

2019

Annual Report



**Community
Life Project**
EMPOWERING THE GRASSROOTS

OUR VISION

A society where respect for human dignity, inclusion, social and environmental justice prevail

OUR MISSION

To reduce human misery by empowering citizens to be positive change agents

OUR CORE VALUES

Mutual Respect
Integrity
Diversity and inclusion
Accountability
Community Ownership

From the Executive Director's Desk



In 2019, CLP's grassroots social movement, ReclaimNaija, continued to wax strong in grassroots community organising and social mobilisation; providing an effective platform for social inclusion in fruitful civic engagement across the country.

The year began on an intensive note. With the tensions and prospects around the 2019 General Elections, we had our work cut out for us. Through our partnership with the Faith-based communities, we mobilised and trained 7,317 Religious Leaders (in all 36 States and the FCT) to promote tolerance, peaceful elections and active citizen participation in the 2019 elections. We witnessed real collaboration and respect among the Religious leaders, who also used their platforms to sensitise thousands of members of their congregations.

We also made tremendous progress in empowering grassroots communities to exert a strong influence on how public money is spent in their communities. In our participatory budgeting project in 46 Local governments, the communities were able to get 55% of their prioritized needs into the LG budgets. In a similar vein, in three Local Governments in Kaduna States, our ReclaimNaija community

volunteers monitored school projects worth N679,669,923.70; calling out contractors who were underperforming and engaging duty bearers in both the local and state governments to get the job done. In Ekiti State, communities and local government officials also worked together, on a pilot project, to develop a 3-year Community Development Plan for Ikole Local Government Area.

We continued our work with women politicians from Ekiti and Osun States. 121 women politicians from 6 political parties came together to review the outcomes of the 2019 elections and offered recommendations towards women's participation in the 2023 General Elections.

We also took action on the Environment front, as we partnered with friends to launch the Network of Young Catholic Carers for the Environment in Nigeria (NYCCEN), a Lagos Catholic Archdiocesan initiative aimed at domesticating the message of *Laudato Si'*, an encyclical of Pope Francis on the Care of the Earth, our Common Home.

We want to specially thank our ReclaimNaija grassroots partners and government officials, especially our friends with the Community Development department across the country for their commitment and support that led to the huge success we recorded in 2019. We also say a big thank you to our funders - OSIWA, the MacArthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation - and our Board members for their invaluable insights and contributions to our programmes.

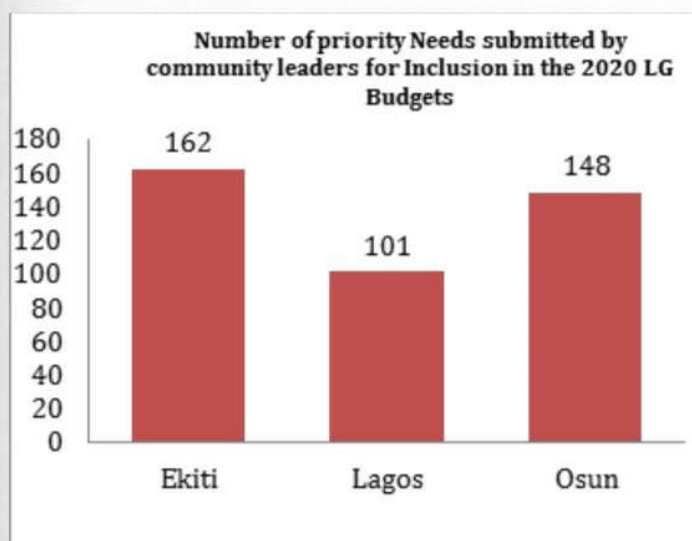
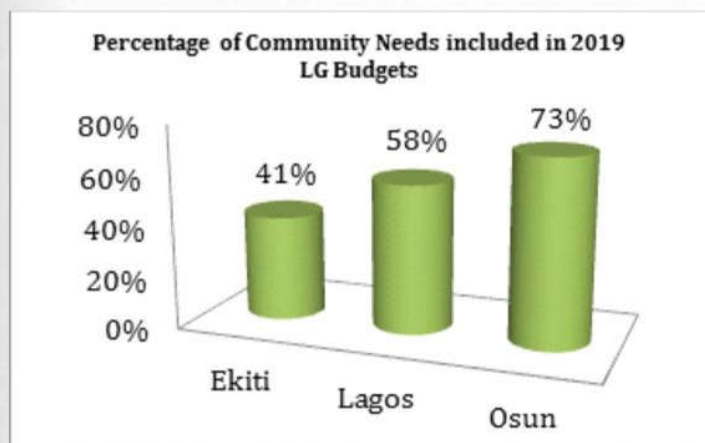
We could not have accomplished all without the commitment, resilience and sacrifice of our staff. Thank you to every one of you. And may we be guided to do greater things in 2020.

