A number of development partners have been operating in Niger State to support critical reforms in governance, and provide assistance in a number of sectors, including health, agriculture, community development, among others. This compendium provides a brief description and contact information from the following development partners:

UK-DFID funded State Partnership For Accountability, Responsiveness And Capability (SPARC), the State Voice and Accountability Initiative (SAVI) and Support To The National Malaria Programme (SuNMaP); the World Bank – International Development Association (IDA) – Niger State Government funded, Niger State Public Sector Governance Reform And Development Project (NSPSGR&DP), the World Bank/IDA-funded Niger, Youth Employment And Social Support Operation (YESSO); the World Bank/French Development Agency (AFC) funded Second Rural Access And Mobility Project (RAMP-2); the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the UK-DFID jointly implemented with Unicef Girls Education Project Phase 3 (GEP3); the Rapid Access Expansion (RACE) project implemented by the malaria consortium and funded by the WHO and the Canadian International Development Agency; the Rural Water and Sanitation Project co-funded by the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (FGN/JICA), the Pro-Poor Growth and Promotion of Employment in Nigeria (SEDIJ) funded by the German Agency For Technical Cooperation (GIZ); the Niger State Agricultural Development Project (NASDP) supported by a number of donors and state and federal partners, including the USAID MARKETS project, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA); the World Bank supported National FADAMA Projects, World Bank/IDA and Niger State funded Community And Social Development Project (CSDP).
STATE PARTNERSHIP FOR ACCOUNTABILITY, RESPONSIVENESS AND CAPABILITY (SPARC)

State Partnership for Accountability, Responsiveness, and capability (SPARC) is a United Kingdom-Department for International Development (DFID) funded development programme working in 10 state governments in Nigeria to promote improvement in governance systems and structures for more effective and efficient service delivery.

SPARC started in September 2008 with five states in Nigeria (Enugu, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, and Lagos), and was to run for seven years up to 2015, but extended to 2016. In 2012 Niger and four other states (Anambra, Katsina, Yobe and Zamfara) became part of SPARC implementing states.

SPARC commenced work in Niger State in July 2012, supporting Niger State Government in its areas of priority based on an understanding reached in the Agreed Intervention Areas that would set the platform for desired changes in the State governance system, which was based on the outcome of series of baseline self-assessments conducted at the inception of the programme in the state.

SPARC is supporting Niger State Government to reform governance in the following areas:

- Strengthening policy and strategy, monitoring and evaluation development
- Strengthening public finance management systems and processes
- Improving public service management to bring about an improved machinery of government that is responsive and capable of meeting the needs of its citizens in the most efficient and effective way; and
- Knowledge management in a very innovative system that processes, preserves and makes available the outputs, information and lessons from our work to the public in a manner that replicates SPARC even in places we cannot physically reach.

Achievements of SPARC work in Niger State:

Our work with various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government in the State has led to:

- Development of Niger State Medium Term Development Plan;
- Development of State Policy Guide for Policy Makers, and Guidelines for preparing Medium Term Sector Strategies in collaboration with Niger State Planning Commission (NSPC). This led to preparation of MTSS for 2014-2016 and 2015-2017 target sectors (Agriculture, Education, and Health in collaboration with UNDP);
- Piloting the preparation of the Sector Performance Scorecard, Performance Management Reports and Medium Term Sector Strategy directly in the Agriculture Sector and through collaboration with UNDP in the
Education and Health Sectors:

• Preparation, publication and dissemination of Guidelines for reporting Sector Performance Management Review and Reporting;

• Preparation, publication and dissemination of the 2012 Highlights of the Agriculture and Education Sectors in collaboration with Ministries of Agriculture and Education;

• Preparation of a Strategy and Implementation Plan for improvement of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) (with State Internal Revenue Service and other revenue generating MDAs);

• Supported the NSPC in the development of a comprehensive Results Framework with baseline data and targets on impact and outcome KPIs for all the sectors;

• Supported the Niger State Bureau of Statistics to develop Agriculture Sector Performance Scorecard;

• Helped the office of the Accountant-General to streamline the number of government revenue bank accounts, identify and mop up unspent balances in dormant bank accounts to the central Treasury;

• Worked with Niger State Government through a Self-Assessment and Joint Annual Reviews to track and capture changes and improvements in governance.

Some identified areas of improvement for greater reforms results and sustainability in the state

• Internal and external communication on government agenda and reform across MDAs and stakeholders.

• Timeliness in MDAs’ response in providing information and documentations required of them such as, monthly expenditure returns to Final Accounts Department; feedback on policy and strategy related information for better and more coordinated planning in the state, expenditure profile of MDAs required for better cash planning, to mention but a few.

• Dwindling revenue base of the state, and wide wage bill affecting government commitments to delivery of some aspect of reforms.

• Difficulty and delay in obtaining data for tracking of result at MDA level. This affected timeliness in data availability at central agency level, thereby causing delay in other interventions such as sector performance reviews, scorecard, and MTSS, and at the end affect delay in start of the annual budget.

• Development coordination for aid effectiveness in the face of dwindling revenue. Harnessing the contribution of development partners for better result need to be improved.

• Spread and conclusion of corporate planning with functional and structural reviews optimal aligning and utilization of the work force in all the MDAs need to be pursued as a matter of urgency given the high wage bill.

• More commitment is required towards implementation of the IGR strategy for better result and increased revenue to the State, and commitment towards cash planning for budget implementation.

Planned programs

1. Continue support to the following central agencies; NSPC, OHOS, and MoF (office of Accountant General) in strengthening reforms in the aforementioned work streams (policy and strategy, M&E development, public finance management, and public service management.

2. Support improvement in the capacity of the Planning Department in the Planning Commission, as the central oversight organisation, to guide the planning and development process across the whole Niger State government

3. Support the Economic Coordination department of NSPC towards preparation of Economic Cooperation Framework;

4. Support the State Reform Agenda for the first 100 days of the new administration, and aligning the state development plan with the government reforms agenda.

With SPARC support, Niger State IGR increased by ₦400 million in just 6 months
NIger State Public Sector Governance Reform and Development Project (NSPSGR&DP)

Project Description
The State Public Sector Governance Reform and Development Project (SPSGR&DP) initially referred to as State Governance and Capacity Building Project II (SGCBP II) is an investment (technical assistance) five-year loan from International Development Agency (IDA) of the World Bank. This loan is provided to participating states including: Niger, Kaduna, Ondo, Ekiti, Bauchi, Kogi, Plateau, Imo, Adamawa and Kebbi.

Overall goal of the Project is to support and facilitate public sector capacity building and financial management system reforms in the participating states. The Project became effective in Niger State in May, 2013.

Project Focus on State
The main focus of the Project in the state is to improve Transparency, Accountability and Quality in the Public Financial Management (PFM) and Human Resource (HR) systems aimed at strengthening governance in the state. Specifically the project focuses on:

- Public Financial Management Reform;
- Human Resource Management (HRM) and Capacity Development;
- Monitoring and Evaluation System Development;
- Improvement in PFM and Procurement Reforms.

Key Achievements
- Facilitated the domestication of the state administrative classification/scheme of service codes listing,

continued
HR/Payroll/Accounting/Budgetary charts of accounts in line with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);

- Facilitated series of training to staff of relevant MDAs in the areas of Financial Management and Procurement Reforms particularly on IPSAS and domestication and conversion of state budget;
- The Project supported the office of the Head of Service in the establishment of the procurement cadre in the state and in the supply of sets of computers and other office equipment;
- Through the Project’s provision of a project monitoring Hilux van, the Fiscal Responsibility Commission’s work is made easier;
- The Project is also facilitating the review of the State Finance and Audit Bill which currently is about to be passed in to Law by the State House of Assembly.

Challenges

- Delay in re-imbursements of Statement of Expenditures (SOEs) by the Federal Ministry of Finance (FMoF);
- Untimely release of State counterpart fund;
- Slow buy-in by some MDAs;
- Limited funds under the component to implement the so much desired integrated financial system;
- Slow response to certain implementation issues by some MDAs.

Way Forward

- State Planning Commission to follow-up on the payment of the counterpart funds to support the implementation of activities not covered by the Bank’s funding;
- Sustained advocacy and sensitization for both political office holders and the Public on the benefits derivable from the implementation of PFM reforms in the state.
ATTAINMENT OF STATE ACCOUNTABILITY AND VOICE INITIATIVE (SAVI)

State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI) is one of the six State Level Programmes funded by UK Department for International Development (DFID) with a common purpose of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public resources use in selected states in Nigeria. Presently SAVI is working in ten states of the Federation including Niger state. The programme came into Niger state in August 2013, but started its implementation activities in October 2013. The programme supports the development of effective partnerships among citizens, civil society, the media, State House of Assembly and government. It strengthens the capacity of civil society, the media and State House of Assembly to engage citizens in collective action to hold government to account by informing the citizens on the policy and programmes of the government and also persuading government to attend to the needs and aspirations of the people.

SAVI undertook the Political and Economic Analysis, Organizational Capacity Assessment of its partners (Civil society, media and the State House of Assembly). This was done to understand the strength and weaknesses of these organizations. This led to SAVI intervention/achievement in the following areas amongst others:

- Enhance the functionality of the State House of Assembly members on their oversight functions.
- Increase the State House of Assembly Members knowledge on Budget process and scrutiny.
- Facilitate a joint legislative and Executive interaction on Niger State Budget which is the first of its kind in the state.
- Support the State House of Assembly in the development of website and web portal as a means of communicating with their constituencies.
- Trained the Member on computer Appreciation.
- Support Crystal FM Minna for the development of Strategic plan for the organization.
- Support Crystal FM for the development of Editorial policy.
- The staffs of the Crystal FM minna were trained on ICT to be able to meet up with the directive of Nigeria Broadcasting Cooperation which said that by the year 2015 all broadcasting houses must be digitalized.
- Before SAVI, the civil society organizations in the state were working haphazardly. The coming of SAVI brought the civil societies together as a coalition and right now they are working together as a team with focus. They identified three areas of interest to the government and the citizens which they are advocating on presently. These areas are Budget, integrating Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) into primary Health care and Ward Development Project.
- As a way of having the citizens to participate in the state Budget process, SAVI trained the civil society on Budget processes and scrutiny.
- SAVI facilitated the establishment of joint meeting of Niger state House of Assembly, Media and civil society for them to work together as representatives of peoples’ voice and demonstrate more effectiveness in demanding better performance from government.

continued
For a violence free 2015 Elections SAVI facilitate and support its partners (media and civil society) to organize town hall meetings and sensitized the electorates on how to conduct themselves for a violence free elections. Jingles were also produced to sensitize the citizens and are being air in the radio houses in the state. Phone-in radio programme was organized where the contestants meet with electorates through phone calls to present his/her manifestos and other commitments.

SAVI also supported the conduction of gubernatorial debate in Niger state which was the first of its kind in the state.

Achievements

- The staff of the Crystal FM Minna were trained on ICT to be able to meet up with the directive of Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation which said that all broadcasting houses must be digitalized by 2015.
- Before SAVI, the civil society organizations in the state were working haphazardly. The coming of SAVI brought the civil societies together as a coalition and right now they are working together as a team with better focus. They identified three areas of interest to the government and the citizens which they are advocating on presently. These areas are Budget, mainstreaming Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) into Primary Health Care (PHC) and Ward Development Project.
- As a way of having the citizens to participate in the state budget process, SAVI trained the civil society on budget processes and scrutiny.
- SAVI facilitated the establishment of a joint meeting of Niger SHoA, media and civil society for them to work together as representatives of peoples’ voice and demonstrate more effectiveness in demanding better performance from government.
- For violence free 2015 Elections, SAVI facilitated and supported its partners (media and civil society) to organize town hall meetings and sensitize the electorates on how to conduct themselves for violence free elections. Jingles were also produced to sensitize the citizens and were aired in radio stations in the state. Phone-in radio programmes were organized where the contestants met with electorates through phone calls to present their manifestos and other commitments.
- SAVI also supported the conduct of the gubernatorial debate in Niger State, the first of its kind in the state.

