much projects at the rural areas in Rivers State and there is urgent need for government and donors to carry out projects that address the human needs in Rivers State. The respondents were also calling on government to provide more jobs to the youths, good roads and empowerment opportunities for the youths as well as school and health care equipments in the rural areas of Rivers State.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Federal Government of Nigeria should employ individuals who will create more awareness on SDGs in every Local Government Area of Nigeria so as to boost popularity of the 2030 Agenda.
2. Every year, the State Government should mandate every department in the state to embark and execute projects that focus on SDGs with tangible results and monitoring.
3. Development partners and donors should focus on projects and empowerment that would address SDG 1 at the grassroots level.
4. The Civil Society Organizations should form a team of partners to address SDG 17 and the responsibilities of the partners will be to create awareness on SDGs and community projects.

- v. Since SDGs are a collective movement and responsibility, teachers need to be trained on SDG knowledge transfer to the students and the students to their parents and the communities

### CONCLUSION

The citizens at the community level are ready to welcome any development. Youth especially are willing to participate in governance if not denied the right to do so by the actions and inactions of government. Governments should aim at providing facilities that will promote good governance, infrastructural development, industrialization and innovation though provision of improved social amenities, security, access to grants and loans for the youth.

### GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT NORTHWEST: ZAMFARA AND KEBBI STATES

#### ZAMFARA STATE

#### Demography of the Respondents

The survey was carried out in Zamfara State of the northwest geo-political zone of Nigeria. The interview was conducted in two Local Government Areas namely: Talata Mafara, and Maradun Local Government areas. Involved as sample respondents were twenty persons - ten males and ten females- who were randomly selected. Further break down shows one physically challenged female person (31yrs), a female fashion designer (48yrs), a female hair dresser(28yrs), a male carpenter (46yrs), a male plumber (40yrs), a market woman (35yrs), a male farmer (45yrs), a female food vendor (29yrs), a male mechanic (28yrs), a male building labourer (25yrs), a male brick layer (46yrs), a male hotel janitor (46yrs), a female akara saller (kosai) (39yrs), a market man (48yrs), a male vulcaniser (24yrs) a female food seller (56yrs), a male recharge card seller (22yrs) a female fura da nono seller (20yrs), a female petty trader (30yrs), and a female unemployed youth (28yrs). At the end of the interview, three focus group discussions were conducted comprising of not less than twelve (12) persons each.

S/N	OCCUPATION	AGE	SEX
1.	Mechanic	28	Male
2.	Building site Laborer	25	Male
3.	Brick Layer	46	Male
4.	Food vendor	29	Female
5.	Farmer	45	Male
6.	Vulcanizer	24	Male
7.	Hotel Janitor	46	Male
8.	Petty trader	34	Female
9.	carpenter	46	Male.
10.	Physically challenged person	31	Female
11.	Fashion designer	48	Female
12.	Hair dresser	28	Female
13.	Plumber	40	Male
14.	Market woman	35	Female
15.	Market man	48	Male
16.	Unemployed youth	28	Female
17.	Recharge card seller	22	Male
18.	Fura da Nono (Fulani)	20	Female
19.	Akara Seller	39	Female
20.	Food Seller	56	Female

### Analysis and Discussions

The analysis of the result followed by discussions is as presented below.

According to the result presented in the table above, 70 percent of the respondents had never heard of SDGs. This suggests that government had not done much in creating awareness on SDGs. If none of the grassroots people had never heard of SDGs how will they be part of the planning on issues of development affecting them? Considering question 15, 12 respondents (60 percent) have lack insecurity, and have experienced while 40 percent (8 respondents) that did not have, also Considering question 11, eighteen (18) respondents (83 percent) had access to at least six-hour electricity supply as against 17

percent (2 respondents) that did not have. Governments may need to generate more energy to support our artisans like welders, hairdressers etc.

According to the result in the bar chart below, 20% (4 respondents) of the respondents had heard about the SDGs while great majority (80%) had not heard about SDGs in Talata Mafara & Maradun LGA in Zamfara State. There is a low community knowledge of the SGDs, and therefore more sensitization needed to be done. Similarly, 70% of the respondents claimed to have had a poor socio-economic condition compared to the last 5 years. This implies that the governments' programme on poverty alleviation has not taken so much root in this Talata Mafara and Maradun LGAs in Zamfara State.

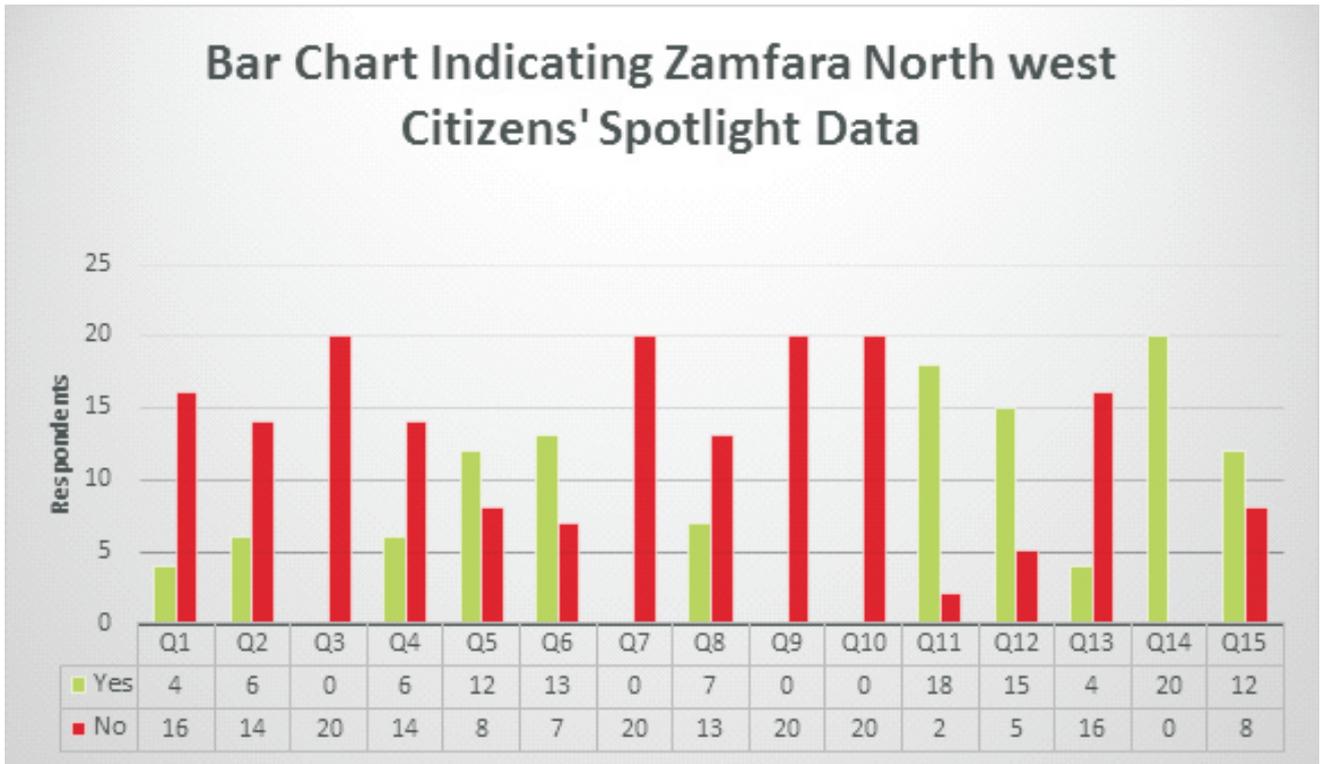


CHART 1: ZAMFARA STATE CITIZENS' SPOTLIGHT DATA

According to Q3, all the respondents (100%) were lamenting over not being invited by the government to any meeting bothering on development. This is an indication of poor partnership between the led and leaders which can still be amended. Beneficiaries of the National Social Safety Nets in the last 4 years were only 6 respondents constituting 40% of the total respondents, showing that its distribution lacks uniformity.

**Challenges and recommendations**

Among the challenges facing the respondents and the communities they resided in included: lack of Security, qualitative education, power supply and drinkable water, and insufficient equipment in the hospitals. The respondents want the governments, development partners, donors etc to bring about development to the state and the local government areas.

**General recommendations**

The federal government should provide security and jobs. The State government should provide a conducive learning environment, power supply, water, and hospitals. Donors should help give charity to the poor in the community also help rebuild schools in order for the children to have a

bright future. A number of NGOs into various aspects of community development such as community mobilization, environment, health and sanitation awareness creation, promotion of child's rights law, promotion of sexuality and reproductive health education and fight against child labour and human trafficking should help the community. Private sector should engage and support community so as to benefit from their business. Engagement not only benefits communities, it can also improve a company's decision-making, legitimacy and competitiveness – by tapping into local knowledge, reducing conflict, boosting recruitment and preventing costly delays.

**CONCLUSION**

The outcome of this study incidentally confirms the notion of age long governments' abandonment and subtle neglect being experienced by the rural and urban communities. On the average if SDGs would be attainable, people at the grassroots need more information on the SDGs aside just being furnished with the provision of basic social amenities lacking in their communities.

**KEBBI STATE****Introduction**

The questionnaire was administered to people living in both rural and urban areas of Kebbi State, in two selected LGAs namely Birnin Kebbi and Jega where 20 people were randomly selected and engaged during the exercise. 40% of people who the questionnaire was administered on lived in urban area of Birnin Kebbi while the other 60% were from rural area of Jega. 16 males and 4

females were interviewed, comprising of farmers, tailors, petty traders, hair dresser, market men/women, students, mechanic and traders. This indicates that they were the grassroots people where development is an issue. There were also two focused group discussions conducted which had in attendance of 5 and 8 persons respectively.

