CODE
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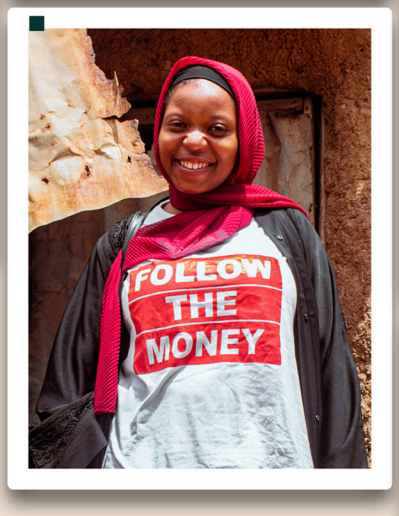
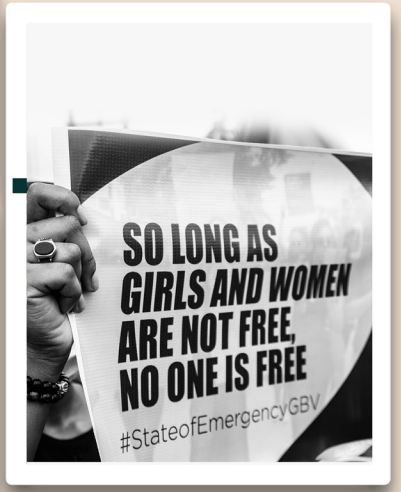
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN A PANDEMIC





2020 Annual Report

About CODE

Empowering Africa, One Community at a Time

Like many countries in Africa, the picture of basic public service for the average person is bleak in Nigeria.

Thousands of children under five are at the risk of dying from water-borne diseases and preventable sanitation-related illnesses. Tens of thousands of children annually join the over 10 millions of out-of-school children because of the deplorable learning conditions, insecurity and the concern that children that travel long distances to the nearest school may soon be discouraged from studying.

Poor accessibility to standard healthcare is the leading cause of needless deaths. Many Nigerians experience low productivity, loss of earning opportunities and are unable to achieve their full potential.

Every year, the government budgets millions of naira for constituency projects, yet there is little to show for the improvement of public service delivery. A large portion of the budget (which funds sectors like healthcare, education, youth employment, etc, is believed to be syphoned by corrupt government officials, creating a huge trust gap and accelerating citizens' apathy. The average citizen has very little visibility into where taxpayer's money is going.

Disturbed by this anomaly, Connected Development (CODE) is providing marginalised communities in Africa with the resources to amplify their voices by creating platforms for dialogue, enabling informed debate, and building the capacity of citizens on how to hold their government accountable through its social accountability initiative, Follow The Money.

To enhance effective democratic governance and accountability, CODE creates platforms [mobile and web technologies] that close the feedback loop between citizens and the government. With global expertise and reach, we empower communities, influence government policies and build capacities. Our goal is to ensure that public funds work for public good.

A world where everyone — even in the remote areas of the world — can hold their government accountable.

Our Vision:

A world where everyone-even in the remote areas of the world- can hold their government accountable.

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Executive Summary

Each year at CODE, we take a moment to reflect on our work, and review insights from engaging with marginalized communities, our learnings and accomplishments. 2020 was a landmark year where we saw the impact of our work tested in many ways.

Since our founding in 2012, we have relied on our ability to challenge the status quo and demand accountability from the government to drive social change in the communities where we work. Many of which have accelerated timely intervention in healthcare, water and hygiene services, education, environment and structural development in hundreds of low-income communities in Nigeria and six other African countries.

With rising levels of poverty, inequality and despair, orchestrated by the impact of the COVID pandemic, our work addressing systemic corruption in government and poor transparency and accountability, becomes increasingly crucial. Today, CODE has tracked 96 billion naira of COVID funds at State and Federal levels in Nigeria, advocated for the national emergency procurement guidelines to be updated, pushed for the prioritization of the country's failing healthcare infrastructure, tracked COVID palliative distribution in 232 communities and increased its socio-digital community of over 7000 activists who are driving solutions and holding government to transparency standards across Africa.

To truly achieve CODE's mission of empowering Africa, one community at a time, requires the courage, determination and resilience of millions of activists who desire to see an Africa that is free of injustices, inequality and greed; a continent where people can achieve their full potentials.

With support from donor-partners that believe in our vision of a more just and inclusive world, Luminate, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, ActionAid Nigeria, Heinrich Bolch Stifund, OXFAM Nigeria, OXFAM NOVIB, Christian Aid, Ford Foundation and USAID E-WASH, we tracked N193,027,506,174 billion (507, 967,121.5 USD) worth of government projects in 2020.

As challenging as the year was, we achieved measurable, relatable and gigantic landmarks through numerous expansion strategies of the Follow The Money Initiative and we will not stop in our quest to ensure that citizens can hold their government to account.

Thank you to all the CODE family, unrelenting supporters and donors. Let us keep advancing the follow the money movement.

Hamzat B. Lawal
Chief Executive, CODE
Founder, Follow The Money

Milestones

Mobilised young people in 7 African countries to use digital tools for social accountability and to track COVID Funds

Tracked N97 Billion COVID Funds in Nigeria

8,560 Active Champions
257 Communities
4,879,000 Lives impacted

When CODE set out in 2012, it had the sole purpose of bridging the information gap between marginalised communities and their government so that people in these communities can access basic human needs that could improve their standard of living.

Follow COVID Money

Demanding Government's accountability in the spending of COVID funds.

As nations of the world tackle the plague of Coronavirus, with funding for Nigeria amassing in millions of dollars, it became expedient to demand accountable spending of the money to block financial leakages, ensure funds do not end up in personal pockets and ultimately advocate for an improved healthcare system in the country.

#FollowCOVID19Money campaign was launched to galvanise citizens to hold the Federal Ministry of Finance (FMF), the Federal Ministry of Health (FMH), the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and government agencies directly involved in the spending of COVID19 donations to transparency standards in the disbursements of COVID-19 intervention funds.

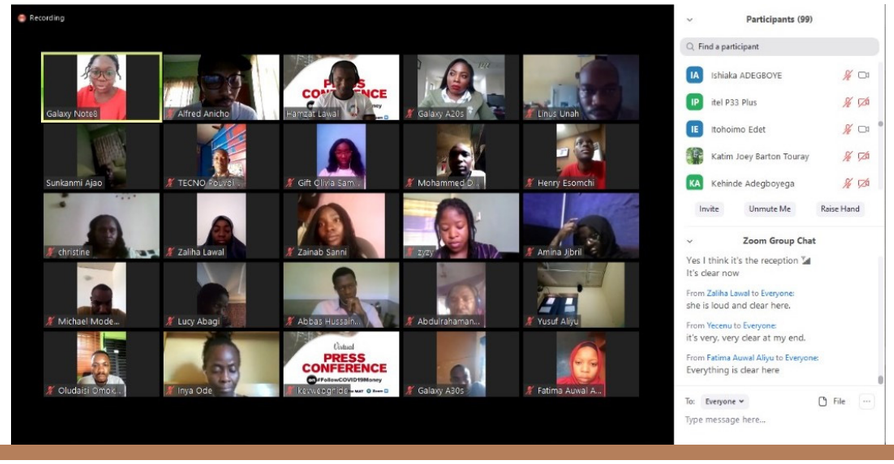
During the mandatory lockdown, Follow The Money leveraged the use of virtual platforms like Zoom, Facebook Live, Instagram live, Tweet chats and Google hangouts to facilitate Webinars that increase citizens knowledge of COVID donations and empowered them with digital tools to track government spending of COVID funds. When the ban on lockdown was lifted, FTM champions visited communities to observe the distribution of palliatives to vulnerable groups.