Challenges:

- Niger State House of Assembly has a standing rule that is updated and documented which is made available to all members. But very few members have internalized their provisions and use them in the house.
- Niger State House of Assembly has no conducive working environment for members and staff of the House. The House is deficient in necessary equipment and consumables to perform their responsibilities.
- The State House of Assembly have weak institutional mechanisms (committees, Budget office, Public Accounts and Audit office) to be able to conduct meaningful financial analysis as well as Auditor General report.
- Very few members of the public understand the roles of the members of State House of Assembly. Therefore, the public found it difficult to distinguish their personal needs, community needs, and the constitutional role of their representative.
- The media houses in the state have no adequate physical/technical facilities to meet the needs of staff to function effectively.
- The Civil Society organizations use SAVI’s financial and human resources to budget everything they need for their activities.

Required Actions:

- SAVI will continue its engagement with the SHoA to ensure that the standing rules of the House such as mode of conducts, attendance, sittings, procedures, time and number of days for sittings among others are strictly complied by the House in the conduct of its legislative business.
- SAVI is encouraging the leadership of the House to continue to pursue the government to provide Members and staff with office accommodation with an upgraded internet facilities and necessary equipment within the premises of the House. In addition, government should provide the House with functional committee
• The capacity of member should be enhanced by providing them with quality and most recent up-to-date information to effectively pass the Budget and undertake their oversight function and present quality committees' report in a timely manner. This contributes to improved governance and accountability of the State/House.
• SAVI will encourage the Members to engage with their constituents' through town hall meetings. Each member should also have a constituency office that is well furnish with staff where members of his/her constituency can lodge complains on what affect their communities.
TOWARDS STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NIGER STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The main economic sectors and largely rural population depend heavily on the State’s available resources and environmental services, which provide life supporting and basic economic functions. However, the agriculture, the mainstay of the economy, forests, water, and land resources are becoming increasingly stressed due to un-friendly practices, degradation, and environmental shocks. With the population expected to exceed the current 3.9 million (1996 Census) by 2026, there is a real need to explore and build bonds of partnerships for sustainable development in addition to being able to manage more efficiently the available natural resources to ensure that economic growth is sustained and poverty is reduced. This has been the basis for the partnership with the United Nations Development Programme in the last two decades.

This briefing paper makes the case for sustaining and strengthening the bond of cooperation, whilst also mainstreaming gender, and strategic environmental considerations into policy, plans and budget processes in the State. It builds on and clearly brings to the fore, what development partnership seeks to foster - the linkages between government policies for economic growth, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and human risks and highlights strategies for bringing about poverty reduction and boosting economic growth for Nigerlites.

UNDP 6th Country Programme coincided with the period when the 7th Country Programme (2007 – 2011) was inaugurated. It’s also ending when the 8th CP had commenced. (2014 – 2017) Twenty one (21) States were on the 7th CP including Niger. By the beginning of the 8th CP, only Eight (8) States were selected to partner the UNDP. This came about because of the proactive stance of the Government and the goodwill built over the years and the fact that Niger State met her 7th CP obligation of Cost Share to the UNDP has been in Nigeria since the country became independent in 1960. In the last programme cycle (2003-2008), UNDP provided capacity building and policy development support to the Federal Government and 21 states drawn from the six geo-political zones.

In November 2008, the State and UNDP agreed and signed a new 7th Country Programme that runs from 2009 – 2012 under the UN Development Assistance Framework, UNDAF II. The 7th CP offers a menu of programme support areas to the State include: (1) The Economic Governance Programme (2) Capacity for Governance Programme (3) Private Sector Development Programme and, (4) Sustainability and Risk Management Programme.

The 8th CP (2014 -2017) will be implemented through effective partnership under three (3) programme areas Viz:

- **Governance and Peace Building** (support public accountability and strengthening anti-corruption agencies; elections and strengthening democratic institutions (national and state Assemblies, Independent National Elections Commission (INEC) and State Independent Elections Commissions (SIECs), human rights commissions, and the judiciary); local and urban governance; and evidence-based and gender-sensitive decision making); (2) **Human Security and Risk Management** (strengthening capacities in environmental governance and management; Climate Change Mitigation; and Disaster Risk Reduction; HIV/AIDS) (3) **sustainable and equitable economic growth** (the Millennium Development Goals and economic management; Development and gender-sensitive planning; Aid coordination and Private Sector Development.) Targeted economic analyses will be supported for improved continued
pro-poor and gender-sensitive policies and strategies with specific focus on small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to increase productive capacity, generate employment opportunities, and improve income and livelihoods.

**Lessons Learnt from Implementation**

In the past 7-8 years, we have witnessed some important and remarkable improvements in Governance in this State, both in terms of institutional capacity, policy making, strategy and implementation. As a State, we have recorded significant progress in the procurement processes, fiscal policy and budget management systems, Public Service reforms, Climate Change management and poverty reduction initiatives.

Specifically, the partnership has recorded the following key results:

- The publication of the first State Millennium Development Goals Report (MDGR) 2006. The first State in Nigeria to record this feat;
- 2012 MDGR ready;
- Fiscal Policy Management Tool kit;
- Production of initial State Aid Coordination Framework – to guide the economic cooperation department in managing development cooperation in the State;
- The Niger State SEEDS;
- Production of the State Vision 3:20:20;
- The Medium Term Sector Strategy for Health and Education Sectors in collaboration with SPARC;
- Facilitated the State Fiscal Responsibility Law in collaboration with the State House of Assembly;
- Facilitated the State Planning Commission Law;
- The State Statistical Agency Law (Statistical Bureau);
- Printed and circulated the FRL in the State in addition to institutional and individual capacity development;
- Facilitated the passage of the State Public Procurement Law;
- The Production and circulation of the PPL in addition to sustained institutional capacity development;
- Laid the architecture and built the Electronic Data Management (EDM) system in the State Procurement management office;
- Capacity Building;
- Facilitated the production of the State Procurement Guidelines; currently being translated into the Hausa vernacular;
- Facilitated the development and production of State Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy;
- Disaster relief palliative support to six (6) communities. 2 communities per zone post flood disaster. (Awuru, Barkuta, Somanjigi, Elomi, Alawa and Akare);
- The Niger State renewable Energy Policy produced and piloting in 30 communities with Energy efficient stoves;
- The State Climate Change Action Plan;
- The Niger State Waste Management Framework (NISEPA);
- Upgrade and rehabilitation of 3 Forest Nurseries in the State (Bida, Kontagora and Chanchaga);
- Mini – Kwakuti Rice Mill, Kwakuti – ready for habitation (Women Entrepreneurship);
- The Minna Entrepreneurship Development Centre located at the industrial cluster zone;
- Rehabilitation of Bosso Poultry Centre (PPU) abandoned for over 20 years but capable of employing at least 120 youth per annum;
- Bosso Feed Mill ready for SME Occupation;
- Bosso Chicken Hatchery rehabilitated;
- Compost and leather recycling plant at Nyinkangbe;
- Assisted State House of Assembly with e-library.

**Next Steps**

- The Payment of 8th Country Programme Cost Share to the UNDP;
- Provision of Water, Electricity and operational vehicle to the Kwakuti Women Rice Mill;
- MTSS for 3 additional sectors of the State economy;
- Advertisement for SMEs and occupation and utilization of the Bosso PPU;
- Operationalize the waste Recycling plant for youth engagement;
- Operationalize and admit youth entrepreneurs into the EDC centre;
- Printing of the 2012 MDGR;
- Additional PEN construction and Hostel provision at the Bosso PPU.
SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL MALARIA PROGRAMME (SUNMAP) - NIGER

The DFID-funded Support to the National Malaria Programme (SuNMaP) is an 8-year (2008 – 2016) programme aimed at working with the Government and people of Nigeria to strengthen efforts at the national level and in 10 states to control malaria. This is being achieved at the state and Local Government Areas (LGAs) through technical, institutional and commodities support. SuNMaP’s efforts in malaria control seek to work within and strengthen the existing health systems in Niger State. SuNMaP Niger started operations on 1st June 2009.

The programme has been supporting the strengthening of malaria control delivery efforts at the state level across six outputs: Niger Office: SuNMaP Niger started operation on the 1st of June 2009.

Key Achievements - SuNMaP Niger

- **Integrated Vector Management** - SuNMaP has supported the state with over 480,000 Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) for continuous distribution through routine system of Ante Natal Care (ANC) in 555 health facilities across all the 25 LGAs in the state. Also, we supported the pilot delivery of 30,000 Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) in Rafi LGA through the Community Drug Distributors (CDDs) driven community distribution.

Project Details

- **Project Identification**: GB/CHC-1099776-88
- **Project Title**: Support to National Malaria Programme
- **Funder**: DFID UK
- **Project Cost**: £80 million
- **Project Dates**: 2008 - 2016
- **Project Executing Agency**: Malaria Consortium, UK; Health Partners International, UK; GRID Consulting, Nigeria
- **Focal MDAs**: Niger State Ministry of Health

**Address**: ER 6 Yakubu Lame, Road, Off Government House Road, GRA, Minna

**Technical Malaria Manager**

Dr. Olatunde Olotu
+234-8036054579
o.olatunde@malariaconsortium.org

Sources of Antimalaria Commodities in Niger 2011 -2014

![Graph showing sources of antimalaria commodities in Niger 2011-2014](image)
• **Diagnosis and Case management**
  o **2,365** health workers have been trained on malaria case management and were equipped with skills to provide better services at the 375 Service delivery points in six LGAs;  
  o **329,326** doses of Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies (ACTs) provided as stop gap and **331,050** Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDTs) Kits provided to support parasite based diagnosis of Malaria. In addition, 20 Microscopes have been distributed to 20 benefitting Secondary health facilities in the state;  
  o SuNMaP supported the state to develop malaria diagnosis quality assurance framework and tools for use in the strengthening of the diagnostic capacity of the state health workforce.

• **Malaria in Pregnancy** - SuNMaP has supported the state with the distribution of **791,454** doses of Sulphadoxine-Pyrimethamine (SPs) as Intermittent preventive therapy administered as directly observed treatment to pregnant mothers through 555 health facilities offering Ante-Natal Care (ANCs) in all 25 LGAs.

• **Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization**
  o SuNMaP has supported the implementation of community level activities to increase demand for malaria services at ward levels. Community mobilisation and malaria dialogues are estimated to have reached over **12,600** care givers, pregnant women and heads of households in the last three years;  
  o SuNMaP has broadcast key radio messages on prevention and treatment of malaria reaching an estimated 2.5 million Niger State residents daily – achieving high coverage at low cost;  
  o SuNMaP has supported advocacy visits to the Executive Governor, the 25 LGA chairmen, their legislatures and 54 leaders of Fulani (Ardos) communities in two LGAs in the state, taking malaria control messages to them.

