Report of the 3rd National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria, 2011

Theme:
Popular Participation in Promoting Transparency and Democratic Accountability in Nigeria

Grand Hotel, Asaba

Report Outline

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACOMORAN	-	Amalgamation of Commercial Motorcycle Owners and Riders Association of Nigeria
CCBTA	-	Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act
CDPA	-	Center for Development and Population Activities
COWAN	-	Country Women Association of Nigeria
CPPF	-	Community Policing Partnership Forum
FMoH	-	Federal Ministry of Health
FOI	-	Freedom of Information
FOMWAN	-	Federation of Muslim Women's Association of Nigeria
GIS	-	Geographic Information System
ICPC	-	Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission
ICT	-	Information and Communications Technology
IDA	-	International Development Association
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund
LNG	-	Liquefied Natural Gas
NCDCN	-	National Community Development Council in Nigeria
NEEDS	-	National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy
NLNG	-	Nigerian LNG
NWTF	-	Nigerian Women's Trust Fund
OKLNG	-	Olokola LNG
PAP	-	Procurement Act Programme
PPA	-	Public procurement Act

Monday November 21, 2011

Opening Ceremony: 9:00am-12:00pm

Introduction

The 3rd Biennial National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria (NCCD) took place in Asaba, Delta State from November 20 – 24, 2011. The thrust of this year's conference was on how to achieve greater community participation in service delivery, project implementation, monitoring and sustainability; hence, its theme "Popular Participation in Promoting Transparency and Democratic Accountability in Nigeria".

Objectives of the Conference:

i.   Set the agenda for engagement of grassroots communities in the demand for effective service delivery and public accountability.
ii.   Explore what works, showcase innovative programmes that promote community participation in effective service delivery, community development, transparency and governance
iii. Build skills of Community Development Practitioners, Civil Society Organisations and other Stakeholders on Local Governance and Grassroots Civic Engagement
iv.   Provide a platform for networking and forging of new partnerships for community-driven development and governance initiatives

Focus Areas

i.   How to motivate communities to participate in Effective Service Delivery, Projects Implementation, Budget and Project Monitoring, and Exposure of Corrupt Practices
ii.   Strategies and Best Practices for Community Participation in Integrated Rural Development
iii. The gender dimensions of popular participation in development and governance in Nigeria
iv.   How to implement best practices in Community Policing, Conflict Prevention and Peace Building
v.   The challenges and opportunities for improving the Local Government System in Nigeria
vi.   How to effectively use ICT, Conventional and New Media to promote Popular Participation in Transparency and Democratic Accountability
vii. The various institutional Reforms, Policies and Processes related to Transparency and Good Governance since the return to civil rule in 1999

Conference Participants
The Conference had 210 Participants from 28 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory. Participants came from both the public and private sectors:

- Community Development Directors/Officers
- Civil Society Organisations
- Non-Government Organisations
- Oil and Gas Sector
- Academia
- Media

Opening Session

The Conference began at 10.00 a.m. with introduction of guests to the high table. Invited guests include Dr. Festus Okubo, the Chief of Staff, Delta State, Chief (Mrs.) Betty Ifekoda, the Honourable Commissioner for Women Affairs, Community and Social Development, Delta State, Dr. M.E.J. Bassey, the Director and Head of the Public Health Coordination Department of the Ministry of Health, Abuja, Mr. Princewill Ojei, founding President of Congress of Free Trade Union in Nigeria (who represented the Vice President, Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Issa Aremu), Dr. Joseph Nwankpa, the National Coordinator of Community Development, Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja, Chief Y.A. Olatoye, the National President of the National Community Development Council in Nigeria (NCDCN), and Amina Salihu, Co- Chair Board of Directors the Nigerian Women's Trust Fund.

After the National Anthem and Opening Prayers, the representative of the Minister of Health, Dr. Bassey gave the welcome address. He noted that the Conference was a strategic platform for promoting learning and policy advocacy on community development by multi-sector stakeholders and for "constructive engagement on core issues affecting the socio-economic life of the country". He expressed the view that public health challenges cannot be "met through clinical efforts alone but with a combination of community participation and involvement" in public health service delivery at the grassroots. Drawing attention to the security situation in the country, he challenged Community Development Practitioners to come up with "community-based solutions" to resolving the security challenges in the country, as this is really preventing any meaningful form of development in the country. He implored participants to come up with implementable outcomes that are all inconclusive of both the poor and the marginalised.

Mr. Chuks Ojidoh, Deputy Director, Community Life Project (CLP) in presenting the overview of the Conference informed participants that the Conference with the theme "Popular Participation in Promoting Transparency and Democratic Accountability in Nigeria" is the third in the series of conferences. He stated that the Conference, a brainchild of CLP, is co-convened by CLP and the Community Development Division, Federal Ministry of Health (CD-FMoH) and was initiated to provide a platform for promoting learning and exchange on how best to promote grassroots, community-driven development and popular

participation in governance at the local level. He noted that the first conference took place from January 28 - February 2, 2007 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja with the theme

"Repositioning Community Development as an Effective Tool in achieving the Millennium Development Goal" while the Second Conference took place from June 14 – 19, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja with the theme "The Role of the Community in National Development: New Perspectives".

He said the objective of the conference, among others, was to set the agenda for engaging grassroots communities in demanding for effective service delivery and public accountability at the Local level. He was confident that participants would benefit immensely from the all the presentations that would be made at the conference, especially on how to motivate communities to participate in Effective Service Delivery, Projects Implementation, Budget and Project Monitoring, and Exposure of Corrupt Practices. According to him, a major outcome expected at the end of the conference would be a clear stand on the relocation of the Community Development (CD) Division at the Federal level from the Federal Ministry of Health to a more appropriate agency. He welcomed all the participants to the Conference and thanked the Executive Governor of Delta State, His Excellency, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, the Ministry of Women Affairs, Commerce and Social Development, the Commissioner, Permanent Secretary and CD Director – Delta State for their support.

Declaring the Conference Open

The Conference was declared open by the Executive Governor of Delta State, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, ably represented by Dr. Festus Okubo, the Chief of Staff at 11:06 a.m. In his remarks, he noted that it was crucial to have well trained community development officers as they are critical development agents needed to nurture seamless relationship between the government and the governed. He noted the need for community involvement in any planned community development efforts to reduce frictions between the government and the benefiting communities. He affirmed a bottom-top approach in community-based interventions or initiatives. He noted that constant consultation, dialogue and communication between the people and the government are indispensable in ensuring participatory governance at the community level.

Keynote Address

Delivered by Princewill Ojei (Representing Com. Issa Aremu, National Vice President, Nigeria Labour Congress)

Comrade Issa Aremu commended the conveners, Community Life Project (CLP), for its continued push to achieve sustainable community development.

Commenting on the theme of the conference, he observed that the term "Grassroots or Popular Participation" implies some other group is already participating and there is a need for a change in the participation model. He emphasized the need to give proper meaning to grassroots participation, accountability and transparency by Nigerian communities. More often than not, there are misdirected and negative forms of accountability and transparency, where the leaders are more concerned with being accountable to external organizations and governments rather than the electorate. Positive meaning needs to be given to these concepts for Nigeria and Nigerians. Speaking on the Nigerian communities, he reminded participants that Nigerian communities are a part of a bigger Nigeria, which scales up to a bigger world. They are, like the rest of the world, under constant threats of wars and degradation and despite these challenges, we as Nigerians need to defend our democracy by deepening it.

Plenary Session One
12:30pm-1:30pm

Theme: Best Practices and Strategies for Community Participation in Integrated Rural Development by Dr. Comfort Olayiwole

Chairperson: Dr. M.E.J Bassey

The speaker expressed the view that there are people in urban areas who are poorer than rural community dwellers and so the idea here is what to do with a chosen, manageable group, be it urban or rural. She underscored the importance of an integrated and coordinated effort on the part of development practitioners and agencies in delivering service to the communities. She called for teamwork among the several agencies working in the urban and rural areas and stressed the need for synergy between rural community dwellers and the development workers.

She observed that when communities are involved in the design and implementation of development programmes, they are more likely to succeed; noting that "unless local people are involved in the process, committed to its goals, and are able to develop a stake in the outcomes, development is not likely to be successful or self-sustained". Development agencies need to put in place arrangements to increase community voice and build capacity to plan and manage their development projects.

Using the water sector as a key example, the speaker highlighted the following best practices and strategies:

At the community level:

Core Critical Actions
1) Advocacy, Mobilization & Sensitization: Where the community had been appropriately mobilized and sensitized and had taken action regarding:
   ➤ the importance of sanitation and hygiene to their well-being and health;
   ➤ where both genders participate in key decision making and actions;

➢ where the community leaders (traditional, religious, other influential members) take responsibility and support sanitation and hygiene;

2) Roles and Responsibilities: Where the LGA (and partner organization/s) have clearly defined their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis those of the community regarding sanitation and hygiene;

3) Agreement /Action Plan: Where a written agreement and action plan for sanitation and hygiene has been established between the community and the LGA (and partner organizations) within a broader community development agenda;

4) Capacity Building: Where the LGA (and support partners) have facilitated / provided training in sanitation and hygiene to community selected persons;

5) Services Delivery: Where services were delivered on time and was of acceptable quality to the community;

6) Follow-up Support & Monitoring: Where periodic follow up and monitoring by the LGA (and/or partners) has taken place, it has helped to overcome initial difficulties and has boosted community confidence;

Additional Pivotal Actions for Scaling-up

1) Community-Led Total Sanitation: Where CLTS has been introduced the results have been very rapid and most encouraging, and the quick transformation has given great pride to the community on what they can achieve primarily by themselves with limited resources in a relatively short timeframe;

2) Community-Led Self Micro-Financing: Where the community has initiated innovative ways to raise money to address common community needs and those of individual families the potential to scale up is greatly increased.

3) Community Leadership & Initiative: Where the community has shown leadership and taken initiative to address other development priorities using the skills and confidence, they have developed regarding WASH interventions (for example; schools for their children, improved roads, electricity, etc.);

4) School children as Change-Agents: Where schoolchildren brought back key messages on sanitation and hygiene to their families and community and have participated in improvement activities;

2. LGA & State Levels

Core Critical Actions

(Although these are common across most WASH projects and programs, their quality and results vary widely from LGA to LGA, and from State to State -- for several reasons).

1) Plan of Action: Where the State has given priority to sanitation and hygiene and developed a harmonized approach for all LGAs to adapt and follow;

2) Budget Arrangements: Where the state and LGAs have made budgetary provisions for sanitation and hygiene;

3) Management: Where the State and LGAs have a structured and coordinated management system to address sanitation and hygiene – good governance;
4) Roles & Responsibilities: Where the various roles and responsibilities of the State and LGA have been clearly defined vis-à-vis those of the community for sanitation and hygiene;
5) Monitoring and Follow-up: Where the State and LGA undertake periodic monitoring and follow-up with communities;

Additional Pivotal Actions for Scaling-up

6) Vision, Priority & Commitment to Leadership: Where State and LGA have a common vision, set priorities and committed leadership in support of community and school level sanitation and hygiene;
7) Policy Framework: Where the State has made innovations in the absence of federal policies or develops its own;
- Paradigm Shift: Where State and LGA sector staff have made a mind-shift away from a "project approach" to a "sector-wide approach" and from "provider of services" to "facilitator and regulator";

Concluding, she enjoined all participants to note the following that:
- Policy – oriented research is vital and should be undertaken to "determine the impact of rural developmental processes and technology on rural people's work, incomes, health and living conditions".
- "All planning strategies and programmes for rural development fully integrate conditions for meeting the needs of rural men and women as well as of rural children. This means (gender sensitivity) the equitable access of male and female to productive resources, participation in education and training, and employment opportunities".
- Rural women and men should be encouraged to develop their competencies so as "to participate at all levels in the policy-making institutions which affect their lives".
- "The development and use of appropriate participatory tools which will strengthen and support the emancipation and more effective participation of rural people in the development process be looked into without delay."