Wins:

- FTM tracked a total amount of N97 Billion naira
- Mobilised citizens to promote accountability and transparency in government's spending
- Accelerated the publication of an updated national Emergency Procurement Policies
- Increased response of the Federal Government to citizens' questions on funds (OaGF responding to FoI letter)

Sequel to citizens' discovery of stashed COVID19 palliatives in government storehouses, resulting in a looting spree of these food and material resources across the country, Follow The Money urged the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCCC) to investigate Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) responsible for the acquisition and distribution of COVID-19 palliative relief materials, for operational mistakes and logistics mismanagement.

COVID19 Transparency and Accountability Pan-African Project (CTAP)



On a mission to track a pan-african COVID response, Follow the Money is driving conversations, facilitating dialogues, and empowering civic actors across 7 African countries with a technology application to map and track the COVID-19 donations and responses.

CODE in partnership with BudgIT, a fiscal transparency organisation, are leveraging their social accountability tools, Tracka and Follow The Money, to activate a pan-african tracking system for all COVID-19 funds received and donated in Liberia, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Sierra leone, and Nigeria.

The project is addressing the threat of lack of accountability and the effects of COVID-19 on socio-economic development in these countries. It will strengthen civic inclusion, and provide tools that citizens' need in demanding open data and also drive accountability on the importance of optimising public resources in an emergency situation.

CTAP seeks to advocate for proper accountability and transparency of funding, interventions and finances targeted at combating COVID-19.

Follow
The Money

Supported by:

budgIT CODE

On a Quest to Access Government Data

Through Follow The Money's COVID nationwide campaign, over 87 State Champions across Nigeria sought information in their States on how the State-level government was responding to the pandemic.

As Palliatives distribution continued to be effected across Local Governments in Nigeria, tracked to ensure food items and relief materials got to the most poorest and vulnerable across the country.

Although the Federal and State governments channeled distribution through the National Social Register(NSR), not all individuals and households in the register benefitted. In some cases, we observed that officials were diverting the items or allowing unfair distribution patterns to favour their friends or relatives and we reported the mishap to the authorities.

Below are some findings;

The Office of the Accountant General of the Federation revealed that the Federal Government received N36.3 billion and spent N30, billion in 4 months to fight COVID-19.

Further breakdown shows that the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 spent N22bn; 36 States spent N7bn; NAF spent N877m; and the Nigerian Police spent N500M.

The Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development received N46 million from International agencies and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to provide palliatives support to women in 16 States.

The Ministry of Aviation received N652 million from the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on COVID-19 and awarded contracts for the supply of essential COVID-19 items to both the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA).

Akwa Ibom State announced receiving 1 billion Naira to fight COVID-19 fight in the state. Details of spending were sketchy.

Ekiti state claimed to have received more relief materials than cash. This is published on the government's website.

Lagos State claims to have received 15.7 Billion and expended 13.5 billion to combat the virus.

Oyo State revealed that it received N386 million for its COVID response. Details are also sketchy.

Ondo State received N379 million from private donors, the federal government and salary contributions. It spent N299 million on medical and food items, face masks and others.

Nasarawa revealed that it spent a total of N256.9 million between March and June 2020 to upgrade medical facilities, procuring Personal Protective Equipment, building isolation centres, training medical professionals, and other related purposes.

The Girl-Child Education Campaign

in Adamawa

Girls have a right to education and a chance to live full thriving lives

UNICEF statistics shows that for every 100 boys of primary age out of school, 121 girls are denied the right to education, worsening gender-based discrimination and putting girls at a disadvantage. Issues of water, sanitation and hygiene, and in many cases, insecurity affecting the delivery of education in conflict affected areas, are also factors driving children – particularly girls – away from the classroom.

CODE is contributing to the fight for a right to education, especially for the girl child in Nigeria through the campaign to increase Girl-Child Education in Adamawa State. We are advocating an increase in the enrollment of girls in school, education financing, and a mandatory free 12 years of education for the younger generation.

In Adamawa, CODE is tracking State's spending on education and encouraging government officials to invest in gender-responsive school infrastructure so that learning areas can be conducive and safe for girls to reach their full potential in life, especially following the impact of the pandemic on girls' education.

A research our team conducted revealed that 71% of girls in the rural areas of Nigeria's North-East doubt that they would be allowed to continue their education. 15% of girls were certain they would be getting married in a short while. In some cases, cultural and traditional barriers are preventing girls from returning to school. They may be less preferred to return to school as opposed to their male counterparts due to the male-child preference system.

We are, however, making progress in our effort to break the norm. See some of our wins.

Wins:

- CODE sensitised **10,000+** Residents in Fufore LGA and Yola south LGA on the need to increase girl-child enrollment and retention in schools.
- Traditional leaders and community chiefs are starting to discuss how to advance girl-child enrollment in schools.
- Ongoing conversation in Nigerian Senate to amend the Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act.

Youth-Centered Campaigns, Project Monitoring and Tracking

CODE empowered young people with skills, information and resources to champion change in their communities, across the six Young people Organizing for Leadership (YOL) project states- Akwa-Ibom, Borno, Enugu, Kaduna, Lagos and Abuja.

The project mobilised youth and youth-driven organisations to influence public expenditure towards gender responsive public service delivery for progressive social change. During the course of the project, Follow the Money Champions and Actionaid Activistas activated and tracked **5,237,543,982.93 Naira (1.8 Million USD)** earmarked for **26 projects across Enugu, Borno, Kaduna, Akwa Ibom, Lagos states and the FCT reaching over 309, 630 lives.**

Status:

FCT: All 4 projects tracked have been completed

Borno: All 4 Projects tracked have been completed and 2 are currently being used by the public.

Enugu: 5 projects were identified but due to insufficient details, access to ascertain the status of these projects was denied.

Kaduna: 6 projects were identified, 4 has been completed and 2 are ongoing

Lagos: All 3 projects have been completed and currently in use

Akwa Ibom: All 4 projects identified is yet commence

During the townhall meeting organised in Abuja, Government representatives present committed to working closely with the team in ensuring youth inclusion in the budget planning and implementation process. Currently, the Borno team were invited to witness and make inputs into the 2020 budget presentation. The Kaduna team is also contributing to the budget presentation, state action plan, projects bidding and contracting process.

#StateOfEmergencyGBV

The current COVID-19 health emergency is worsening gender inequalities. There is no gainsaying that COVID19 will likely have longer-term gender impacts, pointing to the need to urgently prioritise the best possible response for children, women and the most marginalised. In times of crises, Sexual and Gender based violence can be worsened.