Engendering a new culture of Participatory Budgeting and Governance in South West Nigeria

With support from OSIWA, grassroots communities are now working with Local Governments Officials to prioritise community needs and get them included in the Local Government (LG) budgets. 55% of prioritised community needs submitted to 46 Local Governments in Ekiti, Lagos and Osun States were included in the 2019 LG Budgets for execution. In October 2019, at Town Hall meetings, Community Leaders from the 46 target Local Governments submitted 411 prioritised community needs for inclusion in the 2020 LG budgets

“Prior to the commencement of this project, the communities were not involved in the budgeting process. With this project, stakeholders from various communities are now involved in budget preparation through the Town Hall meetings, where Community Projects are presented in order of priority to the Local Government.”

-Local Government Official from Ise-Orun, Ekiti State



Trained
294
Grassroots Community Leaders

Mobilised
4,611
Grassroots Leaders to prioritise
Community Needs in Town Hall meetings
for inclusion in the
2019 & 2020 LG Budgets.

Facilitated
441
Budget Advocacy Meetings
between 261 Community
Leaders and 170 LG Officials

Hosted
70
Phone-in Radio Episodes on governance and
community participation in Local Languages
reaching an estimated
8.04 million listeners



Cross Section of community leaders and Local Government Officials at the End-of-Project review meeting in Osun State

What We Achieved

1. A critical mass of Grassroots Leaders that understand their civic responsibility, have the tools, tactics and a Network behind them to engage duty bearers, and are now starting to decide where the money goes.
2. Shift in budget-making practice towards transparency and Accountability
3. Synergy and improved relationship between communities and local governments
4. Enhanced grassroots citizens' voice and agency.

Grassroots Leaders are now more confident in working with the Local Government Officials in resolving local challenges.

There is a change in mindset on the part of the local government officials; they now demonstrate willingness to be accountable to community leaders on how funds are allocated for public works in various communities.

Below some participants share the benefits of the project:



Oyelabu Grace,
Community Leader
(Osogbo LG)

"Personally, the programme has increased my awareness of good governance and the need for me to actively participate, contribute my own quota and be a good representative of my local community. I realised it is my civic responsibility to be involved in participatory governance. I have been able to boldly and respectfully interact with LG officials on matters relating to the development of my immediate community. This programme has geared me to have the notion that 'together we can'.

This has been an educative programme for me due to the fact that I had a nonchalant attitude to happenings around my community. Ever since I started attending various trainings organised by CLP, I realised that I need to contribute my own quota to what is happening in my community. When projects are implemented, I make sure community members take part in monitoring the projects and helping out in fixing little repairs of projects without waiting for government officials. I also learnt that women's participation is key and important in the governance process. I was able to apply the knowledge gained recently over an uncompleted borehole project. I led a team to the Councillor's house and discussed the issue with him and he got it fixed with the help of the Local Government. The programme has given our community voice to speak on issues affecting us. CLP has been a great blessing and success in Osun State. May God continue to move the organisation forward.



Ogundare Motunrayo Racheal
Community Leader,
Ejigbo LCDA,
Lagos State

In a great way, the programme has made us reach the unreached under the name "ReclaimNaija". Irrespective of who you are, once you hear the name ReclaimNaija, it opens doors for anyone who has interacted with them. I can now enter my LCDA with any issue under this name. It has given my association additional respect as people do ask us where we got to know ReclaimNaija from.