Chairman's Remarks and General Discussions
The Chairperson then called for clarifications, questions and contributions.
- Idia Anibilowo of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) commented that in project appraisal and evaluation, the impact on the beneficiary should also be taken into cognizance and not only the success of the project.
- Mrs. Akpoghene Alice from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community and Social Development, Delta State, suggested that all those involved in the registration of community development associations should ensure 35% representation by women.
- Yohanna Kabirat of the Ministry of Rural and Community Development, Kaduna State lamented the lack of integration between community development partners and

stakeholders saying that there should be a ministerial coordination of rural development stakeholders. He felt community development practitioners who were focused on different sectors should form some sort of alliance or committee to improve integration amongst stakeholders.

- Dr. Isaac Olusoji, Family Care Association, Lagos sought clarifications on how to take care of political influences in the choice of community leaders to work with and in the location of your projects while working with the community people.

- Grace Osakue from Girls Power initiative, Edo State wanted the speaker to elaborate on other strategies for increasing women's participation in Community Development.

- On the issue of community mapping, Nasiru Mohammed, of the Amalgamated Commercial Motorcycle Owners and Riders Association of Nigeria (ACOMORAN), Kaduna Branch asked if a Local Farmer has what it takes to draw a map.

- Elder Essien Essien, Community Development Officer, Obubra LGA, Cross River asked the speaker to throw more light on what she meant by intervention agencies coming together and how.

Response from the Speaker

The speaker noted that map drawing was not a technical issue; any community citizen who knows his/her village can draw and identify the boundaries as well as facilities in the community. For increased synergy and integration, team work cannot be overemphasized and should start at the policy-making level. There is really no reason for any separation. To avoid politics, they will need to work with the community as a team and avoid persons that will like to take credit for themselves. Learning from past interventions was also very important, especially, where it has to do with the departments of community development or ministries. Documenting them and referring to them can influence subsequent interventions.

Best Practices in Community Construction Projects: The Gata-Oton FADAMA Experience by Engr. Anthony Onwueme
3:00pm-3:45pm

The Speaker shared with participants the experience of the FADAMA team in assisting the Gata – Okon community in building a 250, wooden pedestrian bridge over a swamp. Through a Participatory Rural Appraisal, the community identified the building of the bridge as their most pressing needs (which went to enforce the idea that any development intervention that does not emanate from the people is bound will not make any meaningful impact). The construction of the Gata-Okon Bridge was completely driven by members of the Community, who were trained in procurement processes, placing of Bids, evaluating the Bids and awarding the contract. A 3-man committee was set up to constantly monitor and report on the progress of the work, which ensured that the project was completed to the satisfaction of the people.

The project was carried out under the FADAMA III World Bank Agricultural Intervention Project, which seeks to "sustainably increase the incomes of 75% of the 59,429 group members that use FADAMA land and water resources in an environmentally sustainable manner".

Few challenges were encountered and quickly resolved. These include:
- Initial suspicion on the part of the Community due to previous experiences; however, through sensitisations and subsequent funding of the FADAMA User Groups, credibility was restored.
- Due to the difficult nature of the terrain, a lot of manual labour was used, which increased the cost of the project. Also, "high strength and decay resistant materials were also sourced from outside the community".
- To sustain the community interest and deflect any set-back, alternative route to the farmland was provided, which also increased the cost of the project.

Skills Building Session: Proposal Writing by Dr. Oji Ogbureke
3:00pm-3:45pm

The speaker began by defining a project as "a series of activities systematically designed and carried out with the aim of achieving clearly defined objectives or goals". It should aim to solve a problem or address identified needs. There are different parts to a project, which include:
- Project Justification (why the project),
- Project Goal and Objectives (what the project intends to achieve),
- Project Methodology (how the project will be carried out),
- Project Activities (what must be carried out),
- Project Implementation Timeline, and
- Human, Material and Financial Resources needed to execute the project.

He stressed that the Project Proposal is a tool – not a goal. He then listed the elements of a project proposal as follows:
- Project title
- Goals and Objectives of the Project

- Description of project activities
- Description of Expected Project Results
- Project implementation plan
- Beginning of operations
- Resource Allocations
- Project personnel
- Detailed Project Budget (including sources of funds)
- Logical framework
- Reports

Chairperson's Remarks and General Discussion
The chairman thanked the speaker for packaging in one hour forty-five minutes what would normally take days and he acknowledged that proposal writing was very important since NGOs could not survive without them and that government officials also had to write proposals when seeking approval for funds. He noted that though the presentation was all encompassing, the scale of the proposal depended on the type; so, the elements may be generic but the scope, scale, size and details may differ. He expressed his hope that a forum will be created to expound on the use of logical framework.

Farida Sada Yusuf, FOMWAN asked for a more detailed explanation of the *Gantt* chart while Alhaji Mohammed Sani Hassan, ACOMORAN Headquarters, Kano State, wanted to know the relevance of attaching a CV to a proposal and whether it was necessary to state one's religion, as this may lead to discrimination.

Response from the Presenter
In response to the question on whether a CV has to be part of the proposal, the speaker asked if one could apply for a job without a CV. He stated that the applicant needs to demonstrate his/her capabilities, specific to that particular proposal despite track record. On the issue of stating the religion though, some projects require that the religion be stated, just as data may be disaggregated by gender. On the question of what a Gantt Chart was, the speaker explained that it was a modified framework that showed activities in terms of dependence and sequence.

Day 2: Tuesday November 22, 2011

Plenary Session 2: 8:30am-10:30am

Theme: The Challenges and Opportunities for improving the Local Government System in Nigeria - Speakers: Prof. Musa Abutudu / Dr. Hussaini Abdu

Chairperson: Fola Adeola

Prof. Musa Abutudu:
The first speaker, Prof Musa Abutudu defined Local Government (LG) "as a segment of a constituent state or region of a Nation State established by law to provide public services and regulate public affairs within its areas of jurisdiction". The LG is invested with certain autonomy, which allows it to carry out its assigned functions and control its own finances and personnel. It is the lowest level of Government and the closest arm of Government to the grassroots people. In his opinion, LG governance is in crisis. LG has become suspended from the people instead of being rooted in the people and that this does not make for democracy or accountability.

He stated further that the LG is supposed to have a direct funding from the Federation Account through the State Government; hence, the establishment of the State Joint Local Government Account. The State, which serves as a trustee to the Account, is to ensure that the amount transferred to the LGs is shared among them fairly and equitably, and in accordance with relevant laws. However, what is obtaining is the absolute control of the Account by the State resulting in irregular deductions from the Account.

Another challenge identified is the Democracy Deficit at the LG level. He listed such democracy deficit as follows: deliberate refusal to elect new councils when tenures elapse; widespread, unconstitutional replacement of elected Councils with Caretaker Committees and Caretaker Chairmen; dissolution of the councils and reconstitution of a new one by newly elected governors, which has made most Councils unstable and unsure to harbour long term developmental plans. Also, Councils have become the very personalized enclaves of State Governors and State Governments.

He also identified Dysfunctional Elections of Councils and State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC) as a major challenge facing the Local Government System in Nigeria. In his view, the SIEC is subject to: being handpicked by incumbent State Governments; constantly being dissolved and reconstituted by governors; deliberate underfunding of SIEC; imposition of candidates by Governors and godfathers at the local level; little or no mobilization for voters, voter apathy and therefore, very low turnout of voters at the elections when they are held, and finally; electoral victory at which 100% of those elected are from the state's ruling party. He went on to say that as a result of these challenges, the LG system is in a state of permanent crisis, with total disregard of virtually all the features of 'good governance'.

He then made the following Recommendations for improving the Local Government System in Nigeria;

1. Constitutional Amendments.
   a. Reinforcing Section 7(1) of the Constitution through a provision that elections must be the sole basis of constituting Local Councils.
   b. If for any reason there is to be Caretaker Committees, these should not be in place for more than one month, within which elections must be held to constitute new councils.
   c. The power to dissolve an elected Council by a State Government should be removed from the ambit of State Law and made a constitutional one with clear stipulations on how and when it can be done.
   d. The power to dissolve Councils must be on case-by-case basis. On no account must all Councils be dissolved at the same time.
2. Reforming the SIECs to make them truly independent of State governments.
   a. The recommendation of the Justice Uwais Panel on INEC should be implemented.
   b. The funding of SIECs must be made independent of state governments. The recent suggestion by the Forum of State Independent Electoral Commissions of Nigeria that a percentage of the State Joint Local Government Account be set aside for local government elections deserves serious consideration.
   c. The State Joint Local Government Account should be abolished.

Dr. Hussaini Abdu:
Dr. Hussaini Abdu began by tracing the development of the Local Government System in Nigeria. According to him, the colonial authorities developed the system not necessarily to serve the people but for control and domination. Series of reforms have been carried out since the 1950s, most profound of which were the 1976 and 1991 reforms. Despite all efforts at reformation, the LGs have been unable to fulfil their constitutional obligation of serving the people.

Some of the challenges he identified were:
- Defects of Nigerian federal structure
- Over-bearing and undemocratic character of the state government.
- The weaknesses of the 1999 Constitution in terms of: fuzziness on the roles and local government space, State-local government joint account, democratic local governance and state control and lack of free and fair election
- Corruption
- Over centralisation and lack of downward accountability
- Elite hijack – politicians, traditional rulers and local government officials
- Eroded autonomy
- Over-politicisation of the system

Opportunities for Improving the Local Government System in Nigeria
The Speaker noted that that there are a couple of opportunities for strengthening local government administration, despite the huge challenges. He stated that popular discontent can be an opportunity for transformation, and proffered the following solutions: Increasing local government resources; reviewing the constitutional process; deepening popular participation through participatory budgeting and social audits and strengthening local government administration to make impact on the life of the people. In conclusion, he noted that

decentralisation is an important means of ensuring popular participation and deepening democracy at the LG level.

Reactions and Comments from Participants
Some of the salient points raised include the following:
- There should be Local Government constitutional reforms to clearly define Local Government autonomy.
- The constitution of the executive council in Local Governments should be balanced. Voting powers of the executive and the bureaucratic components should be equal for fair outcomes.
- Control of Local Governments Account should be taken from the state governments.
- All developmental projects at the community level should be channelled through the Local Government.
- The community Development units of Local Governments should be made departments
- The participants at the National Conference on Community Development should set up a committee to join in the process of constitutional review to amend the Local Government council for good governance that would impact positively on the grassroots.
- The need to educate and mobilize citizens around their rights was identified as key to promoting popular participation.

Finally, Alhaji Muhammed Sani Hassan, ACOMORAN, Kano urged CLP to campaign for the establishment of State and Local Government chapters of a network of community developers to facilitate the work of creating awareness and empowering the local communities.

Plenary Session 3
10:30am-11:45am

Theme: The Gender Dimensions of Popular Participation in Development and Governance in Nigeria by Speaker: Amina Salihu

Chairperson: Grace Osakue

What Makes Participation Popular?
This is the ability of the ordinary people or the "invisible forgotten masses" to have a say in the decision-making process. In other words, participation is called "popular" when the people who are the most affected can make and take the decisions that affect them. "They do not have to be elected or be bureaucrats or public servants to do this". However, "public servants must create the safe space for citizens to govern along with them. Rather than just a few deciding the outcomes on issues, it is best to have as many people as will be affected taking part".