Violence against women and girls is not only a devastating phenomenon for families and the society, it is a pandemic that everyone must speak against and take action towards ending. Crises can further exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and risk factors, leading to an increase in gender-based violence (GBV). The Inspector General of the Nigerian Police says it has recorded 717 rape cases in 5 months, a sad and disturbing statistics.

The increasing rate of Sexual and Gender-based violence in Nigeria has triggered a nation-wide revolt, where a number of groups, citizens and Civil Society Organisations like CODE, TechHer, EIE, StandtoEndRape are raising their voices and calling on the government to adopt the VAPP Act and assent to the Child Act immediately.

Key asks by the advocates:

- Domestication of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act and Child Rights Act in all states of the federation
- Establishment of Sexual Assault Referral Centres in every state backed with a coordinated, sustainably-funded support system
- Criminalization and prompt state-led prosecution of SGBV cases within, regardless of requests or interference by the victim's family or interested parties.

Sub-Granting: Empowerment for Innovative Communal Impact

Concerned by the marginalization of young people in governance structures, CODE launched a nationwide Youth Development Fund that provided grants to six youth-led organisations to deliver innovative solutions to identified challenges within their communities.

Through funding from Christian Aid, CODE & Youthhub- Africa sub-granted the selected organisations across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria with a total sum of Thirty thousand pounds (£30,000) for their innovation to solve some of the difficult challenges limiting young people.

Organizations selected from each geopolitical zones; Access To Learning And School Initiative (ATLAS), Foundation for Equitable and Sustainable Human Advancement (FESHA), Hope For Family Development Initiative (HDFI), Justice Development and Peace Caritas Nnewi (JDPC), Spotlight for Transparency and Accountability Initiative (STAI) and Women & Children in Support of Community Development Initiative (WOCCI-Nig). Their skills were strengthened on effective work-process including program design, communication strategies, monitoring and evaluating and financial processes.

The fund was in recognition of the immense capacity of young people to address some of the growing developmental challenges across communities in Nigeria, if given the opportunity and required resources. The three partners, therefore, put this in place as part of their mandate to tackle poverty in Nigeria.

CODE urges the Nigerian government to understand the growing importance and potential of young people and consider their contribution to nation building. Young people can be better supported with increased financing, education and technical assistance.

Community Members Training in Yobe State

The Spotlight (STAI) team in Yobe state through the utilization of the freedom of information letter successfully accessed information on projects implemented by Save One Million Lives Program for Result (SOML PforR) and empowered 25 young people to independently track 10 Campaigns in 10 communities in the State. Through this project, we reached 158,000 estimated people and saved the Yobe State government NGN200 million Naira which could have been lost to weak institutional framework and corruption.

Combined Community Youth Forum Organized by WOCCI

In Plateau State, the WOCCI- NIG team increased young people's participation in community peace building and strengthened local security apparatus for peaceful co-existence and synergy between local security and law enforcement agencies in Dura, Kwang and Gut communities.

Building Life Skills of School Boys and Girls by ATLAS

The ATLAS team empowered 66 marginalized out of school young girls and boys in Ikorodu Local Government Area, with some 21st century vocational skills like 3D Epoxy design and artworks. The teenagers were also trained on business development and are currently applying these skills within their communities thereby promoting entrepreneurship and solving unemployment challenges.

HFDI Team Supporting Youth Communities

In Akwa Ibom, 25 young people from Oruk Anam LGA, Ikot Ibreitam, Ekparakwa, Ikot Okoro, Nung Ita, and Mbiakot communities were trained as gender youth justice advocates by the HDFI team. Community governance leaders in these regions were visited and sensitised on the importance of eradicating gender-based violence.

JDPC Advocate Improved Primary Healthcare

In Anambra State, The JDPC team trained 50 community youths and influencers from Ojoto and Utuh to engage with policy makers on improving Primary Health Care in their communities. A success from the implementation of this project was the commitment of the House Member of Nnewi South Constituency to construct a new PHC for the community members of Utuh – Nnewi South LGA. Currently, efforts are being made to secure a location for the construction of the healthcare centre.

Through the mini-grant project, CODE showed that the change and future that Nigeria seeks lie within the purview of young people and as such we will continue to advance the achievement of the sustainable development goals 2030 through a youth-centred inclusive approach.

Success Story:

Women Can Now Sit at the Table in Obodo-Ugwa

On the 23rd of September 2020, the women of Obodo-Ugwa, Delta State, took their seats comfortably for the first time at the Community Development Committee (CDC) meeting where issues of rural governance and development were deliberated.

Up until that day, men dominated these meetings and made social & economic decisions on behalf of women. The culture and tradition forbade women from joining meetings that men presided over. If women had concerns, they were expected to tell their husbands or male representatives in the household. Discussing these concerns at community development meetings now comes at the discretion of the male representatives, otherwise women's opinions and challenges never saw the light of day.

Profiling Obodo-Ugwa

Obodo Ugwa Ogume is a small village with a population of about 3000 people in Ndokwa West Local Government Area of Delta State that produces oil, making it an attraction to Oil and Gas companies. Since it is an oil exploration site, it goes without saying that it is also a location where gas is flared—a menace that has heightened environmental degradation, caused ill health, poisoned water, polluted farm crops and worse, adversely impacted the fragile phenomenon of the village.

Not only is the livelihood of villagers thwarted but despite being a huge contributor to the Nigerian Economy and an enricher of the pockets of Oil & Gas executives, Obodo- Ugwa has also been denied structural development. The people of Obodo-Ugwa can be classified as marginalised & vulnerable people whose voices have been ignored and their human rights violated.

Conflict & Fragility Issues: How OXFAM and CODE are Changing the Status Quo

OXFAM Nigeria and CODE kicked-off a Conflict and Fragility Project in the Oil region of Delta State to advocate for the responsiveness of Oil companies to host communities.

One of the outcomes of the campaign was to stimulate gender inclusion in local extractive governance to spur an inclusive and effective community development. CODE & OXFAM, known for their advancement of the causes of women's rights, accelerated action to advocate for gender inclusion in Obodo-Ugwa.

Women Participation and Community Development

OXFAM and CODE, on different occasions, organised town hall meetings and advocacy calls where key stakeholders from the Oil & Gas sector such as regulators and oil explorers and community chiefs and leaders deliberated on a way to include women in governance structures. Things started to look up for Obodo-Ugwa.

Recognising the importance of promoting inclusiveness, CODE and OXFAM further intensified efforts to advocate gender inclusion and gender-responsive public services in the community so that women could have a seat at the table.

Gender inclusion and women participation in communities should be beyond the primitive gender role of caring for just the home and family. Women should be empowered to actively participate in politics, economy, social and cultural aspects of life. For women to be able to fully exercise their human rights, gender perspectives have to be mainstreamed in all inclusive social policies.

Two weeks before the inauguration of a new community development committee, CODE was invited to witness the result of its advocacy. Community elders now seek to include women in CDC meetings and have elected women to also take up executive roles.

Here we were at Obodo-Ugwa witnessing a first-of-its-kind where there is a female vice president of the CDC and a female finance manager. CODE believes that the recognition of women's participation will have far-reaching impacts in building the community into an inclusive society.