• **Health System Strengthening**
  o SuNMaP supported Programme Management training of **924** staff covering modules on General Management, Monitoring & Evaluation, Budget & Planning and Integrated Supportive Supervision;  
  o SuNMaP Niger has supported the state to develop robust, costed Annual Operational Plans for Malaria for five years from 2011 – 2015 and will continue to support yearly plans. Performance of this plan is reviewed by the state with support from SuNMaP on a bi-annual basis;  
  o SuNMaP has provided support to the state to institutionalize Integrated Supportive Supervision and on-the-job-capacity building (ISS/OJCB) across the state health sector and has supported two serial visits to 16 and 20 General Hospital, 25 PHC departments and over 240 health facilities. Performance reviews of the ISS/OJCB implementation is carried out quarterly and SuNMaP has supported one of such feedback and review meeting.

• **Operational research** - The programme is concluding the final stages of a longitudinal study looking at “The effect of the SuNMaP capacity building programmes on case management”.

**Recommendation**

We want the state to commit more funds to the procurement of antimalarial commodities for use at the Primary Health Centers (PHCs).
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SUPPORT OPERATION (YESSO)

Project Description: The Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) is an operation supported by the World Bank. The immediate rationale behind YESSO is to take a comprehensive approach to supporting youths from poor households and women in Nigeria. Specifically, the aim is to provide the tools needed to support the government to set up a Social Safety Net (SSN) system by focusing on three interventions at the State level: Labour Intensive Public Workfare (PWF), Skills development for low-income youths (S4J), and Conditional Cash and Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT).

To actualize the support, a project preparation meeting was organized and attended by the World Bank, relevant Federal MDAs - including MDG office, National Directorate for Employment (NDE) and National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) - and officials from State Government of Abia, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Cross River, Ekiti, Enugu, Gombe, Kano, Katsina, Kogi Kwara, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo States.

Decisions, Appraisal, Negotiation and Federal Executive Council’s approval were carried out from November 2012 to May 2013. Having achieved these, Federal Ministry of Finance and Debt Management Office included funding of YESSO into national funding plan for 2012 – 2015 after which Niger State was invited to the National Assembly to defend its participation, which was successful. As of August 7th, 2013 the operation became effective and subsequently launched at Federal level on 19th September, 2013 by the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala.

Project Focus on State: The overall focus of YESSO is to increase access of the poor to youth employment opportunities, social services, and strengthened safety net system with the aim of addressing youth restiveness in the state. A strengthened safety net system would have a common targeting system and a unified registry of beneficiaries as a major element to facilitate basic services for poor households.

YESSO Component Description: The Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO) is comprised of four (4) Components:

continued
**Component 1 - Social Safety Net Coordination (SSN) and M&E Platform:** The objective is to have a functional SSN coordination and M&E platform at Federal and State levels;

**Component 2 - Public WorkFare (PWF):** The objective is to have an efficient and effective mechanism for public workfare programs meant to support the State Government to provide immediate labour intensive work opportunities for unskilled youths from poor households;

**Component 3 - Skills for Job (S4J):** This component will pilot a new approach through NDE to demand-driven skills training based on partnership between public and private sector for enhancing employability of youths. The output is trained youth in sustainable employment (increased productivity);

**Component 4 - Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT):** this is to provide effective and adequate incentives to (Health & Education) extremely poor families to invest in the human capital of their children and adequate cash benefits to increase household consumption. The output is strengthened state level CCT institution and co-finance cash transfers.

**Key Achievements**

**Component 1:**
- Domiciliation of YESSO program in the State Planning Commission;
- Identification of Ministry of Youth Development as Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for skills for jobs (to work jointly with NDE Office in the State), Ministry of Religious Affairs and Poverty Eradication as PIU for Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and Niger State Environmental Protection Agency (NISEPA) as PIU for PWF;
- Staff deployed and rudimentarily trained on Project Management, Safeguards, CBT/SRB, Financial & Procurement Management etc.;
- Prepared and adopted several manuals for project implementation;
- 180 communities selected from six pilot LGAs;
- Towards the establishment of a central social safety net system, a Single Register (SR) containing 28,571 poor and vulnerable households has been established and ready for implementation;
- Six addition LGAs have been identified for the update of the existing SR.

**Components 2, 3 and 4:**
- The State has designated three MDAS for the implementation of Components 2,3 & 4;
- Offices for PIUs have been established with staff deployed;
- Staff deployed to the PIUs have received rudimentarily training on Project Management, Safeguards, CBT/SRB, Financial & Procurement Management etc.
- Partnership between YESSO, private sector operators and other stakeholders is on-going;
- Readiness activity plans for the three PIUs prepared and sent to State Operation and Implementation Unit (SOCU) for implementation.

**Outstanding Commitments**

i. State Operation Launch
ii. Finalization of M&E framework
iii. Selection of beneficiaries using agreed criteria from SR by PIUs
iv. Enrolment/orientation of beneficiaries
v. Deployment of beneficiaries to their duty post
vi. Collaboration with NDE and private sector operators for S4J component of the operation
vii. Commencement of payment of stipends

continued
viii. Monitoring and evaluation of the exercise
ix. Impact assessment of the interns
x. CBT/SR activities in the six additional LGAs

Challenges
The following challenges are being faced in the course of implementation:

- Staff Capacity gaps;
- Delay in the selection of beneficiaries from the SR;
- Delay in the release of State funds;
- Issue of apathy towards the team especially during CBT activities.

Recommendations
- All staff be trained in their respective designation and project management;
- Timely selection of beneficiaries from the SR;
- Timely implementation of CBT/SR activities in the additional six LGAs;
- Timely release of funds by the State Government.
The Second Rural Access and Mobility Project (RAMP-2) is a World Bank (WB) and French Development Agency (AFC) co-financed initiative to improve transport conditions and bring sustained access to the rural populace through rehabilitation and maintaining key rural transport infrastructure in a sustainable manner in some selected Nigerian States. The implementation period to achieve this goal is 2013 – 2018. The participating States are Niger, Adamawa, Enugu and Osun States as well as Kaduna and Cross River States that are in the first phase of the Project. Project activities are concentrated in the areas of higher agricultural production, building on the strategic priorities of Nigeria’s Agriculture Transformation Agenda. The first phase of the project in Niger State covers construction of about 176km of rural roads spread across seven (7) Local Government Areas.

The initiative will:

- Increase rural access thus promoting a diversification outside of the oil sector and contributing to rural poverty reduction, through increasing agricultural productivity and contributing to the implementation of the Nigeria’s Agriculture Transformation Agenda (NATA);
- Promote agricultural productivity for small farmers and thus contribute to the country’s Transformation Agenda for the agriculture sector;
- Contribute to improving governance at state level through its performance-based approach, based on the Country Partnership Strategy governance criteria. Promote the economic growth of the non-oil sectors and increase the average income of poor rural households who mostly depend on agriculture for subsistence. A reduction of poverty levels in the targeted rural areas is therefore expected and the project should contribute to broader goals including progress with the MDGs.
Project components descriptions are as follows:

**Component 1:** Upgrading and Rehabilitation of Rural Transport Infrastructure which includes design studies, upgrading and/or rehabilitation, and related engineering supervision activities for an estimated 500 km of existing rural roads in Niger State as well as design studies, safeguard assessments, upgrading and/or rehabilitation, and related supervision activities for approximately 20 river crossings on rural roads in Niger State.

**Component 2:** Community-based road maintenance and annual mechanized maintenance. This includes the maintenance of the roads rehabilitated under Component 1.

**Component 3:** Project Management and Strengthening of State & Federal Road Sector Institutional, Policy and Regulatory Framework. This aims at addressing institutional capacity gaps at the sub-national level regarding rural road assets’ management, and at developing and implementing sound rural transport policies.
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

WHO is an international organization but not a donor agency with a state office in Minna. The goal of WHO in the State is to support the State and Local Government Authorities (LGAs) in polio eradication. The WHO has been operational in Niger State since 2001. The core functions of WHO in the State include:

- Capacity building;
- Technical support in areas of health;
- Leadership and partnership with other agencies;
- Setting norms and standards in areas of health;
- Promoting evidence based strategies through monitoring and evaluation;
- Setting up research agenda.

WHO Focus on Niger State

The main focus of WHO in the State include the following

- Polio Eradication;
- Acute Flaccid Paralysis Surveillance;
- Priority diseases (YF, MSL, CSM, NNT) Surveillance;
- Integrated Disease Surveillance & Response;
- Supplemental Immunization Activities e.g. IPDs, SIPDs;
- Strengthening Routine Immunization;
- Prevention & Control of Disease outbreak/Epidemics;
- Supporting State & LGAs in all areas of health.

Key Achievements

- Improved Routine Immunization performance Indicators. All the 25 LGAs had coverage of 80% and above in OPV & PENTAL 3 antigens;
- Improved AFP Surveillance Performance Indicators. All LGAs met the 2 core indicators (NP-AFP rate of 2/100,000 population & Stool adequacy of 80%);
- Outbreak of epidemic prone diseases properly managed and put under control;
- Disease outbreak under control;
- Good performance in all SIAs activities.

Challenges

- Inadequate ownership of programs;
- Lack of support for disease surveillance activities;
- Occasional late release of State counterpart funds for SIA activities;
- Late/inadequate response to disease outbreak/epidemics;
- Inadequate laboratory support for disease outbreak/epidemics e.g. lack of public health laboratory, lack/inadequate reagents;
- Inadequate manpower for RI & Surveillance activities at HFs.

Way Forward

- Continuous advocacy to State & LGA authorities for support for all programs;
- Continuous advocacy for ownership responsibility of all program.
UNICEF provides support to Niger State in the following sectors: Basic Education, Health and Immunisation, Nutrition and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene). UNICEF works with specific MDAs and contributes to strengthening planning, implementation and monitoring of the sectoral programmes. A range of advocacy initiatives are also undertaken to bring in policy change in the specific sectors that we work with and improvement in the implementation of state programmes. The sectoral plans are the key instruments which guides UNICEF’s work in the state.

A planning meeting was held late 2014 to identify the key state priorities for each of the above sectors that UNICEF will support and collaborate with the relevant ministries.

During 2014, some of the key achievements have been:

**Immunisation**

1. Supported training of 25 LGA Cold Chain Officers and 25 Assistant Cold Chain Officers on cold chain maintenance and repair;
2. Provided funding support for the repair of 42 broken down cold chain equipment’s under the GAVI/HSS re-programming;
3. Provided funding for IPV introduction (training of health workers and social mobilization activities) under GAVI new vaccine introduction grant;
4. Provided technical support for the development of the weekly vaccine stock performance management dashboard and monthly vaccine utilization report;
5. Provided funding support for Rf intensification project under the BMGF grant.

**Nutrition**

1. A total of 60 children were admitted and treated in the 4 SAM management health facilities in the state between Jan - Oct 2014, of which 44 (74%) cases were cured and discharged, 2 (4%) dead and 0 (0%) defaults from routine data. The state can be said to have achieved the target for wasting but a prevalence of over 2% is of public health concern in any population;
2. Community Based Early Childcare Centers in 4 locations practice IYCF with support from the sensitized 300 members of mothers association and 140 health workers trained on complementary feeding. A total of 850,548 (92%) children 6-59 months were given vitamin A supplement against the target of 90% in the first round MNCHW in 2014 and 904,052 (97%) children 6-59months received Vitamin A supplement, 494329 (60%) children 12-59 months were dewormed and 83,662 pregnant women received 30 days' supply of iron folate during the 2014 second round MNCHW conducted in February 2015. A sum of four million four hundred and thirty nine thousand four hundred and ninety Naira (US$ 27,747) was released for capacity building on Infant and Young Child Feeding and Key House Hold Practices and a sum of 15 million released to support 2 rounds of MNCHW. A total of N86, 000,000 is included in 2015 budget for nutrition.
Basic Education

1. 2013/2014 Annual School Census (ASC). This was to enable the State own data, plan and budget for the 2014/2015 school year;
2. Enrolment Drive Campaign (EDC) showed that a total of 102,637 (48,395 Females) have been enrolled in 2014;
3. 9,876 girls out of the eligible targeted 11,504 on the Cash Transfer (CT) programme drawn from 238 communities that are feeder to the 72 targeted schools for the programme received their 1st tranche of support to facilitate their schooling;
4. Several capacity building/training of teachers, NFE facilitators and care-givers were conducted to improve quality teaching and learning in our GEP 3 target 6 focus LGAs in Niger State.