Since, three years now, I will not lie it's been of great benefit to me physically, financially, and I will also say spiritually as well, because it made sharp and alert. It opened my eyes to happenings in my environment; now I can't keep quiet about such dealings in my Local Government. It gave me the courage to talk to Local Government (LG) Officials and write letter of complaints to the LG for urgent action to be taken in resolving our plight. It made me to understand my right and how to contribute and encourage people around me. In short, the project gave us voice in our community. It also gave me hope that we shall get there one day, if you and I play our role in the community."



Babatunde Vincent Adekunle
Director, BPR&S,
Oye Local Government,
Ekiti State

"The relationship between the Local Government and the community people was not cordial before the programme commenced, as we have now. We have come to know each other personally. The Programme has highly impacted our relationship with the community leaders.

In fact, I can boldly say that the budget of year 2020 will be community-driven because the community brought their community needs / request to the Chairman and my office, i.e., Director, Budget & Planning.

The level of community participation in the LG budgeting process is superb now. In fact, this year's budget will truly reflect the needs of the people. In fact, it is the community people / leaders that tell us what they want and we as Local Government just put it in the budget. The community / LG Officials met on the various community needs."



Mr. Ajakaiye A.A.
HOD Admin, Ifedayo
LG, Osun State

“The project has contributed to a large extent in making the grassroots aware of their responsibilities towards accountability and transparency in governance. Through the release of statistical documents detailing the amount accruing to each Local Government as statutory allocations, the administration of local government and its finances are now under serious scrutiny and therefore allowing for implementation/execution of programmes/projects that people need maximally.

Some benefits accruing from the project are:

- 1) Prudence in the management of LG funds;
- 2) Execution of projects/programmes based on the needs of the people since they form part of the budget preparation process;
- 3) Political office holders are now becoming more accountable to the people that they represent;
- 4) Due process is now followed in the operation of the Local Government, especially with project/programme implementation.

Personally, the programme has given me more enlightenment on the need to always carry people along, especially if someone is a leader. It has helped me to build my leadership role and enhanced my decision-making capability.”



Ganiu Adebisi
Odi-olowo / Ojuwoye LCDA,
Lagos State

“The programme has contributed immensely to the development of my community. It has enabled me to have one-on-one interaction with the local council Chairman and Council officials. All the government projects are now being supervised by the community members; no more 'I don't care' attitude.

Since I have been participating in the Programme, I feel fulfilled. Gone are the days when we don't know what is going on in the community. In my personal life, I feel important and recognised by the government and the community. We now have one voice.”



Community Leaders from Olorunda LGA present their prioritised needs to the Deputy Majority Leader, Osun State House of Assembly, Hon. Moshood Akande.

Communities produce a 3-year Community Development Plan to inform the choice of government projects



Senior Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, Hon Tayelolu Olatunji, launching the Plan

A 3-year Community Development Plan (2020 – 2022) for Ikole Local Government was launched by the Senior Special Assistant to the Ekiti State Governor on Community Development, Hon Tayelolu Olatunji on November 27, 2019. Ikole is the biggest Local Government in Ekiti State with 24 autonomous communities, each with its own traditional ruler. In his remarks, Hon Olatunji stated that the plan provides a clear development path for Local Authorities in meeting the real needs of communities.

This pilot project, supported by the Ford Foundation, was aimed at empowering local communities to demand open budgeting, accountability and more effective use of public resources. The Plan was developed through an inclusive participatory process that involved stakeholders from all the communities that make up Ikole local government. The stakeholders included women and youth groups, Persons with Disability, leaders of community and faith-based networks and Local Government Officials (including the LG Chairperson and Heads of Departments, State Officials from the Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, as well as the Local Government Service Commission).

The Plan, which according to the Local Government Chairperson, Mrs. Olukayode Abiola, is probably the first of its kind in Nigeria, includes projects and policy targets in 8 Development Sectors – Education, Health, Agriculture, Basic Amenities (Water / Waste Disposal), Roads, Small and Medium Enterprises, Security and Local Government Administration.