The demographic of the respondents is shown in table 1.1 below:

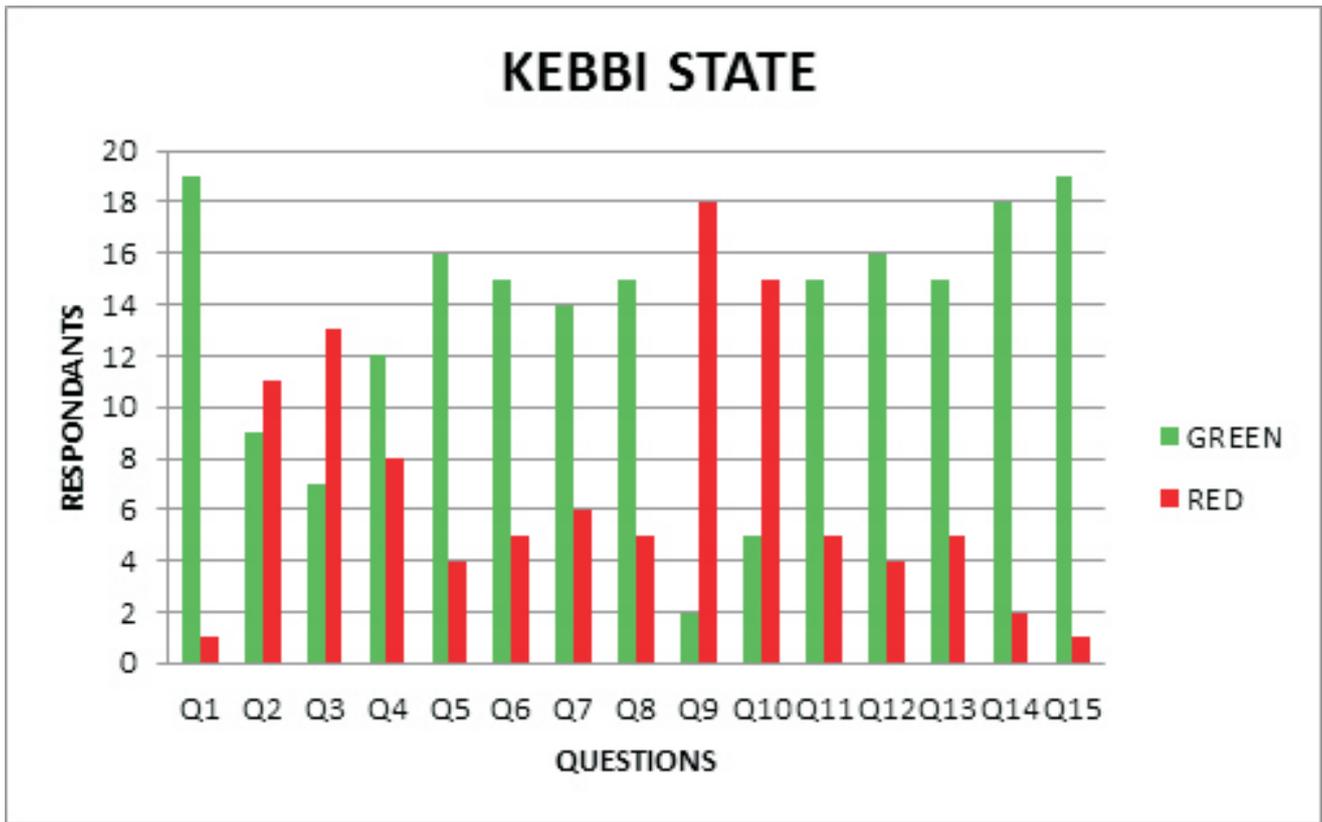
**TABLE 1.1**

SN	OCCUPATION	AGE	SEX
1.	Student	27	Male
2.	Student	25	Male
3.	Market woman	39	Female
4.	Hair dresser	25	Female
5.	Market man	28	Male
6.	Tailoring	27	Male
7.	Trader	27	Male
8.	Vegetable seller	25	Male
9.	Mechanic	34	Male
10.	Farmer	32	Male
11.	Farmer	30	Male
12.	Trader	31	Male
13.	Student	30	Male
14.	Student	20	Male
15.	Market man	26	Male
16.	Farmer	31	Male
17.	Market man	25	Male
18.	Student	25	Male
19.	Tailoring	21	Female
20.	Petty trading	29	Female

According to Q1 in the bar chart presented below, 95% of the respondents had heard about the SDGs while only 5% had not heard about SDGs in Kebbi State. While for Q2 above 55% said their socio economic condition was not better as it was in five years ago. While for the Q3, 60% of the respondents was lamenting over not being invited to any meeting dealing with the issue of development by the government. This is an indication of poor partnership between the led and leaders which can still be amended. For the Q4,

60% of the respondents had benefited from the Federal Government National Social Safety Nets in the last four years.

While for Q5, 80% of the respondents said they had a health facility close to them within a proximity of at least 2 kilometers. For Q6, 75% of the respondents had witnessed teachers' strike in the last two years while 25% had not. For the Q7, 70% of the respondents said women had control over land and other resources in the community.



According to Q8 in the above bar chart 75% had access to clean and portable water supply by the government and other partners in the community and only 25% had no access to it.

As for the Q9, 90% of the respondents were not satisfied with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene including its prohibitive price while only 10% of the respondents were satisfied with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene and its prohibitive price. This is an indication of poor supply of kerosene by the government and its partners on scarcity of kerosene to the masses.

Equally, for Q10, 70% of the respondents were not satisfied with level of unemployment rate as it affected the youth in the state and country at large. While for Q11, 70% of the respondents had at least 6 hours or more access to electricity supply in a day though through other means like portable generator. Power supply from government has been so low because fo the problem of national grid collapsing. According to the responses to Q12, 80% of the respondents said they had noticed changes in weather condition regarding the farming activities in their respective communities compared to 10 years ago which shows the effect ofSDG 13.

On the other hand in Q13, 70% of the respondents was safe and secure in their communities because security forces were doing their best in securing their lives and properties. This cannot be compared to other remote areas where soldiers do not reach most of the time. In such places, bandits and kidnappers are having a field day. While Q14, 18 (90%) out of twenty respondents had heard the incidents of security challenges facing the country by Boko haram, kidnappers, cattle rustlers, unknown gunmen IPOB etc. This shows that the country is not safe while soldiers are being encouraged to intensify efforts to rid off our country of kidnappers, armed robbers, bandits and Boko Haram. According to Q15, 95%of the respondents said had heard the issue of bribery, embezzlement, misappropriation and stealing of public funds by public official and political office holders. These issues are not new to the people even at the grassroots which calls for drastic measures against the menace.

**Focused Group Discussions**

During the focused group discussions the following were observed as the problems faced by Kebbi state people:-

1. Lack of good leadership which led to negligence by the Government officials
2. Corruption by public and political office holders
3. High rate of youth unemployment
4. Insecurity as nowhere is safe for the mass populace
5. Underutilization of skills' acquisition initiative by the government and other partners
6. Mass housing scheme by the government and other partners not accessible to the common man.
7. Lack of timely release of agricultural incentives and equipment to the farmers in some areas of the state.
8. Lack of fund for commercial farming in the state
9. Flood crisis experienced annually by riverine communities in the State.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Government and development partners need to improve on the socio-economic condition of the people to enable them meet the SDG 2030 target of leaving no one behind.
2. Government and the development partners need to have policy in place to enable citizens participate in meetings dealing with the issues of development so as to prioritize their needs accordingly.
3. Involvement of developments partner bringing more development closer to the people now more than ever.
4. Government should focus its energy on agricultural activities by providing soft loan or mechanized farming as most of its citizens depend on it.

### CONCLUSION

This survey will enable our state government to focus more on SDGs implementation in the rural areas especially on education and health care service delivery and need to put more effort to achieve the SDGs before year 2030.

Youths are willing to participate in governance if not denied the right to do so by the action and inaction of government which will promote

inclusive government and infrastructural development

This research should be administered to all the categories of people in other local government areas of the state to enable the research have wide coverage and view of the people about the SDGs 2030 implementation.

### GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT IN NORTHEAST: ADAMAWA AND YOBE STATES

#### ADAMAWA STATE

##### Introduction

This survey was carried out in two local government areas of Adamawa State of Yola North and Yola South Local Government areas. The communities that make up Yola South Local Government are Kofare, Bachure, Wauro Jabbe and Lakare, while in Yola North the Local Government communities are Clarks Quarter, Dogere, Nepa and 80 unit housing estates respectively. The situation in both local governments is quite similar. The respondents were involved in a combination of occupations as there are hair-dressers, carpenters, ingredient hawkers, provision sellers, mechanics, vulcanizers, plumbers, farmers, tailors, electricians, cobblers, mai shaye (tea) wood and charcoal sellers, and small traders among others. The ages of the respondents in both local governments ranged between 28-52 years. Out of the 20 respondents interviewed, 12 were female and 8 were men; two of the men out of the 8 were physically challenged.

The age breakdown of those interviewed is as follows: female hair dresser 32 years of age, ingredient aka gwari business woman 42years, grains business woman 52years, provision business woman 52 years, fries business woman 29 years, petty trader 48 years, tailor business woman 27years, market woman 42years, ground paste business woman 30years, dry wood and charcoal business woman 32years, farmer 43years. There was also a carpenter with 35 years of age, plumber 45, mechanic 34, vulcanizer 28years, plumber 45years, electrician 28 years, physically challenged 37years and unemployed youth 27 years of age.

**TABLE: THE DEMOGRAPHY OF THE RESPONDENTS**

S/NO	OCCUPATION	AGE	SEX
1.	Hair Dresser	32	Female
2.	Ingredient seller	42	Female
3.	Provision	52	Female
4.	Carpenter	35	Male
5.	Fries (yam and potatoes)	29	Female
6.	Plumber	45	Male
7.	Mechanic	34	Male
8.	Farmer	43	Female
9.	Vulcanizer	28	Male
10.	Petty trader	48	Female
11.	Tailor	27	Female
12.	Grains seller	52	Female
13.	Wood/charcoal seller	32	Female
14.	Market woman	42	Female
15.	Electrician	28	Male
16.	Physical challenge	38	Male
17.	Ground nut seller	30	Female
18.	Unemployed youth	27	Female
19.	Cobbler	30	Male
20.	Mai Shaye (tea seller)	28	Male

From the above, 75% of the questionnaire was administered in the rural area, whilst 15% were administered in the urban area - this included Dogere, commissioner's quarters and 80 unit housing estate of the urban area while the rural area included Wauro Jabbe, Lakare and Kofare/Bachure of Yola South Local Government Area. The analysis of this research is discussed below, and the challenges facing the communities together with suggestions and recommendations for solutions are also provided.

