

## **NGOs and National Development in Nigeria**

**Enemi, Okon Effiong**

Department of Public Administration, University of Calabar- Nigeria

### **Abstract**

*This paper attempts to appraise the contributions of NGOs to National Development in Nigeria. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are not-for-profit organizations that came into being in 1945 when United Nation was created. Since then, they have operated independently from the state and have gained high degree of public trust due to its philosophy. NGO's includes Faith based organizations and CBOs, their scope covers International, Regional, National, Political zones, states, LGAs and Communities. They have different focus or thematic areas depending on their passions, some of which includes environment, health, gender, governance/democracy or policies, socio-economic empowerment among others. They most times work in collaboration, partnership and as Network to achieve a common purpose in National development with target audience such as women, men, youth, vulnerable/physically challenge groups and policy/decision makers. Some of their operational strategies includes Training, seminars/workshops, sensitization/awareness creation, research, education/information sharing and consultation etc. The impacts and contributions of NGOs to National development cut across, governance/politics, health, environment, economics, legal, cultural, religious and social development sectors etc. with the view to alleviating the suffering of poorest of the poor in society. In recognition of the problems of national development in terms of poverty, inequality, unemployment, low income, poor health, environmental degradation, corruption and bad leadership, NGOs with supports from donor agencies, philanthropists and partners implement projects /programmes in urban, sub-urban and rural communities to improve the living standard of rural poor to promote good health/ healthy living.*

**Keywords:** Poverty, Inequality, Unemployment, Empowerment, National Development

DOI [URL:https://doi.org/10.36758/jggsda/v6n6.2022/2](https://doi.org/10.36758/jggsda/v6n6.2022/2)

### **Background Information**

A Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) is a not-for-profit organization that is independent from state or international governmental organizations. Some of the NGOs have charitable status, others registered for tax exemption based on recognition of social purposes while others for political, religious interests etc. They are usually funded by donations and supports (Technical) but some run by volunteerism. NGOs have different classifications and a common focus is on "orientation" and "level of operation."

An NGO's orientation refers to the type of activities it embarks on. These activities includes; human rights, gender, environmental, health, democracy/governance, empowerment etc. The level of operation also indicates the scale of works such as International, Regional, National and Local, It is worthwhile to say that, the term "non-governmental organization" was first coined in 1945, when the United Nations (UN) was created. The United Nation, being an intergovernmental organization, made it possible for certain approved specialized international non-state agencies (nongovernmental organizations) to be awarded observer status at its assemblies and some of its meetings. Today, according to the UN, any kind of private organization that is independent from government control can be termed an NGO, provided it is not-for-profit and not simply an opposition political party. NGOs often times enjoy a high degree of public trust, which make them a useful but not always sufficient proxy for the concerns of society and stakeholders.

In view of the above, it is pertinent to examine significant contributions of NGOs to National Development in Nigeria with particular attention to democracy/good governance, health, environment and empowerment. NGOs under study includes: Afrihealth Optonet Association, Civil Society for HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (CiSHAN), Association of Civil Society Organization in Malaria Control Immunization and Nutrition (ACOMIN), National Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN), Budget Transparency and Accountability Network (BTAN), Justice, Development and Peace Commission/Veritas (JDPC), The ECWA, People Oriented Development (EPOD), Center for Population and Environmental Development (CPED) and Green Vision for Community Development Initiative (GVCDI).

**Concept clarifications:** According to Ngu (2014:1) Development is perceived as a process or processes of growth or changes in superstructure, substructures, systems, towards amelioration of societal values or interest. It is a positive process of comprehensive transformation of political, economic and socio-cultural institutions towards upliftment of societal values. Todaro (as cited in Ujo 2006) sees development as a multidimensional process involving the reorganization and reorientation of the entire economic and social system. This involves improvement of income and output, radical changes in institutional, social and administrative structures as well as in popular attitudes, custom and beliefs. Chrisman (1984) as cited in Tolu Lawal (2011) views development as a process of societal advancement, where improvement in the well being of people are generated through strong partnerships between all sectors, corporate bodies and other groups in the society. It is reasonable to know that development is not only an economic exercise, but also involves both socio-economic and political issues and pervades all aspects of societal life. Naomi (1995) as cited in Ajamu (2018) believes that development is usually taken to involve not only economic growth, but also some notion of equitable distribution, provision of health care, education, housing and other essential services all with a view to improving the individual and collective quality of life.

On the other hand, National, according to Longman dictionary of contemporary English, refers to a phenomenon that embraces a whole nation while encarta dictionaries defines national as relating to, belonging to, representing, or affecting a nation, especially a nation as a whole rather than a part of it or section of its territory. Hence, the concept of national development is holistic. It is a process of reconstruction and development in various dimensions of a nation and development of individuals. It includes full growth and expansion of our industries, agriculture, education, social, religious and cultural institutions. National development implies all round and balanced development of different aspects of the nation such as political, economic, social, cultural, scientific and material. National development is the ability of a county or countries to improve the social welfare of the people e.g by providing social amenities like quality education, potable water, transportation infrastructure, medical care etc. Tolu, and Abe, (2011) opined that National development can be described as the overall development or a collective socio-economic, political and religious advancement of a country or nation. Onyeneho, (2011) Submitted that, the aim of national development is to bring about sustained improvement in the well being of the individual and bestow benefits to all self-reliance and mobilization of domestic resources, the transformation of the structure of rural production, the development of small-scale industries and the acquisition of technological and scientific skills.

Permit me to note that, the concept of national development is meaningless if the principal issues such as poverty, inequality and unemployment are not addressed. Nigeria as a nation and Nigerians (poor masses) are almost suffocated due to high level of poverty, inequality and unemployment despite abundance natural resources God has endowed and blessed us with. It is against these background that this paper attempts to appraise NGOs contribution to National development.

