

The Executive

...AN NGF MONTHLY PUBLICATION

Vol.3. No. 55 September 2023 Edition



SUMMARY



LET THERE BE LIGHT

NGF partners **UKNiAF**,
UK on subnational
electrification

also inside

How First Ladies
across Nigeria
celebrated the

**INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF THE
GIRL CHILD**

Governor Mutfwang pledges to clear N20bn pension backlog



Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang says his administration would do its best to clear the backlog of N20 billion pension it inherited from his predecessor.

Mutfwang stated this during a ceremony organised by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Plateau, in Jos to celebrate the party's recent victory at the Governorship Elections Petition Tribunal.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), reported that the tribunal on Sept. 22, dismissed the petition by the All Progressives Congress (APC) challenging the election of Mutfwang as the duly elected governor of Plateau.

The governor said that his administration was committed to the wellbeing of the people of Plateau.

"We will do our best to restore Plateau to its place of wealth and clear many backlogs.

"Just pension that we met on ground is more than N20billion. These are

people's rights but we will do our best to address the situation," he said.

He appealed to teachers in the state to be patient with his administration as it seeks ways of settling their two months inherited salary arrears.

He said that investigations on their non payment would be conducted and all those found involved in the illegality, would be made to return the funds.

The governor also said that his administration would retrieve government's vehicles and other properties carted away by the past administration for use.

He said that his administration was determined to improve the welfare of Plateau people and has already procured more than 200 trucks of fertilisers as part of its palliatives to boost food production across its 17 local government areas.

He said that his victory at the tribunal was a demonstration that God wants the PDP to govern Plateau and assured the citizens that he would restore the

state to its past glory.

"By the grace of God I won't put you all to Shame," he said.

He thanked party leaders and elders particularly the former governor of Plateau, Sen. Jonah Jang, for their support and resilience during their period of uncertainty of the results.

According to the governor, the judiciary demonstrated fairness and justice in tandem with the law, and thanked them for being upright.

He also thanked President Bola Tinubu for allowing the judiciary to perform their duties without interference.

Also speaking, the Chairman of PDP in Plateau, Mr Chris Hassan, thanked party supporters for their support during the governorship election tribunal.

Represented by the Deputy Chairman, Retired Capt. Bitrus Goleng, the chairman urged the party members to support the Mutfwang led administration.

He expressed hope that the party would win their appeals in other judgements they lost at the election tribunals.

UNDP Laud Gov. Buni on Development Agenda

The United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative, Mohamed Yahya, has lauded Yobe state Governor Mai Mala Buni for developing health and education to move the state forward.

Yahya who led a high-powered delegation to the state, stated this after a facility tour of the 375 bed capacity Maternity and Child healthcare complex.

"The two pillars of Governor Buni's development agenda, investing in health and education are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals Programme.

"The investment in the health sector is pretty impressive and Yobe state is back on the path of development after the devastation by the insurgency" he said.

The Resident Representative said the state is catching up with the Sustainable Development Goals.

"I am quite impressed with the potential of the facilities dealing with maternal and child care challenges" Yahya said.

Earlier, Governor Buni said his administration embarked on massive reconstruction of the facilities to speedy up the reconstruction, rehabilitation and recovery programme following the destructions by the Boko Haram insurgency.

He said the reconstruction of the facilities had enhanced resettlement of the displaced communities.

"It is gratifying that as of today, all the displaced communities in the state, except Mallundunari community in Gujba local government area, have returned and resettled.

"This was facilitated by the reconstruction of infrastructure including the Local Government Secretariats, Police Stations, Hospitals, Schools, Water facilities, Markets and other public structures carried out by the State Government and supported by some development partners" Gov. Buni said. He appreciated the federal government and the development partners for supporting the recovery programme of

the state government and called for more support to resettle Mallundunari the only community that is yet to be resettled after its displacement by the Boko Haram insurgency.



Gov. Buni

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Addressing the Breast Cancer crisis in Nigeria:

A CALL TO ACTION FOR STATE LEADERS

In Nigeria, an insidious adversary knows no borders, silently wreaking havoc: breast cancer. The statistics are staggering, painting a grim picture in recent years - a relentless surge in breast cancer cases, soaring mortality rates, and stark healthcare disparities within our nation. Now, the time has come for our state leaders to take decisive action and confront this escalating crisis head-on.

According to the National Cancer Control Plan (2018–2022), cancer is responsible for 72,000 deaths in Nigeria every year, with an estimated 102,000 new cases annually. Breast cancer, accounting for 22.7% of all new cancer cases among women in Nigeria, claimed 12,000 lives in 2018 (CDC, 2021).

This is not merely a medical concern; it's a pressing socioeconomic issue, a human tragedy, and an urgent call to arms for those in positions of power. As we delve into these sobering Nigerian statistics, one fact becomes abundantly clear: breast cancer is not just a disease; it's a battle against time. It's a battle that our nation cannot afford to lose.

The available research infrastructure on breast cancer remains woefully inadequate, with a shortage of skilled healthcare personnel, insufficient funding for research, and competing priorities in the healthcare sector (Fatiregun & Oluokun et.al. 2021). This scarcity only underscores the urgent need for a reliable evidence base to evaluate program outcomes and ensure efficient resource allocation.

Since 2011, government funding for research in Nigeria has primarily flowed through the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, aimed at bolstering public tertiary institutions (TETFUND, 2022). However,

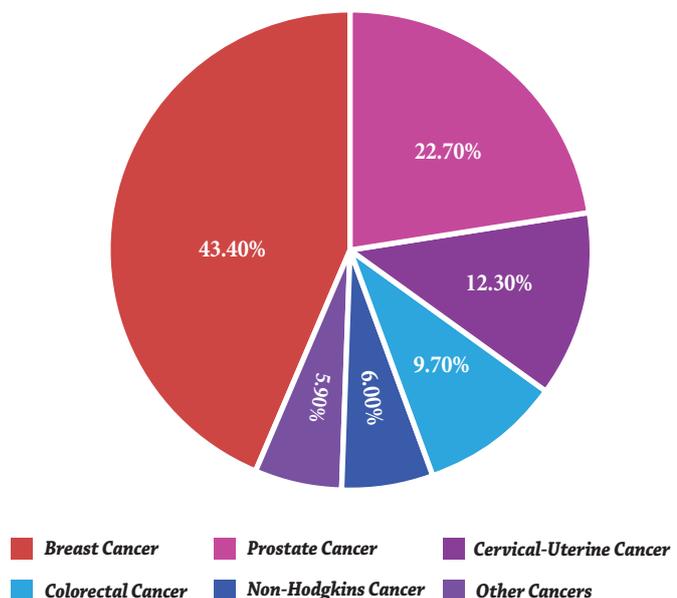
more needs to be done. State leaders must recognize the gravity of the breast cancer crisis and channel resources and policies towards effective prevention, early detection, and comprehensive care.

This article calls on our state leaders to recognize that this isn't just a healthcare problem, it's a humanitarian crisis. It is time to confront the breast cancer crisis in Nigeria, not tomorrow, but today.

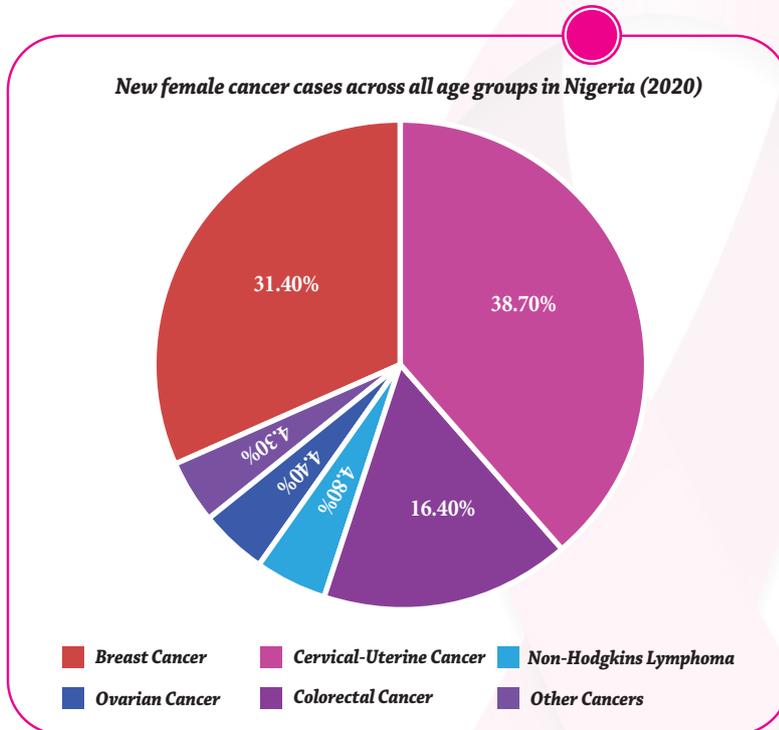
Breast Cancer Indices

According to data from the Global Cancer Observatory, breast cancer is a significant health concern in Nigeria. In 2020, breast cancer accounted for 22.7% of new cancer cases across both sexes and all ages, ranking second only to a few other cancer types, including prostate cancer (12.3%), cervical-uterine cancer (9.7%), colorectal cancer (6%), and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (5.9%).

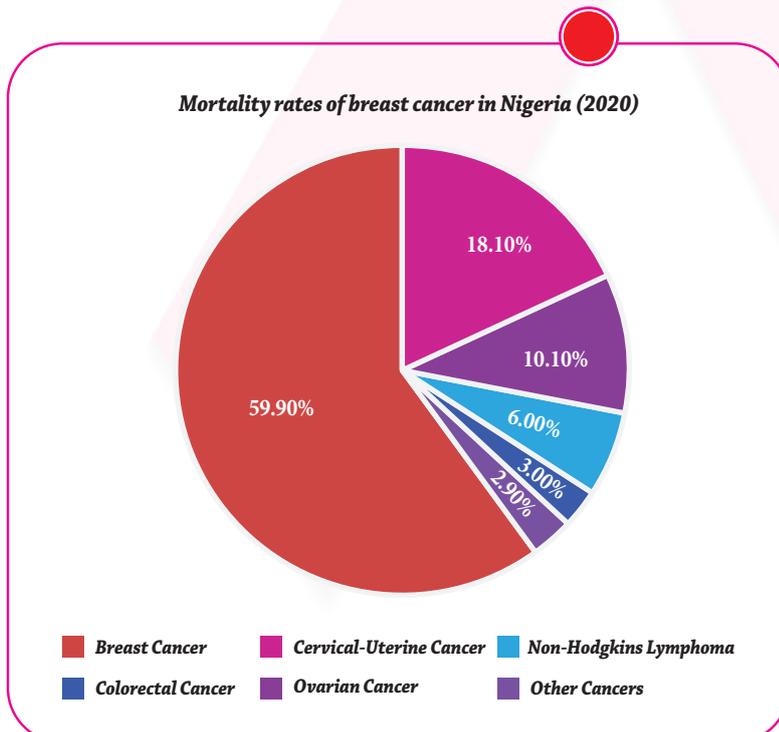
New cancer cases across both sexes and all ages in Nigeria (2020)



However, when we specifically consider the number of new female cases across all age groups in the same year, breast cancer takes the lead at 38.7%, surpassing other cancer types (31.4%) with cervical-uterine cancer (16.4%), non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (4.8%), ovarian cancer (4.4%), and colorectal cancer (4.3%).



Disturbingly, the mortality rates for breast cancer in Nigeria are also concerning, standing at 18.1%. This figure is the highest among cancer-related deaths, closely followed by cervical-uterine cancer (10.1%), non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (6%), colorectal cancer (3.0), and ovarian cancer (2.9%). All other cancer related deaths collectively account for 59.9% of the mortality rates (GCO, 2020).



Disparities Affecting Breast Cancer in Nigeria

Healthcare access and outcomes disparities are prevalent in many countries, and Nigeria is no exception. When it comes to breast cancer, specific disparities manifest across various regions of Nigeria. These disparities include:

- **Urban vs. Rural Divide:** There's a stark contrast in healthcare access between urban and rural areas. Urban centres boast of well-equipped healthcare facilities and specialized medical personnel, while rural regions often lack these essential resources.
- **Geographical Variations:** Nigeria's states and regions exhibit significant variations in healthcare infrastructure and services. Some states offer comprehensive cancer care facilities, while others struggle with limited access to cancer screening and treatment.
- **Economic Factors:** Socioeconomic status is a critical determinant of healthcare disparities. Higher-income individuals in urban areas generally enjoy better access to healthcare services, including breast cancer screenings and treatment options than their low-income earners counterpart.
- **Awareness and Education:** Breast cancer awareness and education programs are more prevalent in urban and developed regions, leaving the rural communities with limited information about breast cancer prevention and early detection.
- **Transportation Challenges:** Underdeveloped transportation infrastructure in rural areas hinders individuals from reaching distant healthcare facilities promptly, resulting in delayed diagnosis and treatment.
- **Cultural Beliefs and Stigmas:** Cultural beliefs and stigmas surrounding cancer can significantly impact

healthcare-seeking behaviour, leading to late-stage diagnoses in certain regions.

- **Limited Screening Facilities:** Urban areas are better equipped with breast cancer screening facilities, making regular screenings inaccessible for women in rural regions.
- **Financial Constraints:** Many Nigerians face financial barriers when seeking medical care, as the cost of breast cancer treatment, including surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy, can be prohibitive for some. Moreso, insurance coverage for cancer treatment is limited.
- **Healthcare Workforce Distribution:** An uneven distribution of healthcare professionals, including oncologists and surgeons, across regions affects the quality and accessibility of care.