#### **Analysis and Discussion of Results:**

According to the results presented in the bar chart below, the response to Q1 shows that 10% (3 respondents) had heard of SDGs whilst the vast majorities (17 persons; 90%) had not heard about SDGs in Adamawa State in both local government areas, due to poor promotion of the SDGs. This shows that the government has not created sufficient awareness about the SDGs in Nigeria at the grassroots level. Therefore, there is a greater

need for more enlightenment and sensitization on SDGs so that people at the grassroots will benefit.

Question 2 deals with poor socio-economic conditions of the country. 85% of respondents stated they had very poor socio-economic conditions compared to the last five years in the country. This indicates that the government has not done enough to pay attention to the issue of socio-economic growth in Nigeria in order to bridge the socio-economic gap between urban and rural areas in the country. 70% (12) of respondents lamented not being invited to any government meetings regarding development while only 30% said they were only invited once for a meeting regarding development. This is due to reflection of insufficient awareness being made by the government. There is a need for the government to focus on the grassroots individual in their approach to bring development in the community.

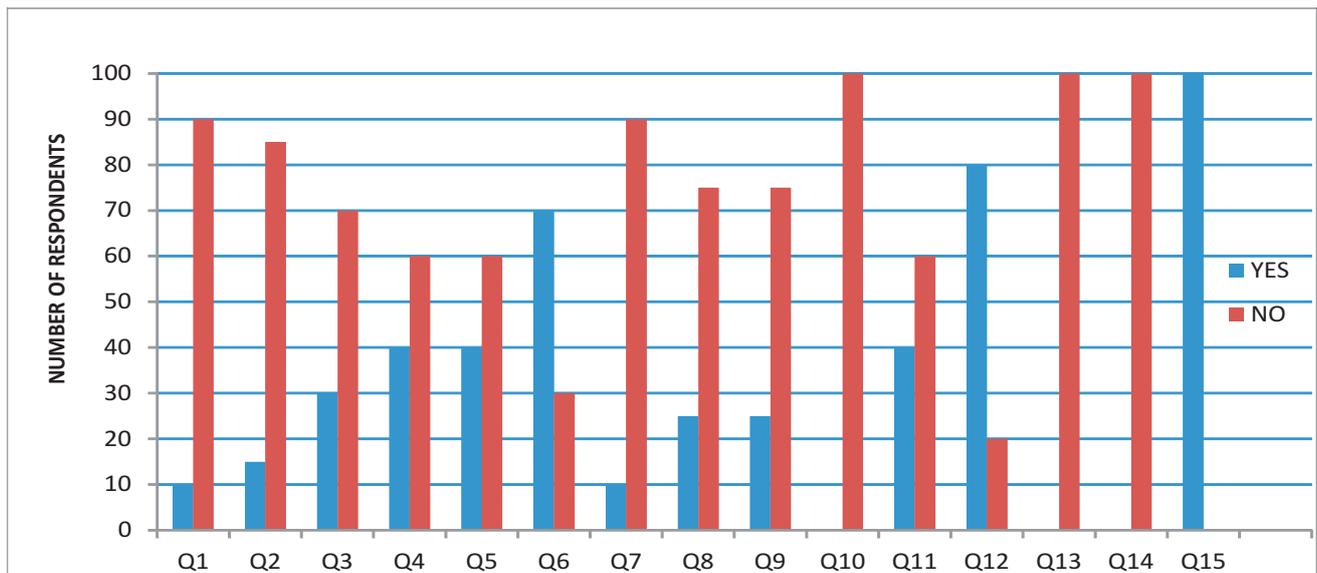
The beneficiary of national safety net in the last four years was just 40% (8 respondents) according to Q4. This shows that there is a serious lack of

communication in the communities and neglect. This is a clearer indication that the federal government may need to extend their network to reach out the vulnerable rural community and introduce equality policies.

Not good enough as 40% (8 respondents) had access to a government health facility within 2-kilometer reach to them. This analysis shows that there is an urgent need for the federal government to create more health facilities within the

community to ease tension in terms of emergency. 70% (12 respondents) said they had witnessed and hard teachers strike in the last two years going by Q6. This has a negative impact on the education system as education is the key to development. Therefore this suggests that the government should pay more attention to the welfare of teachers. Teachers play a vital role as they are meant to keep the smooth flow of children Education in the country.

**BAR CHART PRESENTING QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES IN ADAMAWA STATE**



**Figure 1** QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

According to the result presented in bar chart above, 90% (13 respondents) said women in the community don't have access to land (Q7). They are being deprived of their right and it is disheartening. There is a real need for proper sensitization on gender equality in the communities for women to have access to land and other resources when compare to men and enjoy equal participation in Nigeria.

Question 8 deals with issue of portable water in the communities as 25% (11 respondents) said they had access to portable drinking, but only few lamented that they had to travel a long distance to get portable drinking water. This suggests that the federal and or state government should provide more channel of getting portable water in the community because water is life.

Kerosene, the commodity of the poor, is scarce in Adamawa. 75% of the respondents did not have

access to kerosene and this is as a direct result of the high price of kerosene. The government should act fast in price reduction because the poor in communities are suffering a great deal during the rainy season the ground get wet and is hard to use firewood. Q10 focuses on the issue of unemployment. All (100%) of the respondents were not satisfied with the rate of unemployment in the country. Every year many more students graduate and the number of unemployed youths increase exponentially. The situation is getting harder to control. This indicates that government should provide job opportunities for the youth and provide greater economic security in the country for both urban and rural dwellers

Electricity is obviously a challenge not only in Adamawa State but also in Nigeria. Only 40% (8 respondents) had access to electricity, while majority (60%) said electricity had become a very disturbing issue. They only have access to it 3

times a week. Lack of constant electricity can also add to poverty situation in the community as some of the business such as welding, barbing, and radio technicians among others can't survive without electricity. People operate high cost when using generating plants.

Q12 focuses on issue of changing weather conditions. 80% of respondents affirmed that the weather has changed drastically. This climate change and global warming have drastically affected their farmland. Their land is drier due to the lack of regular rainfalls. There is a need for the government to introduce dry season farming and empower the community with inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, and water pumping machine this alone can engage the farmers throughout the year and there will no hunger case.

According to Q13 and Q14 on the issue of security, all the respondents (100%) said the country is no longer safe with the rate of insecurity everywhere, resulting in kidnapping, banditry, including from the herds men while 80% said they had truly suffered from the terrorist group, Boko Haram and were deeply concerned for their lives. The Government should act fast to provide adequate security to its people and also there is a need for the Government to take proper action to investigate the people behind sponsoring the dreaded groups.

All the respondents (100%) claimed to have heard about cases of bribery, corruption and other various forms of embezzlement. This wide-spread corruption in the country is deep rooted and is ruining the country. There is a need for the government to straighten its agency that fights corruption in the country such as EFCC and ICPC among others

### **FGD: Challenges and Recommendations**

According to the respondent interviewed in the two local governments, the respondents in the communities lamented bitterly that their challenges were many. Few among these were:

insecurity due to fulani cattle herders destroying farmland, access to good water, road and drainages, lack of job opportunities, involving women in community development, rape cases of gender base violence, lack of access good portable water, youth empowerment programs, power supply, difficulty in accessing government

programs, youth unemployment, government not supporting teachers, intimidation by the government task collectors, lack of industries, lack of affordable education, and difficulties in getting grant from agaric bank and other government related loans.

The FGD participants listed the following as measures to help the communities: an awareness campaign; NGOs should be funded to continue where the government is inadequate/unsupportive; give equal opportunities to women, because they can do better work; create more job opportunities; government should tackle the issue of insecurity in the communities; provide portable and affordable drinking water; empower the youth with skills and acquisitions; government should create proper roads and drainages to avoid flooding; non-governmental organizations and other government agencies should provide electricity; Others are: girl child should be given equal opportunities and be protected from rape and molestation in the community; government policy should be reviewed in order meet up with the poor economic situation; and government should provide solar panels to facilitate street lights.

### **CONCLUSION**

The outcome of this research study has indicated the abject situation our communities have been. Government should pay more attention to especially rural communities so as to stem rural-urban drift and social vices bedeviling the state and Nigeria at large. There is an urgent need of development, especially in the northern communities in both urban and rural areas where people are seriously lacking basic amenities. Carrying citizens at the grassroots along is important in all plan and activities of government so as to ensure nobody is left behind in order to achieve SDGs by 2030. More information on the SDGs is needed while partnership engagement including the stakeholders like community leaders, religious is also important.

Needed are decent roads, portable drinking water, drainages, electricity, public schools and good social amenities. Furthermore, there is a terrible need for youth in the rural and urban areas to be allowed to participate in governance and this should not be denied.

This research has served as an eye opener to the respondents and the communities at large. The questionnaire really enlightened them and they were all keen to know more about future developments and how to access opportunities and be a part of this future discussion. Adamawa respondents opined that SDG is a good program and there is a need to keep enlightening people, especially in the northern part of Nigeria where western education is weak.

## YOBE

### Introduction

As this is the sixth year of the implementation of the SDGs across the UN member states, it is of great necessity that the level of its implementation be critically analyzed as the decade of acceleration counts down. This survey achieved the spotlight review of the implementation of the SDGs in Yobe state Nigeria as at 2021. The survey was carried out

in Damaturu, Yobe State. Research instrument was administered on respondents of three different communities in Nassarawa, Katarko and Ali marami. They were asked questions based on the research instrument before they were engaged in a focused group discussion in groups. The selection of respondents was randomly done which at end resulted to a total of 20 respondents consisting of 13 males (65% of respondents in all) and 7 females (35% respondents in all).

It was adequately monitored such that intention of the responses being genuine and sincere was maintained it was indeed a spotlight survey. The result of this research is precise and can be used to generalize the level of implementation of the SDGs in Northeast zone of Nigeria. Without mincing words, we are still far from where we are going as regards the 2030 agenda.