Poverty: according to Onibokun and Kumuyi (1996) cited in Onah (2010 and Nwogbo, (2015)) poverty is a way of life characterized by low calorie intake, inaccessibility to adequate health facilities, low quality of education system, low life expectancy, high infant mortality, low income, unemployment/underemployment and inaccessibility to various housing and social facilities. Sancho (1996) states that the poor are the most vulnerable and lack resources, capacity to organize themselves and unable

to exercise the right to protect their situation. The poor are those who are deprived, unable and lack resources to acquire basic needs of life. Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. Poverty means that the income level from employment is so low that basic human needs can't be met. This implies that poverty-stricken people and families might go without proper housing, clean water, healthy food, and medical attention. According to World Bank "A person is considered poor if his or her income level fall below some minimum level necessary to meet basic needs." It sets this minimum level or international poverty line, as living on less than \$1.90 a day. Poverty and equity brief 2021, showed that national poverty line in 2018 was 82.9 million representing 40.1% while inequality was 35.1%. National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in the released of "2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria" highlighted that 40 percent of the total population, or almost 83 million people, live below the country's poverty line of 137,430 naira (\$381.75) per year. Report from the World poverty clock, showed that Nigerians have been plunged into extreme poverty since November 2019. the figure indicated that over 105 million Nigerians live in extreme poverty. From 98 million in October 2019 representing 51% of the population.

Unemployment: The U.S.Bureau of Labour statistics (BLS) defines unemployment as people who don't have a job and have actively looked for work in the past four weeks, and currently are available for work. Samuel (2021) said that the unemployment rate in Nigeria as at 2018 first, second and third quarters were 21.80%, 22.70 and 23.10% respectively while second quarter of 2020 was 27.11% and increase to 33.3% in the fourth quarter. Hence, Salami (2021) warned that Nigeria's unemployment rate is projected to increase to 40 percent by the end of 2021 due to devastating consequences, with deepening poverty, rising crime rate and an exodus of skilled and unskilled workforce in a country where over 23 million people have no jobs. He blames the rising unemployment to be largely on low capacity of the manufacturing sector. World Bank analysis and release also showed that Unemployment rate of female Nigerians in 2016 was 8.11%, 2017 (9.27%) 2018 (8.36%) 2019 (7.45%) and 31.65% for second quarter of 2020 which rose to 35.2% in fourth quarter of 2020 while Youth unemployment rate in Nigeria in 2020 second quarter was 40.80% while fourth quarter recorded 53.49%. This was alarming compared to the last four years with 2019 (17.69%) 2018 (15.80%), 2017 (13.91%) 2016 (12.48%) (National Bureau of statistics).

Inequality is the difference in social status, wealth, or opportunity between people or groups. It can be referred to the quality of being unequal or uneven: such as social disparity, disparity of distribution or opportunity, lack of evenness, the condition of being variable. It is the state of not being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities. Many scholars see "economic inequality" to mean "income inequality", "monetary inequality" or, more broadly, inequality in "living conditions". Others further distinguish a rights-based, legalistic approach to inequality, inequality of rights and associated obligations (e.g. when people are not equal before the law, or when people have unequal political power).

From the foregoing analysis therefore, NGOs have carried out projects and programmes assiduously and made sacrifices to ameliorate the suffering of Nigerians particularly the poorest of the poor in urban, sub-urban and rural communities in Nigeria with the view to creating awareness and sensitization of the stakeholders on democracy/good governance, improve health condition, reduce poverty, unemployment, gender inequality, socio-economic empowerment, skills acquisition/training on income generating activities, provision of livelihood options as well as educational programs and sensitize the public on environmental issues etc.

Strategically, every NGO uses almost the same strategy to implement its projects and programmes. These include, partnership/collaboration, networking, advocacy, capacity development/training, seminars, workshops, public lectures, conferences, consultation, organizational strengthening, outreaches, community interventions/engagement, sensitization /awareness creation and monitoring/evaluation (M&E) called PARCOM etc to achieve its objectives.

DEMOCRACY/GOVERNANCE: NGOs have played vital roles in the enthronement and the consolidation of democracy in Nigeria. Some of these NGOs are Campaign for Democracy (CD), Centre for Democracy

and Development (CDD), Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CDHR) and Civil Liberties Organisations (CLO) etc. They fought assiduously and unflinchingly for the restoration of civil rule in Nigeria. Between 1993 and 1999, these NGOs in partnership with the Nigeria Labour Congress fought against the military rule and mobilized other stakeholders including students and workers for civil protests and strikes across the country. Omode and Bakare, (2014) as cited in Abdullahi and Babagana (2017) Obasanjo's administration (1999-2007) attempted to insert an elongation clause in the constitution to ensure his continuous stay in office. National Civil Society Coalition Protested against the tenure elongation bid of Third Term (NACATT) facilitated by Bamidele Aturu who challenged President Obasanjo that the "third term agenda is immoral, corrupt, divisive, insulting, an evidence of failure, capable of creating a political uncertainty as well as seen the move as unconstitutional. Other civil society organization or NGO that participated actively against this were Peoples Problems and solutions (PPS) organization etc. On good governance, there are statutes that enhance civil society engagement or participation in the anti-corruption crusade in the country. prior to the enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007, the budgetary process in the country was non-participatory and secretive. There were no mechanisms for public monitoring of budget implementation. In the absence of a general access to information law, the Fiscal Responsibility Act made radical provisions for access to information with regard to the budget process. Section 48 (1) provides that the Federal Government shall ensure that fiscal and financial affairs are conducted in a transparent manner and ensure full and timely disclosure and wide publication of all transactions and decisions involving public revenues and expenditures and their implications for its finances.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act also empowers Nigerians to enforce the provisions of the Act through appropriate judicial orders. Section 51 of the Act allows every Nigerian to have the legal capacity to enforce the provisions of the Act by obtaining prerogative orders or other remedies at the Federal High Court. It is pertinent to note that, Nigeria has ratified both the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the African Union Convention Against Corruption. These international treaties imposed obligation on Nigeria to ensure the participation of NGOs/civil society in the fight against corruption. The UNCAC, in Article 5, provides; principles of its legal system, develop and implement or maintain effective, coordinated anti-corruption policies that promote the participation of society and reflect the principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property.