Effective Governance

She explained further that we are all public officials and hence have our own assignments. It is more effective if we follow through on our duties and to do so, we must create an interface between the government and the governed. Effective governance is government that shows:

- "Trustworthiness: - communicating a pledge to take certain actions and following through on doing so;
- Service delivery: - paying attention to the use of resources in meeting the basic needs of the people;
- Effective use of resources: - ensuring judicious use of all forms of resource- human, material, technological and political, in such a way as to add value to the lives of the citizenry; and
- Formal Accountability: - feedback and scoring the governance process with a view to listening to what has worked and not worked and to review accordingly."

Effective government is better measured through effective participation, which must be "non-discriminatory, i.e., depending on the issue, it allows room for all relevant diverse elements such as gender, age, religion, ethnicity, urban/rural divide, disability, sectors, class, government and non-government actors to come in and contribute".

Why must we plan with women in Community Development?
- Women make up 50% of the population, which makes good economic sense to involve them in "matters of Community Development". As the UNDP states, "a development not engendered is a development endangered"
- Women are most reliable and dependable, as resources under their control are put to intended use.
- It ensures justice – each category has rights to their personhood
- "Lastly, where resources are scarce, those who provide the subsidy measures are women. When a community or household has no running water, it is the women who fetch water. Likewise, when the schools are closed or non-functioning, it is the women who teach the children."

Gender Mainstreaming: How do we know when popular includes Gender?
Gender mainstreaming/perspective to planning means "that at all levels, and at all stages of policy design, formulation and program/project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, gender should be mainstreamed. The purpose is to correct imbalances in access to opportunities by women and men, which are usually suffered by women."

The following steps should be taken when planning for gender mainstreaming:
1. "We must start by asking the questions; What do women need? Who will provide the identified needs? How much resources are required to satisfy these needs? Who will ensure that it is done? And how will we know if the need has been met?
2. Ensure that women are part of the decision-making team
3. Design evaluations that are participatory and have women present around the "table" which could be a physical platform or a virtual platform, such as in a communication or feedback loop

4. Invite men who are knowledgeable about women and gender issues to work on development issues
5. Work with research findings and data that is gender disaggregated, i.e., showing the situation of both women and men
6. Have a system which regularly evaluates and ensures that this integration exists across sectors, using appropriate technical frameworks
7. When projects that may benefit women are designed, ensure you budget enough funds to implement and evaluate them. Do not put them in the ghetto (poorly funded projects)
8. Have a written policy that recognizes how to carry out gender mainstreaming
9. Educate your team members so they are gender aware and know how to use the policy. The ability to design projects with clear gender inclusion is really a function of the motivation and knowledge of the designers"

Lessons in Ensuring Sustainable Gendered Popular Participation
Know the tools for effective gender based popular participation:
- Budget
- A written policy
- Disaggregated data storage
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanism
- Policy continuity
- Documenting lessons and voices
- Safe space
- Respect for diversity
- Start at the local government
- Budget or popular participation
- Get an informed human resource
- Use people centred methodologies
- Extract and document commitments
- Build trust through feedback
- Always ask the question "where are the women, and what do they need?"
- Constant evaluation
- Demand and supply side players working together

Group Discussion
Reverend Father Fidelis Arhedo, Director of JDP/Caritas Uromi and Coordinator of JDP/Caritas Benin Province stated that our constitution should be amended with gender balancing implemented. He further urged the women to support themselves in politics, stating that women are sometimes their own worst enemies, and that we need more good women involved in politics to boost the public image of women in power.

Similarly, Sister Freda of the Mary Aiken Head Centre for Youth and Women in Development, Delta State, stated that in the development of the country, the feminine qualities are just as important as the masculine properties, hence they should be recognized. The country continues to disrespect and ignore the needs of the women in their communities, and that stunts the possibility of development.

Mr. N. L. Okonta, the Chief Community Development Officer at the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Community & Social Development stated that in order for the gender movement in Asaba to be effective, women of the communities need to be sensitized *and* included in the affairs of the country. He gave a comparative analogy of Africa and the West, stating that "while the West runs on two legs, Africa runs on one leg", the proverbial legs representing men and women. He further explained that due to past neglect and intimidation, women have become relatively timid in nature. Hence, they are unable to fill the 35% quota allocated for women to hold official positions.

Response by the Presenter
In response, the speaker noted that it was the system of socialization we have adopted that is the enemy of women's progress. She further elaborated, giving an example of a woman who hears that her friend seeks political office, and instead of congratulating and encouraging her, she admonishes her for "abandoning" her family for her career. "It is not the woman who condemns her friend's actions, but instead it is her socialized mindset that condemns her". She assured participants that things are improving though it may take time to undo what years of socialization have done.

Chairperson's Remarks
The Chairperson, Grace Osakue, closed the session by reiterating the issue of socialization. She explained that the socialization we seek to eradicate begins at home; hence in order to be successful we must fight it at home. We must bring our sons *and* daughters up as equal members of the family. Only when we enact positive changes in the private sphere can we bring the same mindset to the public sphere. She further advised that we must be sensitive of our choice of language. Using gender-neutral and gender inclusive terminology in our daily speech will affect the mindset positively.

How to mainstream Gender into Community Mobilization by Pearl Osibu
11:45am-12:30pm
The speaker informed participants that Community Mobilization implied a capacity building process through which community members, groups, or organizations plan, carry out, and evaluate activities on a participatory and sustained basis to improve their health and other conditions, either on their own initiative or stimulated by others. It is a dynamic process that involves planned actions to reach, influence, enable and involve key segments of the community in order to collectively create an environment that will affect positive behaviour and bring about desired social change.

Basic Elements of Community Mobilization
She stressed that Community Mobilization is a process NOT AN END, and it involves the following:
- Capacity Building (of community members and implementers);
- Participatory Processes;
- Dynamic Processes (not routine or static unchanging process);
- Planned Actions (Action - Oriented);
- Behavioural and Social Change;

- Self-Help by the Community;
- External Influence or Catalyst;
- Collective Action;
- Goal/Result Orientation and Community organizing

Success Factors in Community Mobilization

These were listed as follows: A good cause or relevant social development issue; A clearly defined, time-bound, achievable goal; The ability to give the people a stake in the issue; Buy-in by the community; Sense of ownership by the community; Partnership and coalition building; Development of a movement as well as; Synergy between the movement/intervention and governance agencies.

What Is Gender Mainstreaming?

The speaker described gender mainstreaming as the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies and programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men can benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated; the ultimate goal being to achieve gender equality. She, therefore, posited that ways must be found to demystify gender mainstreaming, to see it as a way of life, a lived experience and not as some abstract, complicated strategy. Gender mainstreaming is NOT to be considered as an option. It is an imperative, something that must be done in other to ensure social justice, achieve lasting peace and improve the lives of billions of men and women. The purpose of gender mainstreaming is to:

- Guarantee the inclusion and prevent the exclusion of women,
- Redress gender imbalances in service provision, resource allocation and access to opportunities, and
- Ensure cost- effectiveness of programmes and interventions by ensuring that specific needs of men and women are met.

How do we then mainstream Gender into Community Mobilization?

The speaker recommended that this be done at two levels: at the Institutional and Field/Community intervention Levels.

At the Institutional Level

For gender mainstreaming to be achieved at the community-level, it must first be institutionalized into all government structures. All government ministries must mandatorily mainstream gender into their routine operations. Administrative policies and practices should be reviewed to reflect the value of gender mainstreaming and gender justice, especially in the educational sector. All civil servants, professional and non-professional staff in every ministry and agency should be trained on issues of gender justice as they relate to human development and governance as gender mainstreaming is a cross-cutting issue which affects every aspect of life, every sector – not just education and health, but agriculture, judiciary, etc. Also, the work of CBOs at the community level in all the various sectors need to synergize with those of government in order to ensure the attainment of development goals and targets, and ministries will not be able to provide the needed synergy if they are not on the same page as the CBOs and

NGOS. As such, the first step is to ensure that the organization that is seeking to mainstream gender has mainstreamed gender into its own internal operations (we cannot give what we do not have). The institution or agency MUST have a good understanding of pertinent gender issues. This may involve having to train staff to have good knowledge of gender issues and the skills to mainstream gender. It must also genuinely believe in the goals and value of gender mainstreaming. It must have reviewed its staffing and administrative policies and practices, procedures and structures to ensure that they reflect the values of gender mainstreaming (how equitable are staff benefits, is there gender-balance in leadership positions or gender-sensitive work conditions and language etc), and finally, produce and provide the necessary resources to facilitate mainstreaming

At the Field/Community/Intervention Level
Gender Mainstreaming should start at the project design phase, at the conceptual and visioning phase. (e.g., in needs assessment, choice of technology and facility). Include gender-specific indicators in the Monitoring Tools and Frameworks at the design phase and also ensure that women groups and their leaders are included in the decision-making process in the participatory planning phase of the project. And ensure that monitoring indicators are included in gender-analysis and that data is disaggregated by gender. Also ensure the integration of gender into content and the messaging of the programmes and more importantly, address gender imbalances and injustices in a non- antagonistic manner. Taking it a step further, she advised that men be given the lead in actions to address sensitive gender issues while also ensuring that women and men take on positive, gender-sensitive roles in the community organizing activities. As much as possible, reverse stereotype gender roles in assigning roles and responsibilities to community volunteers and staff, ensuring that women take part in male dominated roles and vice-versa. Endeavour also to ensure that women have a say in the timing of project activities to facilitate their availability. Finally, when monitoring progress and evaluating the project, revisit indicators and review the outcomes to see if it is bridging any gender gaps.

Conclusion
In conclusion, the Speaker emphasized that to effectively mainstream the gender perspective we must first equip ourselves and our organizations with a human rights perspective and the necessary knowledge and skills. We must find creative ways to challenge patriarchal values and practices. It is the path way to ending exclusion, marginalization, vulnerability of girls, women and other disadvantaged members of society. Gender mainstreaming is a path way to lasting peace, social justice and a decent quality of life for all men and women. It is not an option and must therefore not be treated as such.

General Discussion
Deaconess Agnes Ofugara, a CLP volunteer and coordinator in Sapele advocated that gender mainstreaming should be implemented from the schools; in order to positively affect the mindset of the children, the books used for instruction should show gender sensitive and gender-neutral images in all settings. She also commented on the suspected exclusionary timings of political meetings, recommending that they be held earlier in the day in order for women to participate.

The Chairperson, Grace Osakue, closed the session by stating that consulting women on the timing of meetings must not imply that women are unable or afraid to attend late events.

Setting Practical Agenda for Engagement of Grass Root Communities in the Demand for Effective Services Delivery and Public Accountability via Citizen's Social Political Education Enlightenment and Mobilization by Dr Princess Jennifer Ogbonna-Spiff

12:30pm-1:15pm

The speaker shared with the participants, practical ways of setting agenda for engagement of grassroots communities in the demand for effective service delivery and public accountability, via citizens' socio/political education enlightenment and mobilization, along with the work her coalition has been doing in the communities. She said that Women Initiative for Transparency and Social Justice (WITSOJ) is a coalition of unions of CBOs and NGOs borne out of passion to help address most of the social injustices in that Region and Nigeria at large. In line with their pursuit, they have done a great job on community and citizens' enlightenment and advocacy.

The Case of Egberu Community

What They Did:
They identified their goals which were:
- ❖ Good health care delivery.
- ❖ Good education service delivery to the grass root.