These disparities underscore the urgent need for equitable healthcare policies and initiatives to bridge these gaps. Ensuring that all Nigerians, regardless of their location, income, culture and beliefs have access to timely and quality breast cancer care is of paramount importance.

Policy Recommendations for Addressing Breast Cancer in Nigeria

Addressing the breast cancer crisis in Nigeria requires a multi-faceted approach. To effectively combat this pressing issue, the following policy recommendations should be considered:

- **Increase Funding:** There is an immediate need to allocate more financial resources to breast cancer screening and treatment programs, ensuring that these services are accessible to a wider population.
- **Tailored Awareness Campaigns:** Establish and promote breast cancer awareness campaigns specifically tailored to the unique needs and cultural sensitivities of Nigerian communities, effectively disseminating vital information about prevention and early detection.
- **Enhanced Healthcare Access:** Improve access to quality healthcare services, including the establishment of mammography and cancer treatment centres, particularly in underserved regions.
- **Support Research:** Invest in research on breast cancer, encompassing its prevalence among Nigerian women and genetic factors that may influence its development. A robust

research agenda is essential for better understanding and tackling this disease.

- **Global Best Practices:** Learn from successful breast cancer programs in other countries and adopt best practices, adapting them to the Nigerian context. This includes approaches to early detection, treatment, and survivor support.
- **Anything on Health Insurance?**

By implementing these policy recommendations, Nigeria can take significant strides towards mitigating the breast cancer crisis, providing essential care to those affected, and ultimately improving the health and well-being of its citizens.

A Call to Action for State Leaders

The breast cancer crisis in Nigeria demands immediate attention from our state leaders. The statistics are stark, the disparities are glaring, and the urgency is undeniable. State leaders have a vital role to play in stemming this tide and ensuring that all Nigerians, regardless of their location or socioeconomic status, have access to the care they need.

- >> **Allocate Adequate Funding:** State leaders should prioritize and allocate adequate funding for breast cancer screening and treatment. This includes establishing and maintaining well-equipped cancer treatment centres, accessible to both urban and rural communities. Financial resources must be committed to these life-saving endeavours.
- >> **Community-Centric Awareness Campaigns:** Breast cancer awareness campaigns should not be one-size-fits-all. State leaders should support initiatives that consider the diverse cultures and communities within Nigeria. Dispel myths, and encourage early detection.
- >> **Improve Healthcare Infrastructure:** Enhance healthcare infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. This means not only equipping healthcare facilities with the necessary tools and personnel but also ensuring that they can provide quality breast cancer screening and treatment services.
- >> **Invest in Research:** State governments can play a pivotal role in supporting research on breast cancer, from prevalence rates among Nigerian women to understanding the genetic factors involved. This investment will not only expand our knowledge but also guide more effective interventions.
- >> **Global Collaborations:** Collaborate with international organizations and tap into the best practices of countries that have successfully managed breast cancer programs. Learning from others and adapting their proven approaches can expedite progress in our nation.

State leaders, you have the power to drive change. By addressing these issues head-on, you can significantly reduce the breast cancer burden in Nigeria, ultimately saving lives and improving the overall health and well-being of our citizens. The time for action is now. The lives of countless Nigerians depend on it, and we look to you for leadership in this critical endeavour.

***– Maryam Musa Yahaya
Public Health Consultant,
NGF Secretariat.***

Oyebanji declares free malaria treatment for women, children, aged

...Free delivery for pregnant women

Ekiti State Governor, Mr Biodun Oyebanji, has declared free malaria treatment for children under five years, pregnant women and the aged in the state, in addition to free delivery for pregnant women. These would be enjoyed in all the 177 primary health care centres across the state, under Ulera Wa Scheme.

Governor Oyebanji, made this known in Ado Ekiti while commissioning the Okesa Comprehensive Health Centre, fully equipped with state of the art equipment, in Ado Ekiti, as part of activities marking the first anniversary of his administration.

He stated that the welfare and well being of the citizens remain a top priority of his government, adding that he would not leave anyone behind in the provision of quality health services, especially for children under five years of age.

He stated that his administration, had more than ever

before, allocated more resources to both secondary and tertiary health institutions in the state, having approved an aggressive and immediate renovation of those facilities in the state.

On welfare, the Governor hinted that health workers in the state have started enjoying hazard allowance and other benefits since March 2023, just as his government has given approval for Hospitals Management Board to fill consequential vacancies occasioned by retirement of various cadres of workforce to allow for effectiveness and efficiency of the sector.

The Governor said he had promised the people of the state during his electioneering campaign that he would make healthcare accessible and affordable for everyone, especially, the vulnerable populace, adding that he would leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the people live a good and healthy life.

Governor Oyebanji, who cut the tape declaring facility open, thanked members of the Response Resources Mobilization Committee (RRMC) for the wonderful job they did during the Covid-19 pandemic and urged them to rejig their efforts towards pulling more resources to the state to enable his administration drive effective and a desired health sector that would be an envy of other states of the federation.

He said the Primary Health Centre is the gateway to any healthcare delivery, adding that that was the reason he had joined hands with his siblings to build a maternity facility in Aramoko Ekiti General Hospital in memory of their late mother, due for commissioning later in the year.

The Governor also revealed that his government has approved the hosting of the 64th National Council of Health in Ekiti with the belief that their deliberations in the state would have positive and indelible impact on the





healthcare delivery in the state.

"I am here this evening to commission this newly equipped facility which was built through the effort of the Response Resources Mobilization Committee (RRMC) in collaboration with Ekiti State Government.

"This administration has now equipped this facility to ensure it serves our people. You will agree with me that the health of Ekiti citizens takes front burner in the programmes and policies of our administration. We are living to our determination and promises not to leave anyone behind in matters of health services delivery.

"Our commitment in ensuring universal health coverage is daily yielding impressive results, as the state's flagship health insurance programme known as 'Ulera wa' has become accessible in 177 health facilities in the state, fully covering children under five as well as some people with disability.

"With Ulera wa, no woman should have to pay for delivery at any of our PHCs in Ekiti state. To ensure services are available at the point of use, we have in addition to this facility committed resources to our secondary health facilities as well. Our tertiary health facility, EKSUTH. It is currently being worked upon to make sure that our critical infrastructure is well maintained to provide comfort, quality and safe healthcare for our clients.

"In addition to this, the welfare of healthcare

workers in the state has been prioritized, this administration has approved the payment of hazard allowance for health workers in the state public service. Health workers have enjoyed the implementation of hazard allowance since March 2023.

"Also in a bid to improve the human capital development in the health sector, government approves the recruitment of health workers for HMB to fill the consequential vacancies gap and to provide effective and efficient medical services to our citizenry.

"This administration has also approved the introduction of parity payment for health workers in the state. This is with a view to improve health workers motivation and to me, this is a campaign promise I made to you", the Governor said.

Earlier the Commissioner for Health and Human Services, Dr Oyebanji Filani commended the Governor for the various motivation he had given health workers in the state by increasing their salaries and granting them hazard allowance.

The Commissioner noted that the importance of Comprehensive Health Centre cannot be underestimated as it is the gateway to any effective and efficient healthcare facilities as he stressed the need to providing all necessary requirements to deliver good quality services for the people at this level.

The event was also attended by the Wife of Governor, Dr Olayemi Oyebanji; Speaker, Ekiti State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Adeoye Aribasoye; Deputy Speaker, Rt. Hon. ; members of the House of Assembly; members of the State Executive Council; Secretary to the State Government, Dr Habibat Adubiaro and traditional rulers among others.



Commentary

Let there be light

For sixty years, the people of Rayfield, a sketchy settlement of both locals and more precisely a middle-class population, in Jos, the Plateau State capital, have not experienced a single power outage. This assertion may sound stranger than fiction because of the reputation Nigeria has acquired as the country with the worst electricity deficit in the world.

More than 90 million people in Nigeria, according to reports, are without electricity in their homes. This number will view the people of Rayfield Jos like people enjoying heaven on earth.

Rayfield enjoys electricity from a single private power supply company called NESCO, Nigeria Electricity Supply Corporation which powers Plateau state and neighboring states to include Benue, Kaduna, FCT, as well as mining, industrial consumers and domestic users. In addition, they supply interested entities and state government rural electricity distribution networks not connected to the national grid. NESCO is privately owned/investor owned.

Its power sources include but are not limited to hydropower generation and thermal generation, renewable energy among others. It has a capacity of 175Gwhrs per annum from all sources. NESCO operates 7 hydroelectric power stations in plateau. It has sufficient water storage capacity regardless of season or climate and has been in existence for the past 90 years. Today, NESCO offers vending services which includes online sale of power. They offer postpaid billing payment. They have an app that issues the end users bills in real time.

This reference to NESCO is not intended to advertise the corporation but to bring its success story to the fore to enable interested parties in the new initiative of the NGF, in conjunction with the UKNIAF and the UK Government to grips with what lies in store for venture capitalists who would like to take a deep dive into the electricity generation and distribution sector.

This initiative may seem like a shot in the dark, but its implementation has been long overdue. With the availability of nearly a billion dollars in aid and a pool of technical experts to assist its implementation, it is important for any governor with a desire to better the lot of his people to quickly key into this initiative and make it happen. Already several states, including Enugu, have commenced the implementation of the electricity act which allows states to domesticate their electricity supply for the benefit of their people.

At the end of October 2023, the NGF and its partners held a sensitization roundtable on how more states can take advantage of the initiative and we reproduce herewith the agenda, deliberations and outcomes of the roundtable in full.

But that is not all that happened in the month. As we all know, the education sector in Nigeria is in crisis. Deep crisis. The NGF has taken up the gauntlet and is seeking solutions to learning in Nigeria, which gave room for the Learning Crisis Conference at the Frazier Suites in Abuja. It is in this edition. Other engagements like the FORAF.

Mrs Celestina Abodia



Mrs Bridget Umoru



Amb. Buba Ahmed



Mr. Saeed Sanusi



OBITUARY

On a more serious note, it has been a harvest of deaths at the NGF Secretariat. First, it was Henry Umoru's mum, then his wife. May their gentle souls rest in the bosom of the Lord. Henry Umoru is an integral part of the NGF, as Vanguard Correspondent

for more than a decade, which effectively makes him a member of the NGF family. Less than a fortnight later, it was Hajiya Halima's dad, Buba Ahmed. The Sports minister of the second Republic best rode the sports fields like a breath of fresh air. During the grief, we didn't know

that death would strike even closer, in fact, in the office. Our Photo Editor Saeed succumbed to death on Saturday after about a month on sick bay when we did everything humanly possible from the office to keep him alive, but alas. May Allah (swt) repose all their souls in Jinnatul Fiddausi.



The Electricity Act, 2023: Imperatives and Opportunities for the States

By Eyo O. Ekpo

Objectives of the Electricity Act, 2023

– Implementing Concurrent Powers in the 199 Constitution, as amended

- *Clause 14b, Second Schedule, Part II:*
“A House of Assembly may make laws for the State with respect to...the generation transmission and distribution of electricity to areas covered by a national grid system within that State.”
- *Give back to States what military rule took away*

– Abolish The Single National Electricity Market

- *Institutionalise an electricity supply tripod*
 - National wholesale cross-border market – status quo
 - Sub-national, intra-State markets –evolving as States pass laws
 - Sub-national markets regulated from Abuja – automatic or States should request?

Imperatives of State Electricity Laws

– Recognition

- This is not about street lights and diesel generators across the State
- Neither is it about IGR from the regulator
- Electricity is a manufactured commodity, essential to living well and living long
- Electricity supply is useful only if reliable, i.e.,

available when needed and consistent in quality and quantity

- Reliability is assured only in a MARKET that has to be created from nothing
- Therefore, look actively for ANCHORS and MARKET MAKERS
- Subsidies are a drain that must be limited and very carefully-targeted

– Clarity and Simplicity

- Policy first, then Law
- Separation of policy maker from regulator
- Simplicity of regulatory and licensing structure
- Realisation that reaching the unserved is still an issue

Opportunities for State Electricity Markets

– Metering

- Reduce cost of connections
- Obtain commercial/coverage data

– IRP Study

- Major planning and marketing tool

– Senatorial Districts for Distributed Generation/Mini Grids

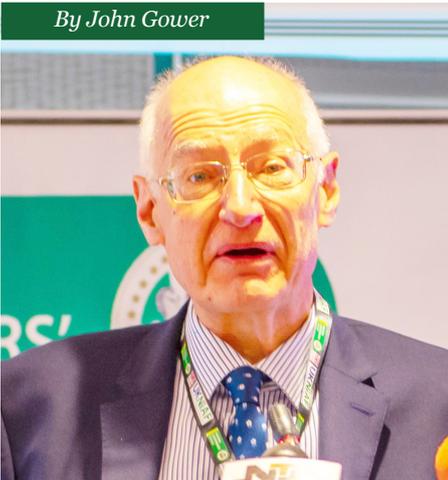
- Avoid traditional transmission grids
- Attract patient, philanthropic capital
- Create intra-State, decentralised markets
- Separate wires from retail business
- Catalyst for domestic gas markets