“Each state party shall, in accordance with the fundamental

The formation and establishment of Budget Transparency and Accountability Network (**BTAN**) in 2004 was also to promote and contribute to accountable or citizens driven budgeting at all levels and sectors in Cross River state through monitoring, evaluation, analysis and advocacy. The network has over forty Civil society Organizations as members, including faith Based-organizations. Community groups and age grades. BTAN is linked to Budget Transparency Network and Zero Corruption Coalition and partner's with other Networks on specific issues. The Network since 2006 with support from the European Union- Support to Reforming Institutions Programme (EU-SRIP) has involved strongly on budget process at the state and local Government Areas. This enhances her effective relationship with Cross River State House of Assembly, the Budget Office, Accountant General's office, Auditor General office, State planning commission, Department for International Donor Support, Due process and Price intelligent unit and Ministry of Local Government Affairs. The involvement of BTAN in budget processes has helped to increase transparency and accountability at the state and local government levels. In every financial year, Budget Transparency and Accountability Network received public sector budget circular from the state budget office which network members contribute significantly to budget analysis and public procurement processes in the state.

At the National level, Budget Transparency and Accountability Network (BTAN) sits on the National steering committee of the Anti-corruption Revolution (ANCOR) facilitated by the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) which brings together civil society, private sector and government to fight corruption in Nigeria. The network and her members monitor and evaluate implementation of



conditional cash transfer scheme in all the political wards of the state with the view to ensuring transparency and accountability of the scheme to ensure beneficiaries access the fund and utilize it objectively.

**Afrihealth Optonet Association:** Afrihealth Optonet Association is a National network and community of Civil society organizations (CSOs) think-tank of more than 1000 members/partners that have contributed significantly to National development. In democracy and governance, the network and her members have implemented Sustainable Citizen Participation (SCP) in Nigeria's Niger Delta states with the aimed of institutionalizing the Sustainable Citizen Participation concept in 81 Local Government Areas in the nine (9) Niger Delta states of Nigeria. The association trained 198 civil society organizations and women group leaders as change agents, held 81 town hall meetings and quarterly community consultative committee meetings. Mobilized 1,620 citizens who formulated a SCP community Plan of action and democratically selected key development activities which were implemented through engagement of stakeholders in all the 81 Local Government Areas across (9) Niger Delta states in Nigeria. This process encouraged and empowered citizens to engage and interact with Governments on regular basis and politicians not only during election periods but to hold them accountable on promises made and better politics. In this direction, Green Vision for Community Development Initiative, a partner of Afrihealth Optonet Association implemented Sustainable Citizens Participation project at Nyangasang community in Calabar Municipality of Cross River State with the objectives of creating awareness/sensitizing stakeholders on democracy and good governance. The project achievement includes, involvement of Women Groups (WGs) in the decision making process and on development projects and achieves Sustainable Development Goals No16 Peace, Justice and Strong institutions and 17Partnerships



**HEALTH:** Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. It is a critical area which attracts many NGOs with strong passion, empathy and common philosophy and goal to work together and or formed NETWORKS, PARTNERSHIP and COALITION with the aim of working assiduously towards addressing or ameliorating health related problems in Nigeria with the view to mitigating, controlling and preventing diseases or infections that will jeopardize the healthy living of citizenry.

NGOs actors have played key roles in Health care service delivery vis-a-vis supply of health facilities, treatment, vaccination. Immunization, training/education, public lectures, sensitization/awareness creation including referral services on critical health matters. They also interface with Government/policy and decision makers on public policy issues involving health, governance/democracy, corruption, economic, legal and human rights etc. Others intervened on environmental matters such as climate change, forest conservation/protection, protection of forest resources including wildlife, pollution such as oil spillage, water, air and land pollution etc. These health NETWORKS and COALITIONS include CiSHAN, ACOMIN, NEWSAN, AFRIHEALTH OPTONET ASSOCIATION among others.

AFRIHEALTH OPTONET ASSOCIATION is a community of civil society organization (CSOs) network/think-tank of more than 1000 members/partners that work in health (Universal Health Coverage, HIV/AIDS, TB, FP/RH and malaria prevention, treatment, impact mitigation, care and support)

vaccinations, immunizations, preventing/controlling poverty-related diseases, nutrition and food security, energy, environment, gender/women empowerment, good governance/democracy and human rights was established in 1995 and incorporated in Nigeria as a not-for-profit, non-religious and non-partisan registered trustees in 2003. The association has a Consultative Status at the United Nations ECOSOC and has strong passions and interests in the promotion of Health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and achievement/realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in the global South. The activities of this association especially on health has made a huge impact in Nigeria and contribute to national development to a large extent.

**Vision** of AFRIHEALTH is to contribute to better health status and living standards, empowerment and social development of marginalized, at-risk/vulnerable in rural and poor urban populations, and achievement of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets while the **Mission** is “To improve the health and standard of living of women, children, poorest of the poor, the elderly, rural and marginalized urban communities and vulnerable groups in Africa.

**Target beneficiaries:** These include, the poorest of the poor, children, infants, orphans, women, youth/adolescents, vulnerable population/groups and the elderly in urban, sub-urban and rural communities in Nigeria.

Another Network of NGOs that contributed to national development is Civil Society for HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (**CiSHAN**). This is a Network of Civil Society organization in Nigeria that has over 2000 members (NGOs and CBOs) across 36 states including Federal Capital Territory, Abuja- Nigeria. The Network came into being in 2000 as Civil Society Consultative Group on HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (CISCGHAN) and due to its expansion in scope, the network was rechristened CiSHAN in 2005.

CiSHAN roles is to coordinate the activities of all the civil society organizations working on HIV/AIDs in Nigeria and provide necessary support for civil society organizations working on HIV and AIDs to ensure their effective and efficient performance.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- i. To create a common forum for articulation of the views of Civil Society organizations working on the prevention and impact mitigation of HIV and AIDS in Nigeria.
- ii. Advocate on HIV and AIDS and other connected matters within and outside Nigeria.
- iii. Gather, document, share and disseminate relevant information including international and comparative best practices among Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders in the fight against HIV and AIDS epidemic.
- iv. Build the capacity of Civil Society Organizations for effective and efficient service delivery.
- v. Mobilize at all levels, resources to address the issues of HIV and AIDS epidemic for the member organizations
- vi. Evolve a mechanism for self-regulation and monitoring of the activities of its members in Nigeria,
- vii. Receive grants or gifts from individuals, philanthropists, charitable bodies, governments, foundations or any credible source for carrying out its activities.