"Women do not sit with men at village meetings except when they are summoned. This is a dream come true! Seeing my fellow women as not just members but executives on the Community Development Committee gives me joy! Ehn ehn, now we can say what our needs are without discussing first with our husbands. The village market that they are building was because women complained of long-distance travel to buy food items. I am glad this happened in my time.," Obodo Ugwa resident Veronica Obi, beamed.

Although traditional norms and value systems in rural areas especially are still limiting the participation of women in community development, CODE, during its advocacy activities in grassroots communities often mainstreams gender-responsiveness and gender equality in its interactions and engagements to ensure communities are informed of the importance of including women in decision-making processes.

195 Young people
100 Monitoring teams
60 Community Development Committee Members
51 School-Based Management Committees (SBMC)
36 Community Monitoring Teams

Social Mobilization through Training & Capacity Strengthening:

CODE sees participation as an effective strategy to social mobilization which is how we are able to determine the gaps in skills and knowledge of community members.

We recognise that by empowering local capacities, community members become more skilled in owning the development process and are enthusiastic about making a difference. CODE's participatory approach is inclusive of gender, social, ethnic and economic groups within the community. During training and capacity building exercises, members get the chance to discuss local issues in a way that identifies community needs and profers action plans.

Records showing community participation at the Capacity Building Exercises we organised;

CODE CE Officer and Participants During The Capacity Building Session

Members from CODE and FTM Kaduna State Leads meeting with Kad-SUBEB Chairman

Capacity Enhancement Across Nigeria

- 195 young people (93 females and 102 males) across Enugu, Borno, Kaduna, Akwa Ibom, Lagos states and the FCT including FTM champions.
- 46 youths were trained virtually on how to conduct effective evidence-based advocacy on COVID-19 donations and funds across the country.
- The capacity of 100 monitoring teams (including persons living with disability in Niger, Taraba and Delta) were enhanced on budget tracking and monitoring so that they can in turn track government projects in their States.
- 60 Community Development Committee Members in Delta and Akwa Ibom State were trained on the Dynamics and Prevention of Oil Theft, Transparency and Accountability in the Extractive Sector, Strengthening the Relationship between Oil Companies and Host Communities, and Gender Inclusiveness in Local Governance.
- Kad-SUBEB officials including educational secretaries and technical officers were trained on Monitoring and Evaluation; data management; construction project management; and human resource management. This strengthened their work processes, efficiency and delivery, while building a more formidable information sharing partnership with the Board.
- Capacity building in Adamawa state for 51 School-Based Management Committees (SBMC), Parents Teachers Association (PTA), community leaders, school principals and CBOs, on gender-responsive budgeting etc, education financing and spending, and becoming activists of social accountability.
- 36 Community Monitoring Teams from Ogoni, Ahoada East, Ahoada West, Onelga, Oyigbo, Eleme Onne, Abonnema, Bonny, Etche, Emohua) in Rivers State were trained on follow the money monitoring and tracking model.
- CODE hosted a Stakeholders Parley on Accountability and Transparency in Oil Spill Reporting in collaboration with National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) and the Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Environment and Petroleum Resources in Eket. It was a platform for host communities to highlight their challenges such as the non-existent relationship between NOSDRA and the communities.

Assessment of Primary Healthcare Delivery in Kano State

CODE and Nigeria Health Watch launched a report that shows findings of the assessment of healthcare provision in 49 primary health centres (PHCs) across Local Government Areas (LGA) in Kano State. The essence of this report was to draw government attention to the gaps identified in this area and to advocate for improvement and greater accountability in the primary health care system in Nigeria.

This case study in Kano State provides an insight into service delivery and the implementation of minimum standards in primary health care across the different LGAs in the state.

Facilitating Oil Spill Reporting and Response

A huge percentage of Nigeria's wealth is generated through the oil and gas sector, mainly explored in the Niger-Delta region, yet the condition in these communities is disheartening. The Federal government's exploitation of natural resources combined with energy companies exploiting the extremely fragile infrastructures and laws has worsened the degradation and destruction of Ogoni land in Rivers State. The incompetence of the Niger-Delta Development Company is further exhibited in the deploring state of host communities.

one of the poisoned lands in Ogoni village

Leveraging its expertise on community empowerment, grassroots community engagement, CODE, in collaboration with Ford Foundation, is supporting local leaders in grassroots villages in Rivers State to demand greater accountability for resources allocated to them.

The campaign was borne out of a need to combat pervasive corruption, poor accountability and the negligence of community development all of which have amounted to years of under-development, exposure to hazardous health risks due to oil substance leakages into water supplies and sheer impact of these on livelihoods and the quality of life.

CODE is fostering rural development in Ogoni, Ahoada East, Ahoada West, Onelga, Oyigbo and other local communities in Rivers State who have suffered severe environmental damage, health set-backs and terminated livelihoods as a result of negligence caused by oil exploration.

The ongoing campaign is mobilizing community governance structures across the aforementioned communities through the Community Monitoring Teams (CMTs) vehicle and empower them to provide effective public oversight on government spending in their communities for effective service delivery in the education, health and WASH sectors. Through this, the project would facilitate increased citizens participation in government spending and enhanced social accountability in the region, thereby improving access to basic and essential social amenities for selected communities.

Status

- Stakeholder engagement with the Mkpanak community of Ibeno LGA
- Empowerment of community residents on how to report oil spills, timelines and approaches.
- Training on engaging with the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA)
- Increase capacities of 36 Community Monitoring Teams (CMTs) across 10 rural communities who have suffered severe environmental damage and loss of livelihoods as a result of oil exploration.

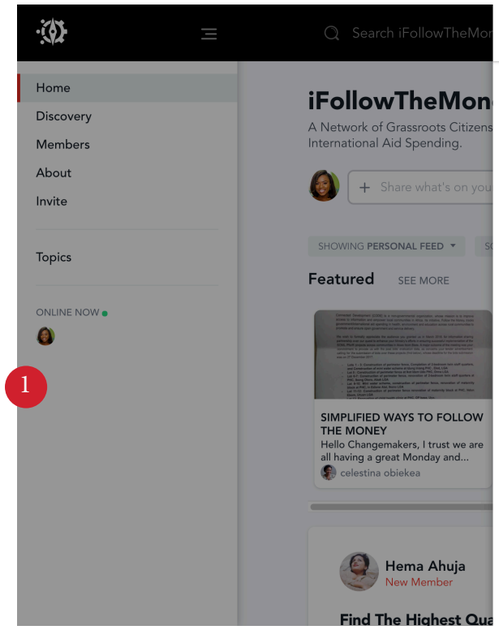
Success Story

#ConstructSabongeriWater:

How 22 days of online campaign got Sabongeri-Ndeji Water

Kehinde Akinsola, Kwara State FTM Champion

FTM's Citizen-led Campaigns have noted huge successes since it was launched in August 2019. Follow The Money is mobilizing citizens to demand accountability, transparency and improved public services from their elected representatives. This is one of the success stories recently recorded.



