



**ABIA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
ACTION PLAN
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE
2018 - 2020**

Table of Contents

1. ACRONYMS

2. FOREWORD

3. SECTION 1

- Introduction
- Overview of State Action plan
- Local Governments and Communities Engagement
- Summary of State Action plan Commitments by Thematic Areas

4. SECTION 2

- Progress Till Date in Open Government Partnership Initiatives

5. SECTION 3

- METHODOLOGY
- Developing Abia State Action Plan

6. SECTION 4

- Fiscal Transparency
- Access to Information
- Citizens Engagement and Empowerment
- Service Delivery

7. SECTION 5

- Implementation and Co-ordination Plans

8. SECTION 6

- Cross-Cutting Areas

9. SECTION 7

- Local Government Commitments

10. SECTION 8

- Conclusion

ACRONYMS

ASHA	Abia State House of Assembly
ASIPPA	Abia State Investment Promotion and Protection Agency
ASBA	Abia State Small Business Agency
ASLGSC	Abia State Local Government Service Commission
ASEPA	Abia State Environmental Protection Agency
G2C	
C2G	
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
MAN	Manufacturers Association of Nigeria
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NBA	Nigerian Bar Association
NEITI	Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
NUJ	Nigerian Union of Journalists
OGP	Open Government Partnership

FOREWORD

I am delighted that Abia State has subscribed to the Open Government Partnership (OGP) – a cardinal transparency, accountability and anti-corruption initiative which proposes a new model of state reform and modernization of public administration to improve value to the public of the delivery of public services in an equal and reciprocal manner. It is based on an innovative way of coordinating public sector transparency, citizen participation, and stakeholders' collaboration. Our membership of the OGP reaffirms my administration's commitment to public sector governance reforms, improved and conducive business environment and citizens' involvement in governance. This action plan covers the period 2018–2020 and builds on the success of previous governance reforms with a more targeted set of commitments and action points seeking to integrate citizens' centeredness and transparency into government's daily activities. The Plan spans four main areas identified as catalyst to effective functioning of government institutions and economic growth namely fiscal transparency, public right to information, citizens' participation and improved service delivery. As a government, we are committed to the social and economic transformation of the state through the promotion of industrialization via Enyimba Economic City and the promotion of Made in Aba (Abia) concept. In this action plan we have taken measured strides to align economic development with improvement in transparency, accountability as well as in citizens' engagement in many facets of government business. To deepen the democratic process, as well enhance inclusion, openness, transparency and accountability, our approach will be a bottom-top policy and project input framework that will allow for a wider participation by all communities and other relevant stakeholders in the development of the State.

We intend to follow the qualitative state action plan through with a very determined, context-driven and detailed development process. It is my pleasure, therefore, to state that the commitments reflect Abia State contextual issues identified and assessed over several months of robust engagement in a collaborative manner between government officials and non-state actors. It underscores our belief that the people should take ownership of their government. It is staggering to think how far we have already come. Within the last two decades, democratic governance has become transformed by improvement in technology and innovation especially a digital revolution which has fundamentally changed the distribution of power and the scale and speed of human connection. Abia State Government has deliberately engaged these instruments to energize the people and to make government processes open and responsive to the needs of the people. While we will engage all such necessary instruments to achieve the best of results, I must not fail to recognize the necessity of collaboration. Thus far, the development of the first Abia State Open Government Partnership Action Plan was the outcome of the collaboration and rigorous involvement of several government officials, non-state actors, civil society representatives and private citizens. We hope to continue to improve on the level of collaboration that has got us this far in the process of implementing the work plan even as we seek to reinforce our position as leader in public service delivery in Nigeria.