**Activities of CiSHAN.** The Network and its members specifically work on the prevention and impact mitigation of HIV and AIDS in Nigeria. Trained members/partners on prevention, control, Care and support. Carried out public enlightenment campaigns/rallies to create awareness, sensitize, educate as well

as distribution of health facilities, treatment, support, referrals services, policy engagement, monitoring and evaluation of health care delivery at Federal, states, Local Government Areas and communities across Nigeria.

### **Association of Civil Society Organization in Malaria Control, Immunization and Nutrition (ACOMIN)**

Association of Civil Society in Malaria (NACOMAL) was formed in March 2006 with the technical assistance of Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), Futures Group, USAID, UNICEF, ENHANSE and other stakeholders”. In April 2006, the network expanded its scope to include immunization and nutritional issues with primary focus on malaria. This gave rise to the change in nomenclature from NACOMAL to “Association of Civil Society Organization in Malaria Control, Immunization and Nutrition” ACOMIN. The Network was registered by the Cooperate Affairs Commission (CAC) in December 2010 as Civil Society in Malaria Control, Immunization and Nutrition but still retain the acronym ACOMIN and has its members/partners in all states of the Federation including Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

**Aim:** To create mechanisms for the civil society to engage with other stakeholders and the Government in the building of a strong national malaria response in recognition of the roles and proximity of the CSOs to grassroots and communities

**Vision:** A health Nigerian Society free of communicable and preventable diseases.

#### **Mission:**

- i. To coordinate the roles and strengthen the institutions and interventions of CSOs involved in Malaria, Immunization and Nutritional issues.
- ii. To provide a common forum for the articulation of the views of CSOs into the national response to Malaria, Immunization and issues of Nutrition.
- iii. To undertake advocacy in Malaria, Immunization, Nutrition and related issues in Nigeria.
- iv. To gather, share and disseminate relevant information including best practices amongst CSOs as well as other stakeholders.
- v. To assist in capacity building of CSOs towards an effective response.
- vi. To advocate for the mobilization of necessary resources to address the issues of the malaria epidemic and the promotion of effective immunization and nutrition within Nigerian communities.
- vii. To evolve a mechanism for self-regulation and monitoring of Civil Society activities in Nigeria and partner with networks and stakeholders with similar mandates anywhere in the world.

#### **Key Result Areas:**

- a. Institutional Development and Organizational Capacity Building:
- b. To influence the National Landscape and Create an Enabling Environment for Increased CSOs Involvement in National response to Malaria Immunization & Nutrition:
- c. To achieve a Sustainable Resource, Personnel and Programmatic base for ACOMIN.
- d. To strengthen the capacity of ACOMIN to coordinate the Civil Society response at National, Zonal and State levels.

The Network and its member organizations across the country carried out services in the Preventive intervention, Care and Support, Advocacy, Behavioural Change, Communication, Social Mobilization, Life

Skill Acquisition, Research, Documentation and Dissemination, Monitoring, Evaluation & Impact Assessment, Poverty Reduction and Commodity monitoring and distribution

**Projects Implemented by ACOMIN:**

i. **Malaria:** Global Fund Round 8, Phase 1 Malaria Grant: South/South Zone; SR to SFH on Social Mobilization. Phase 2 – Malaria Grant: South/South and North East Zones; SR to SFH on Social Mobilization Global Fund Round 8 – Malaria Grant; SR to SHI in 18 States on Home Management of Malaria.

ii. **Immunization:** ACOMIN participated in developing National and State Level plans and programs with organizations that promote immunization in Nigeria which include: UNICEF and WHO and was engaged by GAVI as the National Network in Nigeria to implement the Civil Society Strengthening Project and in that regard, is hosting the National Platform of Civil Society Organizations on Health Systems Strengthening in Nigeria

iii. **Nutrition:** ACOMIN partnered with Vitamin Angels (VA), to provide Vitamin A Supplement (VAS) and deworming to children under 5 that do not have access to routine government health services or campaigns. This is done in a bottom top approach to vitamin A supplementation, in order to ensure children that routinely miss opportunities for supplementation during MNCH campaign weeks, and have no access to basic health and nutrition services, have access to Vitamin A Supplement (VAS) and deworming.

iv. **Community Systems Strengthening:** The NETWORK involved in designing and implementing the Community Systems Strengthening project for Nigeria since 2010 and retains a strong component up till date. Starting in 2010 as a Sub-Sub-Recipient to Action-Aid as Sub Recipient and NACA as Principal Recipient, ACOMIN served alongside the National Networks on HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis.

Another national civil society network that promotes healthy living in Nigeria is the National civil society network on water and sanitation (**NEWSAN**). This is a network of CSOs, NGOs and CBOs working in water, sanitation and hygiene sector. It was formed in 2003 and registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission in 2008 and has 29 state chapters including the Federal Capital Territory. It is a member of National Task Group on Sanitation (NTGS) and a member of African civil societies network on water and sanitation (ANEW). NEWSAN works in partnership with Global bodies such as sanitation and water for all, End Water Poverty, WSSCC, Water Aid and the Government of Nigeria.

In Cross River State NEWSAN has members across the state. The network works with the CRS Government and development partners in the WASH sector, such as UP, UNICEF, etc . NEWSAN is a member of: the State Task Group on Sanitation (STGS), Inter Ministerial Steering Committee for PEWASH and Menstrual Hygiene Technical Working Group.

STATE CHAPTER: The Cross River State Chapter of NEWSAN signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cross State Government through the State Planning Commission and a partnership agreement with the Cross River State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWATSSA) in 2008. This led to several capacity building workshops for her members and joint implementation of WASH activities in Cross River State in the five self selected Local Government Areas of Odukpani, Yakurr, Obubra, Etung and Boki under the EU/UNICEF/FGN/WSSSRP1.

VISION: Access to safe and clean water, sanitation and hygiene services for all in Nigeria.