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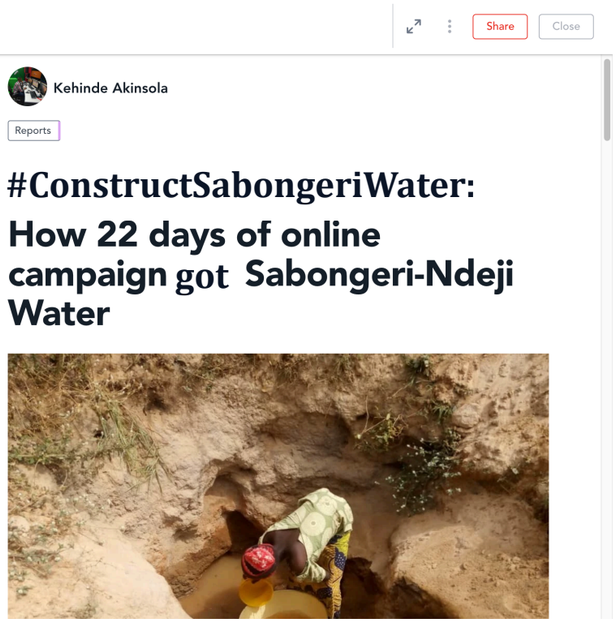


Sabongeri-Ndeji is a community along Lafiagi Road in Edu LGA of Kwara State. Sabongeri-Ndeji have a population of 237, in which 49 are Men, 46 are Women and 142 Children.

In December 2019, I led a team of 60 volunteers across 13 LGAs in Kwara State to participate in the Nationwide #SDGsFamilyActivation organised by World Largest Lesson through DEAN Initiative.

2

Dike Samuel, a corp member, one of my volunteers visited Sabongeri-Ndeji to tell them about SDGs and how they can take action for the goals. The community head took him to the only water source of the community, which is a pond and a dirty pond, he empathized with them and left.

He informed me about it during Christmas period when he came to Ilorin, we planned on how to help Sabongeri-Ndeji get a clean water.

3

In January 1, 2020, we (Construct Sabongeri Water Team) started an online campaign for the community and named it #ConstructSabongeriWater, notable personalities were tag ranging from the Governor, Commissioner of Water Resources e.t.c.

In January 8, the commissioner responded after we dedicated Day 7 tweet for her and it trends, so she replied with this word "On behalf of Kwara State Government and Ministry of Water Resource we appreciate your effort but in other to provide water system in the town, we need the description of the location to access the situation of things there" https://twitter.com/AF_lawal/status/1214833910502363137 We demanded to visit

Sign up on our social accountability platform www.ifollowthemoney.org to read read more stories.

Follow The Money Radio In 14 Nigerian States

Follow the money radio is arguably the most widely used communications tool for preaching the social accountability message especially in hard-to-reach communities. Below is a breakdown of some of our radio outlets with backup statistics on our reach for 2020

Kaduna; FTM radio Kaduna on Liberty 91.7 radio station with support from MacArthur Foundation amplified diverse issues including the Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) action plan and infrastructural intervention, Modified School Feeding Program and Learning at home Program. In 2020 - - episodes were aired reaching -- with -- contributors.

Borno: We Launched a weekly session of Fitilar Alumma series with Dandal Kura Radio in Borno State and 9 episodes were aired to share outcomes of FTM campaigns within the state

Adamawa: We activated Follow The Money Radio Adamawa to advocate for inclusive, improved, safe and accessible education for the girl child and 16 episodes have been aired so far with a total reach of 1.6million.

FCT: We launched follow the Money radio to amplify and demand for the passage of the Federal Audit Service Commission Bill reaching 5 million people through our 5 FTM radio episodes on Kiss FM 99.9 (House of Parapo show).

To reach more citizens and expand opportunities for informed debate through provision of information on COVID 19 donations, 13 radio programs were activated and 78 episodes completed on COVID 19 fund utilization advocacy in Borno, Kogi, Lagos, Akwa Ibom, Osun, Enugu, Kwara, Bauchi, Adamawa, Ondo, Katsina Kano states and the FCT. Through our radio programmes, we reached an estimated audience of 1,800,000 on COVID 19 fund utilization advocacy

Research as a Tool for Social Change

CODE recognises that research is the foundation of credible information and data. In order to effectively empower marginalised communities, CODE adopts an indepth research approach to tackling social accountability issues. Some of our findings include;

The Economic Implications of COVID-19 on Nigeria

At the initial stage, the COVID-19 pandemic posed a serious challenge to the world, causing economies to contract and necessitating the adoption of stringent measures such as complete or partial lockdowns in order to contain the spread of the disease and this adversely affected national economies and rural livelihoods.

The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) closed its borders and implemented a total lockdown in states and cities with very high infection rates across the country. These measures have had its toll on individuals, households, micro, small and medium scale enterprises (MSMEs) and large corporations.

(Read More on https://www.connecteddevelopment.org)

The impact of COVID19 pandemic on girl-child education in Nigeria's North-East

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on girls' education have posed some concerns—from the potential of an early marriage, to early pregnancy, susceptibility to gender-based violence and sexual harassment- there are numerous and diverse impacts of the pandemic directly or indirectly affecting the girl-child's education and their overall well being.

CODE researched the implication of these effects on girls in Nigeria's North-East, specifically Adamawa State, and what must be done to remedy the situation. The research assessed the issues of access, infrastructure, enrolment, disparity, completion, promotion, drop-out, transition and barriers to girls' education, including the impact of COVID-19 on girls' education, and the effectiveness of the LHP programme.

(Visit https://www.connecteddevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/The-Impact-of-COVID19-on-GirlChild-Education-in-Nigeria-NorthEast.pdf).

Influencing Government Policies

Advocacy Outcome: Niger State Now has a New WASH Law!

We are glad to announce that the Niger State Government assented to the State WASH Bill to deliver safe and potable water to residents across the State.

Following our call on the Niger State Government to hasten the passage of the bill, and the pressure from the civil society groups in the State, the Governor, Abubakar Sani Bello has now assented to the bill.

CODE, with the support of the United State Agency for International Development (USAID) Effective Water Sanitation and Hygiene (E-WASH) Services Program, urged Niger State to hasten assent of the Bill so as to eradicate bottlenecks holding back the need for the State WASH sector to be effective.

CODE, had intensified civic advocacy and met with opinion leaders including the Emir of Minna, Niger, Hon. Umaru Bahago, and the State Commissioner for Water Resources, Hon Yusuf Suleiman. Hon. Suleiman had pledged to accelerate the passage of the bill so that the Governor could assent to it.

Governor Sani Bello of Niger State signing the bill into law

Public Agencies Published COVID19 Procurement Policies After Follow The Money Aired Displeasure with COVID-19 Procurement Processes.

We were displeased with the opacity in the procurement processes of tackling COVID 19 pandemic in Nigeria. We made this clear on our social platforms and at a virtual conference we hosted themed Public Procurement in Emergencies.

Although rapid purchase of equipment such as medical supplies may be necessary, this is no excuse for flaunting transparency principles in the process of awarding contracts, especially to enable citizens monitor effectively where funds are being channeled.

In a swift and welcome reaction, the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), the ICPC and other Government agencies issued guidelines on the conduct of public procurement activities by ministries, departments and agencies during the COVID19 pandemic.