– Trend towards power pools

- Future event preparation for which starts now

How Have Other Countries Approached This? Western Market Examples

By John Gower

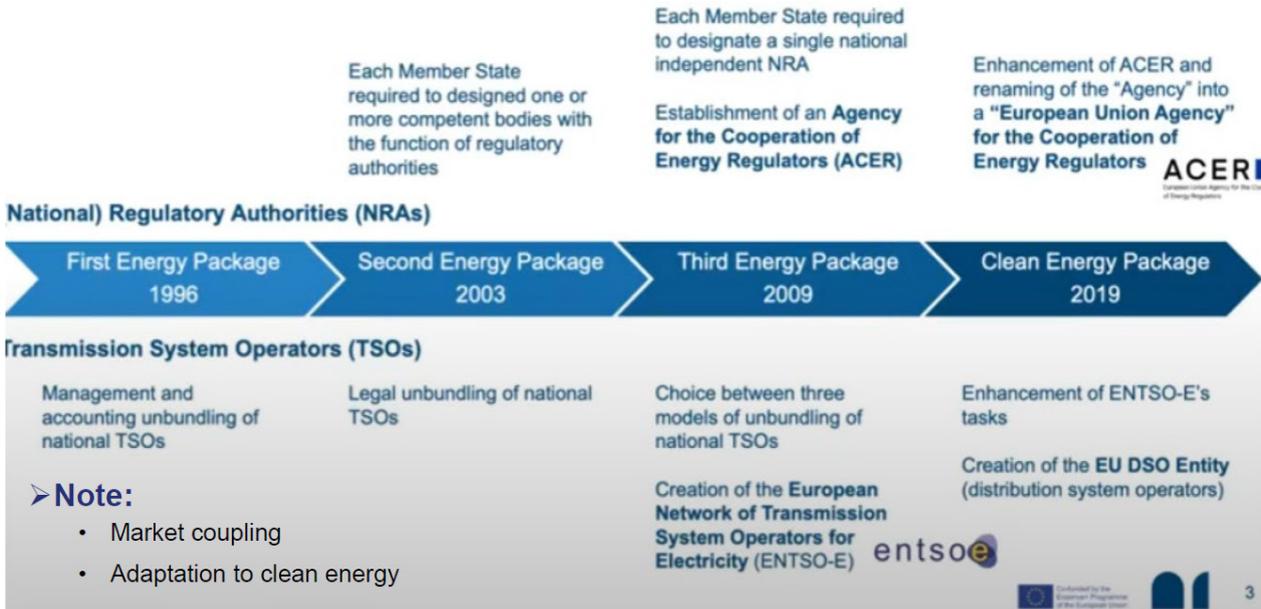


Experience in Western Electricity Markets

- *Many new entrants, much investment, reliability maintained, greater transparency and cost reflectivity*
- *Gradual implementation; continuing reforms*
 - (e.g. specialist markets, spot markets to contract markets)
- *Markets have had to accommodate major changes, including:*

- New technologies
- Changes in fuel availability
- Environmental pressures (push for renewables)
- Financial pressures
- *Market have proved resilient – financial viability is key*
- *More challenges to come*
- *Markets at Different Levels*
- *Supranational markets and their relation to national markets*
- *National or regional markets linking to state markets*
- *Local (decentralised) markets*

Evolution of the EU institutional framework



NordPool

- Norwegian origins: power exchange for eastern Norway 1932, all Norway 1971 (118 power companies)
- Nordic restructuring: 1990s Norway then Sweden reformed, - NordPool owned jointly by Norwegian and Swedish TSOs; contributed to unification of electricity markets
- Expansion as power exchange in northern Europe -day ahead and intra-day markets



The USA: A Patchwork

- States have introduced different levels of disaggregation and competition
- 2 wide area grids (plus Texas); TSOs (ISOs or RTOs); Regional Reliability Councils (under NERC)
- Issues -past (California) and present



Local Markets

- Reflects decentralised generation in a system increasingly dominated by renewables (especially solar and wind)
- Links generation, storage and utilisation, via smart system operations based on LEM price signals
- Improved economics and reliability
- Various models -still pioneering stage



Creating a sub-national electricity market in Nigeria: What do Donors/Development agencies want to see (a pragmatic approach for transition)

By Engr Simeon Atakulu

Benefits

- Deepening demand profile of states. Apart from creating new economic and industrial parks/clusters, they can partner with donor agencies and private investors in creating more electricity access to rural and semi-rural areas
- Speed up regulatory processes and resolution of regulatory disputes.
- States may become innovative in providing the right environment for private capital injection and ,more donor funding.
- Has the potential to spur higher economic growth and job creation especially for the rural/semi-rural areas.

Concerns

- Not all states' electricity markets will be ready in the short-medium term; a clear transition framework will be required with NERC
- How will states' integrated electricity policy relate to the national integrated electricity policy to avoid confusion, duplication and streamline economic and planned growth.
- Application of standards and codes for construction and operation; state standards vs national standards; which will apply? Eg, mini-grids, transmission network development (and integration, where necessary), power stations and distribution assets, etc.

What Do Donors/Development Agencies want to see (A pragmatic Approach for Transition)

- Donors/Development Agencies may have different approaches to guide their actions, but the following are key considerations to assess states' preparedness to attract support.
- A detailed roadmap for transition from national to sub-national electricity market and regulation, taking into consideration the concerns listed earlier, is developed and approved.
- This roadmap will include a detailed definition and strategy to translate from national to a sub-national electricity market, including market performance evaluation, reporting and corrective strategy to be adopted.
- The roadmap will be expected to also have a comprehensive demand profile study and analysis, including energy mix, electricity penetration requirement, infrastructure analysis and projection, as well as projected investment requirement(or guide) including human and other resource capacity requirements.
- The roadmap will then detail the timeline and procedures for the following:
- Electricity policy consultation committee in place; Electricity policy and strategic implementation plan completed and passed by the state; it will detail the public and stakeholder consultation requirements prior to approval.
- Draft Electricity Bill prepared, public consultation process concluded and Electricity Bill passed by the state assembly.
- Electricity market consultation and public opinion concluded; Institutional requirements agreed, market rules, procedures and operational guidelines completed; transition strategy to sub-national market and regulation in place.
- Electricity market and regulation developed by state regulator and operational.

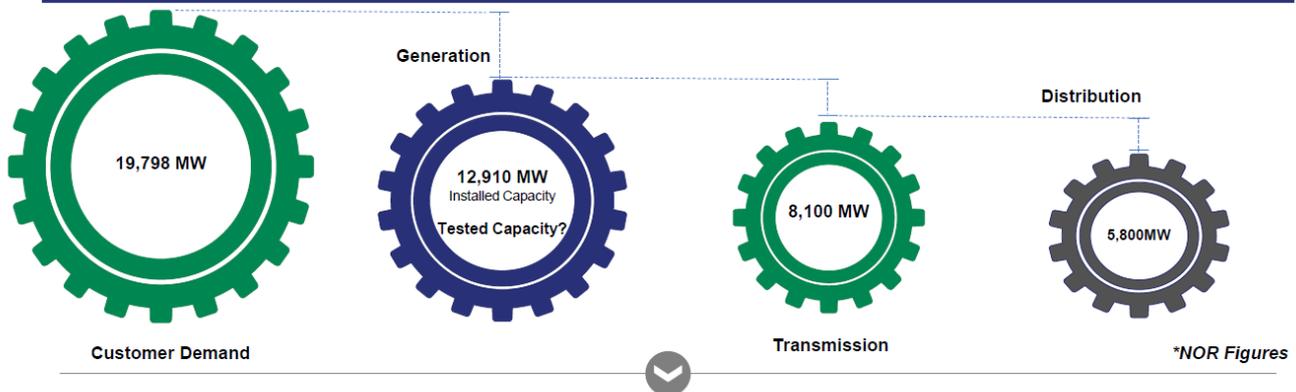


Closing the Energy Access Gap: Doing things differently

By Frank Edozie

Sector Overview

Power Value Chain – Constraints



Key Issues

 Ineffective Regulatory Environment

 Inefficient Transmission Grid

 Non-Cost-reflective Tariffs

 Low Value Chain Transparency

 Commercially Unsustainable and unconnected Mini-grids

 Climate-sensitive responses not part of top sector priorities despite policy shifts in this regard

Low levels of Investments

Doing Things Differently... What if....?

– New State Market Structures enabled investment inflow in the distribution space through...

- Energy Retail Licensees (ERLs) leveraging their capital to attract financing for PPAs with GenCos
- Reduced Technical and Commercial losses, enabled by smart technology solutions pioneered by ERLs
- State Governments collaborating with Low Voltage Transmission Companies to extend energy access and improve network resilience
- Collaboration between State Governments and REA to accelerate the deployment and interconnection of mini-grids

– A more viable distribution sub-sector inspires real growth in the transmission sub-sector through....

- The emergence of regional resilient

ring circuits built to meet current and planned customer demand

- Strengthening of the national grid
- Potentially attracting interest in the development of a national super grid that will facilitate movement of large volumes of power across Nigeria's vast distances, and evacuation of power from large power plants (Solar, Hydro, Gas)

– De-bottlenecked Distribution and Transmission sub-sectors spur growth in generation capacity:

- Growth in sub-national power generation driven by solar farms, small hydros, and thermal plants fired by Non-Associated Gas from Nigeria's Inland Basins
- Large GenCos attract financing to invest in capacity growth (national and regional) consistent with NDCs and the Energy Transition Plan

Key Regulatory Considerations for State Electricity Markets

By Olajumoke Delano

The Enugu State Electricity Market

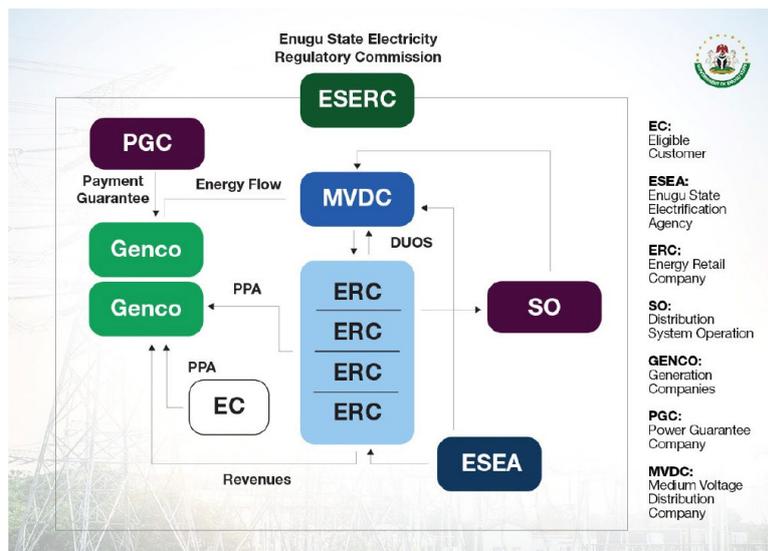
Previous

- Only 1 disco serving the region with approximately 9% allocation from the grid, serving about 5m people.
- No operating grid-connected generation assets.
- Shortage in quantity and quality of electricity supply.

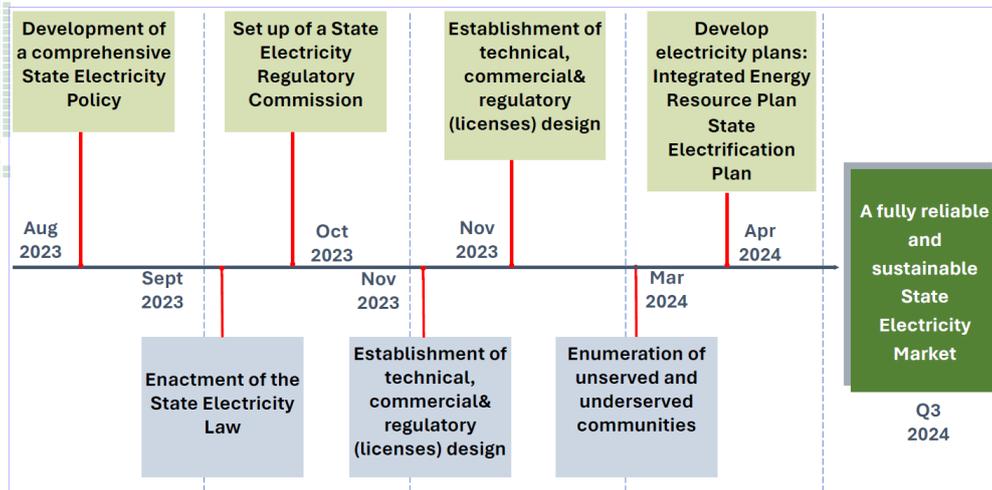
"To be"

- 690+MW generation by 2030 for at least 20hours daily.
- 20% generation from renewables.
- Several market participants.
- Commercially viable market regulated by an autonomous Commission and integrated with the wholesale electricity market.
- Inclusion of unserved & underserved areas.

The vision for a commercially viable and sustainable Electricity Market...



The journey so far...



An NGF/UKNAIF Roundtable on The Electricity Act 2023



GUESTS SEATED AT THE EVENT



GOVERNOR OF KWARA STATE, CHAIRMAN - NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM, HIS EXCELLENCY ABDULRAHMAN ABDULRAZQA GIVING THE OPENING REMARKS AT THE EVENT



WORLD BANK SENIOR ENERGY CONSULTANT, ENGR. SIMEONE ATAKULU DELIVERING HIS PRESENTATION AT THE EVENT



A ROUND

VOW 2023



VOW2023
Lifetime Achievement
H.E ABDULRAHMAN ABDULRAZQA
 Executive Governor Kwara State
 For Contributing in a profound way to Gender Empowerment during your Lifetime



THE NGWF PRESENTED A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO THE NGF CHAIRMAN FOR CHAMPIONING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. IN HIS FIRST TENURE, HE HAD 56% WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN HIS CABINET AND 50% IN HIS SECOND. THERE ARE CURRENTLY SIX FEMALE PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE KWARA STATE ASSEMBLY, ALL SUPPORTED BY GOVERNOR ABDULRAHMAN ABDULRAZQA



Poverty and Hunger: **KANO GOVERNOR** flags-off another phase of palliatives

...Rolls Out Youth, Women Empowerment Initiative for Nigeria's Most Populous State

K

ano State government under the leadership of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf is set to distribute bags of grains and empower youth, women and people living with disabilities with cash.