**MISSION STATEMENT:** To promote and strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders on policies, laws, programs and structures that will enhance access to safe and clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**

- i.** To engage governments, development agencies, private sector and other relevant stakeholders for the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene services towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) number six.
- ii.** To create awareness and promote improved access to sanitation coverage.
- iii.** To strengthen the capacity of NEWSAN members on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), advocacy, governance, policies, Monitoring & Evaluation, Climate Change and other related issues.
- iv.** To mobilize, sensitize and create awareness among people on SDGs and other WASH related issues.
- v.** To support inclusiveness of Gender and Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) mainstreaming in aspects of WASH policies and programmes.
- v.** vi. To strengthen NEWSAN's institutional capacity to efficiently and effectively deliver WASH programmes.

**APPROACHES:**

- ❖ Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion
- ❖ Gender Mainstreaming
- ❖ Equity and Inclusion
- ❖ Budget Monitoring and Tracking
- ❖ Environmental, Sanitation and Hygiene improvement
- ❖ Monitoring and Evaluation

**AREAS OF INTERVENTION**

- Policy influencing, advocacy and communications
- Network capacity building and coordination for effective WASH service delivery sector
- Research and knowledge sharing of best practice models for improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene
- Governance, Accountability and Transparency in WASH sector
- Public Private Partnership towards achieving access to WASH.

**ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN CROSS RIVER STATE**

- Carried out WASH Policy Assessment in seven LGAs and ten MDAs of Cross River state in 2020. These were: Obanliku, Ogoja, Ikom, Obubra, Biase Odukpani and Calabar Municipality. MDAs includes: CRS Ministry of Water Resources, CRS RUWATSSA, Ministry of International Donor Corporation (MIDC), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Finance, Ministry of LGAs, Ministry of Women Affairs and State Bureau of Statistics.
- Implemented Community Led Total sanitation (CLTS) in Obanliku, Bekwarra, Abi, Ikom, Biase and Yala LGAs Cross River State as sub grantees to United Purpose (UP) Nigeria with funding from Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and UKaid

- NEWSAN conducted a press briefing seeking State Government support of counterpart funds for the scale-up of rural sanitation and hygiene promotion in Nigeria (RUSHPIN) under the Global Sanitation Fund. The scale-up was to cover Obudu, Ogoja and Akamkpa Local Government Areas.
- Built the Capacity of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee (WASHCOM) in 72 communities in Odukpani, Obubra, Yakurr and Boki LGAs. The training covered conflict management, water facility management plan, monitoring and reporting of water and sanitation facilities with funding from EU/UNICEF/FG of Nigeria/CRS RUWATSSA under SRIP II.
- Verified 60 CLTS Communities in Yakurr as part of the state task group on sanitation in preparation for certification of communities in Yakurr LGA under the EU/UNICEF/FG of Nigeria WSSSRP1.
- Triggered and monitored 58 communities in Odukpani Local Government Area of Cross River State under the EU/UNICEF/FG of Nigeria under SRIP II.
- Carried out Hygiene Baseline survey in 98 communities in Odukpan, Yakurr, Obubra, Etung and Boki Local Government Areas of Cross River State under the EU/UNICEF/FGN/WSSSRP1.
- Built the capacity of Volunteer Hygiene Promoters in 20 communities in the five self selected Local Government Areas of Odukpan, Yakurr, Obubra, Etung and Boki under the EU/UNICEF/FG of Nigeria.
- Participated in the Formation and training of Consumer Association and Hygiene Promoters in three communities in Boki and Etung Local Government Areas of Cross River State under the EU/ FG of Nigeria WSSSRP1.
- Carried out a study on Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) in 35 communities in Akamkpa, Boki, Obubra, Odukpan, Yakurr, Etung, Yala LGAs under the EU/UNICEF/ FG of Nigeria WSSSRP 1.
- Participated in self selection exercise of over 82 communities in Odukpani, Yakurr LGAs in CRS under the EU/UNICEF/ FG of Nigeria WSSSRP 1.
- Participated in International Year of sanitation and the Annual Global Hand Washing day organized by Cross River State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency.
- Participated in the drafting of the Cross River State Water policy which led to the establishment of the State Ministry of Water Resources.

JUSTICE, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE COMMISSION/VERITAS (JDPC): This is a faith based-organization, a Catholic Church organization whose structural arrangement cut across all levels of the entire Catholic Church in Nigeria. The Justice, Development and Peace CARITAS in Nigeria has existed since 2004 and has been a veritable tool for the Catholic Church to apply the values of the Gospel and its social teachings to the problems of the society towards realization of social justice, integral human development and sustainable peace in Nigeria

ACTIVITIES: Major activities of JDPC include capacity building through training workshops, public awareness campaigns through public lectures, seminars and workshops for the less privileged in communities. It is mainly to defend the poor, the weak, the oppressed and the exploited citizens in order to promote a just, peaceful and egalitarian society with a sustainable human development. Other activities are:

- i. Organize workshops and conferences at National and International levels on good governance and peace building especially in Nigeria and other developing countries of the global community.
- ii. Promotion of sustainable Agricultural and community development.
- iii. Engagement of women and youth Empowerment and
- iv. Promotion of Human Rights and Legal Aids systems

- v. Published an essential parts of Anti-Corruption laws in Cross River state, for Citizens' education and engagement, a handbook in partnership with Calabar Center for Justice and Peace Initiative.

THE ECWA PEOPLE ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (EPOD): This is another faith based non-governmental organizations which came into being in 1988. The major activities is to promote sustainable better living conditions through community mobilization and capacity building of the underprivileged rural communities in Nigeria. The organization employs and trains field officers in various activities of Rural Development mostly in rural communities. The target communities are encouraged to form community development societies for development activities such as food security. Construction of feeder roads, sustainable water supply and health care delivery especially in Plateau and other parts of Nigeria.

CENTER FOR POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT (CPED): The Center for Population and Environmental Development (CPED) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit and non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting sustainable development and reduce poverty and inequality through policy oriented research and active engagement on development issues. It started as an action research group in Benin, Benin City in 1985 and is concerned with applied research on sustainable development and poverty reduction challenges in Nigeria.