2020 Conferences and Events

Social Accountability:

Rethinking Governance in Nigeria

SPEAKERS:

HAMZAT LAWAL
Chief Executive
CODE

AYO OBE
Partner
Ogunsola Shonibare LP

MUHAMMAD SANI ABDULLAHI (DATTIJO)
Chief of Staff
to the Governor of Kaduna State

KEVWE OGHIDE
Communications Lead
CODE

BUSAYO MORAKINYO
Community Engaagement Manager
Follow The Money

Rethinking Governance in Nigeria: The concept of Social Accountability as a progressive governance initiative demands that public service holders are held accountable for improved services in the areas of healthcare, education, ease of doing business, infrastructure, institutional structures, and other areas to improve the quality of life and advance citizens' means of livelihood.

The panel of seasoned technocrats, politicians and activists deliberated on charting a new course that will rebirth the Nigeria of our dreams.

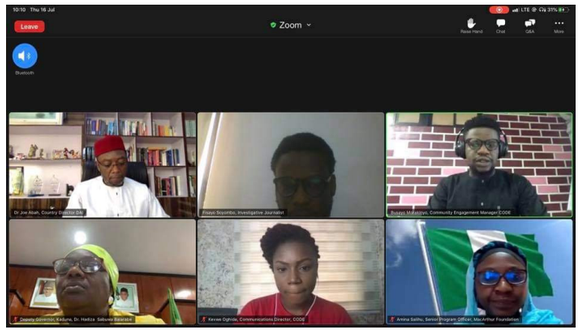
COVID Procurement Webinar

CODE organised the first COVID-19 virtual webinar on Public Procurement during the early period of covid in Nigeria, demanding that the Federal Government through the Bureau of Public Procurement update its Procurement guidelines for especially at a dire time.

Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other offences Commission (ICPC) took swift action and also set-up a fund monitoring team. The provision of procurement guidelines during emergency by the Bureau of Public Procurement has further strengthened the achievement of public accountability mechanisms in the utilization of COVID-19 funds vis-a-vis providing a strong background to monitor adherence by Ministries, Departments and Agencies to these guidelines.

Our efforts towards tracking COVID 19 funds, was laudable and recognised by both local and international media entities. Most notably is that CNN recognised and published our intervention on tracking COVID 19 funds in Africa.

Rebuilding Trust in Government Institutions



At a time when citizens have been let down by the quality of Nigeria's leadership, burnt by empty campaign promises and have grown understandably cynical of the practice of governance in the country, CODE dared to organise an online conference on rebuilding trust in public institutions.

With over 2000 participants in the civic space, the virtual conference sparked deeper conversations about the culture of mistrust in the Nigerian system built over decades and suggested a way forward to regain faith.

The high-level speakers were Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Balarabe, Senior Program Officer, MacArthur Foundation, Dr. Amina Salihu, Board Member, Ministry of Finance, Dr. Joe Abba and Investigative Journalist, Mr Fisayo Soyombo while CODE's Communications Director, Kevwe Oghide, moderated the session. Speakers shared perspectives on how the government can regain the trust of citizens and challenges plaguing trust in public institutions, suggesting practical ways the Nigerian Government can regain or gain the trust of citizens.

Mega-Town Hall Meeting on COVID Intervention Funds

Following speculations about funding of COVID-19 interventions, the Follow the Money team organised a mega town-hall meeting where government representatives and Civil Society Organisations involved in COVID spendings and observations were invited to dialogue on strengthening accountability measures for COVID-19 intervention funds.

Speakers discussed the opacity in the government's report of COVID-19 funds and the vague details of spending. Follow the Money tracked a total of N96.7 billion COVID-19 funds both at the federal and state level, however details of this tracking were scanty and procurement data was difficult to access. Read more on our website.

Fostering Strategic Partnerships for Sustained Development

CODE's work strives through partnerships, collaborations and informed engagements. In order to extract high level commitments from relevant stakeholders in achieving effective, transparent and accountable systems, CODE formed alliances with government agencies to further strengthen the processes of delivering public services to citizens.

- Advocacy visits to Ministries of Petroleum Resources, Ministry of Environment, NOSDRA, State house committee on Petroleum Resources in Akwa Ibom State to urge quick actions to prosecute oil and gas companies violating regulatory laws.
- Visits to the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs and National Oil Spill Detection & Response Agency to secure buy-ins and prompt the anti-graft agencies to investigate and prosecute the violators of CAMA and other regulatory frameworks in the extractive industry.
- Visit to the Executive Chairman of Kad-SUBEB board members to galvanise ways to ensure better collaboration with the board.
- Through a town Hall meeting for NGOs working in the Niger Delta region, CODE created a platform for dialogue between key stakeholders in the Nigerian oil and gas sector for strengthen regulations of actors to operate in a conflict sensitive and transparent manner and seek the passage of the Host Community Bill embedded in the omnibus Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB).
- CODE's Chief Executive, Hamzat Lawal, met with the Honorable Speaker and other committee Chairs, the Honourable Commissioner and the permanent Secretary Ministry of Women and Social development on the girl-child education campaign at the Adamawa State House of Assembly.
- A joint team comprising Connected Development, OXFAM and PTCIJ visited the; National Oil Spill Detection & Response Agency (NOSDRA), Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) to prompt investigation and prosecution of the violators of CAMA and other regulatory frameworks in the extractive industry.
- CODE and AMAC signed an MoU to open and make the Area Council more accessible with the principles of OGP so AMAC can begin to share information that can be easily accessed by citizens.

FTM Chapter Achievements

Through our technical support and capacity strengthening of chapters, our Borno and Yobe chapter accessed 5Million Naira each from the Centre for Information development and Technology (CITAD) commencing the administration of education and health campaigns aimed at mitigating corruption and enhancing transparency through grassroots budget engagement and social audit participation.

FTM Yobe and Borno State chapter.

Projects monitored and completed with improved positive actions by duty bearers.

N589,962,190.91 Grassroot Earmarked Projects

332,993 Estimated Direct Beneficiaries

39 Education campaigns

5 Health Campaigns

40 Community Outreaches and Town Hall Meetings

Funding sources for projects tracked include those appropriated by Yobe state Universal Basic Education Boards (SUBEB), the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and Borno State Ministry of Health

Follow the Money Kaduna team won the Open Data Day grant. Over 50 new young activists were recruited to join Follow The Money through the first Open Data Day in Kaduna,

2020 Follow The Money Chapter Convening

It is CODE's culture every year to gather all champions across Nigeria at a location where we review our programmes, impacts in communities, resource mobilisation, assess communication channels, implementation structure and Ethics. In 2020, as a result of the pandemic, this yearly gathering was restricted to a virtual 3-day workshop. There were over 50 participants, 30 of which lead the Follow The Money chapters in their States or Local Government Area.