WASH

1. Trained 297 health workers on effective distribution of mectizan and monitoring of its use for control of onchocerciasis in Rijau, Lapai, Magama, Lavun, Shiroro and Tafa LGAs;
2. Supported the Technical team for control of Onchocerciasis and other NTDs to review and finalize Niger state technical reports;
3. EHCs established in 15 Primary Schools and members’ capacity strengthened on importance of improved sanitation, hygiene practices and maintenance of WASH facilities and sensitized pupils/SBMCs on importance of hand washing in 15 primary schools;
4. Promoted effective hand washing at critical times in 96 Health facilities (32 health facilities each in 3 LGAs of Bosso, Chanchaga and Mashegu) during MNCHW.

Plans for 2015

Immunisation

1. Development of state 2015 RI plan;
2. Reactivation of the State logistic working group;
3. Improve demand creation in Mashegu + one other LGA using School Children as Immunization Ambassadors in Niger (SCHIN) project;
4. Reactivation of ward development committees and implementation of ward minimum health care package in 2 LGAs.

Nutrition

1. Develop IYCF C4D frameworks and implementation plan for Chachanga and Edati LGAs in Niger State and implement CIYCF plan at Macro, Meso and Micro levels;
2. Conduct formative research on IYCF barriers in Chachanga and Edati LGAs and the barriers to IYCF implementation identified for programme planning and implementation;
3. Provide 100% vitamin A supplies, leveraging other MNCHW commodities and resources for programme implementation and preposition adequate emergency supplies (vitamin A 5,000 caps of 100,000 i.u and 20,000 caps of 200,000 i.u, albendazole 2000 tablets, ReSoMal 2 cartons, F75 5 cartons, F100 10 cartons and RUTF 50 cartons, high energy biscuits 50 cartons);
4. Strengthen nutrition sector coordination through institutionalization of state level coordination forums/committees, conduct Nutrition Partners forum meeting at state level, consolidate monthly review meeting of State Committees on Food and Nutrition and conduct quarterly State nutrition review meeting, rationalize State Committee workplans and mobilize resources for scaling up nutrition by MDAs with state and stakeholders support;
5. Use innovation and technology to improve SAM, IYCF, MNDC service delivery including MNCHW and strengthen Nutrition Information System using smart phones and the conduct of national nutrition survey using SMART methods to track progress on nutrition situation;

continued
6. Celebrate/commemorate special nutrition events and national days (i.e. World Breastfeeding Week-WBW, Iodine Deficiency Disorders Day, World Food Day, etc.) to raise awareness at state, LGA and community levels and special events days including WBW celebrated in 25 wards at community level.

**Education**

1. Support publication and dissemination of ASC for creating a reliable and credible State education data bank and informed effective education planning and budgeting;
2. Support increase in enrolment by at least 5% in all total number of State Primary School and IQTE Centres;
3. Undertake assessment of effectiveness of CTP on increase of girls’ enrolment and attendance;
4. Support establishment of 75 additional CBECCs, 200 additional Pre-Primary classes, and increased demand for and supply of ECD in order to boost enrolment;
5. Support quality improvement in furthering capacity development of targeted regular Classroom Teachers/Head Teachers, Science and Mathematics and IQS Teachers trained, and assessed on pedagogy/school/classroom management for improved quality of teachers, teaching and learning and outcome of children.

**WASH**

1. Conduct a training session for 25 state and LGA level officers and monitor implementation of Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) in Rural Water and Sanitation Agency in Niger state;
2. Train 50 LGA officials, WASHCOMs and artisans on Village Level Operation and Maintenance to promote sustainable water supply services in one high risk LGA;
3. Rehabilitate 30 water facilities to ensure children and women have sustained and equitable access to improved water sources;
4. Hygiene promotion for sustained behavioral change in project communities and commemoration of global and national events including MNCH weeks across the Lavun, Gbako and Shiroro LGAs;
5. Train 100 LGA level health workers on effective utilization of mectizan for control of onchocerciasis and conduct biannual review meetings for progress updates in 5 focal LGAs to ensure children and women have sustained and equitable access to improved control services in 5 LGAs;
6. Construct gender sensitive WASH in school facilities in 2 schools to ensure children and women have sustained access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.
UNICEF Nigeria’s Girls Education Project Phase 3 (GEP3) is a project focused on girls’ education in northern Nigeria - funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and implemented in partnership with Niger State Government.

Through its interventions in Niger, GEP3 aims to improve access, retention and quality ensuring that learning outcomes for girls improve. It’s implemented in six Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Niger State.

Planned results in Niger

- By the end of GEP3 in 2020, the project will have succeeded in getting approximately 284,346 additional girls into school;
- Improved girls’ survival rate to Grade 5 to 80% by 2019/20.
- 30,138 girls reached by improved teaching and girl-friendly learning environments;
- 400 Integrated Qur’anic School (IQS) facilitators/teachers trained and mentored in child-centred pedagogy;
- 310 head teachers trained in school effectiveness, efficiency and curriculum management;
- 12,654 girls benefiting from cash transfers, to encourage them to send their daughters to school and support their transition to JSS and SSS;
- 80% of schools have functioning School based Management Committees and Centres (SBMCs);
- Reliable and validated Annual School Censuses (ASC) which are used for targeting resources towards girls’ basic education.

Planned interventions in Niger

Results will be delivered under three outputs, through the following intervention areas:

**Output 1: Increased enrolment and retention of girls in basic education**

- Community enrolment drives by SBMCs, MAs in all schools with support from state and LGA;
- Action to improve attitudes towards girls’ enrolment and completion, through community campaigns, peer support to girls and family negotiation – by SBMCs, Mas;
- Cash transfer schemes to support families with the direct and opportunity costs of girls’ basic education.

**Output 2: Improved capacity of teachers to deliver effective learning for girls**

- Better school management and pedagogical leadership in 210 schools through head teacher training;
- Improved IQS facilitator/teacher teaching in 200 Integrated Qur’anic Schools (IQS) through frequent, local in-service training and mentoring.
Output 3: Improved governance to strengthen girls' education

- Increased capacity of SBMCs to take action to build girl-friendly learning environments, creating better retention and demand for new access - SBMCs, MAs, using gender-sensitive whole school development plans;
- Strengthening of state mechanisms and capacity for collecting core education data (esp. ASC) with a focus on sustainable inputs to data collection and management at federal and state levels;
- Inclusion of IQS into EMIS, to improve systematic management and monitoring of IQS
- Promoting women as role models and advocates for girls education and women’s participation in the education sector by High Level Women Advocates (HiLWA);
- Capacity development to secure long term structures and funding for monitoring and support to SBMCs, IQS facilitators.
RAPID ACCESS EXPANSION (RAcE)

The Rapid Access Expansion (RAcE) project on integrated community case management (iCCM) is being implemented in six Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Niger State, namely Paikoro, Rafi, Mariga, Rijau, Lapai, and Edati LGAs by the state Ministry of Health in collaboration with Malaria Consortium. The goal of the project is to catalyse the scale-up of integrated community case management (iCCM) building on community case management of malaria (CCMm) in Niger State with a view to improving access and quality of care of the management of malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia among children under 5 years.

Key Progress and Achievements

- The project was signed off in November 2013 and commenced in January 2014;
- Baseline survey was conducted in the six LGAs to assess knowledge, attitudes, practices and behaviour (KAPB) on Malaria, Pneumonia and Diarrhoea;
- Sensitization meetings with Traditional, Religious and influential persons were held at inception of the project in the six LGAs;
- Mapping of health facilities, identification of project communities and Community Oriented Resource Persons (CORPs) in the six LGAs was done.

Project Details

**Project Title:** Rapid Access Expansion (RAcE) project, 2015  
**Funder:** CIDA/WHO  
**Project Cost:** $3,223,678.00  
**Project Dates:** January 2014 – October 2015  
**Project Executing Agency:** Niger State Ministry of Health & Hospital Services  
**Focal Person:** Dr. Patrick B. Gimba  
**Address:** ER6 Yakubu Lame, Gov’t House Road, GRA Minna  

**Project Manager**  
Dr. Jonathan Jiya  
+234-8060495210  
j.jiya@malariaconsortium.org
• Training of 50 Health workers as iCCM state trainers in the state;
• 190 Health workers trained on iCCM in the 6 implementing LGAs.

715 CORPs trained, 653 of them are kitted and are already managing Malaria, Diarrhoea and Pneumonia cases in various communities in the three LGAs;
• Production and launch of Niger State decision tree document.

Challenges

• Lack of Counterpart Contribution from the State Government;
• Inadequate health facilities and personnel in the implementing LGAs;
• Bad road network in the six implementing LGAs.
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT

Project Description

The project for the improvement of Rural Water Supply in Niger State started in 2012 through a Federal Government of Nigeria/Japan International Cooperation Agency (FGN/JICA) grant aid to five benefitting states of Kebbi, Taraba, Enugu, Ondo and Niger States.

The Project involved the procurement of drilling equipment, installation and maintenance. Access to potable water supply would be improved by the construction of 100 pump boreholes which are expected to provide safe water for 25,000 people.

Project Focus

The project focuses essentially on improvement of access to potable water to rural communities with the aim of reducing to the barest minimum water borne diseases and improved sanitation.

This is achieved through practical training, development of personnel working in government institutions and benefitting communities to ensure sustainability. The Project in Niger State also provides in-country training to promote effective and efficient use of water infrastructure and improved operations and maintenance skills.

Key Achievements

- The project has strengthened the institutionalization of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation programme in the State;
- Provision of potable water and improved sanitary facilities through low-cost technology in order to improve health and reduce the incidence of infant mortality and morbidity due to water borne and excreta related diseases such as Cholera, Diarrhea, Typhoid and Malaria in Rural Communities;
- Modern up to date drilling equipment and materials delivered to the state for the construction of 100 No boreholes;
- Sustainability strategy for the hand pumps in the community was developed with the establishment and training of Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committees (WASHCOM’s) members;
- Skills for community mobilization and management developed;
- WASHCOM was established and trained in 96 communities cutting across the 24 LGAs;
- Collective community ownership, community control, community financing and sustainability through sustained operation and maintenance is put in place.

Funding

Cost for the implementation of rural water supply and the soft component of the project is Five Hundred and Forty Thousand Naira.
Million Naira (₦540,000,000) only and is contributed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) while Niger State counterpart contribution is One Hundred and Thirty One Million Six Hundred Naira (₦131,600,000) only.