Three major development that influenced Establishment of CPED:

1. The economic crisis of the 1980s that affected African countries including Nigeria led to poor funding of higher education, the migration of academics to advanced countries which affected negatively the quality of research on national development issues emanating from the Universities which are the main institutions with the structure and capacity to carryout research and promoting discourse on socio-economic development.
2. The critical linkage between an independent research or think-tank organization and an outreach program that translates the findings into policy and at the same time test the applicability and effectiveness of the recommendations emanating from the research findings has been lacking.
3. An independent institution focusing on a holistic approach to sustainable development and poverty reduction in terms of research, communication and outreaches activities in Nigeria. CPED recognizes that the core function of new knowledge creation (research) and application of knowledge for development (communication and outreaches) are challenges facing sustainable development and poverty reduction in Nigeria where little attention was paid to the use of knowledge generated in academic institutions. Hence, CPED was created as a way of widening national and regional policy and development debate, provide learning and research opportunities and give visibility to action programs relating to sustainable development and poverty reduction in different parts of Nigeria and beyond.

#### OBJECTIVES OF CPED

- i. To promote action-oriented and participatory research on various aspect of the population structure and dynamics in the Nigeria Delta region in particular and other parts of Nigeria in general.

- ii. To promote action-based and participatory research on various aspects of the physical resources and patterns of environmental decay at the community level in the Niger Delta region and other parts of Nigeria.
- iii. To promote action based research into every aspect of human right abuse in Nigeria with particular reference to aspect of economic, social and environmental deprivation. It concerns with gender equity, economic equity, and social equity by promoting equal accessibility of all the people in the Niger Delta and other parts of Nigeria to socio-economic activities and welfare services
- iv. To promote and advocate the reform of inappropriate policies and practices which encourage social dislocation and environmental degradation.
- v. Promote a think tank and data bank on the development of members of Nigeria with particular reference to Nigeria.
- vi. To sensitize, educate and raise the awareness of members of the public particularly communities and stakeholders of the Niger Delta region on the understanding of the human and environmental problems of the area and the application of this understanding to the improvement of the socio-economic and environmental conditions of the area.
- vii. To undertake information and enlightenment campaign and to provide training programs based on research findings
- viii. To provide non-partisan link between various communities in Nigeria and other local, national and international agencies as well as researchers interest in the problems of human and environmental development in the country.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS OF CPED TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- a. CPED collaborated with Shell Petroleum Development Company to organize over ten policy development workshops relating to sustainable development and poverty reduction in Nigeria, especially at the grassroots level in the oil producing communities of the Niger Delta region
- b. Collaborated with local and community-based civil society organizations to organize over 200 local community based workshops designed to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction awareness, strategies and policies
- c. Collaborated with twenty state governments in Nigeria to organize over forty workshops on policy development with respect to sustainable development, poverty reduction and strategies to attain Millennium Development Goals (MDG)
- d. Collaborated with international agencies such as World Health Organization (WHO), MacArthur Foundation, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), European Commission, and United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) to organize policy workshops on policy development and associated strategies on different aspects of sustainable development and poverty reduction in Nigeria
- e. Implemented over 35 outreaches and intervention projects. These outreaches and intervention projects focused on different aspects of sustainable development and poverty reduction such as primary health care, Reproductive health and right. HIV/AIDS, forest management, local and community development plan preparation, peace building, agricultural production, education, human rights, empowerment of women etc.

## IN CAPACITY BUILDING CPED

- ◆ Builds the capacity of over 500 public officials and some private sector leaders in twenty states in different parts of Nigeria on policy development and programmes implementation and monitoring.
- ◆ Builds the capacity of over 5million leaders of communities and civil society groups at the local level on participation in action research, planning and project implementation
- ◆ Facilitates partnership between over 1,500 civil society organizations and public sector agencies as well as some international organizations in the implementation of sustainable development and poverty reduction programmes.

## GREEN VISION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (GVCDI)

Green Vision for Community Development Initiative (GVCDI) is a community Based NGO established and registered with Cross River State Government 2002 and Corporate Affairs Commission-Abuja in 2010. The organization areas of focused includes: Environment, Health, Gender, Empowerment and Governance while its scope of operations cut across Akwa Ibom and Cross River States, Nigeria.

**Target audience:** Women, youth, men, orphans, physically challenged and policy/decision makers.

**Vision:** To Improve health and socio-economic status of the vulnerable and physically challenge through provision of sustainable livelihood options and community development.

**Mission statement:** To promote healthy living, social justice and sustainable development.

**Goal:** Sustainable environment, healthy living and economic development towards improving living standard of the rural poor.

### Objectives:

- To promote environmental education at urban and rural communities.
- To mobilize, sensitize and create awareness on emerging health issues including HIV/AIDs, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Covid-19 etc through prevention, control, care and support and referral services
- To increase awareness on (WASH) water/sanitation and hygiene promotion in both urban and rural communities through education/information sharing and sensitization..
- To promote good governance for sustainable development.
- Advocate for and mainstream gender equity in all spheres of development activities.
- To train and empower women, youths, men, orphans/vulnerable children on livelihoods skills for self-reliance.
- To collaborate/network with development partners on health, environment, human rights, gender and governance for the realization of SDGs in both urban and rural communities.

### ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Green Vision for Community Development Initiative (GVCDI) has contributed significantly to National development through her intervention programs and project implementations in such areas as health, environment, governance, empowerment and gender etc.

**Health:** The organization implemented projects and programmes on disease control, prevention, care and support, water/sanitation, referrals services on HIV/AIDs, EBOLA, Malaria, TB and the nascent Covid-19



pandemic among others using public enlightenment campaigns/rallies, training, sensitization and awareness creation and procurement/distributions of health facilities for prevention and impact mitigation in both urban and rural poor communities. to curb the wide spread of these infectious diseases.

The organization works in partnership with AFRUD, CHEP, RAWAS, YOKTSO and Onesky-Canada translated and published HIV/AIDS handbook titled ASHAN IHIV/AIDS K'ICHOMATE ABENE EBWACHURU from English language to Bekwarra dialect for easy understanding by the Bekwarra speaking people and distributed same to both public and private schools with the view to educating, sensitizing and creating awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention and control. Also Organized seminars on "impacts of HIV/AIDS among adolescent" for in-school youths at Majesty High School, Calabar to mark World AIDS day and also conducted school debates on "Leaders and the spread of HIV/AIDS" for four schools converging at Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria Secondary School (FAANSS) Calabar.