**DR. OKEZIE VICTOR IKPEAZU,
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR
ABIA STATE
NIGERIA.**

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

I. INTRODUCTION

Open Government Partnership (“OGP”) is an international initiative aimed at enlisting support and ensuring partnership between governments and the governed to forge trust and promote integrity, transparency, efficiency and accountability in public administration. This is achieved by forging collaboration between the government and the citizens represented by Non-State Actors (Including Non-Government Organisations, Civil Society organisations, Organised Private Sectors and Private Businesses, the Academia, Women and Youth Groups, as well as Town unions, Community Development Associations and Cultural Associations etc.). The overriding objectives include empowering citizens to participate in governance, combating corruption, enabling access to information and harnessing new technologies, in connection with achieving more effective and accountable service delivery in public administration.

Abia State Context:

Abia State transformed from a military dictatorship to a people-led democratic state in 1999. The very process of exiting from military dictatorship to representative democracy involves consultation and engagement with the various components of the community. The transformation led to the establishment of a framework for new structures, systems and democratic ethos based on the principles of transparency and accountability. However the impact on service delivery and citizens’ participation has been very minimal over the first decade and half after the restoration of democracy. The present administration is committed to ensuring that the state government becomes more open, accountable and citizen centric in the administration of the public trust placed on it by the electorate.

Given this challenge, Abia State Government through the OGP, is set to ‘‘increase public integrity by improving public services, enhancing citizens participation and empowerment, effectively managing public resources and increasing accountability’’. The Abia State OGP Action Plan will therefore focus on measures to:

- Enhance a more effective management of public resources;
- Ensure a more effective delivery of public service in the key sectors of health, education and agriculture;
- Establish enduring and user friendly mechanisms for meaningful citizen engagement in policy development and implementation processes;
- Hold government officials accountable to the public and the communities they serve.

Hon Obinna Oriaku
Hon. Commissioner
Ministry of Finance
Co-Chair –Government

Comrade Nelson Nnanna Nwafor
Executive Director, FENRAD
Co-Chair, Non-State Actors

,

OVERVIEW OF THE STATE ACTION PLAN

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan in Abia State is anchored on 4 thematic Pillars and supported by 9 potentially impactful commitments.

a. Fiscal Transparency:

Revenue Generation, Budget and Public procurement processes are conducted with input from the people, the relevant information is available, accessible and easy to understand. Allowing the people to track how their monies are spent and understand how government fiscal decisions are made are key elements of good governance.

b. Access to Information:

The people have the right to access publicly held information. Thus there is a legal obligation on the part of the government to disseminate certain information and records in a proactive manner. Therefore a clear system and standards for the creation and management of public information and records will be established. Citizens by this will have the tools and information they need to hold government to account, which builds trust on public institutions.

c. Citizen Engagement and Empowerment:

This theme ensures that people are empowered to meaningfully interact with and participate in government decision making process through a continuous dialogue mechanism utilizing an easy to understand platform. A legal obligation is created on the part of the public service to routinely involve citizens in government activities, including policy formulation and implementation. The people are afforded the opportunity to make their voices heard on government policy and programs from the start.

Abia State Government will embark on training and capacity development of leadership of the various component communities to enhance their participation in the government process. This will include training, identification, development, implementation and monitoring of Abia State Community Needs Identification Initiative (CNII).

The state is committed to more effective utilisation of public resources at the local government and community levels; consequently, the transparency and accountability frameworks and citizen empowerment ideals of the OGP will be cascaded down to the local government areas and the constituent communities and villages. The State shall be establishing OGP Desk offices in all the local governments to ensure effective implementation of relevant OGP commitments at that level.

d. Service Delivery:

The Challenges of public sector inefficiency, waste and abuse are addressed by development and implementation of service charters and the involvement of citizens in the tracking and evaluation of progress.