And How They Went About It
- Equipped with the health and education policy of the state, they investigated communities lacking government presence in areas of health and education, and carried out a documentary of these inadequate service centres.
- Next, they organised a community interface between the service facility users and service providers to get their opinion. They then educated and mobilized them on their rights to functional health care delivery as was shown in the video documentary after which they equipped them with their rights helping them become aware and well informed to demand and exert those rights.
- Another interface was arranged between the community women who had suffered illness, and relatives of those who had died as a result of dysfunctional health care delivery and policy makers and executors. Notably, the Policy makers and executors declined to attend the interface meeting. A Mass Action in the form of a peaceful demonstration was then taken by over 400 women in demand for their right to functional health care delivery. This mass action was as a matter of fact incited by the commissioning of two police stations by the Local Government and was staged at the Local Government Headquarters.

While the media reacted positively by sharing in the plight of the community, Local government personnel initially reacted negatively by pouring out threats on the WITSOJ and some community women. WITSOJ took up the challenge and alerted the Security Agencies of the threats.

As a result of the mass action, communities/citizens were able to defend their rights; State and LGA policy makers and executors' attention became aware of the situation on ground, and negotiations are in progress on how to alleviate the suffering of the community women.

Lessons Learnt

Given the right training and promptings, grassroots citizens are ready to demand for effective service delivery and public accountability. Coalitions of well-informed CSOs can achieve great development in communities. It has been discovered that policy makers are afraid when citizens come together over common goals and finally that when Governments are put to check, corruption reduces and accountability is achievable.

Discussion

The Chairperson, in his remarks, urged participants to imagine the impact it would make in the Nation if such a mass action is replicated in 172 Local Government Areas of the Country.

Joseph Ojo from OKLNG, Lagos shared an experience from an NGO in Toff community, Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. In that community, women were mobilized by COWAN to confront their issues with the facilities available. Their activism led to the construction of a maternity clinic for the community. Following this, the women *and* men of the community elected the woman in charge of the protest as the leader of the entire community.

Prince O.K. Miller, member of Delta State Motorcyclist Association recommended that more information on recall of elected officials in the Local Government system should be made available. This will check non-performing counsellors and chairpersons, and even legislators and governors.

Mrs. Ada Inyang, Ministry of Social Welfare & Community Development, Cross River State asked if the women who participated in the protest against the Egberu community leaders were compensated for their action. She specifically wanted to know if Princess had paid for their transportation and feeding.

Finally, Dadiya Bako, Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria, Yobe State, asked what procedures to follow before going for such community mobilization.

Response by the Presenter

The speaker expressed her gratitude to the women of Egberu for their solidarity and activism in the project. She also stated that in times of protest, people (especially law enforcement officers) respond negatively to men; they typically are gentler with women. This proves to be advantageous, as women can protest freely without fear of imminent danger. In response to Dadiya Bako's question on mobilization procedures, she stated that all one needs is to equip themselves with knowledge - knowledge of the community and of the project.

Plenary Session 4: 3:00pm-4:30pm

Theme: Community Participation in Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in Multi-Ethnic and Multi-Religious Settings by Speaker: Dr. Nathaniel Danjibo

Chairperson: Dr. Comfort Olayiwole

Concept and Terminology Clarification

The speaker identified some of the major factors that cause conflict in Nigeria to include competition for resources, contradicting value systems, psychological needs of individuals and groups, and unhealthy communication systems. Given that these conflicts take place in multi-ethnic and multi-religious settings, the speaker argued that this kind of problem could be reduced through better community participation in development. Both conflict prevention and peace building aim to achieve the same thing - to ensure that conflicts are dealt with early enough. Both concepts assume that conflicts occur because their root causes are not addressed early. However, "conflict prevention and peace building programs produce the best results when presented as an integral part of poverty reduction and sustainable development policies".

Conflict prevention in this context could take two forms: indirect and direct. Indirect conflict prevention and peace building initiatives include a set of actions addressing the problems in a given sector as a result of which the society is stress free (agriculture, education, rural development, democratic governance, amnesty, post conflict reconstruction etc). The assumption here is that these projects would get the people more engaged and leave them with less option to engage in violence or conflicts. On the other hand, direct conflict prevention and peace building initiatives include conflict-sensitive and targeted human rights and democratization initiatives e.g., community dialogues, support to peace processes/initiatives and high-level mediation activities, small arms and light weapons control; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. Both indirect and direct intervention projects are most needed in multi-ethnic and multi-religious society.

A Framework for Participation in Peace

The speaker then presented a framework for participation in peace processes which includes nine main stakeholders that must collaborate in order to have a robust conflict prevention and peace building process. These stakeholders are: Government, Professional Conflict Resolution, Business, Private Citizen, Research, training and education, Activism, Religious, Funding, and Public opinion/communication (inner circle). The main lesson here is that diplomacy is what makes peace work (whether preventive diplomacy, peace-making or peace building) and is better done collaboratively; it is not restricted to the government alone.

Case Study of Participation for peace

The paper presented two projects implemented by the Government of Niger State in which participation by the communities adequately reflects the concept of indirect and direct interventions in peace building and conflict management. These projects are the Jama'a Forum and the Ward Development projects.

The Jama'a Forum: This, the speaker explained is an interesting policy intervention in deliberative democracy, developed by the Governor of Niger State, Dr. Babangida Aliyu, in 2008 as a "communal round-table" through which community leaders and their elected representatives formally interact and share their collective and individual views on socio-political matters as these relate to governance in Niger State. The Jama'a Forum is not a talk shop; its input into government policy decisions has been demonstrated again and again. The Jama'a Forum also serves as a platform for democratic accountability where the electorate can speak directly to government officials and both sides can compare notes on the basis of set goals and objectives in order to determine the extent to which there has been fulfilment or a shortfall. Written into the code of this framework is that both the governmental and the traditional system of power are accountable to the people through the forum.

The Ward Development Projects (WDP): The Ward Development scheme, he explained, focuses on how the people at the ward level rather than their representatives in government, are provided regular grants of ₦500,000 (the money was later increased to ₦1million) per ward by the State Government for identifying, designing, and implementing their health, education, agricultural and water projects as prioritized by them. The role of the State in the system is limited to project monitoring, evaluation and commissioning. In addition to providing infrastructure, the projects create jobs for local artisans and skilled technicians. The Ward Development Projects are a logical outcome of the impetus driving the Jama'a Forum. With the WDP, people at the grassroots are made answerable for the way they expend the disbursements made out to them.

Conclusion

The projects encourage community members to participate as equal partners in community-driven, consensus-based projects. In the process of this effective communication participation, future conflicts are prevented. This case study graphically illustrates the importance of designing a group structure and decision-making process that meets the needs of its participants. What our discussions have shown so far is that community participation goes beyond the case of consultation in the process of a development intervention. It basically draws on the energy and enthusiasm that exists within communities to define what community wants and how it wants to operate. In the process, tension is lessened in the society.

General Discussion

The speaker's departure from a direct approach of curbing conflict elicited various responses from the participants.

Hajara D. Kushi from FADAMA III Project in Bauchi State noted that conflicts are unpreventable in multi-ethnic and religious settings like the speaker has described. To control conflicts, people need to have the spirit of tolerance and engage in dialogue to resolve conflict.

Muktar Isyaku Minjibir, Director, Community Development in the Ministry of Rural and Community Development of Kano State, asked if we can totally assume that attention to our people or community felt needs is the vital tool needed in peace building and conflict resolution in Nigeria. Will complementing these needs avert potential conflicts in our multi-ethnic communities?

Dauda Garuba of the Revenue Watch Institute, Abuja asserted that conflict is not necessarily a bad thing; it only becomes bad when it tends towards violence and when not nipped in the bud, it

takes a life of its own. Also do the people always know what is good for them? Without empowerment, sometimes the people may not necessarily know what is good for them.

Nasiru Mohammed, a member of the Amalgamation of Commercial Motorcycle Owners & Riders Association in Nigeria (ACOMORAN), asked if the ward development plan in Niger state as depicted by the speaker was real or a mirage because the results seem to tell a different story.

Dr Joe Nwankpa, Director, Community Development Department, Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja asked what measurable indicators of success are used in the Jama'a forum and ward development projects in Niger State.

Rev. Fr. John Attah, Director, Justice Development and Peace Commission, Otukpo Catholic Diocese, Benue State expressed his agreement with the fact that needs assessment and greater involvement of the beneficiary community in project design and implementation is key to sustainable development and peace.

Speaker's Response

Dr. Nathaniel Danjibo directed the participants to the GIS project launched by Niger state where you can check the successes of the project. Conflict is really an issue that is inevitable. Scholars and theories have moved from the perspective of conflict resolution to embrace conflict management because conflict is a recurring part of our lives, it is inevitable. Attending to people's needs is actually a long-term plan in managing conflict. You cannot have security in a state where the citizens don't feel secure and they cannot feel secure if there is no development. He explained that conflict is healthy. There is destructive and constructive conflict. Conflict is not violence. It can be defined as disagreement or disharmony.

On whether the ward development project in Niger state is for real or politicized, he said that the projects implemented in the communities are real and not for members of any particular political party.

Best Practices in Community Policing; Models of Community Policing: CLEEN Foundation Experience by Blessing Abiri

4:30pm-5:30pm

Introduction

The speaker described Community policing strategy as a proactive approach, which "aims at improving the level of community safety in any society as well as the level of public confidence in, and support for its police organization". The strategy was based on the "realization that full community safety cannot be achieved without the co-operation and collaboration between the various institutions of government and the public". Therefore, community policing emphasizes "the establishment of police-community partnerships and adoption of a problem-solving approach that is all inclusive and responsive to the needs of the community. Through this approach the community, as opposed to the police alone, become part of the policing process and have a voice in how they are policed. Furthermore, the involvement of the community in the

policing process creates the basis for transparency and information sharing which enable accountability and responsiveness."

The main reasons for adopting this proactive approach, she stated are to build a police organization that is "transparent, fair, neutral, accountable and responsive to public perceptions and expectations while at the same time develop other positive and more effective strategies beyond the traditional method of policing which is exclusively based on law enforcement and tends to be reactive."

The project was carried out in two phases:
Initial Pilot Phase – This involved recognizing the relevance of accurate and reliable information on crime to understand what the community policing reform process should aim at. It also threw up the possible issue of concern and problems being faced by the people. From the 2004 crime survey carried out in Lagos State, Ajeromi / Ifelodun and Mushin LGAs had the highest level of crime and victimization. In the Ajeromi/Ifelodun LGA: student violence and the 'area boys' phenomenon, juvenile prostitution, drug abuse and public usage of marijuana, traffic congestion and flooding abound while in Mushin LGA: unruly juveniles, area boys, abandoned buildings and vehicles, clogged canals and blocked gutters, traffic congestion and poor electricity supply.

Follow- up phase: Both Ajeromi / Ifelodun and Mushin LGAs were selected for the Pilot Project.

Establishment of Community Policing Partnership Forums
The Forum served to "jointly identify the community safety and security needs and priorities and also jointly find satisfactory solutions to the problems". Such healthy partnership and consultations are at the core of Community Policing and helps to promote police accountability and effectiveness.

Accordingly, working with the police authorities in Lagos State, two police divisions in the two Local Government Areas were chosen for the setup of the forums. In Mushin LGA, the Community Policing Partnership Forums were set up in Ilupeju and Itire police divisions while in Ajeromi / Ifelodun LGA area they were set up in Ajeromi and Layeni police divisions.

Facilitating a Community Policing Partnership Forum
The speaker explained that forums were held on a monthly basis and usually had in attendance participants drawn from various interest groups in the community including the police, informal policing groups, traditional rulers, patent medicine traders, National Union of Teachers, etc.
The Forums, which are very participatory, identify issues affecting the community and devised ways of addressing the issues. "A practical strategy is then devised and adopted and members of the forum are given the responsibility to follow up on the problems identified. Each team that was given assignments to follow up on priority issues had to report back to the larger group during the next monthly meeting. Police representatives were also part of each follow-up team. Some of the priority issues dealt by the Forum include: small arms proliferation, prevention of communal clashes, blocked drainages and illegal dumping of refuse, abandoned vehicles and buildings, rape and sexual violence etc.