### Respondents

The demographics of the respondent are given in the table below:

S/N	OCCUPATION	AGE	GENDER
1.	Mechanic	38	Male
2.	Unemployment Youth	25	Female
3.	Welder	40	Male
4.	Satellite dish installer	34	Male
5.	Hospital Janitor	26	Female
6.	Hair Dresser	21	Female
7.	Petty trader	29	Female
8.	Unemployed Youth	23	Male
9.	Farmer	45	Male
10.	Dry Cleaner	22	Male
11.	Tailor	26	Female
12.	Painter	31	Male
13.	Taxi Driver	51	Male
14.	Tailor	28	Female
15.	Electrician	31	Male
16.	Plumber	30	Male
17.	Unemployed Youth	27	Female
18.	Electrician	40	Male
19.	Farmer	38	Male
20.	Tailor	24	Male

**Findings**

Referring to the bar chart below, the first question (Q1) shows that 95% (19 of 20 responses) of the respondents had never heard of SDGs. Only one person amongst all the 20 respondents was aware of the SDGs. The knowledge of the SDGs is really lacking in the community and this calls for more awareness and sensitization on the SDGs and its implementation. The second question indicates that 14 out of 20 responses (70% in all) gave a “No” response to their socioeconomic condition being better than it was 5 years ago. However, 7 of the 20 respondents (30% of the responses) gave a “yes” to a better socio-economic condition than 5 years ago. It can be inferred that the socio economic condition of the community is not getting better as expected.

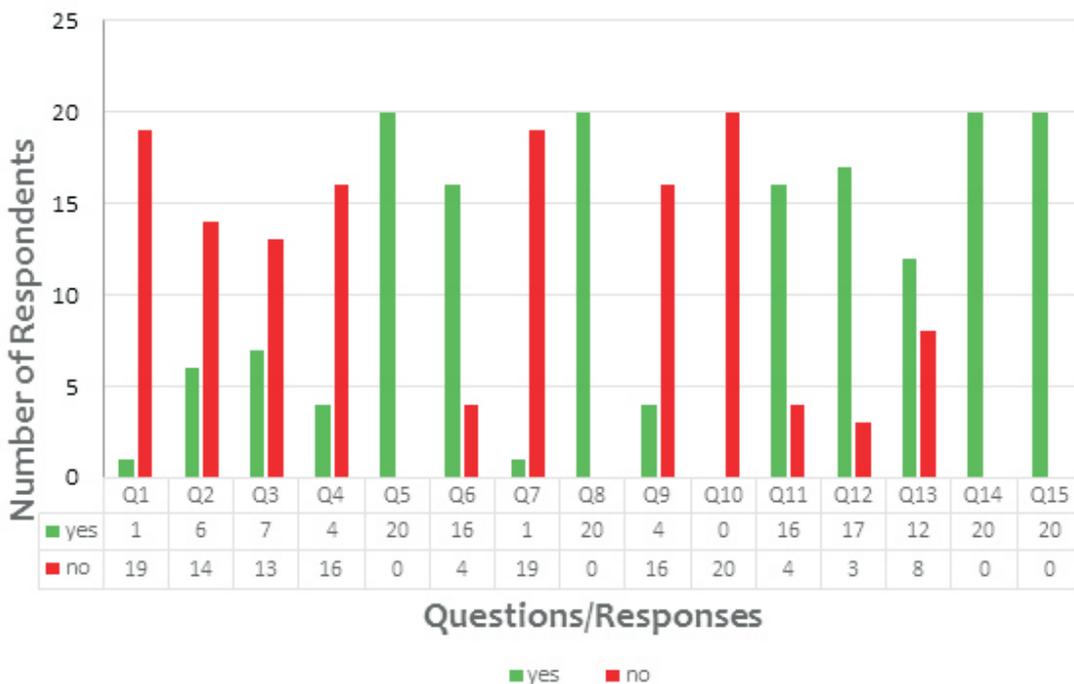
From the Q3 bar, it can be seen that only 7 out of the 20 (35% in all) respondents had been invited by the governments to meetings on issues regarding their communal development while the remaining 13 respondents had not been invited. Can we leave anyone behind? No! The fourth bar (Q4) indicates that 16 out of 20 respondents (70%) had never benefitted from the federal government's National Social Safety Nets in the last four years against a mere 4 of the 20 respondents attested to have benefitted from the programme. From the fifth bar (Q5), all the respondents (100 percent) attested that they had a government health care facility within

two kilometers' reach that they patronized. The government has done well with providing health facilities in the community, and this is encouraging.

Considering Q6 presented in bar chart below, 80% (16 responses) of the respondents had witnessed or heard of teachers' strike in the last two years while 20% of the respondents (4 persons) had not witnessed or heard of teachers' strike in the last two years. Perhaps the four persons need more understanding on what constitute a strike action because 16 persons cannot be deaf or blind to strike actions across the country. The educational system needs to be adequately catered for to avoid incessant teachers' strike. Q7 shows that 19 out of the 20 respondents attested that men in Yobe had more control over land and other resources more than women. Gender equity needs to be adequately looked into.

The 8<sup>th</sup> bar indicates that all the respondents (100%) had access to clear and portable water in their areas. Kudos to the government and NGOs for providing clear and portable water in these communities. However, according to Q9, 16 of the 20 respondents expressed their dissatisfaction with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene including its prohibitive price, while 30% of the responses (4 out of 20) indicated satisfaction with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene including its prohibitive price.

**YOBE STATE GRASSROOT SPOTLIGHT REPORT**



Considering the 10<sup>th</sup> bar as presented above, it shows that all the respondents (100%) signified their dissatisfaction with the unemployment rate as it largely affected the youths in the state. The government must act fast on the issue of unemployment as this is a fast means to underdevelopment in the state. Q11 shows that 16 out of 20 respondents had access to at least 6 hours electricity supply daily, while 4 of the 20 respondents said that they did not. This is also an indication of energy deficient in Yobe State.

The 12<sup>th</sup> bar indicates that 17 of the 20 respondents had noticed unusual changes in the weather condition affecting farming activities in their communities compared to 10 years ago while only 3 respondents gave a negative response. It's normal as people might have acute knowledge of climate change while they attribute climate change to the act of God. The huge gap in opinion shows that the weather condition in the communities is going bad and this must be prevented accordingly.

The thirteenth bar (Q13) shows that 12 of the 20 respondents (60% of the responses) attested that they were not safe and secure in the community where they resided while 40% of the respondents claimed safety and security. Security is a seriously threat in these communities because some cannot go to their farms again because of fear of killer herdsmen and boko haram. Q14, in relation to Q13, indicates that all respondents 100% claimed to have heard of incidences of insecurity occasioned by Boko haram insurgents, kidnappers/abductors, killer herdsmen, cattle rustlers etc. Insecurity has permeated into the system and has become a major source of fear to the people. Corruption and other systemic vices are common also. The last bar (Q15) shows that all the respondents had heard of bribery, corruption, embezzlement, misappropriation, diversion and

stealing by public officials. These atrocities being perpetrated by the public officials must be curbed urgently if the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be attained by 2030.

### **Recommendations**

Government should provide job opportunities for the youths to reduce the curve of unemployment. They should proffer efficient and effective solution to insecurity as urgent as possible. Government should help the farmers with irrigation implements to aid farming activities as the weather condition is not supporting rainfall for a long time while regulating the prices of essential commodities. They should give zero interest loans for agricultural purposes and small scale businesses. The Government should also implement a well-structured skill acquisition program to engage the youths in the state.

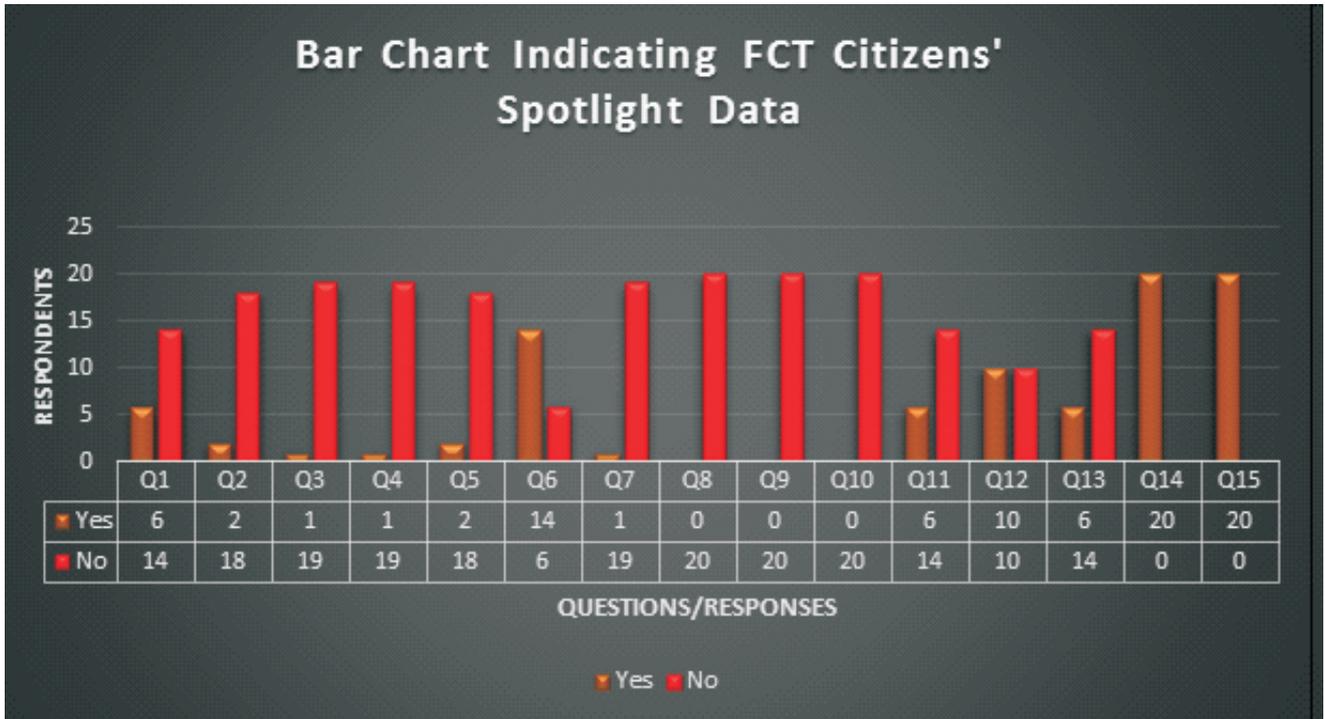
Development Partners should sponsor agricultural activities in the communities while private sector create more industries to aid job opportunities, and NGOs should sensitize the communities on child abuse and sexual abuse of girls women.