Challenges

1. Bad terrain/roads for the drilling rigs to access some parts of the sites especially during the raining season;

2. Geologic and hydrological conditions do not allow the construction of hand pumps boreholes in certain rural communities as provided for by the programme;

3. Inadequate funds for sanitation and hygiene facilities, as provision of water facilities alone cannot prevent the spread of diseases in the rural communities;

4. Delay in the release of counterpart funds for implementation.

Recommendation/Way Forward

✓ Niger Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RUWATSAN) Agency to intensify Monitoring and Evaluation in benefitting communities to ensure effective and efficient management of borehole facilities;

✓ RUWATSAN to step down the training to some other communities not covered in JICA project in the subsequent years;

✓ Timely release of counterpart funds by the State Government.
PRO-POOR GROWTH AND PROMOTION OF EMPLOYMENT IN NIGERIA (SEDIN)

Context
The regulatory and institutional frameworks as well as access to financial services in Nigeria are inadequate for the effective development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). In line with Nigeria’s national development strategy, the Vision 20:2020, and the Financial System Strategy 2020 (FSS 2020), the Pro-poor Growth and Promotion of Employment in Nigeria Programme (SEDIN) attempts to address these problems by supporting key actors from the public and private sector to plan and implement reforms that bring positive changes in the business and investment climate, enhance competitiveness and add value to domestic resources, as well as improving access to financial services for MSMEs.

Objective and Target Groups
The objective of the SEDIN Programme of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is to increase sustained employment and income generation in MSMEs. As a federally owned enterprise, GIZ supports the German government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. The target groups of SEDIN are the owners and employees of MSMEs as well as members of other economically active low-income households. The measures supported at federal level are supposed to have an impact on the entire country. Measures at state and local levels will target three selected states (Niger, Ogun, and Plateau States).

Programme Outline and Approach
The programme objective is pursued via four fields of interventions, i.e. (1) financial system development; (2) business enabling environment reforms; (3) trade policy and facilitation; (4) value chain development, organized as Programme Units. These Units seek synergies around partners and collaborate to achieve the programme objectives. This is materialized through collective efforts and joint activities.

Unit 1 – Financial System Development: Support to improve the regulatory environment for microfinance and the performance of selected microfinance banks, assess possibilities to support financial institutions to increase their MSME lending activities, facilitate the introduction of microinsurance products, as well as activities to foster financial literacy and consumer protection in the financial sector.

Unit 2 – Business Enabling Environment Reforms: Support to improve the regulatory and institutional environment for MSMEs at local, state and federal levels. This is being achieved by strengthening the capacities of stakeholders from the public and private sector in advocating and implementing reforms that result into better performing MSMEs with increased income generated and sustained employment. The reforms encompass the three administrative levels (federal, state and local) on: land acquisition; company registration, the taxation system for MSMEs, enforcement of contracts; policy formulation that directly impact MSMEs (federal level). Support the downward linkages of national
advocacy platforms to state and local counterparts and sensitize about MSME issues through local radio stations.

**Unit 3 – Trade Policy and Facilitation:** Reducing administrative hurdles to domestic and intra-regional trade by removing physical trade barriers and supporting border management reforms; facilitating evidence-based policy making; sensitising the private sector including MSMEs on the potentials and procedures of intra-ECOWAS trade; as well as promoting Nigerian exports into the sub region.

**Unit 4 – The promotion of agricultural and non-agricultural value chains (VCs)*** will help to diversify the economy and enable the programme to ascertain the effects of the reforms promoted in all four units and design reforms in line with VC-specific target group needs. SEDIN has selected four VCs: sheanut/butter in Niger (after recorded success in five years, this value chain will be replaced by another VC to be selected soon), cassava in Ogun, potato in Plateau and construction with a focus on the low-cost housing sector as a cross-cutting non-agricultural VC in all states.

As to further maximize the achievement of the objectives of the SEDIN programme, it is complemented by two projects co-funded by the European Union: (a) ‘Strengthening Nigeria’s Trade Support Institutions’ and (b) ‘Economic Development for Peace and Stability in Plateau State’.

Under its cross-cutting themes, SEDIN recognizes that women play a fundamental role in moving the Nigerian economy forward and therefore aims at increasing their participation in economic activities in its programme states. With her HIV mainstreaming strategy, it ensures that HIV does not negate the success and attainment of its goals and also contribute towards reducing the spread of HIV in its programme states.

The programme adopts an integral capacity development approach at the interfaces between the public and private as well as between the real and the financial sector.

To raise the effectiveness and sustainability of these measures, up-scaling has been planned from the outset. Experience from promoting selected value chains, especially with regards to improved access to finance and the regulatory framework, will be transferred where possible to other value chains. The results of the supported pilot measures of individual states will be disseminated to other states via peer-learning to set an example and enhance the sustainability and broad impact of reforms.

**Achievements:**

1. Establishment of the Niger State One-Stop-Investment-Centre (NS-OSIC);
2. Setting up a functional SERVICOM office in Ministry of Lands for improved service delivery;
3. Development of shea butter value chain and linkages to markets. And Shea butter quality improvement training for producers;
4. Supply of processing machines to shea groups and setting up of three shea butter villages;
5. Capacity building for staff and Management of Microfinance banks within and outside the country;
6. Product development for Microfinance banks (MFBs);
7. Provision of operational software for MFBs;
8. Intervening in tax reforms to encourage voluntary compliance and improved IGR;
9. Gender mainstreaming in MDAs;

**Planned activities:**

1. Continue support to Micro Finance Banks;
2. Intervention in rice and construction value chains;
3. Support to reforms in tax administration in the state;
4. Continuous support to strengthen NS-OSIC and establishment of Niger State Investment Promotion Agency

continued
5. Gender mainstreaming in MDAs;

Challenges:

1. Weak public sector institutions for effective collaboration;
2. Matching funds from government;
3. Dearth of manpower in the microfinance sub sector.

Required Action:

1. Government support for the programme and implementation of recommendation on reforms;
2. Counterpart funds regarding activities;
3. GIZ-SEDIN to be involved in the drafting of an investment promotion policy of the incoming government.
NIGER STATE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Niger State Agricultural Development Project (NSADP) is an extension arm of Niger State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to implement government agricultural policy decisions with goals of enhancing the living standard of farmers through increase agricultural productivity by provision of basic agricultural infrastructures (roads, markets, dams, irrigation facilities etc), development and distribution of improved planting materials, provision of agricultural research and extension services, monitoring and evaluating the impact of the project activities and capacity building of rural institutions (Cooperatives) through linkage to credit institutions, farm input supply and agricultural market.

The broad objective of the Authority is to improve farmers’ productivity thereby increasing their incomes and standard of living. Its specific objectives include among others:

- To strengthen agricultural services;
- To improve the access and maintenance of supporting rural infrastructures;
- To strengthen supporting commercial services thereby ensuring supply of agricultural inputs;
- To strengthen the capacity for policy formulations, Planning and expenditure programming in the state Ministry of Agriculture.

In addition to carrying out her core function of extension services delivery, the organization is in partnership with the following donor agencies/programmes to implement the agreed mandates:

- National Programme for Food Security 2007 to date;
- Niger State Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme (NCACS) 2010 – Date;
- Rural access and Mobility project II (RAMP II);
- Rice Post-Harvest Processing and Marketing Pilot Project (RIPMAPP) 2011 to-date;
- Maximizing Agricultural Revenue in Key Enterprises and Targeted Sites (MARKETS II) 2013 – date;
- West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) 2013 – date;
- N2 Africa Project, 2014- date;
- Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Modern Rice Processing Complex Project;
- The authority is also implementing several Presidential initiatives in the agricultural and rural development sector including, the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA).

DONOR/SPECIAL PROJECTS

RICE POST-HARVEST PROCESSING AND MARKETING PILOT PROJECT (RIPMAPP)

The Rice Post-Harvest Processing and Marketing Pilot Project (RIPMAPP) is a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) grant facility. The RIPMAPP is being implemented in two state of the federation namely Niger and Nasarawa States and is to be co-financed by JICA and the participating State Governments. The RIPMAPP is be implemented in five years period (September, 2011-2015) with 2013 being project year three (PY3). Implementation activities of RIPMAPP were concentrated in 2012 in Nasarawa State, while full-blown activities of the project commenced as from May 2013 in the State. The project had established 1 no. model processing facility at Bida for training of farmers in the selected communities of Bida, Lavun, Katcha and Gbako Local Government Areas of Niger State.

The project aims for improvement of quality and diminution of the post-harvest loss of domestic rice in the target
NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR FOOD SECURITY (NPFS)

The National Programme for Food Security (NPFS) is an expanded phase of the erstwhile National Special programme For Food Security (NSPF) implemented 2004-2006 in three sites. The NPFS is being implemented in nine (9) sites in each of the participating 25 State of federation as from 2007 to-date. The sites are Nassarawa in Lapai Local Government Area, Batavovogi in Bida Local Government Area and Lenfabororo in Edati Local Government Area, Gidan-Mangoro in Bosso Local Government Area, Garam in Tafa Local Government Area and Makangara in Rafi Local Government Area, Lioji in Kontagora Government Area Kaboji in Mashegu Local Government Area and Shambo in Rijau local government Area. The NPFS is financed under a multi-partite arrangement between three tiers of governments as well as participating/beneficiary communities and foreign donors (in some cases). The NPFS in case of Niger State is being co-financed by the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Its objectives are:

i. To improve household food security and incomes through increase in productivity diversification and sustainable use of natural resources;

ii. To enhance food security of consumers through improved access to and availability of food and also increase income of products through more efficient marketing;

iii. To enhance farmers and consumers’ income generation.

The major activities during the period under review were a monitoring visit was undertaken to NPFS sites and sensitization on loan recovery. Also, operation of five modules at livestock, agro-processing, agro-forestry, health and nutrition and fisheries are on-going in the sites.

During the period under review, a kick-off meeting on training programmes was held on 8th July, 2013, while seven (7) training programmes which include Rice Post-Harvest Technology, Marketing & Business management and Extension under the Rice Post-Harvest Processing and Marketing Pilot Project (RIPMAPP) were conducted involving 60 staff of 536 MTDs.

Provision of training to twenty-three staff of NAMDA in various aspects was conducted in Abuja and Japan. On; rice cultivation, training on post harvest processing of rice, improvement of income generation in village by processing of agricultural products, participatory irrigation mechanism in paddy rice for African countries, Conduct of rice distribution survey, selection of equipment, technology target cooperative association and implementation location, installation of equipment, training of NAMDA staff. Training of miller parboiled rice farmers. Trainings of Farmers on Parboiling Technology were undertaken in 18 core villages, Distribution and Monitoring on use of false bottoms were undertaken in 18 core villages, A mini rice incubation /processing centre was constructed at the Women Multipurpose Centre Bida under RIPMAPP by JICA, Milling Plant was provided and installed, Parboiling shield was constructed and 85 Rice Millers were trained on Milling Technology.
The achievements recorded under the project are given below:

- 133 Primary groups have been formed, based on identified economic interest groups at the site and 9 Apex Associations formed by officials of the primary groups in each site;
- A total of 705 crop modules, 225 livestock modules, 118 agro-forestry modules;
- 14 hectares of orchards and six fishery modules were established;
- Provision of 18 number 1 ton capacity steel silos to programme beneficiaries. Producers were linked to markets/end-users of their various products. In these regard, 23 market linkages were achieved for various crop and non-crop enterprises; Para-vet personnel have been appointed at all the sites and they have brought forth their indents for drugs and other animal health facilities;
- A total of 27 farmers field / farmer business school were conducted in which beneficiaries were trained in various trades;
- 11 school gardens were established, 9 young farmer clubs were formed, 3 training on health and nutrition; and HIV/AIDS trainings were held;
- Market prices data continued to be collected at the sites and information continued to be shared among the various economic interest groups.

Meanwhile, machinery has been set in motion for establishment of market call centers in each zone. The programme promoted good health and sanitary behavior through promotion of adequate dieting, exclusive breast feeding, and environmental sanitation and HIV/AIDS prevention messages. Farmers have also been mobilized into activities of other agricultural sub sector for the livestock production /animal health modules, fisheries (artisanal aquaculture /integrated fish processing modules), apiculture and processing modules; NPFS Stakeholders meeting was conducted, A mango and Citrus orchard module at Gidan Mangoro established.