Similarly, in the fight against malaria which is one of the endemic diseases in Africa and Nigeria inclusive, Green Vision for Community Development Initiative Implemented a roll back malaria and National Malaria Elimination Project in ten (10) political wards of Obudu LGA in Cross River State. The organization sensitized stakeholders in various fora and carried out public awareness campaigns and sensitization in communities, markets and motor parks on malaria prevention and control mechanism as well as facilitated access to free mosquito nets distributions in 2015-2017. This project achieved SDG No.3 Good health and well-being.



Community stakeholders



Market women



Hausa community



Transporters in Obudu main park

*Field work and project report (2017).*

On Water Sanitation and Hygiene programmes (WASH), Green Vision through CRS-RUWATSSA conducted survey in eleven communities of Obubra L.G.A on WASH facilities with the view to rehabilitating and improving water quality and supply of safe drinking water in those communities. The organization also collaborated with partners to carried out a four day hygiene campaigns/rallies and carnival float in Batrieko and Okundi communities of Boki LGA to promote water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in rural communities under WSSSRP I & 11 projects. The establishment of hygiene promoters clubs in Secondary Schools ((EMILIS and FAANSS) was a step in good direction to increase awareness on WASH, However, the organization also contributed and took active part in the Development of Hygiene Improvement Framework and Community-Led Strategies for Behavioural Change Motivation in Nigeria.

### **EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES:**

In order to address the National development challenges in Nigeria such as poverty, unemployment, and economic inequality among the vulnerable groups including women and young people, Green Vision for Community Development Initiative (GVCDI) with support from French Embassy-Nigeria through Concern Universal now United Purpose implemented Socio-Economic project in Ibesikpo Asutan and Eket Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State. This project aimed at improving the living standard/condition of the rural women, unemployed youth and men through skill acquisition training and empowerment of the target groups on income generating activities The training and empowerment includes Tailoring/sewing, barbing, hair dressing, followed by procurement and distributions of facilities and equipment to beneficiaries such as sewing machines, hair driers and salon facilities, barbing clippers among other related facilities while men benefited from construction and procurement of motorized engine boats, fishing nets,

floating cocks, lead and all fishing related facilities/equipment. Over 670 persons benefited directly from the project including women, youth and men. Three Cooperatives were established and members trained on cooperative management and financial control to ensure sustainability and accountability of income generated. The income generated was redistributed to members and non-members as soft loan for reinvestment to boost their economic statuses and developments. The project also rehabilitated and reconstructed water point including procurement and installation of solar power panel as a source of energy to power the water station in Ibesikpo returnees camp as well as incorporated water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) component.

#### Achievements:

- ◆ Increase income of women, youths and men
- ◆ Poverty reduction
- ◆ Reduce unemployment rate of the target audience
- ◆ Promote economic equality and closed the gap of economic inequality especially women
- ◆ Improve living standard of the people
- ◆ Promote self reliance and reduce economic dependency
- ◆ Reduce gender/domestic violence among women and young girls
- ◆ Curb social vices
- ◆ Promote water sanitation and hygiene practices
- ◆ Provide safe drinking water and reduce the stress of women to trek long distance to fetch water from streams.
- ◆ Reduce water borne related disease
- ◆ It contributed to achieving SDGs No1, No Poverty, 2 Zero hunger, 3 Good health and well-being, 6 Clean water and sanitation, 8 Decent work and economic growth, 10 Reduce inequalities, 12 Responsible consumption and production, 16 Peace. Justice and strong institutions and 17 Partnerships.



5 Boats, 5 Outboard engines. Hair salon & Barbuing facilities machines Sewing Solar panel Water tank Commissioning

**Food security:** The organization also established four palm oil mills and garri processing centers for women and young people of Ikwe and Ikot Akpetek communities in Onion-East, Onna LGA of Akwa Ibom State. supported by Polish Embassy-Nigeria through United Purpose. This projects have a long term empowerment that increase income and reduce poverty, unemployment, economic inequality and sustainable development as well as achieve SDGs in Nigeria

In 2021, Green Vision also trained 200 women and young people of Akwa Esuk Iyamba community in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State on alternative livelihoods options to increase income, reduce poverty, unemployment, economic inequality and promote forest conservation and preservation. The training on livelihood options and income generation include, Meat/fish pies, cakes, egg rolls, buns, doughnut, chin-chin, pop corns production etc.



Meat/fish pies,  
Etc

egg roll/doughnut preparations

Egg rolls

doughnut



Pop corn preparation,



pop corn done,



chin-chin



cakes

These trainings contributed to achieving SDGs 1, No poverty, No2 Zero hunger, No3, Good health and well-being, No8 Decent work and economic growth, No10 Reduce inequality, No11 Sustainable cities and communities, No12 Responsible consumption and production, No16, Peace, justice and strong institutions and No17 partnership for the goals

### FOREST PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION:

Nigeria is a home to a rich diversity of forests and wildlife, including at least 899 species of birds, 274 mammals, 154 reptiles, 53 amphibians, and 4,715 species of higher plants. According to Green Vision field survey report (2019), poverty, hunger and unemployment are root causes for destruction of community forest for firewood, logging and hunting of endangered animal species. Community people are forest dependents and majorly farmers. Therefore, harvesting of forest resources in unsustainable manner like logging, hunting and deforestation for agricultural purposes can be curbed by providing alternative livelihood options. These if not done will result to continuous extraction of forest resources and extinction of wildlife and other forest resources in Nigeria's forest and Cross River State forest in particular.