Further to his government's effort of providing succour to the people of the State to alleviate the effects of fuel subsidy removal, arrangements has been completed for the distribution of grains comprising of rice and maize across the 484 wards within the 44 LGAs of the State.

Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf made this known at a meeting with the State and local governments chairmen/Secretaries of four grassroot Mobilisation platforms (Community Re-Oriented Committee (CRC), Lafiya Jari, Kano PRO-PA and Kwankwasiyya) an event that was held at Coronation hall, Kano government house.

The Governor said the second batch distribution is imperative looking at the difficulties people are going through and made a clarion call on the distribution committees at the State and local levels to be just in the exercise to achieve the goal of cushioning the current hardship of extreme hunger and abject poverty.

Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf added that plans are in the pipeline for empowerment programmes that was envisaged to three categories of beneficiaries totalling 4,840 across women, youth and people living with disabilities who will be trained and provided with start-up capital.

"We will also ensure the introduction of Amana taxis and buses scheme for our teaming youth, some Tricycles riders (Yan Adaidata Sahu) will be included in this scheme to upgrade thier status."

On the areas of development projects, the Governor said the

five kilometres projects in the headquarters of 44 local governments initiated by Senator Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso in the second tenure of his administration, would be completed as contractors has been mobilised back to sites for the completion as planned.

He also during the meeting informed the plan of the State Government to organise an appeal fund for the security agencies operating in the State so as to provide them with the needed vehicles, working gadgets and other interventions to perform according to the standard rules.

Alh Abba Kabir used the opportunity to state other development initiatives in the areas of education, health, agriculture, expansion of streets in Kano municipality, construction of fly overs and underpasses to ease vehicular movements, de-silting of dams, renovations of hospitals and schools in the 44 local governments of Kano.

The Governor appreciated the level of support and cooperation accorded to his government by people of Kano and urged for the sustenance of the tempo for the continuous, peace, stability and prosperity in the State.

We will also ensure the introduction of Amana taxis and buses scheme for our teaming youth, some Tricycles riders (Yan Adaidata Sahu) will be included in this scheme to upgrade thier status

Gender *Issues*

NIGERIA
GOVERNORS'
WIVES FORUM

Vol.1. No. 3 September 2023 Edition

...An NGWF monthly publication

How First Ladies
across Nigeria
celebrated the

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

 **Ekiti First Lady
Rallies UNICEF,
CSOs Against
FGM**

Ekiti First Lady

Rallies UNICEF, CSOs Against FGM



Wife of Ekiti State Governor, Dr. Olayemi Oyeibanji, has declared her readiness to step up the fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) through a collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Dr. Oyeibanji disclosed this in her office when she received a delegation from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and two civil society organizations, Balm in Gilead Foundation (BIGIF) and Gender Mobile Initiative.

According to a statement by the Senior Special Assistant on Media in the office of the wife of the Governor, Odunayo Ogunmola, the UNICEF delegation was led by the agency's Chief Child Protection Specialist in its Nigeria Office, Mrs. Hadiza Ibrahim.

Represented by the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs. Peju Babafemi, Dr. Oyeibanji declared that a total war would be waged and sustained against FGM which she described as a form of Gender Based Violence (GBV).

She explained that her office had developed a work plan in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development noting that the civil society organizations would receive the support of the state government in sensitizing the citizenry against FGM.

Describing the practice as "degrading and dehumanizing," the First Lady told her guests that various initiatives had been put in place to reduce FGM in the state which include the "Drop the Blade" Campaign across the grassroots to discourage the practitioners of the practice and save the girl-child. According to her, other initiatives like Adolescent Girls' Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE) and Back to School Programme are complementary to the fight against FGM and other forms of GBV.

She said: "FGM is degrading and dehumanizing and so in all our advocacy programmes, we are making sure that we speak against FGM and we are also taking practical steps in organizing sensitization programmes in conjunction with

CSOs on the issue of FGM.

With the commitment of the Biodun Abayomi Oyeibanji Administration to eradicating GBV especially FGM, we are going to have a great success. In a couple of days, GBV Management Committee led by the First Lady will start working after the inauguration as Mr. Governor has approved the composition of that Committee.

"For us here in Ekiti, it is a total war against FGM and UNICEF will not be disappointed by supporting our CSOs in supporting our vision. We pledge our unflinching commitment to the movements to end FGM."

Earlier, the Nigeria Chief Child Protection Specialist, United Nations Child Education Fund, UNICEF, Mrs. Hadiza Ibrahim noted that the country has one of the highest prevalence in Africa.

She remarked that much successes had however been made through national policies and action plans with the support of local government, religious leaders and traditional rulers. Mrs. Ibrahim emphasized that all Nigerians needed to be involved, by standing up against those that were actually perpetrating, aiding and abetting the scourge.

The UNICEF chief described the Office of the First Lady and the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development as the rallying points for galvanizing, mobilizing and encouraging all women-led organizations and groups to make commitment and join the movement to end FGM for good in the state.

In their separate presentations, the Executive Director, Balm in Gilead Foundation (BIGIF), Mrs. Tumininu Adedeji and a representative of Gender Mobile Initiative, Mrs. Blessing Omotunde suggested that the state needed to look inward and see what to do better in reducing the prevalent of the menace owing to its harsh consequences.

Borno State First Lady Empowers 500 Women on Independence Day



In a heartwarming gesture of compassion and empowerment, Dr. Falmata Babagana Umara Zulum, the First Lady of Borno State, distributed one hundred thousand Naira and a bag of rice to each of 500 women at the Government House in Maiduguri on Sunday, commemorating Nigeria's 63rd Independence Anniversary.

The event was not merely a celebration but a powerful symbol of solidarity and support for the women of Borno State. Dr. Zulum emphasized the significance of this act, explaining that it was intended to alleviate the hardships faced by these resilient women. Despite facing countless challenges, they have stood tall and radiant, embodying the ideals of women's emancipation and empowerment through effective governance at all levels.

In her address, Dr. Falmata Babagana Umara Zulum highlighted the vital role played by women in nation-building and community development. She praised the dedication and determination displayed by Borno's women, who have been instrumental in driving positive change within their communities. She noted that this empowerment initiative aimed not only to alleviate immediate financial burdens but also to inspire these women to continue their remarkable efforts.

The First Lady's advice to the beneficiaries was clear and heartfelt. She

encouraged them to use the financial assistance wisely, ensuring that it fulfills the intended purpose and brings the expected benefits. Moreover, Dr. Zulum urged the empowered women to pay it forward by supporting others in their communities, thereby creating a ripple effect of positive change.

The distribution of one hundred thousand Naira and a bag of rice to each of the 500 women was met with gratitude and excitement. The recipients expressed their appreciation for the First Lady's kindness and commitment to their well-being. Many shared their plans to utilize the funds to improve their families' living conditions and invest in small-scale businesses, further contributing to their communities' economic development.

This gesture by Dr. Falmata Babagana Umara Zulum reflects not only her dedication to the welfare of Borno State's women but also her unwavering belief in their potential to drive progress and transformation. It is a testament to the power of compassionate leadership and the enduring spirit of resilience in the face of adversity. As Borno State and Nigeria as a whole celebrate 63 years of independence, this act of generosity serves as a beacon of hope and unity, reminding all that together, we can overcome challenges and build a brighter future.

JIGAWA

Governor's Wife

extends compassion
to sickle cell and VVF
patients



In a compassionate and empathetic endeavor, Hajia Hadiza Umar Namadi, the wife of the Governor of Jigawa State, paid a visit to patients suffering from Sickle Cell Disease and Vesicovaginal Fistula (VVF) at Rasheed Shekoni Teaching Hospital in Dutse and Jahun General Hospital in Jahun Local Government Area of Jigawa State. These visits underscore the commitment of Her Excellency towards eradicating these health challenges within the state, all under the visionary leadership of Jigawa State Governor, Mallam Umar A. Namadi.

Her visit was not merely a social call but a purpose-driven mission to address the pressing issues of Sickle Cell Disease and VVF infections in the region. She took this opportunity to advocate for greater awareness and proactive measures among the community, particularly amongst young couples.

Hajia Hadiza stressed on the need for young couples to undergo genotype testing before embarking on marriage. By stressing the importance of this precautionary measure, Hajia Hadiza hopes to reduce the spread of Sickle Cell Disease within Jigawa State and, by extension, the entire nation. Genotype testing is a critical step in identifying carriers of the disease and preventing the birth of children with Sickle Cell Disease.

Furthermore, she underscored the need for parents to refrain from marrying off their daughters at an early age. This practice can contribute to early pregnancies, which, in turn, can increase the risk of VVF infection.

By encouraging parents to prioritize their daughters' education and well-being, Hajia Hadiza aims to protect young girls from the devastating consequences of early childbirth.

Her Excellency also took the opportunity to highlight the various initiatives implemented by the Jigawa State government under the leadership of Mallam Umar A. Namadi. These initiatives include free girl child education and free VVF surgery, which have played a pivotal role in reducing the prevalence of VVF infections and improving educational opportunities for girls. Additionally, the government has provided essential working tools to enhance the capabilities of VVF surgical units in hospitals across the state.

The visit of the Governor's Wife brought immense joy to the patients, who expressed their gratitude for her benevolent gesture. Her compassionate approach and dedication to tackling these pressing health issues have not only brought hope to those affected but have also reinforced the commitment of the Jigawa State government to improving the lives and well-being of its citizens.

In addition, Hajia Hadiza Umar Namadi's visit to VVF and Sickle Cell patients in Jigawa State serves as a shining example of how leadership, empathy, and awareness can drive positive change in healthcare and community development. Her efforts, combined with those of the state government, mark a significant step toward eradicating these health challenges and building a healthier and more prosperous Jigawa State for all its residents.

Empowering the Future: How First Ladies across Nigeria celebrated the INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD



This year's International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated in grand style, with various state First Ladies and organizations across Nigeria coming together to empower and inspire young girls. The day was marked by a series of events and initiatives that aimed to highlight the significance of gender equality, female education, and the potential that the girl child holds.

Oyo State: Inspiring Excellence and Recognizing Achievement

The event in Oyo State, held at the House of Chiefs Secretariat in Ibadan, was a platform for inspiration. Young girls from selected secondary schools gathered to receive encouragement to be the best versions of themselves and to break through the glass ceilings that may block their path in various sectors. Her Excellency, Engr Tamunominini Makinde, recognized the dedication and hard work of the three best students in WAEC for 2022 by presenting them with brand-new laptops. The teachers who accompanied the students were also duly rewarded. The unwavering support of partners, Kimberly Clark Ltd and Med Plus, played a pivotal role in making the event a grand success.

Akwa Ibom State: Embracing Greatness and Transforming Education

In Akwa Ibom State, Her Excellency Pastor Patience Umo Eno, the First Lady, visited the Community Commercial

Secondary School, Ikono, Uyo. Her message to the girls was simple yet powerful - to be proud of who they are and to realize that greatness resides within each of them. She urged the students to have unwavering determination in pursuing their aspirations and harnessing their potential for future leadership. In a heartwarming gesture, she presented gifts to the students and generously made a cash donation towards the much-needed repairs of their Science Laboratory and School Library.

Adamawa State: Fostering Education, Skills, and Healthy Competition

Her Excellency Hajija Lami Ahmadu Fintiri and her Fresh Air Pro-Life Empowerment Foundation orchestrated a series of events in Adamawa State to provide a well-rounded educational experience for selected secondary schools. Educational lectures on entrepreneurship development, a spelling bee, and a Scrabble competition were organized, emphasizing the importance of education, practical skills, and healthy competition.

Hajija Lami Ahmadu Fintiri reinforced the notion that education is the key to greatness and encouraged young female students to take their studies seriously for a brighter future.



The Commissioner for Entrepreneurship Development highlighted the significance of entrepreneurship as a complementary skill that fosters independence and self-reliance.

The competition saw active participation from schools like Concordia College, Government Day Secondary School Karewa, Ahmadu Ribadu College, Excel International School, and Government Girls Secondary School Yola. Besides sharpening academic skills, the competition honed strategic and critical thinking abilities. The distinguished presence of permanent secretaries from the ministries of education, women affairs, and entrepreneurship development, as well as principals, teachers, and students, underscored the significance of the event.

Top-performing schools were honored with trophies, and all participating schools received cash prizes, fostering a sense of recognition and encouragement.

Borno State: Advocating for Investment in Girl Child Education

Dr. Falmata Babagana Umara Zulum, the First Lady of Borno State, passionately advocated for investment in the education of the girl child. She emphasized the importance of implementing child rights, which guarantee every child the right to education. The event featured drama, debates, and traditional dances, creating an atmosphere of celebration and learning. Dr. Falmata generously presented gifts to over 300 schoolgirls, further underscoring her commitment to girl child education.

Gombe State: Scholarship Opportunities and Empowerment

In Gombe State, Hajiya Asma' u Inuwa Yahaya, the First Lady, marked the International Day of the Girl Child by awarding admission letters to fifteen young girls who had been accepted into the Federal Government Girls College Bajoga (FGGC) Gombe. Her dedication to girl child education extended through her NGO, the Jewel Care Foundation, which collaborated with Ashaka Cement (Lafarge) to launch the "Save the Girl Child Education Scholarship Scheme." The event brought together the gracious presence of the First Lady of Gombe State, represented by the foundation's Chairman, Abdulwahab Sabo, and the Managing Director of Ashaka Cement, represented by the Head of Corporate Affairs, Lafarge, Alh Abubakar Bukar Allaji, among other notable guests. Parents of the children who had been admitted were also in attendance, making the occasion truly special.