Successes

In terms of service orientation, "the entire project was able to instil the orientation in both the police and the community that policing is a service to which both parties have important roles to play to ensure that it is effectively delivered."

In terms of partnership, "the Community Policing Partnership Forums created very strong and healthy partnerships between the police and the communities such that even after the completion of the project, the forums are still held on a regular basis in Mushin LGA."

Empowerment: Members' capacity was built to address safety and security issues "in a result-oriented manner using a joint problem-solving approach.

Accountability: Thorough the forums, the police officers in the four police divisions are held accountable for addressing (or failing to address) the needs and concerns of the community they serve.

Challenges: The two key challenges are politicization of the programme and lack of adequate police support. Community members saw it more as a source of influence and power in the community and were more interested in taking leadership positions. Unlike Mushin LGA where the forums recorded high police support and participation in driving the forums, this was not the case in Ajeromi/Ifelodun LGA.

Lessons learned:

For a meaningful Community policing forum, all stakeholders must be carried along from the outset. A fundamental requirement for any organization wishing to implement such community policing programs must ensure that the community members and other stakeholders understand the need for the program and be made to own the process. This plays an important role in ensuring commitment and sustainability.

She ended her presentation by announcing that CLEEN Foundation has developed a Community policing good practice guide to share information and experiences with other actors who may be interested or involved in community policing programmes.

Right after Blessing's presentation, the Coordinator, Mushin Community Police Partnership Forum Deacon Sunday Solanke came on stage and gave a very detailed illustration of how the Partnership Forum worked out in that community. The outcomes were similar and he concluded by saying that Security is everybody's business and encouraged everyone to kindly report any unusual gathering, movement, suspicious people/persons or places which are sometimes used to hide guns/ammunitions. Bombs can be planted in abandoned vehicles, uncompleted buildings and so on. He insisted that citizens are not giving sufficient support to the police, as Police can only act on information available to them. In his opinion, those who commit crimes in whatever form live within the community and in most cases, are well known to members of the community. He concluded by saying that National Security is a shared responsibility and called on everyone to play their part.

Chairperson's Remarks and Discussion

The chairperson began by asking the participants to imagine a community where everyone could go to sleep with their eyes closed. She posited that if every community engages with the police around them, the violence and unruly actions would be curbed. She referred to the United States

where truly "the police are your friend". She then called for questions and contributions from participants.

Alhaji Muhammed Sani Hassan, the ACOMORAN National President from Kano requested that the communiqué of the conference include a specific charge to the Inspector General of the Nigerian Police to put a stop to the open bribe collection by policemen and women on Nigerian roads.

Prince Ibrahim Ekunola of MOTOAN, Lagos was of the opinion that if the police responded to calls in times of trouble, people will be more willing to help them. A Representative of the New Nigerian Newspaper, Lagos, Raymond Tedunjaye added that as much as community policing has worked in some developed countries, it still remains a challenge to achieve in Nigeria because of the police force working in isolation of the communities they work in and the incessant unlawful arrests by the police. The transfer of police officers from communities where they might have gained useful information on the strategic security working of the community also does not support effective community policing. He suggested that CLEEN foundation still go a step further in educating the rank & file of the police force in re-building the image of the police force.

Awolaru Eniola O., Director, Community Development, Lagos State, commenting on the image of the Nigerian Police, mentioned that there is mutual distrust between the members of the public and the Nigerian Police members. There is need for attitudinal change on the part of members of the public and police.

Dauda Garuba of the Revenue Watch Institute, Abuja wanted to know how CLEEN Foundation dealt with the huge image problem that is associated with the police as an institution in Nigeria.

Dr Joe Nwankpa asked what role was played by Community Development Officers in the affected Local Government Areas?

Mrs. Ebioboere Morowei Ake of NDDC, Port Harcourt, Rivers State wanted to know what machinery is in place to tackle a scenario where an informant brings information to the police when their fellow policemen/women are complicit in the crimes going on in the community. Also, how are incidences of an informant being arrested as a suspect and detained unlawfully handled?

Prince Emmanuel E. Edem, the Community Development Officer in charge of Akpabuyo, Bakassi LGA, Cross River State asked if CLEEN Foundation can be established in any other state and how that can be done.

Tireng T. Retshik of the Ministry of Women Affairs, Jos Plateau State, Community Development Department wanted to know if there is any legal framework for community policing and commented on strategies, he thought could help curb conflict saying social security for the unemployed and governments' provision of the basic amenities, will help reduce conflicts.

Dr Jennifer Spiff of the Women Initiative for Transparency and Social Justice, Rivers State inquired on how CLEEN Foundation has dealt with the issue of extortion from citizens by the Police. Such practices can create entrenched apathy in the populace as regards engaging in community policing. She also asked how the organisation handles gender issues in the police force like disallowing a woman to bail a suspect in police custody.

Speaker's Response

In her response, the speaker stated that changes in the police force are gradual and we have to be patient to see these changes take shape, there is no overnight, magical solution and that the police represent the type of communities that we have. She stressed that what needs to be emphasized is that when processes for change begin, we need to keep an open mind. CLEEN has begun to organize Human Rights training for the police force to apply to their work. This, she said will help in the attitudinal change needed in the police force especially as it applies to gender issues. Other agencies come in by training individuals on their rights also so that citizens are empowered to exercise their rights where they might have otherwise been suppressed. For the movement of police officers that erodes any community policing knowledge gained, she advised that police officers with such knowledge are always advised to train other subordinates and share knowledge so that if you are transferred from that community, there will be continuity of knowledge. CLEEN has no control over the issue of police transfers. It is part of their operational services. On the legal framework, she noted that for now there is no legal framework for community policing. But sometime back in 2005, community policing was rolled out by the Federal Government and endorsed as a programme with the support of the Security and Justice Programme of the British Council in certain states of the country. In the past regimes, recommendations of white papers written by Police Reform Committees have suggested that community policing be included in the police curriculum. It is quite important that it is backed up by law so that a change in regimes will not see community policing in the waste basket. On the issue of reporting police misconduct or the informant being detained, there are mechanisms that are meant to address police misconduct even at police stations. The Provost Marshall office is designed to handle such cases. CLEEN also asks officers to imbibe the culture of confidentiality because it also encourages citizens to help the police. On the issue of expansion, CLEEN unfortunately cannot be in every state due to resource constraints. However, some projects take them out of their states of domicile and they sometimes do work in other states.

Day 3: Wednesday November 23, 2011

Plenary 5

8:30am-10:00am

Theme: A Review of the Various Institutional Reforms, Policies and Processes Related to Transparency and Good Governance since the Return to Civil Rule in 1999 by Bamidele Aturu/Remi Aiyede

Chairperson: Hajia Farida Sada Yusuf

1st Paper: Issues in Reform Policies and Processes Relating to Transparency and Good Governance - Bamidele Aturu

The papers' working definition of transparency & good governance connotes that public duties or functions are carried out with openness and in such a manner to guarantee that the mandate of government to deliver on the existential needs of the people is satisfactorily fulfilled. Despite a history of chorusing good governance by successive governments, there has been little deliverance of it. The speaker noted that good governance must be taken as the need to understand power relations and must deal with processes of bringing people to political power and achieving equitable economic distribution. Anything short of this, falls short of the papers concept of good governance. The paper addressed the review of policies by looking at the challenges facing institutional reforms.

Law Enforcement: The anti-corruption war and laws instituted like the EFCC, ICPC and Code of Conduct acts are not bad, but logistic deficiencies, wrong placement of leaders in these institutions, un-ethical lawyers and a complicit, lackadaisical judiciary prevents their enforcement in the country.

The Constitution and Anti-Corruption Policies & Processes: The Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunals Act (CCBTA), and the constitution have some areas of conflict bordering on the powers attributed to the Bureau. While the constitution provides for a level of transparency in its operations, the act contradicts that by not mentioning that records received should be made available to the public. Thus, the CCB ends up just being a record collecting body. The penalties for guilty persons, he felt, were also not deterrent enough.

An Irrelevant Police Force: The Nigerian Police Force despite being the pre-eminent body for fighting crime and corruption is not reckoned with when it comes to fighting corruption. They are best positioned because they have a nationwide spread and more money should be spent to have a professional force that can take on these responsibilities.

Attitude: Using the Electoral Act as a case study, the speaker showed how a lot of activities have gone into amending the electoral act because the politicians in the National Assembly are interested in the laws that will guarantee their stay in office and favour their tenures. However, their attitude to other acts like the Fiscal Responsibility Act is less than encouraging.

State Limitation: The speaker postulates that the state in the Nigerian context exists only as an instrument of the ruling class to maintain a status quo that enables them to accumulate capital at the detriment of good governance. And since the state is the body that makes the laws (the constitution in this case) the relationship between the state and the constitution is that the constitution essentially reflects the will of the ruling class. This is seen in the general and ambiguous terms used in writing the constitution and the clear denial of rights couched in the non-justiceable sections of the constitution. With these contradictions, it is clear that the state cannot guarantee the reforms it is trying to put in place.

Capacity: For the challenge of capacity, the presenter critiqued the need for the privatization program embarked upon by the Federal Government, declaring it to be contrary to the constitution, given that the constitution holds the government of the day responsible for controlling and managing critical areas of the economy. He also posited that the civil servants themselves have not been given the necessary tools to even implement the reforms that have been put down on paper.

Over-bureaucratization: Using the Public Procurement Act (PPA) as a reference, the speaker submitted that as much as transparency and competition are fundamental tenets of the democracy that we have, it however, is still necessary for states to have a public procurement law because as much as it is aimed at tackling corruption in the process of procurement, it also bridges a gap which the other anti-corruption laws have not covered. While criticizing the throwing of bureaucratization at most government institutions that do not work, the paper suggests a use of Executive Offices like that of the Accountant General or Auditor General to monitor compliance with the procurement laws instead of creating an elephantine council on procurement. The PPA can also benefit from the provisions allowing Civil Society Organizations have access to procurement processes and a procurement law is what is essential not the unwieldy and expensive bureaucracies that go with it.

Action on Information: Access to information can cause information paralysis. The critical question to ask with the passage of the Freedom of Information Act is: What are we doing with the information we have? There needs to be more people speaking out when the information we get shows that the citizens are getting the short end of the stick.

In conclusion, the speaker said that Nigerians must continue to show support for reforms, provided the support is aimed at expanding or enhancing the capacity of the people for systemic change that can guarantee real and equitable democracy. The people must oppose reforms such as privatization that injure their interests and do no more than produce overnight millionaires.

2nd Paper - Institutional Reform Policies and Processes and Good Governance in Nigeria's Fourth Republic – Dr. E.R. Aiyede

In trying to explain what reforms have been all about, especially institutional reforms, the speaker said the greatest challenge to Nigeria moving forward as a nation is not the fact that we do not respond to issues that limit our growth, but that we do not understand the issues fully. The history of Nigeria is dotted with various governments some legal, some autocratic, military and oppressive and the country has been on a quest for reform ever since with respite coming our

way in 1999 with the installation of democracy. Some of the reforms that have been able to take shape since 1999 are as a direct result of objective circumstances that have called for the reforms; ailing universities and government institutions, vulnerable and under equipped security forces just to mention a few. Two basic documents have captured the objectives of these reforms: The National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) and the Vision 20:20:20. However, the broad goals of the documents appear not realizable and that calls into question the strategy which the government has mentioned in the documents as key to driving these reforms.