### **CONCLUSION**

At end of the grassroots spotlight research, it was clear that there is yet a very long way to go in achieving the 2030 agenda. If there will be the expected development then all hands must be on deck at bring it to reality. Government must become more drastic about the development of the communities, initiating laws and programs that will be development-driven and centered. More importantly, the issue of security is becoming a great treat to life, property even development and as such must be faced squarely and solved. All effort must be made to see that everyone is carried along in developmental efforts.

REPORT OF GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT SURVEY NORTH-CENTRAL:  
FCT, BENUE AND KOGI STATES

FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT) ABUJA



**Introduction**

The survey was carried out in one of the north-central zones: Federal Capital Territory (Abuja). The interview was conducted in two area councils of the FCT namely: Abuja Municipal Area Council (Nuwalege village) and Kuje Area Council on 20 respondents (twelve males and eight females) randomly selected. The respondents were made up of: one male Welder (39yrs), a physically challenged male (35yrs), a market woman (60yrs), a market man (40yrs), a male scavenger (27yrs), a male bricklayer (39yrs), a female street hawker

(39yrs), a female food vendor (38yrs), a carpenter (50yrs), a driver (42yrs) and 10 other individuals from both communities. At the end of the interview, some of the respondents were engaged in two focus group discussions talking about the challenges they are facing as individuals and as members of the community, and what they expect from the government and other stakeholders to do for them.

The demographics of the respondents is shown in table 1.1 below

**TABLE 1.1**

S/N	OCCUPATION	AGE	SEX
1.	Cleaner	39	F
2.	Farmer	40	F
3.	Hairdresser	33	F
4.	Plumber	33	M
5.	Laundry	34	M
6.	Tailor	26	F
7.	Driver	29	M
8.	Plumber	21	M
9.	Unemployed youth	27	F
10.	Trader	29	F
11.	Food vendor	38	F
12.	Bricklayer	39	M
13.	Scavenger	27	M
14.	Carpenter	50	M
15.	Market Man	40	M
16.	Physically Challenged	35	M
17.	Welder	39	M
18.	Barber	40	M
19.	Cobbler	28	M
20.	Market woman	60	F

### Key Findings

The bar chart below presents the results of the questionnaire administered on the twenty respondents from the two area councils in the FCT.

#### Chart 1: FCT Citizens' Spotlight Data

According to the bar chart presented above, 6 respondents (30%) had heard about the SDGs while great majority (70%) had not heard about SDGs in the FCT. This is suprising more so that FCT is the seat of the federal government. There is a poor community knowledge of the SDGs, and therefore more sensitization needs to be done. Also according to Q2, 98% of these respondents claimed to have a worse socio-economic condition compared to the last 5 years. This means that the government programmes on poverty alleviation have not taken much effect in the FCT especially peri-urban centres.

According to Q3 and Q4, 99% (19 respondents) of the respondents were lamenting over not being invited by the government to any meeting bothering on development and had never benefited

from the federal government's National Social Safety Nets including the Covid 19 palliatives in the last 4 years. These are indications of poor partnership between the followers and the leaders and lack of uniformity in the distribution of social safety nets.

With regard to the results from Q5 and Q6, it is imperative to provide more primary healthcare centres in the FCT as 98% (18 respondents) of the respondents debunked the claim to have government's health facility at least 2 kilometres' radius to their homes. Also, the quality of education in the FCT needs to be examined if about 75% of respondents could claim to have witnessed or heard of teacher's strike in the last two years. Teachers' strike, lecturers' down tools, and industrial disputes affecting other sectors are so common not only in the FCT but across the federation.

FCT needs more campaign on SDG 5 (Gender Equality) as the result from Q7 indicates a poor progress on gender equality. It is a surprise to have only one of the respondents who happens to be a

female claiming to have control over land and other resources just as men do in her community. This suggests the elitist nature of Abuja where land is not accessible to the poor let alone women.

Q9 deals with scarcity of kerosene. None of the respondents in FCT showed satisfaction with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene, or its prohibitive price. Similarly, from Q8, none of the respondents had access to clear and portable water supplied by the government or NGO. All citizens rely on source of water provided by private individuals like *aboki* (friends hawking water) which comes with a high cost of purchase. These means that the government and Civil Societies need to focus on providing such basic amenities for people of the grassroots.

According to the result presented for Q10, the rate of unemployment is a great burden in the heart of the respondents in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. All (100%) of the respondents were not satisfied with the rate of unemployment. According to the focus group discussion, the respondents claimed that there were numerous job vacancies being advertised but the children of the rich and the affluent who aren't qualified for these jobs end up getting the slots as nepotism has become the order of the day.

Considering Q11, 6 respondents (30 percent) had access to at least six-hour electricity supply as against 70 percent (14 respondents) that did not have. This also suggests that power outage has no regard for Abuja, the capital of Nigeria. Governments may need to generate more energy to support our artisans like electronic repairers, welders, hairdressers, barbers, etc. in order to cushion the effect of poverty biting hard on them already.

From Q12, half of the respondents agreed to having observed unusual changes in weather conditions which has been adversely affecting farming activities in their community compared to 10 years ago. This means they need to know more about SDG13, the causes and prevention of climate change. Knowing about climate change would help them know how to plan to adapt to the effect of the climate change in their farming activities.

It is obvious nowhere is safe in Nigeria. Commonplace are book haram, bandits, killer herdsmen, rapists, armed robbers etc. Q13 focuses on the issue of insecurity. 80% of the respondents could confidently claim that there was no safety and

security in their communities. While looking at the results from questions 14 and 15, it is clear that all the respondents are aware of the mishaps going on in the country while a number of them have been a direct or indirect victim of the insecurity and corrupt practices going on in their country.

### FGD and recommendations

During the focus group discussion with some of the respondents, fully discussed were some of the challenges facing them as individuals and as a community. Some of the challenges include: fear of demolition of their houses; insecurity; unavailability of jobs; nepotism; and lack of basic amenities like water, light and good road around their communities

The Nigerian citizens in Abuja want: easy access to loan with low or no interest rates; education scholarships; provision of employment opportunity without nepotism; good security; empowerment of farmers and youths; and monthly social security for the old and the unemployed

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is evident that the 2030 agenda has not been making much impact on the grassroots people in the FCT. This is so sad as a large number of them can't assess governments' performance on plans, programmes and policies affecting them. It is important that more sensitization on the SDGs should be made in order for these people to know their rights and live in a Nigeria of their dreams.

### BENUE STATE

#### Introduction

The 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted unanimously by UN Member states in September 2015 comprehensively addresses major global problems such as, accelerating global warming, growing inequalities, poverty, gender-based discrimination, violence and conflict, and the structural flaws of the global economic and financial systems. No country can deem itself to have sustainably developed and having already done its part to meet the SDGs. Hence the need for Nigeria to play its part in achieving the 2030 Agenda through the goals highlighted in this tool, and it requires people at all levels to be considered in the planning and implementation of this agenda.

This has necessitated the need to regularly monitor and assess the implementation of the new agenda and the structural obstacles in its realization and to present annual spotlight report on decision makers and beneficiaries of programs and policies of various levels of government. It is therefore sacrosanct to engage citizens, especially those at the grassroots about the impacts and outcomes of the program.

### Methodology

The survey was carried out in two local governments of Benue State; Makurdi local government and Gwer West local government. This consists of the urban and rural areas respectively. The interview was conducted

in three settlements of Makurdi local government namely: high level, Kanshio and Idye village on 10 respondents (five males and five females) randomly selected and made up of a male panel beater (45 yrs), a male building site labourer (47 yrs), a male cobbler (28 yrs), a male carpenter (42 yrs), a male barber (33 yrs), a hotel janitor (37 yrs), a female tailor (39 yrs), a female hair dresser (25 yrs), a female petty trader (46 yrs) and an unemployed youth (21 yrs). At the end of the interview, three focus group discussions were conducted.

The demographics of the respondents is shown in table 1.1 below

**TABLE 1.1**

S/N	OCCUPATION	AGE	SEX
1.	Tailor	39	Female
2.	Welder	50	Male
3.	Barber	33	Male
4.	Hair dresser	25	Female
5.	Carpenter	42	Male
6.	Plumber	35	Male
7.	Cobbler	28	Male
8.	Generator mechanic	38	Male
9.	Building site laborer	47	Male
10.	Panel beater	45	Male
11.	Food vendor	49	Female
12.	Market woman	53	Female
13.	Farmer	55	Female
14.	Unemployed youth	21	Female
15.	Physically challenged	40	Male
16.	Petty trader	46	Female
17.	Market man	32	Male
18.	Vulcanizer	40	Male
19.	Hotel janitor	37	Female
20.	Brick layer	55	Male

The questionnaire was administered on the grassroots people in both rural and urban areas of Benue state; 50% if the questionnaire was administered in urban areas while 50% was in rural areas. The first set of questionnaire for urban areas of Makurdi local government; those include High Level, Idye and Kanshio. Another set of similar interview was conducted in three areas of the Gwer west local government namely: Ikpayongo, Igbor and Mase on 10 respondents (five males and five females) randomly selected from the communities. For the two interviews, there were 10 respondents from each local governments or settlements making a total of 20 respondents; 13 males and 7 females. At the end of the interview, three focus group discussions were conducted.