WEST AFRICA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAMME (WAAPP)
The West Africa Agricultural Productivity programme (WAAPP) is a sub-regional programme of ECOWAS coordinated at the sub-regional level by the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD). In Nigeria, it is coordinated by the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) of Federal Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development (FMA&RD) through a WAAPP Project Coordination Office (PCO).

In 2005, the World Bank designed the African Action Plan (AAP) as the centrepiece of its strategy to help Africa and its sub-regional groups such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to reach the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing the number of hungry people by 50% by 2015.

- 78 NAMDA staff were trained on seed production technology;
- 119,615kg of certified seeds (made up of rice - 93,465kg, maize -18,270kg and sorghum- 7,880kg) was received from WAAPP and are being distributed to farmers for cultivation;
- 8,000kg of foundation seeds (made up of rice – 4,000kg, maize -3,000kg and sorghum- 1,000kg ) and 10,139 tubers of yam foundation seeds was received for multiplication into certified seeds by NAMDA;
- The WAAPP seed distribution was flagged off by the Honourable Minister of state for Agriculture, Haj. Asabe Ahmed at Doko on 14th June, 2014;
- 5 Technical meetings/workshops were attended under WAAPP;
- 10 System of Rice intensification demonstration method were undertaken;
- Community Seed farm were established of Rice 180ha, Maize 115ha and Yam 1,3038 seed yam.

MAXIMIZING AGRICULTURAL REVENUE IN KEY ENTERPRISES AND TARGETED SITES (MARKETS II)
USAID MARKETS intervention in rice production in Nigeria included Niger State in 2007 but this was abandoned after the first year of project implementation. “The bulk of the rice production in the country still remains in the hand of small holders farmers who are limited by funds, poor commodity market development and farm management skill to give higher yield despite the potentials of the available varieties to exceed the present national average yield of 1.7 mt/ha”

MARKETS and BTM2 Rice Value Chain projects were successfully implemented in Anambra, Benue and Ebonyi States between 2006 and 2012 which led to increase in yield of about 5.0 mt/ha by organized out-growers using improved seeds, fertilizer and adopting best agronomic practices enshrined in the USAID MARKETS Packages of Practices (POP). In the recent past high capacity rice mills have been set up in the country to improve the quality of rice processing and some of them partnered with USAID MARKETS.

In 2013 MARKETS II launched the Training and Management of 4000 out growers in Rice Value Chain for increased productivity and engage DEVASS AGRO CONSULTANTS LTD as the services provider/sub-contractor with ONYX as the processor and the NAMDA providing the Supervisors and Extension Agents. The project was implemented in six local

continued
governments of Bida, Edati, Katcha, Gbako, Lavun and Wushishi and 50% of the networked farmers would be females and 30% youths. It was not possible to get 50% of the farmers to be females.

- 4,100 rice farmers were networked made up of 1,083 male adults, 467 female adults, 1,849 male youth and 721 female youth for the project;
- Pre-season training on rice production was undertaken at five locations in which 229 led farmers were in attendance;
- Six demonstrations were conducted using FARO 44 and FARO 52 in Gbako and Wushishi Local Government Areas;
- Five green and brown field days each were undertaken;
- Urea Deep Placement (UDP) technology was promoted and adopted by farmers;
- A brown field day session at one of the demonstration plot under MARKETS II.

N2 AFRICA PROJECT

N2Africa phase-II project aimed to increase biological nitrogen fixation and productivity of grain legumes among African smallholder farmers, contributing to enhanced soil fertility, improved household nutrition and increased cash income. Its funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). Implementation is under the supervision of International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) from 1st June 2014 to 31st March 2015.

The project will work with 1125 farmers in 3 local government of the State. A total of 45 lead demonstrations, made up of 21 for soya bean, 9 for cowpea and 15 for groundnut to be set up. These lead demos consist of a total of 1080 adaptation trials made up of 504 for soya bean, 216 for cowpea and 360 for groundnut.

During the year, trials were conducted on cowpea, soybeans and groundnut varietal screening and Nitrogen fixation comprising 675 resource constraint farmers in Kwakwa, Shakwadna, She (Shiroro LGA); Korokpam, Kwanayi, Selefu, Yandai, Lupma, Yidna (Paikoro LGA); Garatu, Pompo, Beji, Popoi, Gusase, Dubbo, Lapai Gwari (Bosso LGA). Also eighteen (18) farmers were trained in community seed production for Soya beans and Groundnut.

- 9 Extension staff and 90 farmers from Paikoro, Shiroro and Bosso LGAs were trained on Biological Nitrogen fixation in order to increase productivity in leguminous crops;
- Agricultural inputs/seeds made up of 675kg of cowpea, 630kg of maize, 600kg of soya beans, 400kg of Groundnut, 4,876kg of assorted fertilizers (2,500kg of SSP, 2,106kg of NPK and 270 kg of urea) and 21 sachets of 200g each of inoculants were received and distributed to farmers.

KOICA RICE PROCESSING COMPLEX PROJECT

A compressive Rice milling Complex is to be established in Bida under a technical assistance from the Korean International Cooperation Agency. Under the Agreement, KOICA will establish and operate the Mill, train the Nigerian counterparts and handover the management to them within for two years.

- Works commenced in 2010 with civil works at the site particularly with foundation laying reached advanced stage and machinery ordered;
- The Niger State Government provided a piece of land for the project at Bida, constructed a perimeter fence and gatehouse;
- Since 2011, due to logistics problem particularly finance the KOICA pulled out of the site with no any communication until recent;
- In June 2014, however, KOICA resumed communication with NAMDA with intention to resume work immediately at Rice Processing Complex and commision the project in the first quarter of 2015. To this effect, some correspondences have taken place between NAMDA and KOICA and a meeting of stakeholders was attended in Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Abuja.

Some of the obligations in the part of Niger State include the following:-

- Soil survey/cadastral map of the site.
- Provision of accommodation and security for KOICA experts.
- Provision of access roads and landscaping at the site.
- Responsibility of allowances for the NAMDA staff.
- Counterpart funding training programmes of farmers and NAMDA staff.
- Operating cost /logistics during construction phase of the mill and running of the mill after construction.
- Security provision for expatriate staff.

continued
CHALLENGES

• Inadequate funding of NAMDA activities and untimely payment of counterpart funds for special/donors assisted projects;
• Inadequate functional utility vehicles;
• Inadequate and or non-availability of functional office equipment such as computers, photocopiers, efficient internet facilities etc.;
• There exist vacant positions resulting from retirement and death in the areas of extension and security;
• Neglect and zero maintenance of ware houses/stores;
• Non-maintenance and dilapidation of zonal and main offices;
• Frequent power outage;
• Obsolete data-sampling frame;
• Low staff moral as a result of non-payment of field staff allowances and staff mobility as well as inadequate capacity building.

RECOMMENDATIONS

• Advocacy visits to high -evel decision-makers on the need to timely and adequately fund NAMDA activities;
• The Ministry should continuously expedite action on the memoranda submitted by NAMDA;
• Rehabilitation of ware houses/stores, the main and zonal offices;
• Filling of vacant positions.
FADAMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

SECTION A: THE THIRD NATIONAL FADAMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IMPLEMENTED (2009 – 2013)

The Third National Fadama Development Project (NFDP III) was a follow up to the Second National Fadama Development Project (NFDP II) which was initiated to address some of the lessons learnt under NFDP I implemented (1993 – 1999). The NFDP III is an International Development Association (IDA) Credit Facility represented by the World Bank. It was co-financed by the Federal Government of Nigeria, State Government, Local Government and Communities in terms of their Counterpart contributions. The NFDP III was implemented in 36 states of the federation and FCT. The NFDP III was implemented in five years period (2009 – 2013).

Project Objective
The Project development objective was to increase the incomes of users of land and water resources on a sustainable basis that relies on facilitation for demand driven investments and empowerment of local community groups and to improve productivity and land quality.

Project Development Objectives (PDOs)
The NFDP III has five major PDOs, which are:

- 75% of Fadama Households increase their average real incomes by 40% by 2013;
- 20% increase in yield of primary agricultural products of participating households;
- 10% of the replacement value of the common assets used for income generating activities of the users is saved annually (with effect from year 2011);
- Survey at mid-term and at project closing to show that at least 75% of the users expressed satisfaction with the operations, maintenance and utilization of RI and capital assets;
- Physical verification of operations, maintenance and utilization at mid term and at Project closing to show at least 50% of assets and infrastructure are operated satisfactorily, maintained and utilized.

Project Implementation Strategy
The (NFDP III) development approach was through Community Driven Development (CDD), which is a bottom up approach that empowers Communities / Associations to develop social and all inclusive Local Development Plans, whereby communities take responsibility for designing, implementing, operating and maintaining as well as monitoring and evaluating the subprojects prioritized in their Local Development Plan.

Project Coverage in the State
The participating LGAs in NFDP III were 21 LGAS viz: Agaie, Lapai, Katcha, Lavun, Suleja, Shiroro, Chanchaga, Kontagora, Magama, Mariga and Borgu. Other sare Gbako, Paikoro, Agwara, Gurara, Munya, Bida, Rijau, Mokwa, Wushisi and Rafi. The state is domesticating the project in other 4 LGAs which are Bosso, Edati, Tafa and Mashegu.

Target Beneficiaries
The project targeted beneficiaries are the largely recognized Economic Interest Groups of Crop and Livestock Farmers, Pastoralist, Fisher Folks, Hunters, Gatherers and Service Providers as well as vulnerable and the marginalized groups (e.g widows, elderly, unemployed youth, HIV / AIDS positive individuals).
PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

PROJECT OUTPUTS

i. Counterpart Fund Contribution (State, Local Government and Communities): The project stakeholder continued to meet their financial obligation with the sum of ₦276 million (7100%) and ₦192.00 million (79.34%) contributed by the State Government and participating LGA as counterpart fund contribution respectively, toward project activities 2009 – 2013, while, the beneficiaries contributed the sum of ₦95.455 million towards subproject implementation as Beneficiary Contribution. Group Mobilization and Local Development Plan Preparation. 125 Fadama Community Associations (FCAs) were formed under the Fadama III Project, with 2,183 Fadama User Groups (FUGs) formed;

ii. Numbers of Local Development Plans prepared for review and approval: 75 Local Development Plans (LDPs) were prepared, of which all the 75 LDPs were screened, approved by the Local Fadama Technical Committee (LFTC) and implemented/being implemented;

iii. Disbursement profile to FCAs and FUGs: The sum of ₦484.906 million was disbursed to 75 FCAs with 1,400 productive assets and 75 small scale community owned rural infrastructure subprojects implemented / being implemented. Similarly, 9 capacity building activities, 1,362 advisory service activities and 302 agricultural inputs support have been provided;

iv. Staff Training and Development (Facilitator, LFDO, PIU etc): To date, 46 Training workshops / seminars were attended by various Fadama III Project stakeholders of 513 man – training days. Similarly, 10 trainings were organized for various Fadama III stakeholders of 5,026 man training days;

v. Value additions: A total of 60 Fadama User Groups were trained on value addition activities. Various value addition activities being practiced are in areas of processing rice, cassava, sheanut, palm kernel and moringa (zogale) as well as fish preservation. Arrangement is being made with NAFDAC for registration;

vi. Job creation: Each of the 1,400 productive assets acquired engaged at least a person to man the subproject;

vii. Gender/Youth Empowerment: A total of 650 women groups and 150 youth groups were registered out of which 400 and 100 women and youth groups, respectively have benefited subproject implementation to the tune of ₦37.5 million for the former and ₦16.4 million for the later. Also, 25 youths received two months training on integrated farming; each youth became a point man and formed an Economic Interest Group to which funds have been disbursed to, as to implement their prioritized subprojects;

viii. Job creation for rural women and youths: About 921 jobs were created by the project including 319 for women and youths through acquisition and utilization of 1,400 productive assets;

ix. Partnership with Life Rehab Foundation To date the State Fadama Coordination Office undertook 1,362 advisory service activities and 302 agricultural inputs support during the period under review.