Ekiti State: Empowering Girls at Mary Immaculate Grammar School

The First Lady of Ekiti State celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child with students of Mary Immaculate Grammar School, a renowned all-girls institution in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State. The theme for the event, 'Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being,' set the tone for an engaging and enlightening interaction. The First Lady urged the students to speak out against

SHE

emphasized the importance of implementing child rights, which guarantee every child the right to education



intimidation, harassment, and gender-based violence, while also stressing the importance of staying focused on their academic goals and avoiding distractions. The event witnessed active participation from various stakeholders, making it a truly enriching experience.

Anambra State: A Pledge for Menstrual Hygiene and Empowering Girls

Dr. Mrs. Nonye Soludo, founder of Healthy Living with Nonye Soludo Initiative, has made a significant promise to provide sanitary pads to over four hundred secondary schools across the state of Anambra. This extraordinary pledge was made during the celebration of the 2023 International Day of the Girl Child at the governor's lodge in Amawbia.

The distribution of sanitary pads will be conducted at the beginning of each academic term, ensuring that there are enough supplies to last throughout the entire academic calendar. Dr. Mrs. Nonye Soludo emphasized the importance of recognizing the achievements that women have made since the Beijing Declaration and Action Plan and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, underscoring the progress that has been achieved.

In her words, she highlighted the challenges facing girls and the need to secure a safe and prosperous future for them. Dr. Mrs. Nonye Soludo stressed the significance of empowering girls to seize the opportunities available to them, as these opportunities are often limited and distorted due to household obstacles.

The fundamental right of every girl to live and succeed was a cornerstone of her message. She underscored that denying girls these rights would set society back and have detrimental effects. Dr. Mrs. Nonye Soludo also expressed her commitment to promoting self-belief, knowledge of individual potential, and the importance of hygiene, nutrition, and self-development through Healthy Living with Nonye Soludo.

Highlighting the significance

“

The distribution of over one thousand sanitary pads marked the beginning of this campaign, aimed at restoring the confidence of girl children and eliminating stigmas associated with menstrual emergencies

of nutrition and personal hygiene, she shared that these were integral components of their crusade. Notably, the initiative places a strong emphasis on menstrual hygiene and overall health education for women and girls, especially those in the low-income class.

Announcing her groundbreaking initiative, Dr. Mrs. Nonye Soludo revealed that Healthy Living with Nonye Soludo will establish Sanitary Pad Banks (Pad Banks) in over four hundred secondary schools across Anambra State where their clubs are currently operating. Recognizing that accessibility to sanitary pads is a major concern in rural homes and schools, she aims to intervene where it matters the most. The distribution of over one thousand sanitary pads marked the beginning of this campaign, aimed at restoring the confidence of girl children and eliminating stigmas associated with menstrual emergencies.

The Pad Banks will provide equal opportunities for girls from every social class and build a hygiene bond that extends beyond the school walls. This

commitment is universal, ensuring that every schoolgirl, in her menstrual age, attending a school with access to these Pad Banks, can benefit from them. The initiative is an answer to the statistics that highlight the lack of access to basic menstrual requirements for girls and women in their reproductive age brackets.

Dr. Mrs. Nonye Soludo's commitment extends to creating an environment where every schoolgirl can pursue her dreams without fear, fostering a society that champions equal aspirations for every gender.

She commended the Anambra State Government for its dedicated programs aimed at protecting the girl child and reiterated her NGO's commitment to spreading the message and acting as an ambassador for a healthy lifestyle in the community. She used the celebration to



call on parents and the people of Anambra to prioritize the education of the girl-child, inspiring her to break boundaries and take charge of her future.

Osun State: Promoting gender equality, fostering personal and professional development

The International Day of the Girl Child in Osun State, Nigeria, was marked by a program celebrating the theme "She Inspires Her: Success Stories of Successful Women." The event highlighted the importance of empowering and educating girls, promoting gender equality, and fostering their personal and professional development.

Mrs. Titilola Adeleke, the Wife of the Osun State Governor, assured that the state government would continue to prioritize women and children through various developmental and empowerment programs. She emphasized the need for responsible internet use by parents to guide their children, particularly girls, during their adolescent years.

Mrs. Adeleke advocated for equal opportunities and education for girls, stressing that they should be given the chance to have their voices heard on matters that concern them. She called on stakeholders to support and champion the rights of the girl child.

Her Regal Majesty, Olori (Dr) Temitope Enitan Ogunwusi, shared her success story and encouraged young girls to believe in themselves, set goals, and strive to achieve their dreams.

Prof. Mrs. Adenike Temidayo Oladiji, the Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, inspired the female audience to prepare themselves to compete with their male counterparts and take on leadership roles. She highlighted that women are becoming better administrators and encouraged girls to overcome challenges in pursuit of their goals.

Other prominent speakers, including the wife of the Deputy Governor, Deaconess Olusola Adewusi, and various accomplished women, emphasized the uniqueness of every girl child and encouraged them to work towards fulfilling their dreams while avoiding negative influences.

The Vice Chancellor of Osun State University, Prof. Odunayo Clement Olabooye, commended the students for organizing an event focusing on one of the sustainable development goals. He emphasized the potential and talents of the female gender, encouraging girls to build strong minds and not be deterred by challenges. Prof. Olabooye also highlighted female scholars who could serve as role models for the girls.

Communique

REPORT OF THE 2023 NATIONAL BASIC EDUCATION IN NIGERIA - BOOTCAMP (BEN-B) SUMMIT

Theme:
"Improving Access
to Inclusive Quality
Education for All
Children in Nigeria:
Towards Achieving
SDG4"

1

Summit Vision Statement: *Basic Education in Nigeria should be free, compulsory, inclusive and high quality so that no child is excluded and all have the opportunity to reach their potential.*

Summit Objective

The purpose of the annual event is to bring together top policymakers, technocrats, researchers, bureaucrats and other critical stakeholders in the Nigerian Education Sector to share, ideas and its application to education policy-making and practice. The objective was to achieve the following:

1. Assemble Basic Education stakeholders to deliberate on Policy, practice and implementation gaps facing the sub-sector.
2. Ensure responsiveness of States Ministries of Education (SMoEs) in compliance with National Education Policy decisions and programmes.
3. Harmonize and coordinate resources and activities in the Basic Education sub-sector towards the achievement of national goals and aspirations.
4. Monitor progress of states and ensure reporting to the Federal Ministry of Education for proper coordination.

2

Participants

The Conference was attended by the Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State, His Excellency, Pastor Umo Eno who declared the meeting open. The Honourable Minister of State for Education, Dr. Hon. Yusuf, Tanko Sununu. Other dignitaries at the Conference were the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education Mr. Andrew, David Adejo OON who also declared the Summit closed. Commissioners of Education from the States Ministries of Education and Federal Capital Territory (FCT); Permanent Secretaries or representatives from the States, Directors from the Federal Ministry of Education, CEOs and Representatives from FME Parastatals, the Chairpersons of State Universal Basic Education Boards (SUBEBs), Representatives of Development Partners: United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (UK-FCDO), The British Council and the World Bank. Organized private sector such as Oando Foundation, New Globe; Non-Governmental/Civil Society Organizations and other critical stakeholders. A total number of Two Hundred and Twenty-Four (224) delegates attended the Summit.

3

Paper Presentations

A wide array of presentations were taken at the summit. These include the following:

1. Lead Paper Presentation on Improving access to Inclusive, Quality Education for All Children - Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Burgess
2. Partnerships for Basic Education – Dr. (Mrs) Folake Olatunji-David
3. Overview of Basic Education Implementation in Nigeria – Dr. Hamid Bobboyi
4. Access to Inclusive Quality Education in Formal, Non-Formal, Non-State Settings/ Schools and Issues of OoSC in Nigeria – Dr. Mikailu Ibrahim
5. UBEC Contextualized Innovative Financing - Result Based Financing (RBF) of Early Grade Reading (EGR) - Dr. Ossom M. Ossom
6. SERVICOM And Efficient Service Delivery in The Public Sector - Dr. Yusuf Saeed, FCIA
7. Reforming Basic Education in Nigeria: Lessons from Successful Government Partnership Models - Dr. Akin-Olusoji Akinyele

4

Thematic Areas of Discussion

Four (4) thematic areas were identified which provided the basis for panel discussions. They include:

1. Access to inclusive quality education in formal and non-formal settings, non-state schools and issues of Out of School Children (OoSC) in Nigeria by States.
2. Improving the quality of learning outcomes (Foundational Literacy, numeracy, Early Childcare (ECC) and skills (Transferable, digital and employability)
3. Teachers' Professional Development, Recruitment and Deployment, Training and the professionalism of teachers.
4. Cross-cutting issues: Educational Data/Reporting, Financing, Governance, Planning, Partnerships, Inclusiveness in Education, Gender, Safety and Security in Schools.

Key Issues

The Conference identified the following key issues as impediments to Improving Access to Inclusive Quality Education for All Children in Nigeria:

Theme 1: Access to inclusive quality education in formal & non-formal settings, non-state schools and issues of Out of School Children (OOSC) in Nigeria

Barriers to access to education include:

- Insufficient number of trained teachers
- Teaching standards and pedagogical skills are often unsatisfactory
- Inadequate number of schools/classrooms in many places in 2022 - more than 900,000 extra classrooms were needed
- Inadequate buildings and infrastructure, lack of toilet facilities (40% of classrooms are in poor condition, some schools have no toilets; these factors do not facilitate effective learning)
- Poor safety and security means that some learners are afraid to come to school
- Lack of accessibility to school (distance or difficult journey)
- Between 10-13 million children are out of school
- Culture denies certain learners access (e.g., girls, learners with Special Educational Needs, disabilities or language and other issues)
- Early marriage excludes some girls
- Some existing initiatives to get more learners into school (such as school feeding) are not working in some areas

Theme 2: Improving the quality of learning outcomes (foundation literacy & numeracy, Early Child Care (ECC) skills (transferable, digital and employability))

- Literacy levels are low in Nigeria:
- Best global practices for early grade reading are not widespread
- Conflict and other crises disrupt education because schools close or there is irregular attendance due to safety threats
- Not all teachers are trained some are untrained, others are volunteers.
- Curriculum.

Theme 3: Teachers' professional development, recruitment and deployment, training and professionalization of teachers

- There is a shortage of trained teachers in primary education (almost 150,000 deficit)
- Some classes are taught by untrained teachers or volunteers
- Serving teachers are leaving the profession
- Teachers not paid on time – this will impact on retention and morale
- When teachers can access training, it does not always have an impact in the classroom because the skills are not implemented and there is no post-training evaluation
- There is too much reliance on cascade training which is not as effective as direct training
- Some Headteachers/Principals do not have the capacity to support and improve struggling teachers in the system
- Some Headteachers/ Principals do not have good administrative skills or the capacity to lead the pedagogical process in their schools.
- There is insufficient autonomy for schools (but this cannot be fully addressed until the quality of school leadership is established)
- Low quality of graduates: Colleges of Education are producing teachers with subpar qualifications and skills.

- States' Involvement: Many states rely heavily on UBEC funds instead of effectively utilizing their State education budgets, leading to inadequate support for teacher development
- Global Teacher Shortage: there is a worldwide shortage of teachers, making it challenging to recruit and retain qualified educators.
- Low Incentives: teachers often receive low salaries and limited incentives, discouraging college graduates from pursuing teaching careers.
- Emphasis on Certification: The focus is on teacher certification rather than equipping educators with practical teaching skills.

Training

- Training Understanding: teachers frequently undergo training, but they often do not fully comprehend the concepts taught or how to apply them in their classrooms.
- Lack of Post-Training Evaluation: There are no mechanisms in place to assess the effectiveness of teacher training programmes after completion.
- Ineffective Policy Supervision: Those responsible for supervising policy implementation are not performing their duties adequately.
- Curriculum Design: The curriculum is not adequately designed to meet the evolving needs of students and the education
- Policy Implementation: Although Nigeria has numerous education policies in place, many remain unimplemented, such as the requirement for schools to have a teacher per class rather than subject teachers

Theme 4: Cross-cutting issues: Education, data, reporting, financing, governance, planning, partnerships, inclusiveness in education – gender, safety & security in schools

Issues

- **Data** is needed in order to identify gaps and vulnerable learners; there is a lack of data in:
 - Standards of teaching & learning (assessment, monitoring)
 - Pupil progress (individual, school, state & national)
 - When there is data; it is not always used to plan interventions
- **Funding** is not always equitable or targeted, available funding of 48 billion through UBEC was accessed between 2005 – 2021; 36% of the education budget between 2018 and 2020 was underspent; Partnerships and funding are not always used efficiently and effectively.
 - Lack of IT infrastructure is a barrier to learning & progress.
 - Learners and adults do not always feel safe in schools
 - Lack of synergy between schools and policy-makers which leads to lack of accountability.