Reforms have essentially been geared towards changing institutions. These institutions lie at the heart of effective functioning of government. The institutions referred to here are often conceptualized as the physical structures in place, but in recent discourse institutions are mentioned when referring to the objectives that the organizations were put in place to achieve. So, institutional reforms are saying look at the rules that make the organizations objectives workable or not workable. One of the things that makes institutions work is when people believe that the institution is working in their interest. So, part of the reforms is to address the peoples belief in their stake in the process, their sense of community and subsequently their decision to participate in the process. Institutional reform is more than just modernizing state institutions. It is also about fostering dynamic partnerships with civil society and the private sector in order to improve the quality-of-service delivery, enhance social responsibilities and ensure the broad participation of citizens in decision-making. Institutional reform is aimed at checking opportunistic behaviours, especially of those in public offices. There are two key elements of governance reform: Accountability and Transparency.

In a democracy, "accountability means that the electorate has the right to withdraw the mandate they give to their representatives by not renewing it at election time" while transparency means that information is freely available and directly accessible to those who will be affected by decisions and that enough information is provided in easily understandable forms and media." There are a good number of reforms that have been designed to improve accountability and transparency since 1999. These include: Public Service Reform, Procurement Reform, Fiscal Responsibility Reform, Nigeria Extractive Industries Initiative and Anti-corruption reforms. In connecting institutional reforms with community participation, the speaker noted that when participation by all people is institutionalized, it becomes the cornerstone of good governance. Participation is a right of citizenship and the search for more participatory approaches in the processes of democratic governance has superseded the traditional participation in voting and political rights. However, the people cannot participate if they are not empowered, if they are not educated, if they do not have access to information from within the government, if they do not understand how the process of government runs. So, whatever the reform in question, you will find misgivings on the capacity of the average Nigerian to impact on the reform. The speaker notes that most of the reforms have not been successful because of drawbacks like contradictions from within the system itself, drawbacks like the capacity of actors within the public service to analyse and deal with complex situations and to proffer solutions. Institutional reforms are difficult to achieve anywhere in the world. Where appropriate values do not accompany the reforms, it becomes near impossible to actualize the reforms. When values of governance are undermined, the free market cannot take care of the system. If we must deal with the problems of institutional crisis, then we must be ready to innovate. Government must muster up the political

will to be business-like and civil society, must define its role in the space created by government for their participation.

General Discussion
Some participants tracked institutional reforms from the 1980s and posited that what we have now are stunted reforms. They also wondered why government is expending efforts to harmonize the functions and duties of various commissions and agencies while at the same time commissioning more agencies. For instance, the due process and Public Procurement Act serves the same interest. Beyond the contradictory nature of the contents of the reforms is the non-integrated nature of the reform. It came to the fore that in a country, where the minimum wage is ₦18,000 naira, any bank reforms which stipulates that minimum balance in any account should be ₦25,000 is only showing that such reform policies cannot be integrated.

It was pointed out that what is required is re-orientation of public servants and the general public. The issue of the capability of the civil servants to function in most institutions was raised. The Police force was used as an example of an institution that goes into self-damaging image despite reform efforts.

Plenary Session 6
10:00am-11:00am

Theme: Understanding the Freedom of Information Act 2011 – A New tool for Effective Citizen Engagement by Tive Denedo

Chairperson: Grace Osakue

The campaign for the FoI Law in Nigeria lasted 12 years, from 1999 to 2011. The FoI bill was first passed by the National Assembly in 2007 but was not signed into Law by then President Olusegun Obasanjo. The process was restarted in June 2007 until the National Assembly again passed the Bill in May 2011. President Goodluck Jonathan signed it into Law on May 28, 2011.

What is Freedom of Information?
Freedom of Information, also known as Right to Know or Access to Information, refers to the right which members of the public in any society have to access information held by government officials and institutions. It is a fundamental human right established under international law. All citizens of any country -indeed all human beings- are entitled to benefit from this right. The underlying philosophy of Freedom of Information is aptly captured by Article iv (i) of the Declaration of Principles of Freedom of Expression in Africa, which states that:

> *"Public bodies hold information not for themselves, but as custodians for the public good and everyone has a right to access this information, subject only to clearly defined rites established by law".*

Why is the Freedom of Information Important?

The speaker notes that information is central to human existence and all our decisions are based on information available to us. The FoI Act ensures "more effective individual decision-making, whether at personal, professional or political levels. It facilitates effective business decisions and good practices as commercial users can access vast amounts of information on economic matters held by public institutions and make better business decisions". Also, it serves as a major tool in our fight against corruption – journalists, CSOs and citizens can use the Law to expose corruption and wrongdoing. In essence, the Law "enhances democratic accountability and good governance" as citizens can request for any public information covered within the Act and use same to assess the performance of public officers. Furthermore, it facilitates democratic participation as it enables citizens to participate effectively in decision-making on issues that affect them. It also promotes respect for human rights because human rights violations, like corruption, flourish in a climate of secrecy and FoI can facilitate access to reports of investigations into allegations of human rights violations. He further explained that it promotes a greater sense of belonging and ownership of development initiatives by citizens. And in the future, it will help improve record-keeping in public institutions as it will ensure that government records are properly kept and will reasonably guarantee the integrity of such records and documents. Consequently, the quality of decisions will improve as citizens will be able to make informed contributions in the decision-making process.

The Act gives *every person* a legally enforceable right of access to records, documents, and information held by public institutions, subject to certain exemptions stated in the Act. Information covered by the Act include all records, documents and information stored in whatever form, including written, electronic, visual images, sound, audio recording, etc. They are all potentially accessible to the public, unless the information is specifically exempted by the Act. Public institutions are required to proactively publish certain types of information through print, electronic, and online means, and to regularly update the information.

In addition to public institutions, the Act also covers private entities performing public functions, providing public services, or utilizing public funds. The Act also makes it mandatory for public institutions to record and keep information about their activities, operations and businesses, and maintain the information in a manner that facilitates public access to the information. An applicant should ordinarily receive the information he or she is requesting within seven days.

An applicant who is refused access to information can apply to a court to review the refusal. The court has the power to examine any record under the control of public institution to determine if it falls within the exemptions in the Act. If the court decides that it is not exempted, it can order the public institution to disclose the information to the applicant. Even if the information falls within one or more of the exemptions, in certain cases, the court may nonetheless order that the information be disclosed where it considers that the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs whatever injury disclosure would cause. Courts are required to deal with cases arising under the Act using summary procedures to avoid delays.

Ensuring Effective Implementation

The FoI will not enforce itself, the speaker assured, without a concerted effort to make it work. The Act can only make a difference if it is effectively implemented. He went on to list 4 things

that can be done to ensure the effective implementation of the Act. They are: Complying with the requirements of the Law in our use of the Act or where our institutions are covered in its application; Promoting and publicizing the Act to ensure greater public awareness and understanding of how to use it; Ensuring that the Law is working by monitoring its implementation, and by using the Law ourselves.

Conclusion
The Freedom of Information Act 2011 is a powerful tool we can use wisely to get the information we require to promote transparency and public accountability for growth and development.

General Discussion
Participants expressed their observation that the knowledge of the law is very low and therefore asked that the FoI Act be domesticated in every state and the document translated to local languages so that the ordinary people can make use of it. Questions were raised on the implication of the FoI Act as it relates to a public servant, who on assumption of office is made to swear an oath of secrecy in terms of what information is given out to the public. The speaker noted that the only document superior to the Act is the Nigerian Constitution and that the Act protects public servants who give information.

Plenary Session 7

Theme: Repositioning Community Development at the Federal Level-Draft Petition by Ngozi Iwere, Executive Director, CLP

Chairperson: Dr. Joe Nwakpa

11:00am-12:00pm

Dr. Nwankpa began this session by presenting a brief background to what led to situating the Community Development (CD) Division in the Federal Ministry of Health. Before now, the CD was called Federal Ministry of Social Development, Youth and Sport. The Social Development Policy which was crafted in 1989 gave mandate that all major components of ministries should become a full-fledged department. During the Civil Service reforms by the then military leader General Babangida, the CD was moved to the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) under the leadership of Prof. Ransome Kuti. At the FMoH level, CD was merged with the department of Population Activities which became what was known as Community Development and Population Activities (CDPA). Under this arrangement, the CD was no longer a Department and it had no budget, no recognition and was viewed as a national programme. Presently, the CD at the Federal level is unable to perform its statutory functions of coordination of the state level CD because it is not empowered financially and otherwise to carry out these functions. According to him, advocacy efforts have since increased to correct this anomaly, and to reposition CD at a more appropriate ministry. He noted that the 3rd Biennial Conference was another unique opportunity to move this agenda forward.

The Executive Director of Community Life Project (CLP), in responding to this, informed participants that there is a serious need to take action at this point. She reminded participants that the two previous NCCD conferences had passed resolutions on the issue of relocating CD at the federal level but that this time the issue must be pushed forward. She presented to the participants an advocacy letter written to the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria which addressed two issues namely, repositioning of the apex body of Community Development and ratification of the Draft National CD policy in Nigeria. She said that the letter was to be signed by all participants after it has been reviewed. She, however, reminded participants that in making their suggestions on where CD should be moved to, they should bear in mind that the country was going through the process of rationalizing ministries and agencies and to propose the creation of a new ministry might likely be counterproductive.

Participants thereafter, deliberated on the appropriate ministry to relocate the CD to. The CD Director of Kaduna State argued that CD is suffering at the Federal level because of the policy thrust of the government which shifted to youth, sports and women affairs and added that CD being at the FMoH is not inappropriate because the work of the Community Development Officer is multi sectoral. He also asked that the advocacy document which was called a 'draft petition' should be renamed 'draft Appeal'.

Some of the suggested ministries were: Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Social and Community Development, Community and Social Development ministry, an Agency under the Presidency or Vice President, Federal Ministry for Rural and Community Development and Federal Ministry of Community Development. It was argued that to make CD an agency would not be in its interest as they will not be represented at the Federal Executive Council meeting and furthermore, the agency can be scrapped by any new government.

Through the use of a voting system, it was unanimously agreed that the CD should be repositioned at the Federal Ministry for Rural and Community Development. Corrections were then effected and participants signed the document. Dr. Nwankpa advised that the petition letter should be forwarded not only to the Presidency but should be copied to Secretary to the State, Minister of Health and the Orosanya Commission that is saddled with the responsibility of restructuring the Ministries and Agencies.

Plenary Session 8

Topic: The Use of ICT and New Media in Promoting Popular Participation: The Reclaim Naija Experience by Chuks Ojidoh

12:00pm-1:00pm

The speaker began his presentation by describing ReclaimNaija.net as a reporting platform set up as a mechanism for the grassroots people to channel their concerns and get their voices heard on issues of electoral transparency and governance. In his words "the voice of the people enters the

information highway". ReclaimNaija, he further explained is an Ushahidi platform, a crisis mapping web engine, which works by collating reports sent by the people through text messages, emails, tweets and direct reports on the site. He spoke also on the option of phone calls which was introduced in dominant local languages for the benefit of grassroots people who can send text messages. He described the Ushahidi platform as 10% technical and 90% people-driven, stating that the success depends on the peoples' buy-in and commitment to using it, while the biggest challenge is getting people to the point where they have a stake in using the platform (they become stakeholders), and this depends on effective social mobilisation and social marketing of the platform. With this in mind, the need for media outreach and direct engagement with grassroots leaders was acknowledged.

Media Outreach

This involved the following activities: Civic Education Phone-in programme on the radio every day during the voter registration period ; A weekly phone-in programme on 2 grassroots radio stations that ran from January to the end of March; Weekly phone-in programme on a national radio station; Weekly adverts in 2 soft sell publications for the duration of the election period; Adverts in major national dailies; Jingles in 4 major languages, which were aired on 7 radio stations ; Online media adverts in 3 online newspapers; Adverts on new media (Facebook); Continuous awareness creation on both Facebook and Twitter for the duration of the election period; and last but not least, Wide-spread distribution of visibility materials across the 36 States and the FCT .