A copy of the Ikole Community Development Plan is available:

<https://communitylifeproject.org/community-development-plan-for-ikole-local-government-ekiti/>



A cross section of Royal Fathers and Community Leaders at the Launch of the 3-Year Community Development Plan



Community Leaders, in groups, validating the outcome of the Needs Assessment



Head Teachers validating the outcome of the Needs Assessment for the Education Sector

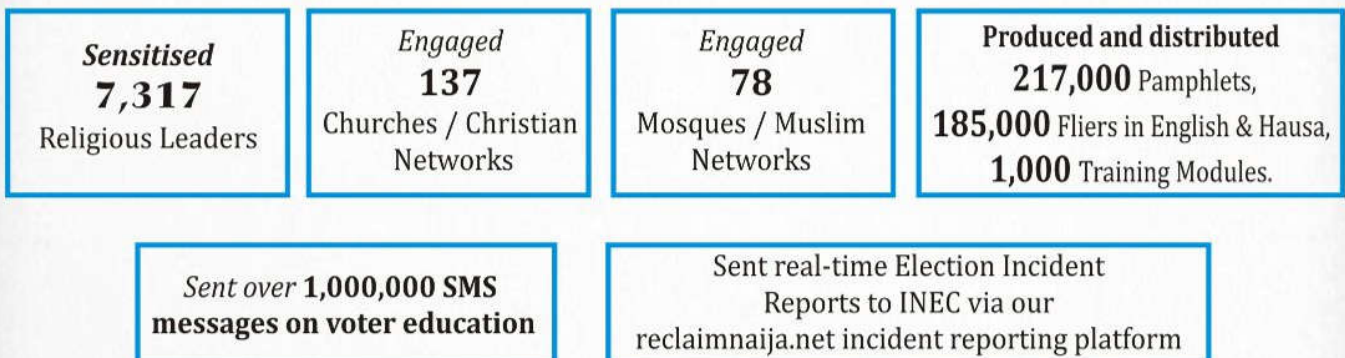
Partnering with Faith Communities to promote Electoral Integrity



Prior to the 2019 Elections in Nigeria, there were palpable fears of violence – ethnic and religious. The country was inundated with false and divisive narratives meant to cause disaffection and violence. The activities of terrorists (Boko Haram), kidnappings and herdsmen attacks were on the rise. It was important to take steps to douse the tension in the country.

With support from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), CLP worked with thousands of Grassroots Religious Leaders and members of Faith Communities to promote religious tolerance, peaceful elections, and active citizen participation in the elections. Several religious civic education forums were organised for over 7,000 Christian and Muslim leaders across the country. The sensitised Religious Leaders, in turn, reached thousands in their congregations during *Jumat* prayers, Christian Services and other platforms.

What We Did



One of the Christian Civic Educators shares her experience:

“May God continue to give you strength for the good works, especially the one that you carried out during the last elections in Nigeria. I mean the seminar on educating our religious leaders on how to talk to their congregations in Churches and Mosques against violence during elections. In fact, it helped a lot in Anambra State.

This, being my first time in entering the Islamic Mosque, teaching the Imams, the Hajias, and other Islamic leaders and they listened attentively; it is a thing of joy anytime I remember it. Hajia Olanan, my colleague, also told me the type of traditional dress I should put on so that they will respect me there. So, I put on what the Igbos call Omuma na ntukwasi. So, it was so interesting and they learnt a lot and asked intelligent questions and we gave them correct answers.

After all these, the Anambra State elections was very peaceful, both the Christians and Muslims comported themselves well and this was due to the effect of this laudable seminar that was carried out in all areas of Anambra State for both Christian and Muslim leaders. I worked as a collation officer at both Amansea and Umokpu, Awka communities in Awka. This was the first time I saw people go to polling booths quietly, cast their votes, and stay quiet. Even when votes were being counted, they remained calm when those winning were jubilating; quite unlike before. So, please, Aunty Ngozi, God bless you and those that joined you to initiate this all over Nigeria. Remain blessed.”