This became compelling factors that necessitated intervention of Green Vision for Community Development Initiative (NGO) in the protection, conservation and preservation of Akwa Esuk Iyamba community forest in Akpabuyo of Cross River State as well as provide alternative livelihood options to mitigate the destruction of the remaining endangered animals species and forest resources including marine ecosystem on the project titled Community-Based Sustainable Forest Management project with support from SGP/GEF-UNDP

### Activities carried out to promote forest protection and conservation are:

- Sensitization/awareness creation in communities and schools
- Workshop/seminar on forest management
- Capacity building on skills acquisition and livelihood options
- Construction of local content efficient wood stoves
- Establishment of goats farm
- Establishment of poultry farm
- Development of nursery
- Planting of multipurpose economic trees such as pears (pyrus) mangoes (magitera indica) orange (citrus sinensis), palm trees (arecaceae) and bitter-kola (Garcina-kola)
- Establishment of palm oil mills



➤ Planting of affang (Gnetum africanum)

**Achievements/results:**

- ❖ Organize sensitization rallies/school debates to create awareness on climate change
- ❖ Knowledge acquired on forest protection, conservation and preservation
- ❖ Formation of community forest guard to enforce policies on wildlife protection
- ❖ Construction of local content efficient wood stoves to replace felling of trees for firewood
- ❖ Training on alternative livelihood options (pastries) for income generation/poverty reduction
- ❖ Planting of multi-purpose economic trees for long lasting income generation investment
- ❖ Establishment of oil palm mills
- ❖ Establishment goats/poultry farms to curb hunting of endangered animal species
- ❖ Planting of affang (Gnetum africanum) to curb harvesting of forest resources by women
- ❖ Increase income of forest dependents, reduce poverty, reduce economic inequality among women,



create employment opportunities and improve standard of living of the poor.



Palm seedlings & planting site

Construction of local content efficient wood stoves

Group picture envtal mgt,



Group pix on livelihood, training



Awareness creation rally,



Schools debate group pix

These activities promote forest conservation/protection, mitigate climate change, increase income, reduce poverty and seek to achieve SDGs No1, No poverty, No 2 Zero hunger, No7 Affordable and clean energy, No8 Decent work and economic growth, No11 Sustainable cities and communities, No12 Responsible consumption and production and 13 Climate action. .

## Conclusion

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have greatly and significantly contributed to National Development in Nigeria in various ways through their projects and programmes implementation. On democracy and governance, NGOs have significantly agitated, mobilized, fought against the military rule and contributed to the restoration of democratic governance in Nigeria. They have also contributed to enlightenment/sensitization of the electorates on electoral processes, election motoring, budget processes, monitor and evaluate government income/expenditure, due process and procurement and formed formidable networks on anti-corruption crusade among others. On health, NGOs contributed in various ways such as Universal Health Coverage, HIV/AIDS, Ebola, Tuberculosis and Malaria prevention, treatment, impact mitigation, care and support, referral services, vaccinations, immunizations, monitoring, and the nascent Covid-19 pandemic prevention using public enlightenment, educational services, public lectures, awareness creation/sensitization as prevention and control strategies and incorporation of water sanitation/hygiene (WASH) component to achieve objectives.

On environment, NGOs helped in conservation and protection of the Nigeria's forest and forest resources management, afforestation, including protection of endangered animal species from extinction, marine ecosystem, pollution, research, documentation, education and contribute to making useful inputs to government policy formulations and implementations also influence government policies on environment protection matters especially in Niger Delta states region. In addressing major problems of national development vis-a-vis poverty, unemployment and inequality, NGOs through their empowerment programmes contributed greatly to reduce poverty, unemployment and socio-economic inequality among the poorest of the poor in communities. The poverty reduction programmes, creation of employment opportunities through skills acquisition training and bridging of inequality gabs through implementation of income generation projects and empowerment of vulnerable groups (women and youths) have contributed to improving living standard of Nigerians, most especially the poorest of the poor in rural communities. All these contributed to promoting National Development and also aid Nigeria to achieving Sustainable Development Goals which Nigeria is a signatory.

## REFERENCES

- Abdullahi, M & Baba-Gana, A (2017) Role of civil society organisations in promoting democracy and good governance in nigeria. *International Journal of Administration and Development Studies, Volume 7, Number 1.*
- Association of Civil Society Organization in Malaria Control, Immunization and Nutrition (2012) *Fundamentals of ACOMIN NFM orientation workshop material.* Abuja, Nigeria
- Budget Transparency and Accountability Network: (2010) *Enhancing Community Action for Good Governance. Town hall engagment in Ogoja, Calabar municipality and Akpabuyo LGAs.* Publiashed by BTAN, Calabar.
- Center for population and Environmental Development (2010) *Five Year Strategic Plan 2010-2014.* Benin City, Nigeria
- Civil Society for HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (2005) Constitution, Abuja, Nigeria.
- Civil Society for HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (2012) Strategic plan document 2012-2016: Cross River State Chapter, Calabar
- Calabar center for justice and peace initiative (2017) *The essential parts of anti-corruption laws in Cross River State; For citizens education and engagment.* Published by Catholic Caritas Foundation, Nigeria.
- Edeh, J N, Udoikah, J. M. & Ugbala, K. (2017) Politics of poverty reduction in Nigeria: A study of the activities of Ebonyi State Community Poverty Reduction Agency. *IOSR Journal of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)* Volume 22, Issue 7, Ver. 4



- Green Vision for Community Development Initiative (2010) *GVCDI handbook*, Calabar.
- Green Vision for Community Development Initiative (nd) *Project reports (2011,2012, 2015,2021)*, Calabar, Nigeria
- National Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (2016) *NEWSAN Profile, Cross River State Chapter*. Calabar, Nigeria
- Ngu, S.M (2014) *Development Administration: A theoretical and Pragmatic Disposition*. Ahmadu Bello University Press Limited, Zaria, Nigeria
- Onah, F. (2010) *Managing public programmes and projects*. Nsukka: Great AP Express Publishers Ltd
- Onyeneho, C.C (2011) *Mathematics education: A prerequisite for national development*. Retrieved August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 from <https://www.globalacademicgroup.com/journals/nard/Onyeneho%20Comfort.pdf>
- Nwogbo, D.C. (2015) *Poverty eradication in nigeria by 2030: problems and prospects*. *International Journal of Research in Arts & Social Sciences Vol 8, No.2*
- Tolu, L. and Abe, O. (2011) *National development in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Prospects*. *Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research Vol. 3(9)*.
- Uzodinma, A. (n.d.) *Profile of Afriheath Optonet Association*, Abuja, Nigeria