Direct-one-on-one Engagement with Grassroots Leaders

The strategy, he explained, was working through existing social networks and it involved the following activities; Forming broad-based working partnerships with CD and FOMWAN; Training Voter Educators in the 6 geopolitical zones; Organizing voter education forums for grassroots leaders in 193 LGAs in the 36 States and FCT, and Training 120 leaders of Okada owners and riders' associations in the 6 geopolitical zones to mobilise the electorate for mandate protection. As a result of these activities, the following outcomes emerged;

- 23,972 grassroots leaders empowered to participate in mandate protection.
- 288,607 messages and electoral incident reports were received on the reclaimnaija.net (ICT platform) via SMS, Twitter, Emails and Direct Reports
- 3,669 electoral incident reports by phone calls in four major languages were received and processed.
- 21 road campaigns for voter registration were carried out in 21 cities by Okada leaders across the country

Outputs and Impacts

The major impact, according to the speaker is that ReclaimNaija contributed significantly to the transparency and credibility of the 2011 Elections. There was increased citizen participation in the 2011 Electoral Process evidenced by large turnout for registration and voting due to ReclaimNaija's massive voter education and social mobilisation as well as reduced disenfranchisement by facilitating the extension of the Registration deadline by Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, to allow underserved communities to register. He continued by stating that due to its effectiveness, the ReclaimNaija ICT platform was adopted by INEC as its official SMS citizen reporting platform as it enhanced INEC's incidence

management capacity through the supply of real time information during Registration and on Election Days. It also enhanced the capacity of Community Development Departments of government at the Federal, State and Local levels to increase community participation in governance by empowering Grassroots/Informal Sector Organisations, e.g., the Okada Riders Association to take independent action in mobilising their constituency for mandate protection in the 2011 Elections. Further, it created a viable broad-based, non-partisan, national platform for popular engagement in promoting Transparency and Accountability.

ReclaimNaija platform also established a replicable model of partnership between CSOs and Government Agencies to increase community participation in Transparency and Governance, and it also created a critical mass of enlightened community leaders through voter education and social mobilisation on the 2011 elections, reaching in a direct person-person manner a total of 23,972 Grassroots and Community Leaders in 193 LGAs spread across the 36 States and FCT. ReclaimNaija created a cutting-Edge ICT Platform that changed the paradigm of election monitoring and observation in Nigeria by empowering ordinary citizens to be monitors and observers. It also reduced the language barrier to expression of grassroots voices by making it possible to have their voices heard by the Electoral Body in 4 local languages (Hausa, Igbo, Pidgin and Yoruba). This was achieved by connecting the local people to the Internet through the simple use of their cell phones thereby amplifying their voices. The presentation was fraught with projected pictures of slides depicting; a map of message distribution on the platform showing number of calls by geographical location (Note; Not all messages were transcribed into reports. They went through a process of being read, verified, and approved before being placed online); a graph of messages, broken down by reports timeline and location; and a table showing the breakdown by geopolitical zones of trained voter educators for the 2011 elections

Successes
- The ReclaimNaija ICT platform received the majority of incident reports sent by citizens via SMS in the 2011 elections;
- The CLP ReclaimNaija's Ushahidi platform received the highest number of reported incidences in the history of Ushihidi's use in Election Monitoring in the world;
- ReclaimNaija took the lead in setting the agenda for future elections in Nigeria by organising the first post-election conference involving all the major actors in the 2011 Elections including INEC, NYSC, Security Agencies, CSOs, Donors and other Stakeholders.

The speaker then concluded by leaving the participants with two questions; (1) how do we use the ReclaimNaija Platform for Promoting Social Justice and Good Governance in Nigeria? And (2) how can we ensure popular participation in that process?

Discussion
The participants were obviously quite impressed at the reach and successes of the ReclaimNaija experience. Their reactions were mostly in the form of suggestions and/or recommendations on how to make the platform more effective.

Prince Ekunola Ibrahim, MOTOAN stated that he expected that on receiving information on the platform and taking appropriate actions, the result of the information should also be published on

the platform. It will encourage subscribers when they see that their information is actually being acknowledged and acted upon.

Sister Freda Ehimuan, Religious Sisters of Charity explained that the Ushahidi platform could be used as both an effectiveness tool and an affirmation tool. As an effectiveness tool, where there are issues of injustice or crime, it could be reported on the platform, from where the necessary office responsible for the crime can be linked. While as an affirmation tool, credit can be given publicly to government officials who are acting credibly.

Ifukor Uche, Academic Associates' Peaceworks, Delta was of the opinion that contact information of policy influencers, high profile police officers and such should be put up on the platform so that citizens can call in or text when faced with social injustices. The platform can also receive public complaints and act on them. He suggested also that copies of Local government budgets be placed on the platform so as to empower citizens with the information, and they can in turn track budget implementation and report back as to progress being made in their local communities, as well as on perceived fraud. He concluded by saying that when complaints are seen as being taken seriously and acted upon, this will promote popular participation.

G.I. Jaja, Assistant Director, NDDC, PH commended ReclaimNaija as a good strategy for social change. He however suggested that to make it more effective, wider coverage was imperative and as such suggested that university students be drafted into the scheme as agents of sensitization and mobilization.

Finally, Rev. Fr John Attah, IDPC Otukpo Catholic diocese, Benue State suggested Civic education at the community level; Capacity building trainings on budget monitoring; Involving more faith-based organizations in ReclaimNaija and Frequent reports of critical social incidents/developments to the website.

Theme: Practical Tips on Day-To-Day ICT Usage by Demola Adesina/Tari Sikoki

1:00pm-2:00pm

Social Media for Community Development by Demola Adesina

The speaker started the presentation by inviting participants to "take a peek at the old horse or 'traditional' media as it is now known. These are conventional media of radio, print and television. Since the earliest 20th century, it was the biggest channel of communication. Then as the 21st Century approached, there was a fall in Newspaper production and readership worldwide, fall in TV Prime time viewership, and fall in Radio listening and this begged the question; What happened? Did people leave the earth perhaps? But World Population continued to increase, crossing the 6billion mark with projections of 9billion by 2040. Or, Income probably reduced? But aside a slow rise in 2008 due to the recession, world GDP has had an exceptional growth rate since 2001. So, what happened? *Social media happened!* More and more people got on the internet and experienced 'social media'.

What is Social Media?

It is a cool umbrella term that defines the various activities that integrate technology, social interaction, and the construction of words, pictures, video and audio. In simple terms social Media is interaction through network technology. And so social Media is where all the people went. After all, why wait till tomorrow to get yesterday's news when I can get today's news as it happens?

So, how do we engage with people on these Media and what are the more popular channels of engagement?

Facebook: Represents an inexpensive way for brands and organizations to create brand awareness, introduce a product/service/campaign, improve a product/service/campaign, improve reputation, collect data/content, and keep an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders. Channels on Facebook include: pages, profile pages, groups, events, adverts/social adverts, applications, newsfeed, and Facebook connect and share.

Categories of Facebook users

Supporters: these form a large majority (about 70%) and become fans as a social media statement – they want their friends to know that they like/support/endorse the page.

Ambassadors: small group (about 20%) - these people regularly read, share and post content to the page. Their engagement makes the community vibrant – and their involvement spreads through the News Feed of their friends – generating viral growth.

Missionaries: tiny group; they constantly engage the community with discussions, original content and engage in advocacy outside of the group.

Driving traffic to your page

The speaker then explained that to do this, you must: Provide users with interactive options that generate News Feed Stories-Contests, polls, and discussions, are great engagement 'fodder'; Allow visitors to upload pictures and videos to your page-be available to moderate these though; Create Events that users can respond to within your page and post messages in related groups about the existence of the page; Send the page URL to your connections and encourage them to share and like the page and also use Facebook Ads. Imagine being able to send text messages to 100,000 people at the same time. Then imagine if you could "reshare" these messages, put up images, videos and all forms of content.

Twitter

The speaker then went on to list and explain some terms which he called "tweetcabulary". They are: tweet, @reply, direct message (DM), follower/following, hashtag and retweet. Right after that, he listed the stages of tweeter acceptance as; Denial, Presence, Dumping, Conversing and finally, Microblogging. He then explained how to engage on twitter: Open a twitter account; Follow people and brands along your line of interest; choose a 'proper' handle; Upload your profile picture and then Start Tweeting. It is important to know some Twitter Tips and Tricks, which include: define Twitter objectives and guidelines and always think, think and think again before you tweet. There are thousands of apps to choose from. You do not (and possibly should not) use Twitter.com. The most ideal is LinkedIn and it is the most powerful social networking site to help you grow your career. It is NOT just for profiles, neither is it a glorified CV. If you

want to hang out with the big players – a place where connections are made, leads are generated, and deals go down – then you need to spend more time on LinkedIn.

Mobile (Phones, Smartphones and Tablets)
Mobile represents various engagement channels developmental officers can integrate with their work. Examples are; Blackberry, Apple iPhone, Nokia, Samsung, Sony Ericsson, LG, and HTC while examples of tablets are; Apple iPad, Samsung Galaxy tab, Motorola XOOM and Blackberry Playbook. For PCs though, these are some popular connection methods and their pros and cons:

- **WIMAX:** Pros - more consistent speed, no need to stay in one place, more reliable than 3G; Cons; obstructions diminish signal, distance also diminishes signal, Limited coverage outside major cities
- **3G/HSDPA:** Pros - available in more places, speeds up to a theoretical 1.8Mbps or 7.2Mbps; more flexibility, easy to move around. Cons; obstructions; diminish signal; distance also diminishes signal; real world speeds won't reach advertised speed.
- **Satellite:** Pros - Available anywhere; Great option when there is no other option; Cons; Expensive setup and maintenance fee, Signal affected by bad weather.

Some tips while social networking include: test Ideas often, fail early, focus on the user and on the content, and know that limitations can be opportunities, and finally, be SMART
S - Specific
M - Measurable
A - Attainable
R - Relevant
T - Time
In conclusion, the speaker quoted Bertrand Russell in *conquest of happiness* "To be able to fill leisure intelligently is the final product of civilization".

Practical Tips on Day-To-Day ICT Usage for Community Development by Tari Sikoki

Introduction; Using Websites
The speaker began her presentation by posing the following questions;
- Can you as a local government have your own website?
- Is there a policy against the local government or ministry owning and fully operating its own website, separate from the State website?
- If as a Local Government or Ministry, the State Government controls your site/page, how do you relay the information to the relevant parties?

She found that some States have fully functional websites, with the local Governments having sub-pages and sub-links. Lagos State, for example, had a fully functioning website on the State level. But moving past the State level, the Local Governments listed did not have functioning sites. The Lagos State website had subpages dedicated to every LGA, and links to external websites dedicated to Local Government's pages, but mostly, they led to non-functioning links. In addition, the site is not *fully* updated; for example, on the Lagos State website, Mrs. Oseghale is still listed as the Chairperson of Isolo Local Government, even though she no longer holds that position. The Ekiti State website lists the general information on their website of the LGA, towns

and villages, but there is no actual link to the Local Governments. This doesn't give any information about the activities of the local government, though this is necessary information. The Ekiti State site actually has information on the Ministries and the information relevant to the Ministries, but there is still less information than should be there. FCT has a partially functioning site, but just like the other sites mentioned, the links to specific LGAs and Ministries are non-functional. She stated that the Cross River State website was perhaps the most impressive of the sites she visited. The website was fully functional *and* nice to look at. The varying ministries *and* Local Governments were listed. Also, the site had detailed information on the ministries listed.