Mrs. Chinyelo Anelo

Women Politicians in Ekiti and Osun States review and draw lessons on women's participation in the 2019 elections



The 2019 elections in Nigeria witnessed a further decline in women's representation in the country. Only 63 (5.65%) out of the 2,970 women that contested across the country the 2019 elections won. However, in Ekiti State, six women (1 Senator, 1 House of Representatives and 4 State Assembly members) got elected compared to four women that won in 2015. In Osun State, from having just 1 elected Representative, the State now has 3 women representatives. For the first time, two women were elected into the State House of Assembly; the last time a woman was elected into the State Assembly was in 2007.

In November 2019, with support from the Ford Foundation, CLP brought 121 Women Politicians from 5 Political Parties together at a 2-Day Learning Workshop to review and share their experiences in the 2019 Elections and draw lessons for the future.

The women came from (African Democratic Congress [ADC], African Democratic Party [ADP], All Progressives Congress [APC], Labour Party [LP] and Peoples Democratic Party [PDP]) from Ekiti and Osun State.

The workshop provided space for further networking and bonding across party lines.

In the review, the women highlighted the following:

1. The economic situation in the country has seriously affected women's participation in politics and governance.
2. Intra party politics does not favour women.
3. Decision making within the parties is largely exclusive of women who only have token representation at the executive level.
4. The increasing thuggery and violence that has marred our elections do not favour women.
5. The rising cases of vote buying now favour candidates with deep pockets.
6. The militarisation of our elections by security forces is becoming a disincentive to women's participation.
7. The long adjudication process which makes court processes very expensive is not favourable to women.
8. Women are not working in unison but in splinters on increasing women's representation.

The women made the following recommendations:

There is need to:

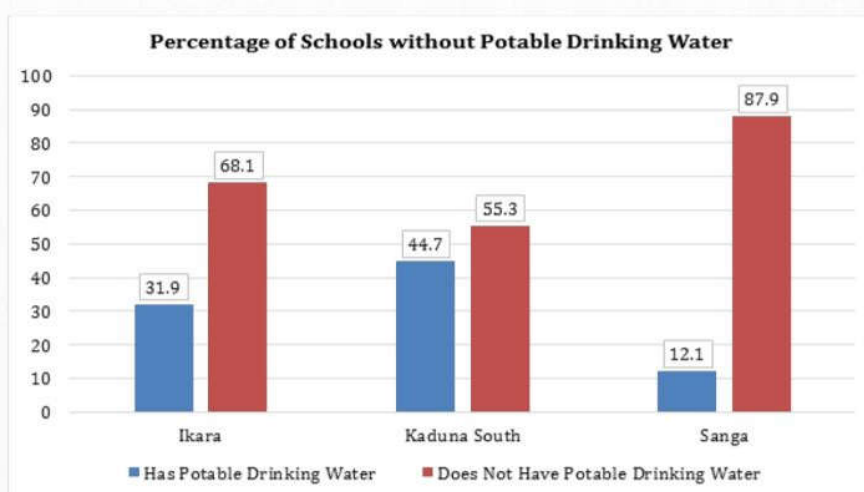
1. pass the Gender Equality Bill which provides for 35 percent women's representation in elective and appointive positions.
2. review the Nigerian Constitution to be more gender friendly.
3. reform our electoral process to guarantee free, fair, and transparent election.
4. criminalise all forms of electoral malpractices including thuggery, violence and vote buying.
5. demilitarise the voting environment and prevent the bearing of arms to frighten voters.
6. re-introduce Option A4 in order to guarantee a transparent electoral process.
7. reduce the overwhelming influence of godfathers in the affairs of political parties.
8. avoid the chanting of abusive and unguarded songs and utterances during campaign rallies as they can cause chaos.
9. push for partisan political meetings to be scheduled at times that are favourable to women's participation.
10. form a women only political party to push their interest.
11. empower women to prepare them for electoral politics.
12. create more training and leadership opportunities and platforms for women.
13. remove all socio-cultural and religious barriers that inhibit women's full participation in politics and governance.
14. orient the Nigeria populace to change their mindset on women.
15. promote education of the girl child.
16. push for successful and prominent women to mentor other women.
17. push for a constitutional provision for the role of First Lady both at the national and state levels.