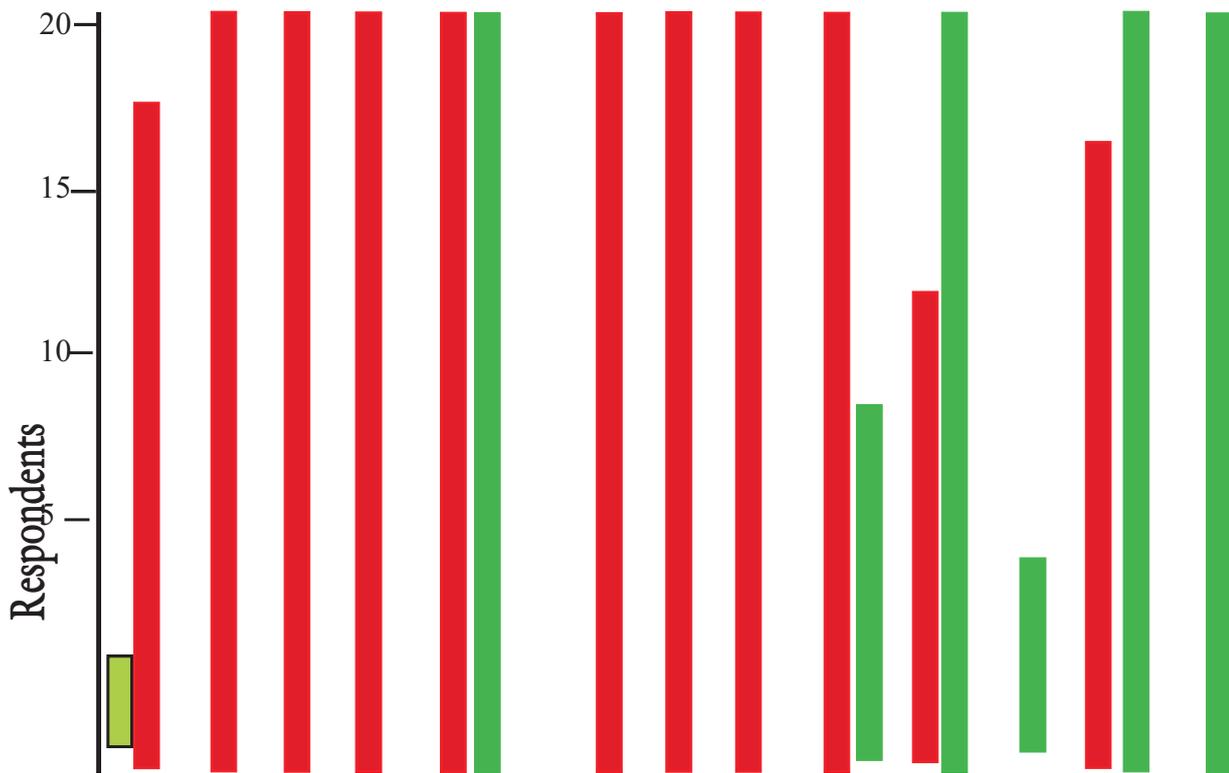
**Analysis and Discussion**

According to the result presented for question 1 (Q1) in the bar chart below, 17% of the respondents (just 3 respondents) had heard about the SDGs

while a greater majority (85%) had not heard about SDGs in Benue State. That is to say there is very low community knowledge of the SDGs and therefore more sensitization needs to be made.

Similarly according to Q2, all 20 respondents (100%) claimed they had poor socio-economic condition compared to the past 5 years. 100% (20 respondents) of the respondents had not been invited for any development meeting by the government, according to Q3. For response to Q4, also 100% (20 respondents) of the respondents had not benefited from the federal governments' National Social Safety Nets in the last 4 years. According to Q5, all the 20 respondents (100%) had no government health facility that is at least 2 kilometers close. This implies that government programs, interventions and projects have not been able to reach the grassroots in Benue state which is very pathetic.

The bar chart result for Benue State is as presented below:



	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15
Yes	3	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	9	20	4	20	20
No	17	20	20	20	20	0	20	20	20	20	11	0	16	0	0

Questions/Responses

According Q6, and Q7, all the 20 respondents (100%) of the respondents have all witnessed teachers' strike in the last 2 years and they all also agreed that women did not have right to land and other resources within the community.

100% (20 respondents) of the respondents lamented that they did not have portable water in their areas supplied by any government or NGO (Q8). Likewise according to Q9, 100% (20 respondents) of the respondents also complained about scarcity of kerosene and the prohibitive price. Q10, 100% (20 respondents) of the respondents complained of the unemployment rate in society which affects the youths in the state. For Q11, 40% (9 respondents) of the respondents said they had access to 6-hours electricity daily while 60% (11 respondents) of the respondents said they had no access to 6-hour electricity daily. This is to say that more efforts need to be made for even distribution and power availability.

Responding to Q12, 100% of respondents expressed their worry as there had been changes in the weather condition compared to 10 years ago and it was affecting farmers. While in Q13 20% (4 respondents) of the respondents said they felt safe and secure in their community 80% of the respondents said they were not safe nor secure due to the security threats. Lastly, 100% (20 respondents) of the respondents answered yes to Q 14 and Q 15, saying it is the most reason why the country is not going forward and there has been hardship for them at the grass root.

### **Recommendations**

Federal government needs to improve on the sensitization of SDGs and its programmes. They should show more diligence in distribution of projects and intervention programmes to the grass roots and improve on power supply for the urban and rural dwellers including portable water supply.

State government should do more collaboration and assist the federal government in executing projects, even distribution of programmes, loans and trainings for the grassroots, and provide portable water supply.

NGOs should carryout proper and unbiased research, distribute resources appropriately and effectively, propose projects that would help the rural dwellers in the community.

Security operations should act swiftly on any intelligence gotten, to await the level of insecurity

affecting the rural and urban dwellers as observed in the chart above.

### **CONCLUSION**

The SDGs is a program that seeks to address so many prevailing issues faced by the citizens of Nigeria. If SDGs are properly executed so many challenges would be addressed to avoid future collateral damage. It is imperative to carry this project to the rural dwellers and non-literate who are the most vulnerable in the society.

This research has been able to spot the challenges been faced by the indigenes of Benue state mostly those at the grassroots. It has also stated possible solutions that if taken, the conditions of the people, economy, society and the ecosystem would be improved beyond 50%. One wonders that until now there is little or no knowledge about the SDGs at the urban and rural areas of Benue state with 2030 fast approaching. It is our hope that if such research is carried out again in future we would see great improvements.

### **KOGI STATE**

#### **Introduction**

The Survey was carried out in the communities (Ogori and Magongo) where 10 respondents each were randomly selected from both communities making a total number of 20 respondents each including male and female. Some of the selected respondents were male mechanic (46 years), a female petty trader (53 years), a male vulcanizer (37 years), a female fashion designer (40 years), a female food – vendor (37 years), a senior citizen (72 years) and a physically challenged person (36 years) etc. At the end of the interview two focus group discussions were conducted comprising of not less than ten (10) persons – five for each group.

The questionnaire was administered on the grassroots people in a rural area of both Ogori and Magongo community in Kogi State. 50% of the questionnaire was administered in Ogori and 50% was also administered in Magongo. There were 10 respondents from each community making a total of 20 respondents. Five males and five females were randomly selected from Ogori community and also, five males and five females randomly selected from Magongo.

The Demographics of the respondents is shown in table 1.1 below:

S/N	OCCUPATION	AGE	SEX
1.	Farmer	32	Male
2.	Petty Trader	53	Female
3.	Mechanic	46	Male
4.	Carpenter	49	Male
5.	Fashion Designer	40	Female
6.	Vulcanizer	37	Male
7.	Tailor	29	Female
8.	Food Vendor	37	Female
9.	Petty trader	33	Female
10.	Mechanic	44	Male
11.	Brick layer	36	Male
12.	Driver	42	Male
13.	Hair dresser	48	Female
14.	Market Woman	37	Female
15.	Brick layer	39	Male
16.	Unemployed Youth	26	Male
17.	Senior Citizen	72	Female
18.	Physically Challenged	36	Female
19.	Petty trade	50	Female
20.	Senior Citizen	66	Male

The result is as presented below:

The result from the interview after random selection and administration of questionnaire is presented in the bar chart below:

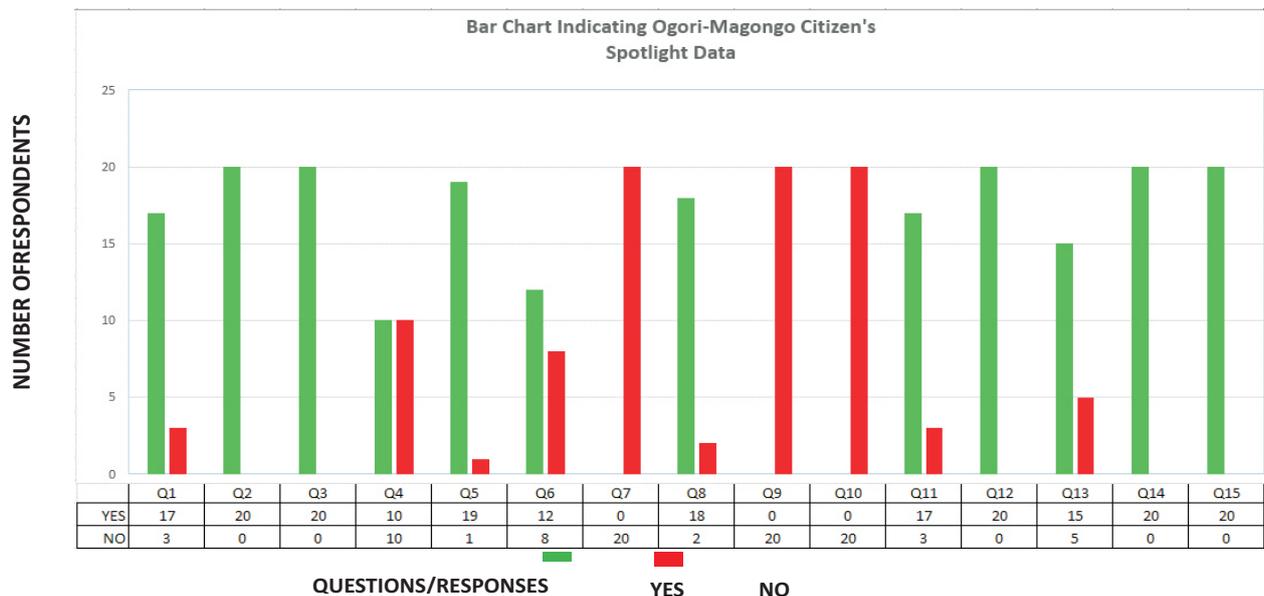


Chart 1: Ogori-Magongo Citizens' Spotlight Data

According to the result presented in the bar chart above, for Q1, 85% (17 respondents) of the respondents had heard about the SDGs while 15% (3 respondents) had not heard anything about SDGs in Kogi State as at the time of the survey. There is high community knowledge in SDGs and therefore only little sensitization is needed to be done about the goal and motives of SDGs.