FTM Activities on ifollowthemoney.org

Membership on the #followthemoney platform

September 2020	December 2020
6,880	7,402

New Members **46.7%**

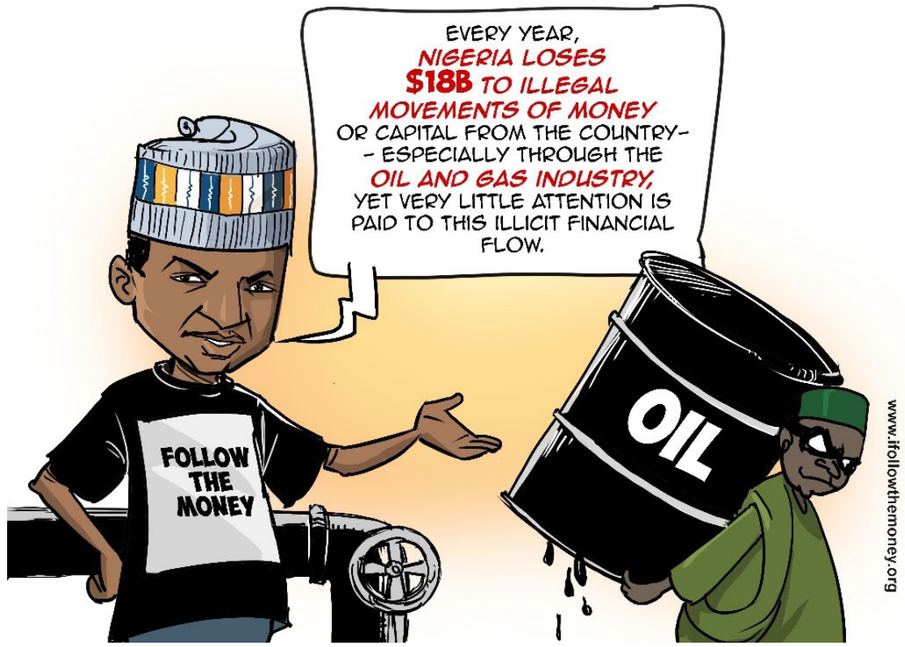
Returning Members **52.7%**

Contributing Member **22%**

Members Retention Rate **22.88%**

Amplifying Voices to Enhance an Auditable Effective Financial System

Amplifying Voices to Enhance an Effective Financial System



The Malabu scandal is adjudged to be one of Africa's most controversial and corrupt oil deals. The scandal and its accompanying illicit transactions continue to plague Nigeria and has portrayed it as a country where corruption is championed at the highest political offices, resulting in a lack of faith in the system, crippling socio-economic development. Although investigations and trials are still ongoing in Nigeria and other western countries, not a single person has been convicted till date.

CODE & OXFAM Novib collaborated to galvanise Nigerian citizens to combat this injustice and demand action against corruption.CODE leveraged “Follow The Money”, to amplify corruption index data, and illicit flow of funds by public officials.

Having also realised the strengthening of the Federal Audit Service Commission Bill that ensures violating companies and individuals are held accountable for Illicit Financial Flows, CODE stirred citizens to petition President Buhari to asset to the bill that would enhance the autonomy of the Auditor-General of the Federation prosecute erring ministries and agencies who do not comply with Audit standards.

Wins:

- Over 5 Million social media users with the #AuditMoneyTrail trending
- 651 petition letters sent to elected representatives
- 1,425 people signed our online petition platform for the urgent need to pass the Federal Audit Service Commission Bill.
  Webinars garnered over 1,500 participants on Zoom and 20,000 impressions on Facebook live.

OXFAM Novib

CODE connecteddevelopment.org

Write your

Legislature

A Call for Citizens

to Write to their Representatives in the National Assembly to Pass the

Federal Audit Service Bill (FASCB)

To be part of this, register via
https://bit.ly/WriteYourLegislature

In a bid to block financial leakages and strengthen the office of Nigeria's Auditor-General to be able to perform its duties of auditing Ministries, Agencies and Parastatals, CODE mobilised Nigerian citizens to write to their legislators urging them to take the necessary actions that can strengthen the OaGF's Office.

We hoped to stimulate a national consciousness and pressure the 9th National Assembly to commence the legislative process that will advance the assent of the Federal Audit Bill by the Nigerian Presidency. CODE continues to advocate the urgent need to act to prevent corruption, illicit financial flows and mismanagement of
public funds.

Urban WASH Legislative Framework

With Support from the USAID Nigeria, CODE advocated for improve service delivery monitoring of utilities and state ministry of water resources; Enhance urban WASH public accountability through application of community social accountability tools, application of innovative technology, social media etc; and Strengthen Policy, legislations, and tariff reform through advocacy and strategic communications on Niger, Taraba and Delta.

Our advocacy and multi stakeholder engagement has led to the passage of the WASH Bill by the Niger State Government on the Effective Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services (E-WASH) program, The passage of the bill has furthermore mainstreamed provision of water and provided a strong legislative framework for improved service delivery in the state. The Taraba bill was also assented as a result of CODE's intense advocacy and the Delta State WASH infrastructure is currently being reviewed by the State's Ministry of Water Resources.

Social Media Footprints

Twitter: @Connected_dev

4,722,000

Total impressions

120,477

Profile Visits

21,161

Mentions

Facebook: @Connected Development

472,477

Profile Visits

30,900

Mentions

Instagram: @Connected_dev

1,108,865

Instagram Reach

30,900

Mentions

LinkedIn: @Connected Development

3,764,022

Profile Visits

21,161

LinkedIn Reach:

END SARS

Demanding an end to police brutality in Nigeria

Last year, Nigerians, like the rest of the world, had to battle with the threat of COVID-19. Not only did we hope not to get killed by the deadly virus, citizens also had to fight for the right to live and not be killed by national security operatives that swore to protect lives and properties.

Thousands of Nigerian Youths took to the streets to decry and protest the brutality, assaults and unjust killings by a rogue police unit- the Special Anti-Robbery Squad— but peaceful demonstrations against police brutality were cracked down on with aggressive response and shootings unleashed by the same security officials accused of heavy-handedness.

CODE and other civil societies were aggrieved by all that happened and were disheartened that the Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari, did not show any political will and courage to remedy these problems. Our call for accountability and transparency in public services is to ensure that the government is responsive to its duties of ensuring the wellbeing of its citizens and protecting lives and properties.

At CODE, our mission firmly aligns with the Sustainable Development Goal 16- Peace, Justice and Stronger Institutions. And so when the protest began, we deployed social media tools for advocacy, leveraged on the media to call public and international attention to these atrocities and are working with Newsroom to counter fake news, disinformation and misinformation. We are also petitioning the government to deliver on the #5for5 demands that were birthed following the 'half-hearted' response of the government to end the rogue police unit for the 4th time.
In collaboration with other civil society organisations, we petitioned the Nigerian National Assembly (NASS) to order the inquiry and investigation of these atrocious killings perpetrated by state actors against her citizens in lieu of the #EndSARS Protest.

Success: Tracking UBE Funds in Kaduna State

Before

After

Follow The Money completed the tracking of **N569 million** Naira Universal Basic Education fund in Kaduna State over the course of three years. The campaign was supported by the John D and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation under its ON Nigeria project. Follow The Money monitored the construction and rehabilitation of 23 basic school projects in Kudan, Kajuru, Zangon Kataf and Jema'a Local Government Areas (LGA) of the State. The project was triggered by the growing concern of the increasing number of out-of-school children in the country.