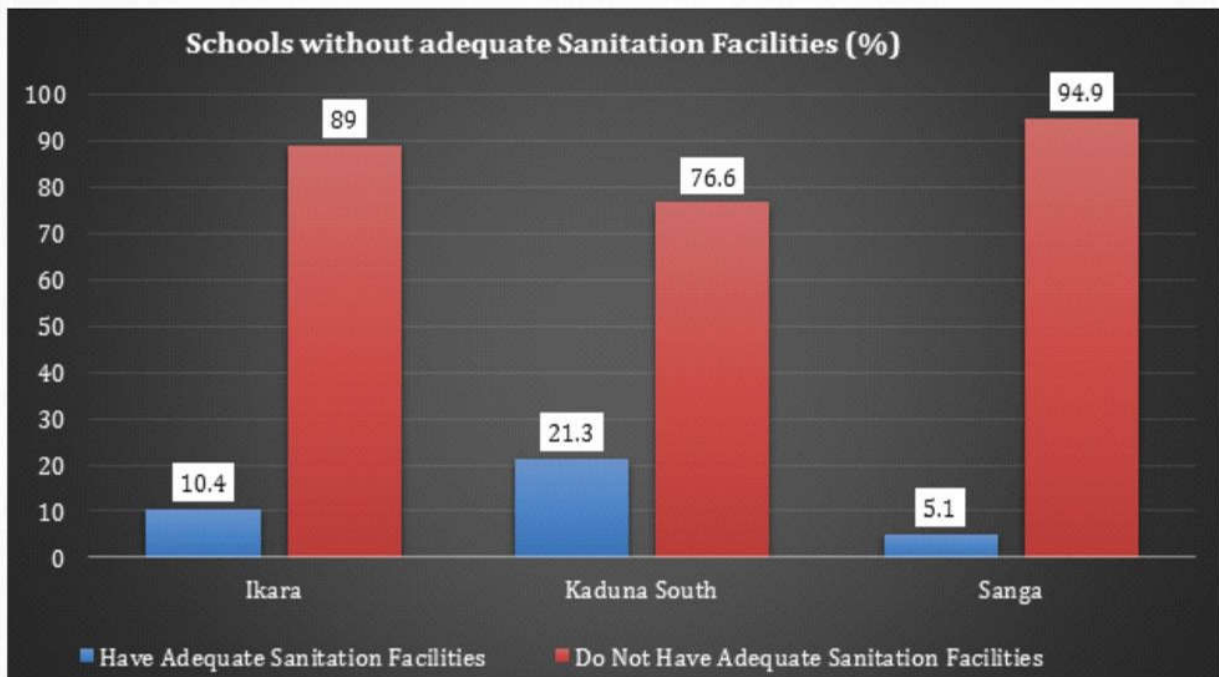
Empowering communities to participate in improving the learning environment for children in Kaduna State



Community Life Project (CLP), with support from the MacArthur Foundation, is working with community leaders and school authorities to address some of the infrastructure challenges in schools in 3 Local Governments in Kaduna State (Ikara, Kaduna South, & Sanga). There is dire need for funding in all 430 primary and junior secondary schools in the 3 LGAs.

In many schools in these local government areas, children in the communities sit on the floor to learn due to shortage or disrepair of classrooms; lack of tables and chairs. Some schools also lack toilets and water. In December 2019, CLP carried out a comprehensive participatory needs assessment to document the infrastructure deficits in all 430 schools. The aim of the needs assessment was to provide data to the School-Based Management Committees (SBMCs), the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and the local government for choosing the priority projects to be funded in schools.