The problem faced when hosting Local Government pages on the State website is that there is the dearth of information relevant to grassroots operations; the information on the sites we looked at highlight the "high-profile" operations. But what about the people? This is why it is essential for Local Governments to host their own websites, dedicated to documenting the projects and steps of community development of their respective locations.

Who Can Own a Website?

The first point to note is that websites can be easy to run. Like most things, there are different types of websites, all varying by the ease of navigation and amount of content housed on the site. But the primary point is that websites are easy to set up and easy to manage. The cost implications vary. The more advanced the website, the higher the cost. But generally, webhosting costs can be as cheap as ₦10,000 – ₦15,000, and as expensive as N200, 000+. It all depends on the capability of the site i.e., how "fancy" the site will be. But notwithstanding, it is entirely possible to run a fully functional site at affordable prices. Some resources that offer affordable webhosting were listed: www.web4abuja.com; www.bestsofnigeria.biz; www.sbohost.com/website-design/

Why own a Website?

Websites are cost efficient points of reference that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In other words, it is easily accessible at all times of the day and night. Websites serve as a way of communicating with the public without any form of error; i.e., it is a clear way of getting a point or agenda across, without wrongful interpretations or lost meanings through word of mouth/lack of hearing or understanding. They detail the past/history of an organization, their present activities and plans for the future, both in the short and long term. Websites keep constituents and interested parties up-to-date at all times, provided the website is updated frequently and relevantly. Websites can also help to generate followings and viewings from people all over the world. This means that people in all parts of the world can see what an organization is doing and so serve as accountability measures. They create a forum for discussion between the organization and the public, *and* between members of the public and they serve as a wonderful tool for feedback, where web managers can conduct polls, satisfaction surveys etc. Lastly, websites help to promote the existence and agenda of an organization worldwide. This can be especially profitable to an organization seeking funds, as investors, donors and partners can find and meet the needs of the organization.

What Should a Website Look Like?

A website should be simple and clear, always remaining easily accessible and navigable. It should be attractively designed, uncluttered yet detailed, brief yet comprehensive. The website should also be up-to-date and in-depth.

What Can Be Put on a Website?

Most websites have tabbed pages, sometimes with sub-tabs (sub-pages) that are relevant to their main pages. A simple formula for a community development website, for example, would be one that has the following pages: About, Current Project(s), Past Projects, Photo Gallery, Forum, FAQ, Donate and Contact Us.

Social Networking and Websites

In addition to having a website, it is essential for an organization to also have a twitter account and a Facebook page. These help the organization to gather followers. Most people use twitter and/or Facebook, and while the website should be the primary point of contact for viewers, people are more likely to locate a twitter or Facebook profile than to stumble on a website. Hence, generating and redirecting traffic to the website. Similarly, YouTube is another avenue of exposure than will be helpful to promoting an organization or agenda. YouTube is an avenue where videos can be posted for public viewing online. Website managers can put up videos that show work done, for viewing by constituents and interested parties. Social networking sites are helpful for generating followers from around the world; this gives the organization/individual in question a more reputable standing among their peers.

So, how does this help the Civil Service and other Agencies?

For the Civil Service and other Government Agencies, the same ideas as mentioned apply. Consider what a civil servant or Government agency is marketing; i.e., what would they want to put on their website? In this case, we want to promote transparency and honesty; the best way to do this is by publishing relevant information on the website. For the civil service, the material on the website is always dependent on the ministry that the civil servant is affiliated with, but the ultimate goal is to give information, while promoting honesty, transparency and accountability. In this respect, it would be advantageous to publish the costs of projects, perhaps even the budget allotted to the state/community for development. This way, constituents and interested parties can readily see where funds are going. Leave no room for suspicion. Let's consider the Civil Service Commission of a State. In times of employment, the individual in charge of the site would post relevant information regarding the employment season. These are just a couple examples of the information that can be published on a website. As stated earlier, the information on the site is entirely dependent on the organization, ministry, or agency in question.

Action Steps

Locate the relevant steps to own and operate a website. If there are restrictions limiting the use and management of your own site, identify them and work with them. Familiarize yourself with social networking sites and open pages/accounts and ALWAYS ensure that information published on the website is accurate, responsible and official.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony commenced immediately after the last speaker's presentation and had as its chairperson Dr. Comfort Olayiwole, flanked on either side by the Executive Director, CLP, Mrs. Ngozi Iwere and the National Coordinator of Community Development at the Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja, DR. Joe Nwankpa. The communiqué was read on behalf of the rapporteurs by Dr. Princess Jennifer Ogbonna-Spiff. It gave a broad overview of all the activities surrounding the conference, cutting across the theme, hosts, partners, sponsors, objectives, paper presentations, and participants' responses. Dr. Nwankpa then called on participants to make critical corrections or suggestions if any and a few were noted and amended after which the communiqué was unanimously adopted.

The Deputy Director, CLP, Mr. Chuks Ojidoh then asked participants to exercise patience while the souvenir items were made ready for distribution. In the meantime, they were handed evaluation forms to fill out. This was for the purpose of helping the conveners of the conference assess the participants' rating of various aspects including; paper presentations, session management, and welfare. This would in turn serve as a planning tool to reinforce best practices and phase out those things participants considered disagreeable.

Participants were then invited to the podium in alphabetical order, where they were each presented their certificates and immediately after, their souvenir items which included; Branded t-shirts, electronic copies of all the papers presented and all but four hard copies of same. At the end of this, the Executive Director again thanked all the participants for their presence and contributions and wished everyone a safe journey back to their destinations. A closing prayer was then said by a Community Development Officer from Cross River State, Mrs. Ada Inyang and this brought to a close the 3rd Biennial National Conference on Community Development.

Communiqué issued at the end of the 3rd Biennial National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria Held at Grand Hotel Asaba, Delta State, November 20 - 24, 2011

Preamble

The 3rd Biennial National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria convened by community Life Project in collaboration with the Community Development office at the Federal level took place at Grand Hotel Asaba, Delta State from November 20 – 24, 2011.

Participants comprised top level Federal, State and Local Government Functionaries, Community Development Officers, Academicians, Social Development Practitioners from the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Non-Governmental, Faith-Based / Community-Based Organizations and the Private Sector.

The theme of the Conference was 'Popular Participation in Promoting Transparency and Democratic Accountability in Nigeria'. The objective of the Conference was to equip participants with knowledge and skills on how to motivate grassroots communities to participate effectively in designing, implementing and monitoring of projects and government budgets as well as exposing corrupt practices at the local level.

The Conference was declared open by His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Delta State, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, represented by the Chief of Staff, Hon. Festus Okubor followed by a keynote address by Comrade Issa Aremu, the Vice President, NLC.

Nine papers were presented in seven plenary sessions, which dealt with Best Practices and Strategies for Community Participation in Rural Development, Challenges and Opportunities for improving the Local Government System, the Gender Dimensions of Popular Participation, Community Participation in Conflict Prevention and Peace Building, Institutional Reforms, Policies and Processes related to Transparency and Good Governance, Understanding the Freedom of Information Act and its Application in holding Government accountable as well as the effective use of Social Media in promoting Popular Participation. There were also 8 skills building sessions on project planning, implementation, gender mainstreaming, community policing and use of ICT in promoting popular participation in development and local governance.

Observations:

The participants observed as follows:

- That the apex body of Community Development at the Federal level, which is currently located in the Federal Ministry of Health, is in an inappropriate ministry.
- The Freedom of Information Act is yet to be domesticated at both the State and Local Government levels.

- The lack of integration and harmonization of development efforts by different agencies leads to duplication and waste of resources.
- The lack of transparency, accountability and high level of corruption within the polity leads to poor human development indices, decaying infrastructure, unemployment and mass impoverishment.
- Women are still highly marginalised from development programmes and there is pervasive gender disparity at all levels of government.
- Local Government all over the country are disempowered and largely dysfunctional due to lack of political and economic autonomy.
- The National Community Development Policy is yet to be ratified.
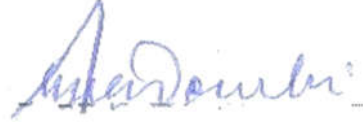
Resolutions:

The conference resolved as follows:

- The Federal Government should, as a matter of urgency, remove the apex body of Community Development from the Federal Ministry of Health; and create the Federal Ministry of Rural and Community Development for effective coordination of community development programmes and enhancement of popular participation in governance and service delivery at the community level.
- States and Local Governments should, without further delay, domesticate the Freedom of Information Act and translate them into local languages to enable
  citizens exercise their right to access information from public officers and government agencies.
- Community Development departments at all levels should be responsible for coordinating multi-sectoral development activities to facilitate collaboration among different development agencies and stakeholders, minimise duplication of efforts and ensure cost effectiveness in service delivery.
- Nigerian citizens should live up to their responsibilities of holding public officers and government agencies accountable and take action to ensure that public resources are judiciously applied to meeting the needs of the people and promoting development.
- All institutions and organisations, which employ male and female staff, should review their policies and operational guidelines to ensure that they are just and fair to female employees and promote gender equity.
- The Constitution should be amended to grant political and economic autonomy to Local Governments to enable them perform their statutory functions effectively and efficiently.
- The Federal Executive Council should take necessary action to ratify the National Community Development Policy, which was developed in 1989 and reviewed in 2006.

- Community policing, as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, should be promoted and made effective by reorientation of the Nigeria Police and the general public to enhance the improvement of security in the country.

Princess Jenifer Ogbonna Spiff
National Coordinator, Women Initiative
For Transparency & Social Justice

Rev. Adamu Sabo
Asst. Director, Community
Development, Federal Ministry
of Health, Abuja

Sam Orisasona
Freelance Social Development
Consultant

Prince O.K. Miller
State Treasurer, Delta State
Motorcyclist Association

November 23, 2011

His Excellency,
Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR
The President and Commander-in-Chief of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria,
Aso Rock, Abuja

Your Excellency,

Appeal for the Re-positioning of Community Development at the Federal Level

We, the under-signed, Community Development Practitioners, from the public, private and civil society sectors of Nigeria under the auspices of the National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria, hereby appeal to Your Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to use your good offices to ensure that Community Development (CD) at the Federal level is removed from its current location in the Federal Ministry of Health. And we humbly suggest the creation of a Federal Ministry of Rural and Community Development.

Community Development, as Your Excellency knows, is strategic to achieving grassroots participation in governance and human development programmes. We believe one of the major reasons that Nigeria is lagging behind in human development indices and attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is inadequate Social Mobilisation and Community Participation. Meanwhile, the draft National Community Development Policy for Nigeria is yet to be ratified, partly because the CD at the Federal Level does not have the capacity to ensure its ratification. There is need, therefore, for a more proactive leadership of Community Development at the Federal Level. The current location of CD in the Federal Ministry of Health does not provide an enabling environment for such proactive leadership of grassroots development in the country.

Sir, you will agree that the apex body for Community Development at the Federal level has no business being located in the Federal Ministry of Health.

Your tenure in office provides this country the unique opportunity to rectify this anomaly, especially in the light of your administration's commitment to rationalising the ministries and agencies with a view to making them more effective and efficient. We are convinced that this is the right time to address this critical issue.

We, hereby, appeal that you use your good offices to:

i.   relocate the apex body of Community Development from the Federal Ministry of Health to the new, more appropriate and well-resourced Federal Ministry of Rural and Community Development.

ii.   ensure the ratification of the draft National CD Policy for Nigeria by the Federal Executive Council.

We look forward to your positive and expedited action.

Yours faithfully,

Cc: The Secretary to the Government of the Federation
      The Head of the Federal Civil Service
      The Honourable Minister of Health
      The Chairman, Committee for the Rationalisation of MDAs