Recommendations

Theme 1: Access to inclusive quality education in formal & non-formal settings, non-state schools and issues of Out of School Children (OoSC) in Nigeria

- Safety and security of schools should be a top priority and any available funding should be targeted here
- The role of Principal should develop into that of Instructional Leaders so that they can accurately assess and support their teachers to improve
- There should be increase in inter-sectoral partnership between schools and other agencies, such as health in order to access hard-to-reach families
- Teachers and Principals should be trained in inclusion and

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- inclusive pedagogies
- The community may be mobilized to improve school facilities by donating their labour (this has worked effectively in Algeria)
- Funding should be urgently sought for toilet facilities in those schools that lack them
- Consideration should be given to innovative solutions such as sharing the school building between two shifts of learners, one in the morning, one in the afternoon (this has worked in other countries and may also provide a better income for teachers as they could work both sessions within a slightly longer school day)
- If the above project is undertaken, funding for any new schools could be diverted to inaccessible areas
- Low-cost schools are operating in some areas and this could be extended to other places
- Any areas that are attracting funding but are not effective (such as the feeding strategy in some places) could divert that funding to other priorities
- Schools and Local Governments should work with communities and religious groups to try to overcome cultural barriers to inclusion
- Explore the idea of remote learning such as those that exist in Australia for reaching remote areas; there could be hub schools which serve a number of outposts
- Second chance schools for women and girls could be extended

Theme 2: Improving the quality of learning outcomes (foundation literacy & numeracy, Early Child Care (ECC) skills (transferable, digital and employability))

- Teachers should be trained in the teaching of basic literacy and numeracy; especially in the phonic reading method which has improved standards in many countries
- Recognize reading as a core subject on the National Basic Education Curriculum
- Give time for reading in the curriculum, including free reading
- Contextualize ECC curriculum and TLMs for local situations
- Family literacy programs where learners and parents learn together, help to solve adult literacy as well as that of children
- Funding put into early literacy and numeracy will ensure the situation is addressed at source and will result in less expenditure on remedial programmes
- Expectations of teachers should be made clear; teacher standards should ensure that everyone knows what constitutes good teaching; it could also be used as a basis for performance management and to set targets for teachers who are not performing well
- Learning materials should be attractive and engaging but should also be inclusive, not displaying stereotypes and should be child-centred
- Teachers should be trained in assessment techniques
- Programmes should be introduced to support bilingual education
- States and Local Government should invest more in basic education to benefit junior secondary schools who would need to spend less on teaching basic skills to older learners
- Partnership working is essential in improving basic skills:
 - Between home and school
 - Between school and Local Government
 - Between Local and State Government and National Government
- Increase the number of vocational schools or vocational centres in a school

- Seek funding to improve resourcing for digital literacy and the teaching of digital literacy
- Many countries have introduced entrepreneurship to the curriculum at the basic education level.

Theme 3: Teachers' professional development, recruitment and deployment, training and professionalization of teachers:

- High level teaching assistants could be trained and appointed to work under the supervision of the teacher for very large classes.
- Teachers from the Junior Secondary sector could be retrained and redeployed to Primary school sector.
- Introduce Adequate Incentives: States should domesticate the Harmonized Retirement Age for Teachers Act as it relates to years of service and other incentives for teachers.
- Education Courses: Develop and introduce specialized education courses that focus on modern teaching methodologies, classroom management, and inclusive education to enhance teacher competencies.
- Model Recruitment Policy: Establish a standardized and transparent teacher recruitment policy in Nigeria that ensures fairness and equal opportunities for all candidates, regardless of their background.
- Effective Implementation of National Teacher Education Policy: Ensure the full and effective implementation of the National Teacher Education Policy, aligning education practices with its recommendations and objectives
- Improved Teacher Professional Development Policy: Revise and enhance the Teacher Professional Development Policy in Nigeria to ensure that teachers receive relevant and ongoing training that aligns with their needs and classroom requirements.
- Introduce a curriculum for teachers to include training in assessment techniques, especially formative assessment.
- Close the gaps between State and National Bodies: Promote collaboration and communication between State Universal Basic Education Boards and the Universal
- Basic Education Commission to harmonize efforts and resources in improving
- education quality.
- Emphasize Innovative Thinking: Encourage innovative teaching methods and critical thinking skills among teachers as part of their capacity-building efforts.
- Enhance Education Sector Quality: Invest in improving the overall quality of the education sector, including infrastructure, resources, and curriculum, to attract highly qualified teachers and provide a conducive learning environment for students.
- Performance-Based Promotion: Link teacher promotions to performance evaluations, encouraging educators to take ownership of their professional development and continuously strive for excellence.
- Quality Assurance: Implement a robust quality assurance mechanism to ensure that educational programmes provide value for money and that students are making meaningful progress in their learning.
- Accreditation for Donors: Require donors and organizations providing support to education programmes to obtain accreditation from the Federal Ministry of Education to ensure alignment with national educational goals.
- 21st Century Curriculum Integration: Collaborate with the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) to integrate the curriculum with 21st-century pedagogical approaches and technological advancements.

Theme 4: Cross-cutting issues: Education, data, reporting, financing, governance, planning, partnerships, inclusiveness in education – gender, safety & security in schools

- There should be long term investment plan in education; investment should be targeted where it will have the most impact and where there is the greatest need.
- There should be effective partnership and collaboration among the development partners.
- The capacity for monitoring should be strengthened.
- There should be investment in human capital development.
- There should be adequate funding in education sector.
- Our curriculum should match the current day reality.
- Use of technology in our day-to-day learning should be addressed.
- Getting household data should be initiated and managed by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) or National Population Commission (NPC).
- States should prioritize collection of education data through their State Education Management Information System (SEMIS).
- Local Government in Nigeria should be strengthened as this will go a long way to secure the schools.
- All funding in the education sector should be properly allocated and captured as appropriately, at the National and

State levels.

- Funding should be fairly allocated according to pupil numbers and need.
- School based data is key in education.
- There should be clear policy about gender equality and inclusion.

School Safety and Security

- State coordination centers should be set up.
- The support of Federal and State Governments is needed.
- Community involvement in schools' safety should be encouraged and strengthened
- Community policing should be introduced.

School Inclusion

- Everybody need to be involved in having quality education in Nigeria.
- Teachers' recruitment should commensurate with the number of students in schools.
- We should leverage technology sequel to the rise in the number of learners in the country.
- There is an urgent need to start the production of teachers based on the current needs.
- There should be provision of Vocational and Technical Education.

Implementation Action Plan

States have begun their own action plans based on their State Priorities.

- Each State should appoint its Implementation Committee to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Education to ensure State Action Plans are implemented and progressing as they should be.
- These teams can report at the annual Basic Education Summit.
- There are other issues which are national decisions which the government will need to make their own implementation plan for, these should include:
 - Clear outcomes and objectives
 - Clear priorities for implementation (the recommendations from the Bootcamp should be prioritized with the most urgent and the priorities that will make the most impact, being top priorities)
 - These priorities should be broken down into smaller actions (each with its own time limit) which will contribute to the main priority
 - A clear communication strategy for stakeholders and policy-makers
 - Clear targets which include a time scale
 - Resource implications
- For some of the bigger issues, the Ministry may wish to carry out separate scoping audits for example on:
 - The Professional Development of Teachers and teaching standards;
 - A review of the role of the principal in securing improved outcomes

- The Professional Development of Principals to follow on from the Headteacher Competency Framework.
- Implementation plans should be drawn up under the Thematic Areas by the Implementation Teams allocated to each area to ensure that the work is carried out.
- Each Thematic area should prioritize its actions for the greatest impact
- The Implementation plans should be reviewed at least annually, with perhaps a short evaluation conference on the Bootcamp outcomes at this conference, the responsible person for each thematic area (team convener) can present a report on progress in their area.
- The Ministry should appoint someone to be the Implementation Coordinator who will be responsible for ensuring monitoring and evaluation. Reports should be submitted to this person who should come from the Post-Conference Committee (PCC)
- There should be a major review after one year and then annually at a gathering.
- There should be half-yearly written report to the Implementation Coordinator who will ensure these reports are submitted and keep copies for the records.
- States should ensure that their Quality Assurance Units are strengthened for efficiency.
- State Government should send their teachers to National Teachers' Institute (NTI) for training.
- Headteachers/Principals (Junior Secondary Schools) should be sent for leadership training in National Institute for Educational Planning and Administrators (NIEPA).
- All SUBEBs should ensure they access their unaccessed fund with UBEC (through provision of counter-part funding)

Signed By:



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NIGERIA'S LEARNING CHALLENGES: AVAILABLE DATA WITH THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

1. Nigeria has an estimated population of 200 million, 106 (53%) of whom are of school aged. However, Out-Of-School Children (OOSC) is 10.2 million for primary school and 8.1 million for junior secondary schools. This accounts for 15% of the global figure and is the largest.
2. 70% of pupils at the basic education level in Nigeria cannot read meaning or solve simple mathematical problems. There is a fundamental crisis of foundational literacy and numeracy in Nigeria.
3. Basic proficiency in literacy and numeracy is 50% in Nigeria. Only 14% of young women from poor homes are literate. Nigeria's Human Development Index (HDI) scores of 0.539 is largely attributed to poor performance in education. Only 35% of youths are employed in the country.
4. 27% of teaching staff are unqualified. 175,000 qualified teachers are needed to fill capacity gaps.
5. 6 million children are enrolled in primary schools annually. Regrettably, only 2.4 million pupils remain in schools to complete junior secondary schools. 50% of girls are not attending school at the basic education level. 1 in 3 adolescents eligible for senior secondary school are not attending.
6. Only 1.9 % of Nigeria's GDP (2001-2017) is spent on education. 1.2 % of GDP to education in 2021 was the lowest in sub-Saharan Africa. Only 7.2 % of public expenditure is allocated to education at the federal level and 10% of national budget for federal and state. There is 1 junior secondary school for every 5 primary schools in the country.
7. Protracted conflict and insecurity impact negatively on education. In 2020, 25 attacks on schools resulted in the abduction of 1,470 school children. 200 children are still missing. This led to 11,500 school closures. Over 1 million children in Nigeria are too afraid return to go to school.
8. Across the federation, only 9% of the poorest girls attend secondary school compared to 81% of girls from rich homes. Child marriage, early childbearing, gender-based violence, discrimination, poverty, inequality, illiteracy etc., are violations of the girls' right to education in Nigeria.
9. 36% (N 792.4 billion) of education budget was underspent between 2018-2020 in Nigeria. Over N 46 billion of UBEC funds for basic education were not accessed between 2005-2022.
10. The education sector in Nigeria is not receiving the right attention. What is government doing to address these challenges?

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION:

Overcoming Crisis, Improving Learning Outcomes



1. The federal government and subnational governments in Nigeria take education as a priority through funding. Despite paucity of funds, most states are meeting up with the 15% global benchmark for annual fiscal and budgetary allocation to education. (Katsina, Kano, Kaduna, Borno etc.).
2. The Universal Basic Education Act (2004) and associated state UBE Laws provide all children with the basic right to free and compulsory education. Basic education is free and compulsory in Nigeria. 2% of Nigeria's Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) is dedicated to basic education for infrastructure and manpower development annually.
3. The Right of the Nigerian Child is protected. 34 States (except Kano and Zamfara) have domesticated the Child Right Act (2003). There is equitable access for girls and equality and inclusive education for all in Nigeria through the National Policy on Gender Education (2021).
4. The National Senior Secondary Education Commission (NSSEC) Act 2023 will allocate 2% Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) to address infrastructural and teachers' capacity development challenges at the senior secondary level in Nigeria.
5. There are also interventions at the tertiary level through Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TET Fund) and others (NUC, NBTE, NCCE etc).
6. Government is committed to addressing the Out-Of-School Children (OOSC) challenges in Nigeria. A committee by the Hon. Minister of Education has been set up to address this issue. We are making efforts through budgetary allocations and special intervention funds to address this. Nigeria will tackle OOSC aggressively.
7. Schools' safety and security is critical to educational development and societal transformation. The National Plan on Financing Safe Schools (2023-2026) in Nigeria is aimed at protecting schools against attacks and ensuring security for teachers, learners, and the school environment. Budgetary provisions have been made to address incessant attacks on schools. This will be consolidated.
8. Subnational governments in Nigeria have been encouraged to make adequate budgetary allocations to the education sector to complement the efforts of the federal government, special intervention funds will be allocated to education because of its importance in transforming the society for the better.
8. Government is tackling poverty through the National Social Protection Programme (NSPP) and the creation of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation. The National Home-Grown School Feeding

EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING EDUCATION SECTOR CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA (TALKING POINTS)

Remarks by the Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum

HIS EXCELLENCY MALLAM ABDULRAHMAN ABDULRAZAQ CON

Executive Governor Of Kwara State

at the **National Conference on Learning Crisis In Nigeria**

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2023 IN ABUJA, NIGERIA

I am delighted to participate and present these remarks on behalf of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) at this National Conference on Learning Crisis in Nigeria. I am also pleased to acknowledge the collaboration of the Federal Ministry of Education (FME); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) to address the learning crisis in Nigeria by bringing stakeholders in the education sector together to discuss the way forward.

The Nigeria Governors' Forum is a critical stakeholder in the provision of quality and affordable education in Nigeria. As an Executive Governor, I understand that Nigeria's educational sector is in crisis. This conference which is aimed at drawing attention to the scale of the learning crisis, share models to improve foundational literacy and numeracy and agree on a framework of action to address the learning crisis in Nigeria is apt and timely.

There is a fundamental crisis of foundational literacy and numeracy in Nigeria based on available statistics. Nigeria has the highest record of out of school children in the world. 70% of pupils at the basic education level in Nigeria cannot read with meaning or solve simple mathematical problems. Basic proficiency in literacy and numeracy is 50% in the country and only 14% of young women from poor homes are literate. Nigeria's Human Development Index (HDI) scores of 0.534 is largely attributed to poor performance in education.

We have over 6 million children enrolled in primary schools annually. Regrettably, only 2.4 million pupils remain in schools to complete junior secondary. When 3 in every 4 children in the country aged 7-14 years are unable to read simple sentence

and 1 in 3 adolescents eligible for senior secondary school are not attending, there is big learning crisis that needs to be urgently addressed. It is unfortunate that we have 27% foundational reading skills and 25% foundational numeracy skills for children and adolescents aged 7-14 years while 50% of girls are not attending schools at basic education level in Nigeria. Only 9% of the poorest girls attend secondary school compared to 81% of girls from rich homes. Child marriage, early childbearing, gender based violence, discrimination, poverty, inequality, illiteracy, social instability, socio-cultural norms etc., are prevalent and violations of the girls' right to education is still going on in the country.