Kaduna State is commended for its open government policy and for allocating 27% of its budget to developing education. As part of the project, FTM conducted a needs assessment on 609 schools for evidence-based UBE action planning in the State. The report showed that a considerable increase in the enrolment of children in schools was as a result of the School Feeding Programme, however, 92 percent of the schools do not have access to ICT materials or computers in accordance with basic education curriculum.

FTM urged the State to provide ICT materials and computers to schools, provide potable drinking water for the majority of schools that lack these facilities, and ultimately ensure that adequate WASH facilities are in school to encourage girl-child educational enrolment.

As a way of increasing citizens' interest in government, FTM drafted a policy for participatory basic education spending in the state which mainstreams SBMCs in Kad-SUBEB's UBE work planning and implementation.

Wins:

- Improved community governance structures to become more aware of school projects' contracts in their communities
- Increase in school enrollment in the project communities.
- Improved school infrastructure and learning environment
- Change in policy or project plan by the Kad-SUBEB owing to our annual reports which featured key policy recommendations.
- Needs assessment report conducted on 609 schools for evidence-based UBE action planning in the State.
- Increased knowledge of school-based monitoring committees and community residents of tracking government funds (through training).
- Deputy Governor's assurance to combat gaps identified in Needs Assessment report
- Jointly reviewed policy framework by CODE an Kad-SUBEB

Learnings from 2020

- Impromptu shutdown of work due to Covid-19 outbreak stalled our plans to commence citizen's led campaigns across the 36 states, however, we were able to improvise on innovative ways to impact communities and continue our work of empowering people.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic peculiarities which led to lockdown and travel restrictions, CODE team could not physically monitor and track the spending of the COVID-19 funds as effectively as we planned. This hampered adequate reportage of how funds were spent and the level of accountability by government officials.
- Poor access to information on funds received from government institutions using the Freedom of Information request limited our engagements and monitoring processes.
- Most project activities had to be reworked to fit into the current situation, hence contingency work-plan was developed for all projects.

FTM Community Attestation

"There are 22 women in the Community Development Committee. It's never happened. With our voices, women can ask that the government fixes the road, improve school structures and build a primary healthcare centre for us. Thank you, CODE, for making this happen."

Mrs Achi Christy
Community Member

"Follow The Money people trained us on how to track the school project with the teachers and head of the village. Our children's school is now in good condition."

Halima Saliu
Community Resident

Changes are constant, the community has had difficult experiences in the past but bringing women into the CDC is evidently improving development. CODE trained us on how to see women as good decision makers. The women are supervising the building of the new market."

Pastor Gim Agadi
CDC Vice Chairman

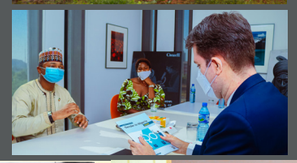
"With what CODE did in collaboration with the USAID E-WASH Program, we are optimistic that very soon, we shall all have a very robust and active water company you will be proud to be associated with."

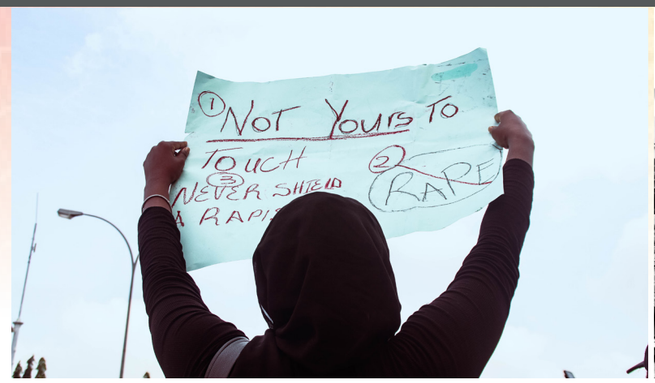
Engr Nosa Okoh
The General Manager,
DESU-WACO

"We are happy about this development. Look around, women and men were equally represented in this committee. We now have to prove our responsibility. I have plans to request the provision of loan and grants to support women's initiative. I hope to see that happen. There is so much we can do and conquer."

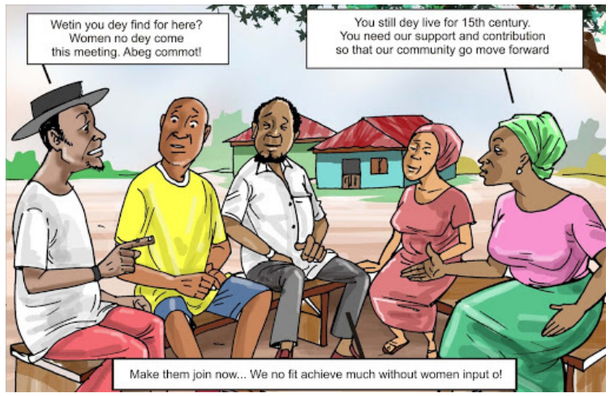
Patricia Oluomo
CDC Vice chairman,

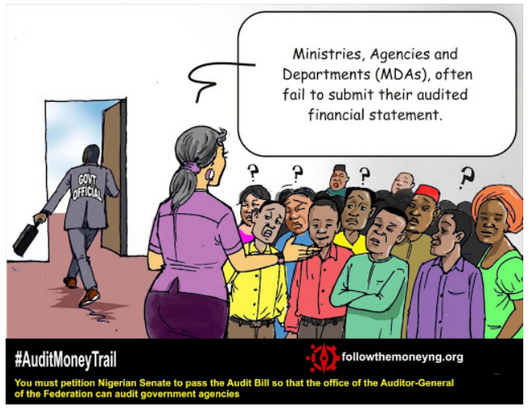
Photo Splash

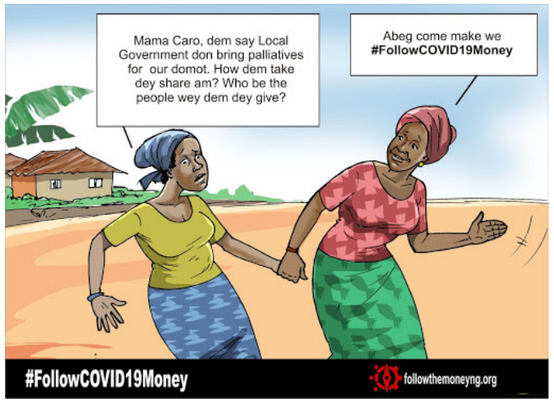


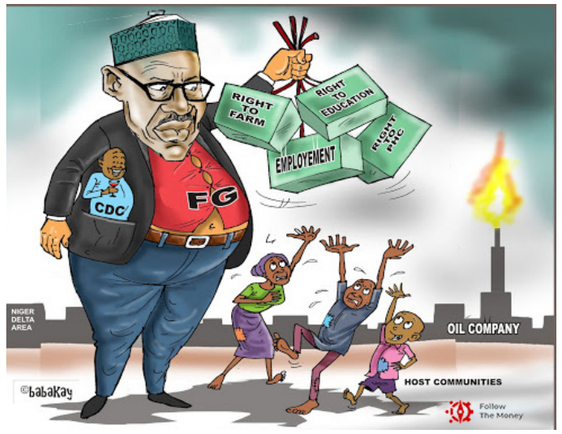


Campaign Illustrations









Our Partners

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