Unfortunately, according to Q2, 100% (20 respondents) confidently claimed to have had a poor socio-economic condition compared to the last 5 years. This implies that the government programme on poverty alleviation has not taken so many roots in Kogi State. According to Q3, 100% (all respondents) were lamenting over not being invited by the government to any meeting bothering on development. This is an indication of poor partnership between the led and the leaders which can still be amended. According to Q4, beneficiaries of the national social safety nets in the last 4 years were 50% (10 respondents) and also 50% (10 respondents) claimed not to have benefited from the Federal Government Safety Net which is also an indication that the distribution relatively lacks proper uniformity.

According to Q5, almost all the respondents (95%; 19 respondents) claimed that there was government health facility that is at least 2 kilometers close to them that they often patronize while only one person claimed that there was a health facility nearby. This bothers on SDG - quality health and well being. One wonders the deplorable condition and health status of the people of these two communities!

According to Q6, 60% (12 respondents) had heard of teachers' strike in the last two years while 40% (8 respondents) claimed not to have heard about teachers strike in the last two years in Kogi State. It is not surprising that some people still didn't hear about teachers' strike because the two communities are rural communities that may not know what is going on the larger society. Therefore, there is need for government to show more concern about the welfare of teachers in Kogi State.

According to Q7, 100% (all respondents) claimed that women do not have control over land and other natural resources compared to men in the community. This implies that there is a low sensitization about gender equality in the

communities. According to Q8, 90% (18 respondents) claimed to have access to clear portable water supplied by government and some NGO while 10% (2 respondents) are lamenting over poor access to water within their domain. However, according to Q9, all the respondents are not satisfied with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene including its prohibitive price. Therefore, the government needs to act fast about the grief of Ogori – Magongo citizens concerning the scarcity of Kerosene and its escalated prices.

Youth unemployment is common in Kogi State especially in rural communities making many youth seek succour in urban centres of the State. According to Q10, 100% (all the 20 respondents) are not satisfied with the unemployment rate as it affects the youth in Kogi State. Therefore, the government should embark on suitable sustainable policies to curb the rate of unemployment in Kogi State.

According to Q11, 85% (17 respondents) had access to at least six (6) hours electricity supply daily while 15% (3 respondents) claimed not to have access to it. Therefore, the government should embark on moderating the power supply agency through Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) so that everyone can enjoy full electricity. Going by result presented in the bar chart, according to Q12, 100% (all respondents) had been noticing unusual weather condition affecting farming activities in the communities compared to 10 years ago. This is the effect of climate change that the poor farmers and citizens may not understand how it works.

According to Q13, 100% (all the respondents) attest to the fact that they were safe and secured in the community where they reside. Reason for this is that they are small communities where they could easily monitor the security situation. That does not suggest that there are no security challenges in Ogori and Magongo. According to Q14, 100% (all the respondents) claim that they have heard so many incidences of insecurity occasioned by Boko haram insurgent, kidnappers, killer herdsmen and cattle rustlers but none has reached their peaceful communities. However, community people appreciate corruption and other vices. According to Q15, all the respondents claimed to have heard about bribery, corruption, embezzlement, misappropriation, diversion, and stealing by public

officials. Which implies the rate of corruption among public officials is not only limited to urban areas but rural areas also feel the pang..

#### **CHALLENGES:**

The major challenges lamented by majority of the respondents are the wide communication gap between members of the community and their political leaders. Both communities have suffered neglect in the past concerning every viable decision making that deals with rural development in the past. During the focus group discussion, the respondent made it clear that their major demand is therefore calling on governments, development partners, donors, NGOs and other stakeholders to help them tackle the issue of unemployment while grant-in-aid should be given to at artisans in the community in order to improve their socio-economic wellbeing.

The people in the Ogori – Magongo community should be allowed to participate in the government decision to enable them make proper submission of their socio - economic plight. There should be

strong political will from both the leaders and the led, so that government will be willing to fight impediment that tends to affect rural transformation through SDGs. On the other hand, rural communities should be sensitive to the motives, goals and aspiration of SDG which will enable them possess an educated sense of responsibility in public affairs.

#### **CONCLUSION**

There is no significant and perfect line of communication especially in vital decision making between the political elites in Ogori-Magongo and it immediate populace. Less attention was being paid to the rising rate of unemployment and also the socio-economic wellbeing of the people in the rural community. The attainment of sustainable Development Goals SDGs in Ogori Magongo Local Government of Kogi State could be measured as an ongoing process while there are bounds to be ups and downs along the paths towards the achievement of developmental goals and objective.

## APPENDIX:

### 1. SAMPLES OF INSTRUMENTS USED FOR 2021 SPOTLIGHT SURVEY

#### (A) Questionnaire on Grassroots Spotlight

<b>CSCSD QUESTIONNAIRE ON GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT REPORT ON SDGs 2021</b>				
<p>Instructions: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are often called the people's goals. Government institutions seeking to achieve the SDGs need to engage with citizens, listen to them and mobilise them into action. Understanding what different constituencies know and think about the SDGs is a crucial starting point. This document presents selected results from the international surveys on the SDGs. The results underline how much work lies ahead for SDG advocates. They also reveal the gaps in our knowledge about public attitudes to the SDGs.</p>				
<b>Section A</b>				
Name of Researcher _____		State: _____		
Name of Respondent _____		Sex _____	Age _____	
Occupation/Trade/Profession _____		Village/Town/City _____		
Local Government Area _____		State _____		
<b>Section B</b>				
S.No	Indicators: Scoring Yes for Green=Progress; No for Red= No progress (to be used during analysis)	Yes	No	Spotlight
1.	Have you heard of SDGs before?			
2.	Is your socio-economic condition better than it was five years ago?			
3.	Were you ever been invited to a meeting dealing with the issue of development by any government?			
4.	Have you benefited from the federal government's National Social Safety Nets in the last 4 years?			
5.	Is there any government's health facility at least 2 kilometres close to you that you patronise?			
6.	Have you witnessed or heard of teachers' strike in the last two years?			
7.	Do women have control over land and other resources compared to men in your community?			
8.	Do you have access to clear and portable water in your area supplied by government or NGO?			
9.	Are you satisfied with the prolonged scarcity of kerosene including its prohibitive price?			
10.	Are you satisfied with the unemployment rate as it affects the youth in your state?			
11.	Do you have access to at least a 6-hour electricity supply daily?			
12.	Have you been noticing unusual changes in weather condition affecting farming activities in your community compared to 10 years ago?			
13.	Can you confidently say that you are safe and secure in the community where you reside?			
14.	Have you heard the incidences of insecurity occasioned by Boko haram insurgents, kidnappers/abductors, killer herdsmen, cattle rustlers etc?			
15.	Have you heard of any of the following: bribery, corruption, embezzlement, misappropriation, diversion, and stealing by public officials			

#### (B) Full Template of a People's Scorecard(PSC) on National Delivery of the 2030 Agenda

Country	
National CSO Coalition/focal point	
Website and/or FB link	
Name of respondent	
Contact Email	
Contact phone number	
List of Panel/Core Members	

- Introduction- about your coalition:
- Is there any CSO national platform or network focusing on the SDGs?
- If YES, is the coalition inclusive of organisations that are working on all topics of the SDGs?
- Are there national platforms that work on specific goals or targets? If YES Please list them

The Scorecard considers a number of key categories and offers an overview of the level of delivery in each area. **Please use the People's Scorecard**

**(PSC) Toolkit to assist you in organising an inclusive national dialogue process.**

The first part aims to assess the overall delivery of the 2030 Agenda, including a consideration of policies and strategies for implementation, assessment of delivery and mechanisms for engagement; including with civil society, local governments, donors and wider stakeholders in realizing the SDGs.

The second part aims to assess progress on each of the 17 SDGs in turn

**C. At the end of each section, you should agree on a score of progress: 1-5**

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	
	...	Low	Medium	High	Very high	
Scale	Very low level of commitment / achievement	Low level of commitment / achievement	Medium level of commitment / achievement	High level of commitment / achievement	Very high level of commitment / achievement	No Info Available

## A) Overview of current implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Before you finalise the scores, please consider a narrative report on the questions below for each area:

### 1. Policy Framework or Action Plan

- Does your government have a policy framework on SDG implementation? How does this relate to existing or other policy frameworks, such as national development plans, national water/transport/education plans, etc? Have there been any revisions of the existing policy frameworks in light of the policy on SDGs implementation?
- How far do you see effective policy coherence and a coordinated national SDG framework? Does the policy approach include a recognition of the inter-related nature of the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental & economic)? Is there any “cherry-picking” or do you see all SDGs are equally covered?
- Is there any parliamentary/congressional scrutiny of the framework? If so please list the relevant committee and its activity, and any policy positions developed by elected members.

### 2. National Implementation & Governance mechanism

- Which ministry (or other institution e.g. in the Prime Minister's office) is leading the planning for the domestic implementation of the SDGs in your country?
- How far is implementation already underway on the 2030 Agenda?

- Is there any clear national plan in terms of funding the delivery of the 2030 Agenda? Is the national budget in line with the 2030 Agenda? What is the role of international donors/development partners?