UBE Primary School, Ankirin, Sanga LGA



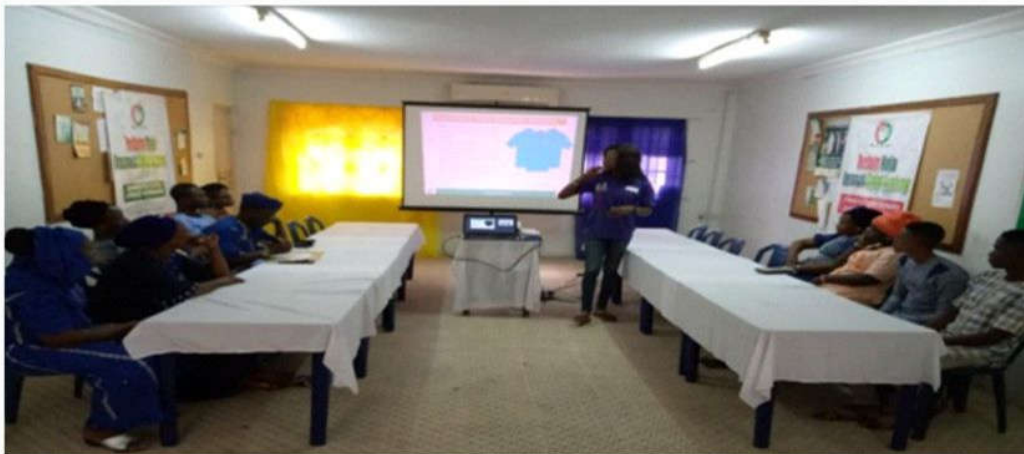
LGEA Primary School, Kankanki, Ikara



Government Secondary School, Kargi Road, Tudun Wada

Digital Inclusion: Leaving nobody behind

It is easy to forget that millions are being left behind and excluded from the digital space. The digital revolution has brought huge benefits to individuals, corporate bodies and communities all around the world; but it has equally increased the gap behind the literate elite and the grassroots. There is great inequality in the access and use of digital technology for personal and community advancement, resulting in further disadvantage to already underprivileged sub-populations, to the advantage of the educated and technology savvy elites. Many of CLP's grassroots partners in the informal sector are being locked out of the digital economy. To remedy the situation, CLP is training its informal sector partners to increase their knowledge and skills on digital tools for growing their microbusinesses. Skills imparted include how to market their goods and services through Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, as well as the use of USSD banking codes to transfer and pay for utilities without having to leave their shops and lose income in the process



Training of members of the Nigerian Union of Tailors,
Isolo branch – mostly women



Training of members of the Hairdressers Association,
Isolo branch – they are all women

Care for the Earth, our common Home!

"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." (Laudato Si', Paragraph 14)



Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins, Catholic Archbishop of Lagos planting a tree at the NYCCEN Launch

According to the President of the 73rd UN General Assembly, Ms. María Fernanda Garcés, the world has "only 11 years left to prevent irreversible damage from climate change." In line with its mission of environmental justice, CLP and friends are supporting stakeholders in the Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos in their programme to domesticate *Laudato Si'* - the Papal Encyclical on the Care of the Earth.

On Friday, December 6, 2019, the Archbishop of the Lagos Archdiocese, Most Revd. Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins, launched the Network of Young Catholic Carers for the Environment in Nigeria (NYCCEN).

The objective is to "groom leaders who will promote the culture of respect for the Environment and create a critical mass of young people who will love and care for the environment." The key message at the launch was for all to take immediate action before it becomes too late – plant a tree! Recycle Plastics! and Reduce the Carbon Footprints!



Some of the Young Students at the Launch

2019 Audited Financial Statement

Income Statement for the Year Ended 31st December, 2019

	Note	2019 N	2018 N
Income: Grants/Donations	3	260,118,809.70	143,118,587.04
		260,118,809.70	143,118,587.04
Less: Expenditure	4	198,809,007.69	139,943,412.36
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		61,309,802.01	3,175,174.68
Accumulated fund C/F		61,309,802.01	3,175,174.68

Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December, 2019

	Note	2019 N	2018 N
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plants, Property & Equipment	5	11,111,407.57	12,225,928.44
CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	6	1,039,000.00	1,039,000.00
Receivables and Prepayment	7	235,000.00	6,075,000.00
Cash and Bank	8	162,521,604.22	94,708,862.35
		163,795,604.22	101,822,862.35
TOTAL ASSETS		174,907,011.79	114,048,790.79
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
ACCUMULATED FUND B/F		113,247,209.78	110,072,035.10
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		61,309,802.01	3,175,174.68
Accumulated after Surplus/Deficit		174,557,011.79	113,247,209.78
		-	-
		174,557,011.79	113,247,209.78
TOTAL EQUITY		174,557,011.79	113,247,209.78
Payables	9	350,000.00	801,581.01
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		174,907,011.79	114,048,790.79

Statement of Cash Flow for the Year Ended 31st December, 2019

	2019	2018
Cash Flow from operating activities		
Surplus/(Deficit) Before Taxation	61,309,802.01	1,090,174.68
Depreciation	1,114,520.87	1,114,520.87
Adjustment	-	-
Cash flow before changes in working capital	<u>62,424,322.88</u>	<u>2,204,695.55</u>
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors and Prepayment	5,840,000.00	2,609,935.00
(Decrease)/Increase in Creditors and Accruals	-	-
	<u>451,581.01</u>	<u>451,581.01</u>
	<u>5,388,418.99</u>	<u>3,061,516.01</u>
Net Cash flow from operating activities	<u>67,812,741.87</u>	<u>5,266,211.56</u>
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of Fixed Assets	-	-
Investments	-	-
Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net (Decrease)/Increase in Cash & Cash Equivalent	67,812,741.87	5,266,211.56
Cash and Cash Equivalent		
Cash and Cash Equivalent as at 31/12/2018	<u>94,708,862.35</u>	<u>89,442,650.79</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalent as at 31/12/2019	<u><u>162,521,604.22</u></u>	<u><u>94,708,862.35</u></u>

Notes on the Accounts (Continued)

	2019	2018
6. Investments		
Deposit for Shares	1,039,000.00	1,039,000.00
7. Debtors and Prepayments		
Debtors	235,000.00	3,990,000.00
Prepayments	-	-
	<u>235,000.00</u>	<u>3,990,000.00</u>
All Debtors are due within one year		
8. Bank and Cash Balance		
Cash at Bank	162,521,604.22	94,687,472.35
Cash in Hand	-	21,390.00
	<u>162,521,604.22</u>	<u>94,708,862.35</u>
9. Creditors & Deferred Income		
Creditors	-	-
Other Creditors	-	451,581.01
Accrued Charges	350,000.00	350,000.00
	<u>350,000.00</u>	<u>801,581.01</u>

5 Year Financial Summary

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
	N	N	N	N	N
Income: Grants / Donations	260,118,809.70	143,118,587.04	179,386,735.87	56,824,562.85	107,020,760.87
Less Deferred	-	-	-	-	-
Less Expenses	198,809,007.69	142,028,412.36	100,913,863.21	66,327,057.29	174,840,476.84
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period	61,309,802.01	1,090,174.68	78,472,872.66	- 9,502,494.44	- 67,819,715.97
Accumulated Fund B/F	113,247,209.78	110,072,035.10	31,599,162.44	41,101,656.88	108,921,372.85
Accumulated Fund C/F	174,557,011.79	111,162,209.78	110,072,035.10	31,599,162.44	41,101,656.88
Represented By					
Fixed Assets	11,111,407.57	12,225,928.44	13,340,449.31	14,090,295.18	15,131,881.05
Current Assets	163,795,604.22	99,737,862.35	97,081,585.79	17,858,867.26	34,127,467.79
Current Liabilities	350,000.00	801,581.01	350,000.00	350,000.00	8,157,691.96
	<u>174,557,011.79</u>	<u>111,162,209.78</u>	<u>110,072,035.10</u>	<u>31,599,162.44</u>	<u>41,101,656.88</u>

**We acknowledge, with thanks,
our funders:**



FORDFOUNDATION

*Working with Visionaries on the
Frontlines of Social Change Worldwide*

MacArthur Foundation

OPEN SOCIETY

Initiative for West Africa



Community Life Project

EMPOWERING THE GRASSROOTS

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