PROJECT INTERMEDIATE IMPACT

Our field observations since flag off of fund disbursement to FUGs and FCAs in November, 2009 reveals that the immediate outcomes are much in line with the State Vision 3:2020 and the attainment of MDGs. These include:

i. Creation of means of livelihood for 921 members of FUGs;

ii. Income generation from the user fees charged from the subprojects implemented. Survey reveals that averagely ₦7, 591.00, ₦4, 000.00, ₦20, 000.00, ₦12, 000.00 and ₦5, 000.00 revenue per month are generated from Agro Processing, Knapsack Sprayers, Fishing Equipment, Haulage Cart and Sewing Machine subprojects, respectively;

iii. Social capital formation among the 2,183 FUGs and 125 FCAs mobilized that have been federated at State and LGA levels;

iv. Capacity building of the members of FUGs/FCAs on Participatory Community Planning;

v. Contribution of ₦28.716 million into Fadama User Equity Fund account by 704 groups;

vi. Increased access of communities to economic rural infrastructures;

vii. Boosting of agricultural productivity through provision of agricultural inputs to 302 groups;

viii. Domestication of the project by the State in Four Local Government Areas;

ix. Appointment of Fadama Community members into Public Offices;

x. The State Fadama Coordination Office received various Merit Awards among which is the best performing State in 2012 – 2013 under the Third National Fadama Development Project in the country. The letter of commendation is in Annexure iv.
PROJECT IMPACTS

i. Income of participating household
Study assessing impact of Fadama III towards achieving the PDOs revealed that the average household generated an annual income of about ₦144,000.00, which exceeded the baseline average (₦125,000.00) by about 15% in 2011, and at Midline Study in 2012 average household generated an annual income of about ₦171,461.71, which exceeded the baseline average by 37.17%, suggesting good progression in income generation. Also, the Fadama III Endline Impact survey conducted in 2013 revealed that the average household generated an annual income of ₦314,710.70, which exceeded the baseline by 151% conducted in 2013.

ii. Yields of primary agricultural products of participating household
Also, study assessing impact of Fadama III towards achieving the PDOs revealed that the yield of few crops had increases above the national baseline average: Cassava - 16666.67kg/ha from 12505kg/ha (33%) in 2011 and to 23862.37kg/ha in 2012 as revealed by APS; rice paddy - 21194.97kg/ha from 1916kg/ha (11%) and cowpea - 719 kg/ha from 551 kg/ha (30%) in 2011 and 880.81kg/ha in 2012 as revealed by APS. Percent yield increases were observed in the following crops in 2008/2009 dry season APS over 2009/2010 dry season APS: Amaranthus 14.6, lettuce 125.17, maize 61.4, okra 23.82.

iii. Savings of participating groups
Study assessing impact of Fadama III towards achieving the PDOs revealed that the 32% of the households saved towards replacement of their assets as 631 beneficiaries groups (57% of groups with assets) are operating FUEF account in which ₦23.797 have been saved as replacement value of the assets acquired in their account within the period of February 2010 – December 2012. As at October, 2013, assets worth ₦285,213,927 million were acquired, with replacement value of ₦313,735,321. The value of their FUEF account is ₦28,716,261.65 contributed by 704 groups.

iv. Survey at mid-term showing users satisfaction with operation, maintenance and utilization of subprojects
The PDO study on household income generation, progression and sustainability under Fadama III implementation revealed that 70% of the household were satisfied with operations, maintenance and utilization of community owned infrastructure and capital assets. To date 40,637 out of the 44,927 FUGs members participating in the project shows that 92%, 94% and 85.27% of the beneficiaries are satisfied with physical operation, maintenance and utilization of subprojects implemented, respectively.

v. Physical verification and satisfaction of assets.
Survey reveals that 70 percent of the beneficiaries are satisfied with physical operation, maintenance and utilization of productive assets and rural infrastructure subprojects implemented. 1,033 subprojects acquired out of 1,475 implemented are satisfactorily operated, maintained and utilized.
FADAMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

1.0 BACKGROUND

i. This report covers activities of the Niger State Fadama Coordination Office from January – April, 2015 under the Fadama III + Additional Financing.

ii. The Fadama III + AF will support one of the key elements of Agricultural Transformation Agenda by focusing on improving farm productivity performance of clusters of farmers engaged in priority food staples namely rice, cassava, sorghum and horticulture in six selected states with high potential. The new strategy seeks to attract private investment in processing and milling, and other commercial aspects of agriculture around nucleus farms, with associated small-holder linkages such as out-grower schemes and contracting farming arrangements. The Fadama III + AF was effective in September, 2013 and to be implemented in four years period (2014 – 2017) with 2015.being the project year two (PY2).

iii. The Fadama III + Additional financing aimed to increase the incomes for users of rural lands and water resources within the Fadama Areas in a sustainable manner through the recipient’s territory.

iv. The Fadama III + Additional Financing has five major Project Development Objectives, which are:

   a. 75% of beneficiaries, who benefit directly from Project supported activities, have increased their average real incomes by at least 40%.
   b. 40% increase in yield cassava, rice, sorghum and horticulture of participating households.
   c. 10% of replacement value of the common asset used by the beneficiaries for income generating activities is saved annually (with effect from year 2).
   d. 75 percent of beneficiaries are satisfied with operations, maintenance and utilization of community-owned infrastructure and capital assets acquired through the Project.
   e. 50% of assets and community-owned infrastructure are operating satisfactorily and are maintained and utilized.

v. Rice is the mandate crop for the state under the Fadama III + AF with implementation focusing in the rice belt of the State particularly, around the Badeggi Staple Crop Processing Zone of Katcha, Lapai, Lavun, Gbako, Edati, Mokwa, Wushishi, Agaie, Gurara, Paikoro, Magama and Bida.

vi. The project targeted beneficiaries are the largely smallholder households (Fadama farmers)-that are already engaged in the production of rice on operational holdings of 0.25ha-2ha, and the young farmers—the agro-preneurs—who are the new entrants into agricultural enterprise, on average operational holdings of 2-5ha. These small holder household will be organized into Rice Production Groups (RPG) within a community (10 – 15 numbers) forms an apex organization called Rice production Cluster (RPC); it produces a Business Development Plan (BDP) for its constituent RPGs. The BDPs provides the basis for project investment in the Rice Production Clusters.

vii. The project has six components: (i) Capacity building, communications and information support; (ii) Small scale community owned infrastructure; (iii) Advisory services and input support; (iv) Support to the Agricultural Development Program, research and on-farm demonstrations; (v) Asset acquisition for individual Fadama User Groups / Economic Interest Groups; and (vi) Project management, monitoring & evaluation, and Environment Management Plan compliance.

continued
2.0 ACHIEVEMENT (IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS)
The key achievements are given below on component basis.

2.1 Capacity Building, Communication and Information Support
- Two meetings were held with the communities and community leaders in the Staple Crop Processing Zone of Badeggi.
- Farmers registration within the zone has also been conducted with a total of 2,635 farmers of 7,068.1 ha farm size have been registered.
- Validation of rice farmers list was undertaken on 7th May, 2014 by the MDAs under agricultural sector in the state including the NGOs and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development- State Office, as to collectively own the list for intervention by Fadama III + Additional Financing. Rice value chain stakeholder sensitization and meeting was conducted in order to articulate each of the stakeholder needs. Similarly, several meeting have been held with one of the major off takers Onyx Mill sited within the processing zone to find out their requirement in terms of variety and quantity of paddy rice and development of time schedule for the paddy rice requirement.
- Physical verification of the rice farmers in 10 Rice Production Cluster was undertaken by the Project Implementation Unit on 26th – 30th May, 2014.
- The NSFCO has conducted capacity building training on business plan development to 10 Facilitators and 1000 rice farmers.
- Various stakeholders attended 5 Training workshops of 145 Man Training Days.
- The Niger State Fadama Coordination Office produced 50 corrected Business Plans for Majin Gari, Badeggi and Eddo Production Clusters and was submitted to NFCO for review and funding.
- Needs Assessment of production Groups and Clusters towards preparation of 2nd Batch of Business Plan was continued by the Facilitators in Mokwa and Magama LGAs.
- Sensitization of Women Group in 9 LGAs of Zone B of the State on Fadama III Additional Financing in collaboration with Life Rehab Foundation was undertaken from 20th – 25th March 2015.

2.1.1 Communication and Information Support
- Community sensitization within the 30km radius of the Badeggi rice processing zone was carried out to farmers, community members and leaders, traditional title holders, Local Government officials, private rice millers and Researchers from National Cereal Research Institute (NCRI) by the Project Implementation Unit.
- Niger SFCO produced 39 slots each of radio and television programmes. These were aired and shown in Radio Niger – Minna, Bida and Kontagora and Nigerian Television Authority, respectively.

2.2 Small Community Owned Infrastructure
- The infrastructural needs of 10 Rice Production Clusters were articulated in the 100 Business Plans prepared and was sent to NFCO, in which 600 Tube wells and 600 irrigation pumps were demanded. Similarly, the Project Engineer carried out on-the spot identification for locations of the proposed irrigation Infrastructure in the 10 Production Clusters to ascertain the genuineness of the proposals.
- The Consultants / Engineer engaged by the National Fadama Coordination Office were in the State and visited some irrigation schemes – Majin Gari, Egbanl, Loguma and Edozhigi on 5th – 6th February, 2015 to identify possible areas of intervention.
- A verification team was in the State to verify the readiness of Fadama Federation to establish an Agricultural Equipment Hiring Enterprise (AEHE) Centre on 13th March 2015. The team visited Majin Gari and Badeggi Production Cluster farms, interacted with the farmers and inspected the proposed sites and other relevant documents that will qualify the Federation to access the assistance.

2.3 Advisory Services and Input Support
- Agricultural inputs needs of 100 Rice Production Groups in 10 Rice Production Clusters were articulated in the Business Plans that were produced and sent to NFCO for funding.
- The State Government has signed an MOU for Agricultural Extension Transformation Agenda.
- Niger State Fadama Coordination Office is collaborating with British American Tobacco (BAT) Foundation to boost rice production in the State with support of inputs worth $4 million to 30 farmers for 2014 production season as revolving funds.

2.4 Support to the ADPs, Sponsored Research and On-farm Demonstrations
- The Niger State Agricultural and Mechanization Development Authority signed MOU with the West African Agricultural Productivity Programme in which series of activities have been undertaken including meetings of various value chain platforms, preparation of workplans for various value chain platforms and distribution of certified and foundation seeds.
- The Federal Department of Agricultural Extension also distributed 22 motorcycles to some extension staff of Niger State Agricultural and Mechanization Development Authority.
- The Niger State Agricultural Mechanization Development Authority in collaboration with Niger State Fadama Coordination office trained 30 Women Groups in good quality rice processing.
- Community seed farms were established.
- The farmers received training on water management, fertilizer application, spacing and processing of good quality rice.