We have protracted conflict and insecurity which impact negatively on education with rampant schools' attacks, abduction, insurgency, and banditry. Over a million of our children are too afraid to return to school due to insecurity in the school environment. There is also a fundamental challenge of education financing where only 1.9% of Nigeria's GDP is spent on education between 2001- 2017, and 1.2% of GDP to education in 2021 was the lowest in sub-Saharan Africa. At the federal and subnational levels, only 10% of national budget is allocated to education. We also have challenges of qualified teachers and schools' infrastructure. The report of the 2022 National Personnel Audit (2022 NPA report) of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) presented by the Chairman of the commission in the 2023 maiden edition of the Basic Education Summit in Uyo, Akwa Ibom buttressed these statistics and emphasized the lack of attention given to the education sector in Nigeria. Education is generally in crisis and a state of emergency should be declared in the education sector in all the states of the federation.

The Nigeria Governors' Forum is a strong advocate of inclusive education to address learning crisis in the country. We firmly believe that gender, poverty, location, disability, language, and ethnicity should not create any barriers for Nigerian children from accessing and achieving basic foundational literacy and numeracy. Also, regardless of physical intellectual or linguistic abilities; Nigerian children should learn and participate equally and effectively in the school system in a safe and secured environment devoid of gender bias.

That is why we believe in partnership and collaboration with the federal government, donor agencies and development partners to address challenges in the education sector. This conference is one of such collaborative efforts to improve on foundational



literacy and numeracy and agree on a framework of action. With our partners, we have assembled government officials at federal and subnational levels, education practitioners, development partners, civil society groups, private individuals, and students to review challenges, lessons learned, evidence and innovations to address the learning crisis. Through data and evidence, the scale of the learning crisis and what works from the various interventions being implemented across the states in Nigeria will be highlighted, and from pilots to scale; a national framework of action to address the learning crisis in Nigeria would be developed and endorsed.

The Nigeria Governors' Forum is committed in the provision of inclusive quality education through improved budgetary provision for the educational sector to address the learning crisis in the country. We would consolidate our advocacy in guaranteeing that state governments in

Nigeria allocate at least 15-20% of their fiscal budgets to education for subnational development. We would consolidate our partnership and collaboration with the federal government, development partners and critical stakeholders in the education sector to address these challenges.

I commend the organizers of this conference and urge participants to work assiduously to develop a framework of action to address the learning crisis in Nigeria. I am also assuring you that the report of this conference will be implemented by the states for subnational educational development and for the overall transformation of the education sector to meet our socio-economic needs for our collective benefits as a nation.

I wish you a fruitful deliberation.
Thank you and God bless.



GOVERNOR INUWA YAHAYA'S UNGA TRIP: The Gains And Wins For Gombe State, Northern Nigeria

By Ismaila Uba Misilli

In the realm of politics, some leaders shine with exceptional brilliance, and Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State undoubtedly ranks among these distinguished figures.

His recent trip to the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City on the entourage of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu carries profound implications for the socio-economic future of Gombe State and the Northern region at large.

The inclusion of Governor Inuwa Yahaya in President Tinubu's travel delegation, among the 36 State Governors, stands as a proof of his eminence and leadership qualities, as well as the confidence reposed in him by the commander-in-chief not only as northern governors' forum chairman, but as an outstanding leader.

The significance and impact of this journey cannot be overstated as it aligns with the Greater Gombe Agenda, a vision championed by Governor Inuwa at all times.

The UNGA serves as a platform for comprehensive development, and Governor

I have been able to meet with UNICEF, UNFPA, and other agencies of the United Nations to make sure that we get the support required so that we can uplift the lives and livelihoods of our people, especially in the Northern region where there are a lot of challenges with regards to insecurity and poverty

Inuwa Yahaya took full advantage of the global gathering and advanced the interests of Gombe State and Northern Nigeria effectively.

On the sidelines of the General Assembly, Governor Inuwa Yahaya engaged in fruitful discussions with key UN agencies and partners, with a particular focus on the pressing issue of out-of-school children in his State and Northern Nigeria. This critical issue has been a central concern for him, given the challenges posed by poverty, insecurity, and cultural beliefs.

His commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goal Four (SDG4) through inclusive and equitable quality education

also came to the fore. He particularly sought the support of UNICEF and other international partners to address the pressing challenge of out-of-school children.

Speaking to newsmen in New York, Governor Inuwa Yahaya outlined various strategies employed by his administration, to address the menace of out-of-school children, including the establishment of community-based schools, school construction and renovation, distribution of learning materials, and sensitization campaigns for parents. However, he noted that while the strategies have yielded some positive results, more needs to be done, which is why he has sought for support in that direction.

"I have been able to meet with UNICEF, UNFPA, and other agencies of the United Nations to make sure that we get the support



required so that we can uplift the lives and livelihoods of our people, especially in the Northern region where there are a lot of challenges with regards to insecurity and poverty. So, we are strengthening collaboration to address challenges in our state, region, and country," the Governor said.

The UNGA trip also enabled Governor Inuwa Yahaya opportunity to solidify Gombe's stance on vital development issues and strengthen relationships.

During his visit to the Nigeria Consul General in New York, Ambassador Lot Peter Egopija, Governor Inuwa highlighted the immense potential of Gombe State and its readiness to tap into global opportunities.

The Governor informed Ambassador Egopija of Gombe State's agricultural richness and the availability of two major dams in the state which are essential for irrigation and hydropower generation. These valuable resources, he noted, could catalyze agricultural growth and energy sustainability.

He also intimated the Consul General about the sprawling 1000-hectare Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park, which holds the potential to be a game-changer in Gombe State's industrial landscape.

He said the Industrial Park will be powered by clean and renewable energy sources such as hydro and solar power, with a promise of uninterrupted 24-hour electricity supply to factories within the park.

The Governor also mentioned the successful maiden Gombe investment summit held in 2022 which secured commitments from investors amounting to over 50 billion Naira across various sectors, including Agriculture, Services, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and Cement manufacturing.

He expressed his eagerness to build on this success, and solicited the support and participation of the Nigerian Mission in US in the upcoming Gombe investment summit scheduled for November this year.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya's commitment to addressing climate change and ecological

equilibrium is also evident. Recent incidents of floods and infrastructure damage in the State have underscored the need for ecological solutions. The UNGA provided the Governor an opportunity to engage with experts and organizations focused on these challenges.

Also, the Governor secured commitments from the United Nations for support and collaboration in various critical sectors, including health, education, and more to foster socio-economic development.

The UN Deputy Secretary-General, Hajija Amina Mohammed, during a meeting with the Governor on the sidelines of the General Assembly, assured him that the UN would stand shoulder to shoulder with him and his administration throughout his stewardship to deliver meaningful development to Gombe State.

The DSG assured Governor Inuwa of her willingness to engage with international development partners such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Susan Buffet Foundation, and the African Peace Corp to garner support for Gombe State in the realm of healthcare and human resource development.

She also offered to facilitate UN's technical support to bolster the Secretariat of the Northern States Governors' Forum, a crucial platform for regional development, as soon as a formal request is made.

She commended the giant strides and progress achieved under the leadership of Governor Inuwa Yahaya in Gombe State, noting that the Governor has set a precedent in subnational governance.

Hajija Amina Mohammed offered words of encouragement to Governor Inuwa Yahaya, lauding the discernible improvements in the quality of life of the people of Gombe State.

In his remarks, Governor Inuwa Yahaya commended the Hajija Amina Mohammed for her remarkable contributions to the UN's global

mission, describing her as a worthy daughter of Gombe and proud global ambassador of the state and Nigeria.

During the meeting, he presented an overview of the multifaceted development initiatives that his administration is currently implementing, with a particular focus on healthcare and education.

The Governor appealed for support in leveraging Hajija Amina's international networks to enhance Gombe state's healthcare system, particularly at the primary and secondary levels. This includes attracting skilled manpower to fortify the operations of the three General hospitals that have either been constructed or rehabilitated across the three senatorial zones of Gombe State.

In his capacity as the Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum, Governor Inuwa Yahaya also sought the UN's assistance in strengthening the Forum's Secretariat through the provision of technical experts. These experts would work in tandem with the Forum to drive its overarching development objectives.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya's active engagement at the UNGA epitomizes his statesmanship and commitment to representing the interests of Gombe State, Northern region and Nigeria as a whole. His mission to secure investment opportunities, address critical issues like out-of-school children, healthcare delivery, and promote ecological sustainability is a demonstration of his leadership's vision and forthrightness.

As the Governor returns home with the promise of partnerships, investments, and support, Gombe State and Northern Nigeria stand to benefit from his successful sojourn on the global stage. His feat at the 78th UNGA reaffirm that, indeed, he is a diamond shining in the rhinestone of Nigerian politics and governance.

Opening Remarks at the US-Africa Municipal and Sub-Sovereign Investors Forum



G

reetings from Nigeria. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this US-Africa Municipal and Sub-Sovereign Investors Forum, which is aptly themed “Investing for Local Impact”.

A major megatrend that is shaping the world today is rising urbanization, with 56% of the world’s population

– about 4.4 billion inhabitants – living in cities, and these numbers will continue to grow. The building blocks of a productive and competitive economy is access to affordable and reliable infrastructure including power, transportation, communication, and clean water.

Globally, development partners and agencies have increased the size of their investment portfolios towards grass root infrastructural development to match the teeming demand. On the continent for example, the AfDB has been investing heavily in infrastructure. Since 2016, they have invested well over \$44 billion on roads, airports, seaports, digital infrastructure, water and sanitation and energy infrastructure.

Several countries on the continent have developed their Economic Recovery and Growth Plans to guide the administration of these interventions. In Nigeria, the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan identifies several priority sectors which require both local and international investment. These include transportation and energy infrastructure projects such as the Lagos-Ibadan railway project, the ongoing development of the Mambilla Hydropower plant, and four new international airport terminals in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, and Kano.

In addition, the recent establishment of the Infrastructure Corporation of Nigeria (InfraCo), which aims to raise

near \$40bn for projects with seed capital of N1 trillion from the Central Bank of Nigeria, and the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Agency (NSIA) marks a significant step forward in closing the infrastructure gap.

The Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) manages the Nigeria Infrastructure Fund (NIF) which focuses entirely on domestic investments in certain sectors of the Nigerian economy, some of which include motorways, healthcare, power and agriculture. The fund aims to invest in domestic infrastructure projects that meet targeted financial returns and contribute to the development of essential infrastructure to stimulate the growth and diversification of the Nigerian economy, attract foreign investment and create jobs for Nigerians.

The NSIA can invest up to a maximum of 10% of the funds in NIF in social infrastructure projects, which promote economic development in underserved sectors or regions in the country.

Some of the recent investments and strategic sectors include:

- Gas Industrialization: Co-developing a US\$1.4 billion Ammonia Plant with OCP of Morocco
- Technology: Set up a US\$200 million innovation fund for investments in Information technology in Nigeria
- Agriculture: Sponsored a new local currency-denominated agriculture fund with 10bn seed capital.
- Healthcare: Invested US\$202 million in Cancer treatment and development of diagnostic centers in Nigeria

In 2020, the Authority received an additional contribution of US\$250 million from the Federal Government. And in accordance with its fund allocation, 50% of the new contribution (US\$125 million) was allocated to the NIF for domestic investments in selected infrastructure sectors.

These are some actions taken to shore up Nigeria’s rising infrastructure demand in the face of increasing urbanisation and escalating population growth. In 2020, Nigeria was ranked 160 out of 163 countries on the 2020 world’s SDG Index and in 2021, we climbed 21 places to rank 139th.

However, there is more that can be done, and there is little time left. We are in the “Decade of Action” as we race towards joining the rest of the world to achieve the Global goals by 2030. We must optimize the tools and resources at our disposal to achieve the goals.

I thank you all for joining us today.



Dr Kayode Fayemi

President, Forum of Regions of Africa (FORAF)

Former Chairman, Nigeria Governors’ Forum (NGF) and Governor of Ekiti State, Nigeria.



NGF-FORAF DESK REPORT ON THE 78TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA) EVENTS

Executive Summary

This report seeks to provide an overview of the events the NGF and FORAF/UCLG Africa participated in during the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) meetings held in New York, USA from September 16th -20th 2023.

Local and regional governments have been at the forefront of policies supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, caring for people and the planet, through public service provision, local policy fostering social inclusion, ecological transformation, and the creation of alliances and partnerships. The Local and Regional Government Forum (LRGF) at the SDG Action Weekend highlighted their commitments of the local and regional government constituency towards the 2030 Agenda, with a special focus on local acceleration and local accountability through the lenses of the 12 transitions and crosscutting enablers of the High-Impact Initiatives and their relationship with action taking place at sub-national level. A special emphasis was placed on inspiring, scaling up, and demonstrating that a new trajectory for the SDGs is possible by showcasing how local and regional governments are driving progress on the goals. To this end, coalitions led by the constituency that have multiplier effects and build on local global partnerships, solidarity, international cooperation and subsidiarity were presented.

Other activities at the sidelines of the UNGA included, SDG Summit Mobilization Day, US-Africa Municipal and Sub-Sovereign Investors Forum (organized by UCLGA) where the FORAF President (Dr. Fayemi) made a presentation advocating for increased investment in subnational entities, DEVEX (with presentations by NewGlobe) and having the NGF Chairman (Governor Kwara) in a panel session on “Transforming Education”, The Nigeria Economic Growth & Trade Summit (organized by the Nigeria Governors’ Wives Forum) aptly themed “Stemming Migration Flows by Providing Basic Needs” which had in attendance by members of the Nigeria Governors’ Forum, specifically Governors of Kwara (Chairman), Lagos, Kaduna, Oyo, Akwa Ibom, and Gombe.