### 3. Progress since last VNR

- If your country is now presenting a second or subsequent VNR, how have the gaps identified in the previous VNR been addressed?
- Has there been any follow up since the previous VNR was presented?
- If “YES”, how have civil society bodies been involved in engagement since the previous VNR?

### 4. Leaving no one behind

- In your experience, how far have the poorest, most vulnerable, and those furthest behind, been a focus for the national strategy of the 2030 Agenda?
- How would you assess the opportunities for these marginalised groups to engage in setting the national priorities and in review processes?
- We are interested in learning more about groups that are marginalised in your country context, by which we mean groups of people that are more likely than others to experience poverty, exclusion, discrimination, lack of participation, or violence. Which groups of people do you understand to be the most marginalised in the country where you work? (You may choose more than one and add more if relevant in your country)

Women & Girls	
Children & young people	
Indigenous peoples	
Older persons	
Persons with disabilities	
People discriminated by caste, work and descent	
People discriminated by geographic area: eg. urban slums/rural areas	
People from the LGBTQI community	
Small scale farmers	
Ethnic & Religious minority groups	
Migrants or undocumented persons	

**5. Planetary Boundaries**

- Are there policies in place to protect the environment? In particular does the plan include sustainable management of resources (eg. water, soil, air) or Sustainable Consumption and Production?
- Is agricultural production carried out in a sustainable way (considering eg. organic farming, non-GMO, animal welfare)?
- Are investments made towards sustainable and public transport?
- Are there clear national commitments to cut CO2-emissions and move towards a just transition of energy?
- Is the country reliant on extractive industries? How are those industries behaving towards their workers and the environment? Where are the profits of those industries going?

**6. Interlinkages and mainstreaming of cross-cutting goals ('whole-of-SDGs' approach)**

- **How far have you considered the interlinkages between the different goals?**
- **Is there a holistic approach from government that connects different ministries and supports an inter-connected response?**

**7. Public Awareness**

- Is the full text of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs available in your local languages? Which language(s)? Who translated it?

- Are civil servants and policy makers in the national and sub-national governments getting more familiar with the 2030 Agenda / SDGs? If so, how? If not, why?
- Is the 2030 Agenda / SDGs getting more popular among general public? If so, how? If not, why?
- Are educational bodies and researchers actively seeking to analyse and share the SDGs?
- Are civil society organisations using the 2030 Agenda for framing their work?

**8. Localizing the SDGs (sub-national level)**

- Are sub-national or local governments (state, province, district, municipality, town, village, etc.) in your country actively engaged in the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs? If so, how? If not, why?
- Are there sub-national / local governments that have developed sub-national action plans on SDGs?
- Is there any voluntary local review (VLR) initiative or mechanism about SDGs in your country?
- Give good examples of local implementation and monitoring

**9. Multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement**

- What is the engagement of stakeholders in the national implementation plan? Is there a broad partnership across sectors for implementation?

- How would you assess the partnership among different actors, is there mutual accountability? Have any challenges or opportunities been identified in terms of broader partnerships?
- 10. Data, monitoring and accountability mechanisms**
- Is there progress on bringing together evidence with disaggregated data to demonstrate progress in your country? What data is disaggregated?
  - Has civil society been invited to supply and/or review evidence and data 'disaggregated by income, gender, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts' - If YES please provide details
  - Has your government invited CSO representatives to be a member of its delegation to participate in the HLPF and/or make a presentation at the VNR?
  - If “YES”, has your government provided financial support for this participation?
- 11. Civic space and engagement / citizen participation and CSOs**
- Have you had a regular policy dialogue with relevant government ministries during the preparation and since the adaption of the 2030 Agenda?
  - Have there been any other ways in which civil society has been able to contribute to the implementation, monitoring or review, including national reporting of the Agenda?
- Was there any invitation to a public consultation on the Voluntary National Review in your country? If so, how is the invitation done and who was invited?
- 12. Delivery by the private sector/ business community**
- How far has the 2030 Agenda been integrated into private sector business plans?
  - Are there examples of effective delivery by the private sector?
  - Are there challenges to guarantee an ethical and sustainable approach to business planning in your country?
- 13. Delivery by CSOs**
- How far are CSOs developing their own plans on raising awareness about; and implementation of; the agenda
  - Are there particular case studies of effective delivery by CSOs already underway?
  - Are there challenges to prevent CSO delivery of this agenda in your country? If YES please describe them
- 14. Capacity development**
- What support exists for capacity development on the SDGs in your country?
  - Are there opportunities for partnership with other CSOs and/or UN agencies?
  - Have you identified specific gaps in CSO skill development?

SN	AREAS FOR MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT	1	2	3	4	5		COMMENTS
1.	Legal/policy framework available including commitment to the international agreements							
2.	National implementation mechanisms, action plans and strategies ('whole-of-government' approach)							
1.	Progress since the last VNR							
2.	Leaving no one behind ('whole-of-society' approach)							
3.	Planetary boundaries							
4.	Inter-linkages and mainstreaming of cross-cutting goals ('whole-of-SDGs' approach)							
5.	Public awareness and education							
6.	Localizing SDGs (sub-national)							
7.	Multi-stakeholder partnerships							
8.	Data, Monitoring, evaluation & reporting mechanisms and procedure							
9.	Civic space, citizen participation and civil society engagement							
10.	Delivery by the private sector / business community							
11.	Delivery by CSOs							
12.	Capacity development							
	<b>TOTAL</b>							

#### D. Brief on Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development

Building a coalition around SDGs, Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development (CSCSD) (cscsdev.org) formerly known as Campaign2015+ International is a coalition of over 2000 registered civil society and nongovernmental organizations and individuals committed to citizens' empowerment, human rights protection, development and peace in Nigeria. It is the only registered (CAC/IT/No 87678) national coalition of organizations purposely created to be working on the monitoring of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria.

Specifically, Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development coordinated and

organized deliberations across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones on the post-2015 development agenda that led to the publication titled: "A Compendium of Deliberations on Post-2015 Development Agenda". This is an over 260-page book that encapsulates the essential deliberations across the globe on post-2015 development agenda and the 2030 Agenda including all the 17 sustainable development goals (copies are still being freely distributed). This publication is a feat that no organization has ever done either in Nigeria or abroad on post-2015 issue.

Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development has been part of the meetings organized both in Africa and Europe on post-2015

development agenda bringing together development actors and partners, governments and private sectors. For example, we made a presentation on post-2015 development agenda to a wider audience of CSOs and government representatives in Johannesburg in November 2013 while in November 2014 we were part of the meeting of CSOs in Copenhagen (Denmark) where we made contributions to the vital importance of inclusion of equality across all levels and themes of post-2015 framework through implementation of accountability mechanisms addressing all three dimensions of sustainable development. Due to the recognition of our activities, in November 2016, two of our members had the rare opportunity of being invited by the German Council on Sustainable Development by participating in a week long SDG programme tagged “OpenSDGsClub.Berlin” in Germany. And towards the end of March 2017, we were also invited to Bonn to participate at the International Festival of Ideas.

Below is a summary of our activities:

1. State level trainings (Oyo, Ogun and Bayelsa) updating members' knowledge on SDGs
2. A day's capacity strengthening workshop on strategies for localizing the SDGs implementation in southwest states, Ibadan March 2017
3. 2 days' capacity strengthening workshop on strategies for localizing the SDGs for CSOs in Ogun State (April 2017)
4. Establishment of Think Tank Group to be responsible for writing and issuing out position papers, media briefs, press releases, communiqués etc
5. Media Capacity building on commitment to professional reportage on SDGs in Ibadan Oyo State June 2017 done in collaboration with our strategic partner SDSN.
6. University of Ibadan-based Diamond FM works with our partner, Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN), where opportunity is granted to speak on diverse issues of development from time to time. SDSN is based within Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV) University of Ibadan.
7. “Ojumo Alayo” 18-week episode SDGs talk-show on AIT every week
8. Splash FM 105.5 Ibadan “SDG Talk” every first Tuesday of the month featured in English. 17-week slot is given free from January and willing to extend it.
9. “Otun Ojo”/New Dawn OGTV Abeokuta. It is a live magazine programme where CSCSD Ogun State members feature every Monday 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. to talk about SDG events and gender nexus
10. 2-quarter episodes on Sweet FM 107.1 Abeokuta, Ogun State titled “The Podium” every Thursday from 9.00 a.m. to 10 00a.m. featured in both English and Yoruba
11. Lagos SDG Conference, June 15 2017 first of its kind in Nigeria.
12. National Training of Advocacy Champions on Goal 16 so as to be meaningfully engaging the stakeholders on peace, justice, inclusive societies, transparency and accountability.
13. Membership drive: Whatsapp complementing email list serve but still looking for committed key individuals to lead the process in the southeast, northeast and northwest.
14. Production and free distribution of IEC materials on SDGs in leaflet, card and booklet forms including “A Compendium of Deliberations on Post-2015 Development Agenda”.
15. Collaboration with Kano State government to show case the state as an epitome of SDGs implementation in Nigeria fashioned after Westphalia Region of Germany.

We are a member organization of some international networks and organizations focusing on SDGs. We are also a member of the recently inaugurated UN-led Nigerian Civil Society Strategy Group on SDGs which members of the House Committee on SDGs were part of. CSCSD in January 2021 was appointed a member of the Presidential Steering Committee on Alternate School Programme. We are a key member organization of the following international organizations: Action for Sustainable Development; CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizens' Participation; Together 2030; TAP Network; Sustainable Development Solution

Network; Africa Working Group (AWG); Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies; and Civil Society Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE).

Join us on our list serve by sending an email to [info@cscsdev.org](mailto:info@cscsdev.org) and [tolawinjobi58@yahoo.com](mailto:tolawinjobi58@yahoo.com)

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As formally inaugurated on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 during the virtual Nigeria People's Assembly marking the Civil Society Global Week of Action and celebration of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2030 Agenda

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**1** NO POVERTY

**2** ZERO HUNGER

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION

**5** GENDER EQUALITY

**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**13** CLIMATE ACTION

**14** LIFE BELOW WATER

**15** LIFE ON LAND

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