2.5 **Asset Acquisition for Individual FUGs/EIGs.**
- The State established Niger State Rice Investment Consortium with target of cultivating 100,000ha of rice in three years i.e by 2015. 20,000ha of rice were cultivated in 2013 with 5 Agricultural Equipment Hiring Centres established. Also, tube wells and irrigation pumps were provided for supplementary irrigation with about 70 million Naira credit facilitated for rice farmers.
- Inventory of small scale rice processing mills was undertaken.
- Training on Rice Processing was conducted for Rice Processors in collaboration with Niger State Agricultural Mechanization Development Authority on 17th – 18th November, 2014.

2.6 **Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation**

**2.6.1 Project Management**
- The component facilitated the meeting of the preparedness conditionality of the state to participate in Fadama III + Additional financing to include: signing of letter of intent by the State Government, identification of major off takers.
- The 1st World Bank Implementation Support Mission on Fadama III Additional Financing was received in the State on 10th - 12th June, 2014. The Mission assessed the level of preparedness for Additional Financing. The Team visited Rice Staple Crop Processing Zone and interacted with some Rice Clusters and Production Groups. They also paid courtesy call on the Honourable Commissioner of Agriculture and Rural Development. 
- Consultants to the House Committee on Rural Development of the National House of Assembly were in the State on 25th – 30th June, 2014 to assess the achievement made by Niger State Fadama Coordination Office in the Implementation of National Fadama Development Projects.
- The Niger State Fadama Technical Committee (NSFTC) held a meeting on 28th August, 2014.
- The State Fadama Coordination Office held a stakeholders meeting on 4th March 2015 with rice farmers, Off – takers, Agro dealers, Facilitators and Desk Officers to discuss modality and methodology of implementation of Fadama III + Additional Financing. Loan was also disbursed to 65 Women Groups totaling ₦1.5 million to help them boost their investments. Motorcycles were also distributed to Facilitators on loan basis to facilitate their mobility to sites.

**2.6.2 Monitoring and Evaluation**
- The Project Implementation Unit attended a meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and received Thailand delegation visitors on Rice production on 21st July, 2014. Field visit was also undertaken to some Fadama sites and subprojects by the delegation.
- The Niger State Fadama Coordination Office has prepared the Internal Implementation Completion Report / Review for the parent project since November, 2013 and submitted to NFCO.
- The Niger State Fadama Coordination Office had conducted the Fadama III Project Endline Impact Study with the report produced.
- The Project Implementation Unit attended Third National Fadama Development Project Additional Financing Orientation Workshop on 7th – 11th July, 2014 at Lokoja.
- The National Fadama Coordination Office Technical Assistance team was received in the State on 12th - 14th August, 2014.
- Field activities of Fadama III Additional Financing Baseline study was conducted in the State by the Consultant engaged from the National Fadama Coordination Office on 3rd – 13th November, 2014 and draft report was received.
- World Bank Consultant Technical Assistance Mission was received on 11th – 12th December, 2014 to determine the status of implementation readiness of the State in Fadama III Additional Financing.
- The Niger SFCO prepared 2015 Workplan and Budget.

**2.6.3 Procurement**
- The Fadama III Procurement Audit was conducted and the report was submitted to the National Fadama continued
Coordination Officer. Farmers groups in the 10 Rice Production Clusters were sensitized on procurement processes and procedures under Fadama III AF.
- A consultant was engaged to conduct Environmental Audit of Fadama III Project.
- The NSFCO received 10 motorcycles from NFCO and distributed to facilitator on loan.

2.6.4 Environment
- Environmental Audit of the Third National Fadama Development Project was conducted in the State and inception report of the study was received. The study was conducted in 5 selected LGAs in which 30 questionnaires were administered in each of LGAs. Samples of soil, water and air were taken for laboratory analysis to determine their quality.
- Environmental safeguards template was developed in the Business Plans in which all the safeguards issues were captured. Coordinates of farm lands in 10 Production Clusters were carried out and submitted along with the Business Plans Produced. Also, land titles are being compiled. The Production Clusters Chairmen are meeting with their District Heads to secure Customary Right of Occupancy for their Fadama Land.
- Draft report of the Third National Fadama Development Project Environmental Audit was received and reviewed.

2.6.5 Project Funding
The State Government supported project activities by paying the arrears 2013 Counterpart Funds to the tune of ₦60 million and has approved the release of the ₦60 million up front payment for Fadama III Additional Financing.

PLANNED ACTION FOR THE REMAINING IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD
- Fund disbursement to Rice Production Clusters;
- Monitoring of activities of the Production Clusters;
- Conduct of Midline and Endline Impact Studies;
- Preparation of the Project Implementation Completion Report.

GENERAL CHALLENGES
i. Delay in commencement of the project implementation;
ii. Untimely release of State and LGAs counterpart funds;
iii. High running and maintenance cost of vehicles as a result of old age.

RECOMMENDATIONS / REQUIRED ACTIONS
i. The World Bank should fast track disbursement;
ii. Provision on new vehicles by the NFCO;
iii. Advocacy visit to government officials.
1.0 Background
The Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) is a Community Driven Development (CDD) Project and its development objective is “to increase access by the poor to improved social and natural resource infrastructure services in a sustainable manner.” Therefore the CSDP supports:

(i) The empowerment of communities to develop, implement and monitor micro social infrastructure projects including natural resource management interventions; and

(ii) Strengthening the skills and capacities of Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and sectoral public agencies to support communities and build a partnership between them.

The Project has three components:
Component 1: Coordination and Program Support (Implemented at Federal Level):
Component 2: LGA/Sectoral Ministries Capacity and Partnership building:
Component 3: Social Community-Driven Investments.

Funding Profile
Expected State Government Contribution - ₦500,000,000.00
Actual Receipts - ₦295,000,000.00
Expected World Bank /IDA Contribution - ₦750,000,000.00
Actual Drawdown - ₦787,314,642.79
Interest & other Miscellaneous Receipts - ₦3,097,055.00
_Total Income_ - ₦1,085,411,697.79

Disbursement Profile
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>281,578,677.19</td>
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continued
The Niger State Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) is currently supporting the implementation of 74 Community Development Plans (CDPs) in 13 LGAs spread across the three senatorial districts of the state. The CDPs comprise of 215 micro projects cutting across education, health, water resources, environment, rural electrification, socio-economic, and transport sectors; out of which 143 have been completed, 29 are ongoing while 43 have not been started.

Furthermore, following requests by the Chief Servant of Niger State and other State Governors for extension of the CSDP closing date and additional financing, the project which was scheduled to close in December 2013 was extended to September 2015, during which period participating states are to use counterpart contributions for project implementation. The additional financing of USD140m was also approved for Nigeria. Therefore the present phase of the project will close on September 30, 2015; while the additional financing from which the state expects to drawdown more than N1 billion naira will soon become effective, and would be implemented in three years.

2.0 Achievements

Component 2: LGAs / State Agencies Capacity Building & Partnership Results
- Enhanced knowledge and skills of Agency staff for effective project management
- Improved capacity of LGAs/MDAs personnel for Community Driven Development (CDD) approach
- Increased LGAs budgetary provisions and expenditure for CSDP activities
- Enhanced partnerships between LGCs and their communities
- Enhanced capacity and skills of rural community members for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their development plans
- Enhanced sustainability of CSDP community investments for human development

Component 3 – Social Community Driven Investments Results

A) Sectoral Results
- Increased primary schools pupils (males and females) enrolment
- Improved learning and teaching condition
- Increased number of Women with access to ante/post natal services
- Increased number of children immunized
- Reduction in average time spent on fetching water from 0.6hrs to 0.28 hrs
- 1,552 households now connected to electricity
- 40% reduction in the cost of transportation

<table>
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<th>Output</th>
<th>Impact/Outcome</th>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td><strong>Impact/Outcome</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. 99 classrooms constructed</td>
<td>i. Increased primary schools pupils (males and females) enrolment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. 9 classrooms renovated</td>
<td>ii. Increased secondary schools students (males and females) enrolment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii. 41 Headmasters Offices constructed</td>
<td>iii. Enhanced learning of science subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv. 1,818 pupils chairs provided</td>
<td>iv. Reduction in average time taken to get to school from 37min to 23min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. 137 teachers chairs provided</td>
<td>v. Reduction in average distance to schools from 1.5 km to 0.7km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vi. 121 teachers tables provided</td>
<td>vi. Improved learning and teaching condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vii. 12 types of instructional materials provided</td>
<td>vii. Improved public health and hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viii. 1 set of science laboratory equipment provided</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ix. 74 VIP toilets constructed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x. 111 Teachers (85 Males &amp; 16 females) posted to schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

continued
| Health | i. 28 Health centres constructed  
ii. 6 Health centres renovated  
iii. 3 staff quarters constructed  
iv. 19 incinerators constructed  
v. 184 beds provided  
vi. 152 chairs, 46 tables and 50 benches provided  
vii. 81 Medical Staff (45 males & 36 females) deployed to facilities | i. Reduction in average distance to health centres from 9.2km to 3km  
ii. Increased number of Women with access to ante/post natal services  
iii. Increased number of children immunized  
iv. Conducive residential accommodation for Health workers |
|---|---|
| Water Resources | i. 77 manual boreholes drilled  
ii. 31 motorized boreholes drilled  
iii. 1,669 meters reticulated  
iv. 127 Water fetching points established | i. 86.3% reduction in cost of water  
ii. Reduction in average time spent on fetching water from 0.6hrs to 0.28 hrs  
iii. Reduction in incidence of water borne diseases |
| Rural Electrification | 11 rural electricity projects completed | i. 1,552 households now connected to electricity  
ii. 265 small scale businesses established  
iii. Reduction in fossil fuels use for domestic energy  
iv. Enhanced security |
| Transport | i. 35 kilometres of 11 feeder roads rehabilitated  
ii. 32 kilometres of 3 feeder roads constructed  
iii. 42 culverts constructed  
iv. 3 mini bridges constructed | i. 65% reduction in average travel time  
ii. 40% reduction in the cost of transportation  
iii. Easy access to Homes, Markets, Schools and Farms |
| Environment | 2 Public VIP toilets | Enhanced sanitation and improved personal hygiene |

### B) Social Services Results
- CSDP intervention in Niger State has increased access of approximately 384,869 rural people in the State to improved social and environmental management infrastructure services. It contributes significantly to the achievement of the State’s grassroots development strategy.

#### Planned Actions
- Completion of all the ongoing 29 micro projects, between now and September 30, 2015, which is the closing date for the present phase of CSDP.
- Preparatory activities for ensuring that the state becomes effective on the CSDP – AF between now and September 30, 2015;

#### Challenges

##### A) Completion of the Present phase of CSDP
- Non release of outstanding ₦205m of the approved Niger State Government contribution (₦5m and ₦200m from the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Local Government, Community Development and Chieftaincy Affairs, respectively), has stalled effective project implementation.

##### B) Participating on the CSDP Additional Financing
- An upfront Payment of ₦150m which is an effectiveness condition for the state’s participation in the CSDP Additional Financing

#### Required Actions
While effectiveness of the CSDP-AF is been awaited, the CSDA needs to continue with the project activities, most especially completion of ongoing micro projects and also work towards meeting the effectiveness conditions. Thus, payment of the outstanding ₦205m (₦200m and ₦5m by Ministry for Local Government, and Ministry of Finance, respectively) will ensure the continuation of implementation of the CSDP during the period of waiting for the effectiveness of the CSDP Additional Financing; while efforts to get the State Government’s approval and release of the initial counterpart of ₦150m will guarantee the participation of Niger State in the CSDP Additional Financing.