In conclusion, although the world is still far off track from achieving the SDGs, significant and sustainable change can only be achieved when both national and subnational entities go beyond incremental changes to transform our societies and achieve the 2030 agenda. The overarching message at UNGA78 was a reaffirming commitment to a world without poverty and hunger, that addresses the challenges and opportunities of demographic change and urbanization, the curbing of inequalities within and among territories, to empower women and girls, youth, and historically marginalized groups, and achieve equality; to resolve to preserve our ecosystems, mitigate and adapt to climate change, and transform our relationship with nature; and a commitment to rebuilding trust between communities and public institutions.

Eghosa M. Omoigui, MBA
Head, Stakeholder Relationship & SDGs

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Local and Regional Governments Forum: SDG Summit Mobilization Day

The event was led by the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, facilitated by United Cities and Local Governments, UN DESA, UN-Habitat, UNDP and the Local2030 Coalition.

High-impact localization policies and partnerships for the goals currently in place and new innovative commitments were announced as well as the specific localization needs and aspirations of local and regional governments to bring SDG implementation back on track by looking directly at the SDG Summit’s

political declaration.

In addition, the Forum contributed to the High-Impact Initiative on SDG Localization.

Objectives:

The objectives of the Local and Regional Government Forum at the SDG Action Weekend were to:

1. Announce voluntary actionable and scalable commitments by local and regional governments towards the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda through the lenses



PANELISTS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

of the 12 transitions and crosscutting enablers of the high-impact initiatives.

2. Present existing coalitions led by the local and regional government constituency that have multiplier effects to contribute to the High-Impact Initiative on SDG Localization.
3. Illustrate high-impact localization policies from local and regional governments to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.
4. Launch the constituency's political declaration with the priorities and aspirations of local and regional governments towards the SDG Summit and the UNGA high level week.

2. SDG Action Weekend

To maximize the Summit's impact, the United Nations Secretary-General convened an SDG Action Weekend, which generated opportunities for stakeholders, UN entities, and Member States to convene inside the United Nations Headquarters and set out specific commitments and contributions to drive SDG transformation between now and 2030. The SDG Action Weekend helped ramp-up momentum towards a successful SDG Summit and facilitated the contribution of all relevant actors to the SDG Summit.

The weekend generated opportunities for the engagement of Member States, relevant Intergovernmental Organizations, and other stakeholders in the lead up to the SDG Summit. Key to the UCLG were discussions around how to actualize the goal of SDG 11 (Sustainable cities). Various presentations indicated that a huge amount of investment is required. There were several examples in where subnational entities have localized the SDGs. For instance, SDG 13: Freetown, Serie lone, has successfully planted 1 million trees within the last 3 years, and have stretched their initial target of 2023 to 5 million trees by 2030. Thus creating 1,500 green jobs.

SDG 4: Buenos Aires presented reports on Nature based solutions for climate mitigation through the preservation of fauna and green areas.

3. DEVEX: Transforming Education (In partnership with NewGlobe)

The event explored outcomes to help improve the quality of education in low- and middle-income countries. It also shed light on what is needed to equip everyone from teachers to education ministries with the data tools needed to drive

improved learning outcomes for all. SDG 4 is quality and accessible education: By 2035 there will be more youth entering unemployment. The Chairman stated that funding and investment in education is the key to stem the tide. In Kwara state, the government is on track to putting technology in every classroom. He stated that yes, it is expensive and will need to be scaled for wider reach, but the first step is to ensure teachers are equipped with the right tools. i.e. a tablet.

In Nigeria, Kwara has led in the innovation using data to reduce digital illiteracy with the launching of KwaraLearn in April 2022, having leveraged the experiences of Edo and Lagos States which were the pioneers in the e-Learning platforms. The IFCs are saying there is need to localize aid, and States need to increase the use of domestic resources to mobilize development. The world is off track on achieving SDG 4, and what needs to be done is for development finance agencies to focus on high-impact areas for innovation investment that would outperform the current GDP ratio to education.

Education Cannot Wait:

222 million children and youth are currently in armed conflict around the world, victims of environmental disaster areas who are out of school or under learned. Financing is a challenge, as US\$1.5bn is required to lift 20 million children out of uneducated category by 2026, out of which US\$950m was pledged during UNGA78. However, 10x of what is budgeted is needed to fully eliminate the gap.

From the natural disasters and ongoing conflicts across the globe, there is a correlation between climate change and education.

4. UCLGA: US-Africa Municipal and Sub-Sovereign Investors Forum

The Inaugural US-Africa Municipal and Sub-Sovereign Investors Forum was held on September 18, 2023, at Wall Street Hotel, New York City, USA. The Forum was organized by the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) in the framework of and at the fringes of the September 2023 meetings of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The theme chosen for the Forum was 'Investing for Local Impact'. The Forum brought together over one hundred delegates representing the UN agencies; African Union institutions; the US cooperation agencies; the US Association of Black Caucus State legislators; Africa and US



MD/CEO CITI IQ, DON SIMMONS WITH NGF HEAD, SDG AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANT TO NGF CHAIRMAN

Mayors and Leaders of Subnational and Local governments; Africa and US Development Finance Institutions; Africa and US Business community; investors, experts and professionals. In attendance were in person, the Mayor of the largest city in the US and the Mayor of the smallest city in the US, who is also historically the youngest mayor in the US aged 18 years on appointment. The Forum was structured around three sessions: the first session was the official opening; the second session addressed Market Practice Exchange, Collaboration and Investment Opportunities in Africa; the third session was about Investors' response to the call for investment in African cities and territories.

The official opening was marked by an inspiring welcoming address and opening statement by Hon Eric Adams, Mayor New York City. He highlighted, among others, the fact that Mayors of the four largest cities in the US were run by African Americans. He therefore underscored the importance of bringing delegations of business leaders from these cities to invest in Africa; "to Invest in order to improve the living conditions of the people in Africa, not only to Exploit and Extract value at the detriment of the African people". Keynotes were made by leaders of subnational entities as well as organized private sector. They included: Hon. Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mayor of Mont Vermont, NY, and President of African American Mayors Association (AAMA), Hon. Laura Hall, President, National Black Caucus of State Legislators, Dr. Julius Garvey, US Surgeon and Investor, Mr. Mohan Vivekanandan, Group Executive, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Mr. Solomon Quaynor, Vice-President for Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization African Development Bank (AfDB), Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD and Dr. Fayemi Kayode, President of the Forum of Regions of Africa, FORAF.

In his presentation, Dr. Fayemi indicated that Nigeria needs at least \$3trillion to close its infrastructure gap, as an investment not a grant. To address the infrastructure gap, Nigeria has established Infrastructure Corporation (InfraCorp), a government-backed infrastructure investment vehicle established and co-owned by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) and Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA). For Dr Fayemi Kayode, the Africa Territorial Trade and Investment Agency (ATIA) being set up by UCLG Africa as a special purpose vehicle to be the appropriate framework to channel investment and funds to African cities and subnational and local governments, should be considered as a key instrument to foster municipal and sub-sovereign investment. "Africa is ready and open for investments not aid".

Updates on ATTIA: African Territorial Trade and Investment Agency

Below are specific updates on ATTIA as relating to NGF being a member of FORAF.

As a member of FORAF, NGF is expected to mobilize its members so that the States subscribe to ATTIA and become members of the cooperative society.

Access to funding will be by four financing options:

1. On balance sheets funding,
2. Off balance sheets financing,
3. Green Climate Fund financing, and
4. investment grants.

Clarity was made on who will guarantee the sub-national municipal bonds proposed under the ATTIA. The bonds will be guaranteed by ATTIA and international financial institutions. Guarantees will be offered not only to ATTIA for bond issues, but also to the member subnational governments that will benefit from ATIA loans.

How will Nigeria's states and local authorities access this instrument?

To have access to ATTIA, you have to be a member of ATTIA by paying your share of the capital. This participation amounts to 100,000 euros for each member.

5. UNGA78: CitiIQ Presentation on SDG Tracking for Sub-nationals

The SDG Desk of the NGF Secretariat is exploring a collaboration with Citi IQ, a Canadian based firm with expertise in city data providing services for several cities globally and their correlations to SDGs. Several meetings have been held since July 2023 to understand and customize the solution. A summary of the need analysis is detailed in Appendix 4: Measuring SDG Performances for Sub nationals.

The Managing Director of CitiIQ was at the UNGA and was scheduled to make a demo presentation to the NGF Chairman at the sidelines of the NGWF event, on the data driven solution. However, due to the unavailability of a meeting room at the Nigerian Embassy this presentation was rescheduled to a virtual meeting at a date after UNGA.

6. UNGA78: The Nigeria Economic Growth & Trade Summit

The Nigeria Economic Growth & Trade Summit was organized by the Nigeria Governors' Wives Forum and was aptly themed "Stemming Migration Flows by Providing Basic Needs".

The summit held at the Nigerian Embassy and had in attendance by members of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, specifically Governors of Kwara (Chairman), Lagos, Kaduna, Oyo, Akwa Ibom, and Gombe.



...As gov receives Netherlands Ambassador

Oyo State Governor, 'Seyi Makinde has declared that the state will always be open to partnerships that can aid it to achieve its vision of expanding the state's economy through agribusiness, solid mineral development, tourism and the development of infrastructure.

He maintained that his government has, since 2019, embarked on massive infrastructure development, inter-connecting the zones of the state and linking the zones to agriculture belt all with a view to achieving its objective of growing the economy of the state through agribusiness.

He added that his government remained committed to implementing the Oyo State Roadmap for Sustainable Development, 2023-2027 optimally, noting, however, that it is open to collaboration in the areas of training its young entrepreneurs, modern methods of agriculture and agro-processing, among others.

The governor stated this while receiving the Netherlands' Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Wolters Plomp and his team, stating that the state will continue to encourage agribusiness development because agriculture has always been a forte for Oyo State since the days of the Western Region Government.

The Netherlands' delegation was on a courtesy visit to Oyo State to discuss bilateral issues, particularly in the area of promoting agriculture, food security and trade, Plomp said while speaking to the governor at the Courtesy Room of the Governor's Office.

Plomp, who congratulated Makinde on his leadership and his achievements in the agriculture sector, having led the state to become a leader in agriculture production in the South-West, said The Netherlands sees the six states of the zone as a formidable force in agriculture and production.

In his welcome address, Governor Makinde thanked The

Netherlands for its special interest in Oyo State in particular and the South-West states in general, stating that Oyo state is the economic and political capital of the South-West.

He recalled how Ibadan, the state capital, is the location of the first skyscraper building in the country, known as Cocoa House, and built from the proceeds of agriculture, noting that Oyo State has continued to maintain the lead in agriculture and agribusiness and that his government will continue to do everything possible to ensure agriculture thrives.

Governor Makinde, however, stated that his administration has added solid mineral development and tourism to the areas of focus through which the economy of the state can be further expanded.

He said: "We think tourism should also be utilised to fund our economy and Oyo State is also blessed with solid minerals. We are a major lithium belt and people are talking about energy transition. So, we think Oyo State can play a major part.

"Specifically, I am glad that you have noticed that we are a major player in agriculture and I believe that Oyo

State is pretty much where it can get the most meal. So, we want to expand that.

"We were at Fasola two weeks ago to commission the road linking one zone of the state to our agricultural belt. So, we have really encouraged that expansion and we will also encourage you to encourage them. Whatever we need to do as a state to make business more successful, we will do it.

"And for us in Oyo State, it was so easy to know where our comparative and competitive advantage is. We are not just big in size but in terms of also having arable land where we can plant anything and they germinate. Sometimes, you don't need fertiliser here.

"We encourage agribusiness as opposed to what obtained in the past where mechanisation was not taken seriously. For four years running, we have trained a number of our youths. Under our SAFER package, some of them are being empowered.

"We are working towards agro-processing as we are one of the states approved for the setting up of the agro-processing zone in the country. We want Oyo State to be at the forefront of agro-

Oyo open to partnerships on agribusiness, mineral devt, others

– Makinde

processing.

"We have the land and all around here, we have the research institutes. We have the NIHORT, CRIN, IAR&T apart from the IITA. We have everything here and we just need to leverage them.

"We are engaging with IITA on STEP to encourage our young pupils on agriculture and some of them are surprised we go to their schools to introduce fishing and other things to them. We started from a school but have expanded to all the senatorial districts in the state.

"We have covered quite a bit in terms of interconnecting zones, because when we came in, the project we first did was to connect Ibadan with the food production centre, which is Oke-Ogun, and we have since connected other zones together with the agricultural belts."

Earlier in his address, The Netherlands' Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Plomp, lauded the leadership and achievements of Governor Makinde in the agriculture sector, stating that his country sees Oyo State as a valuable strategic partner in agribusiness.

He added that his team's visit to the state was about agriculture production, processing and opportunities in agribusiness, noting that Netherlands would train thousands of farmers in the state.

Plomp said: "Our visit today is about agriculture production, about agriculture processing, about opportunities for agribusiness, it is about trade.

"I am proud to say that in Agribusiness and agriculture we see a lot of opportunities in Nigeria and in the South-West and particularly in Oyo State.

"I can see that Oyo State is the food basket not only in the South-West but in the whole of Nigeria and it has a lot of potential. We really see Oyo as a valuable strategic partner in Agribusiness.

"I am happy to say that we will train thousands of farmers in Oyo State. We are looking forward to an important event that will take place in Abuja, which is Youth in Agribusiness."



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