Summary of State Action Plan Commitment by Thematic Areas

Table 1: Summary of State Action Plan Commitments by Thematic Areas	
<i>Fiscal Transparency</i>	
i.	Ensure Increased Transparency and Accountability and Enhance Citizens’ Engagement, in the State Budget Process
ii	Ensure Transparency in Public Procurement Process through full Implementation of Abia State Public Procurement Law And Adoption Of Open Contracting Standards.
iii	Ensure More Effective and Transparent Revenue Generation and Utilization Process.
<i>Access to Information</i>	
iv.	Establish the Legal Right of Citizens to Information and Records in Government Custody.
<i>Citizen Engagement and Empowerment</i>	

<i>Service Delivery</i>	
vi.	Establish and Implement Service Charter for Improved Service Delivery in the Education and Health Sectors.
vii	Ensure Climate Change Resilience and Natural Resource Transparency.
viii	Establish the provision and adoption of an integrated agile information communication technology system & structure to ensure a robust and seamless G2C, and C2G engagement for all Abia State government business activities
ix	Ensure that implementation and outputs of the OGP Commitments are on track and that the objectives, goals are achieved

AMAECI CHUKWU
STATE OGP FOCAL/COORDINATOR

SECTION 2

PROGRESS TO DATE IN OPEN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Over the last three and half years, the Governor Okezie Ikpeazu led government have made great efforts to develop all levels of the society in order to improve the business environment and create a favourable business climate, increase transparency and accountability in the conduct of public administration. The governments have also made great efforts to transform government and reduce waste as well as address inefficiencies associated with bureaucratic processes and procedures, thus improving the quality of the services provided to citizens. Closely aligned to these efforts are significant progress made in implementing a range of cross-cutting measures aimed at combating corruption; enhancing citizen participation and promoting the administration of justice.

a) **Public Procurement:**

The previous administration in the state enacted the Public Procurement Law to guide the open and transparent procurement system and establishment of a process that ensures a more prudent utilization of funds and execution of public works and services. The current administration in furtherance to the implementation of the provisions of the Law established the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) to deepen the implementation of open and transparent procurement process in the state. The State BPP through the Public Sector Governance Reform and Development Projects developed different procurement tools and processes in order to further activate the provisions of the Public Procurement Law

b) **Open and Participatory Budgetary Process**

The state has increased the involvement of the people in the budget process through the involvement of Non-State Actors (Civil Society Organisations/Professional Associations) and Communities through the (Community Needs Identification Initiative) in the budgeting process. In addition, the State House of Assembly routinely holds public hearings on the budget.

c) **Single Revenue Account:**

The state introduced this mechanism to block leakages and ensure accountability in government transactions. Implementation has led to increased generation of government revenues.

d) **Medium Term Sector Strategies (MTSS);**

The MTSS is aimed at providing guidance to prioritize government spending within identified key sectors such as:

1. **Education**

2. Environment

3. Agriculture

SECTION 3 METHODOLOGY

DEVELOPING THE ABIA STATE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP) ACTION PLAN

Development of Abia State Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan effectively commenced with a flag-off of a multi-stakeholders consultation on 20 September 2018 by the Deputy Governor Sir, Ude Oko Chukwu. The two Days multi-stakeholders meeting organised by the State and facilitated by the OGP National Secretariat resulted in the production of a Zero Draft Action Plan on the 21st September 2018. While the Government Actors met on 20th September to identify commitment areas, the Non-State Actors on the other hand met on 21st September 2018 to identify their own commitment areas. Following from that meeting another broad multi-stakeholders meeting was convened on 17 and 18st October 2018 to validate the Action Plan Commitment Areas from both Government and Non-State Actors. The Action plan was created to effectively address the identified OGP challenges in the state within the contextual issues as well as aspirations of different stakeholders in the State. In summary, it undertook robust and rigorous public consultation activities, which included:

- i. Engagement with key Government Actors**
- ii. **Awareness Creation** of the OGP process through media engagements;
- iii. **Open Alliance facilitated Consultations with the Civil Society / Non-State Actors**
This involved extensive conversations and discussions with Non-State actors including Civil Society Organisations to foster shared understanding of the Open Government Partnership Initiative.
- iv. **Trainings and Capacity Enhancement of both Government and Non-State Actor on the OGP Process**
Trainings and workshops were held on the relevant processes and the development of the action plan;
- v. **Priorities Development**
Here priorities were identified and reviewed; prospective theme and commitment areas were developed at stakeholder consultative meetings involving both government and non-government actors;
- vi. **Multi-Stakeholder Meetings**
A series of workshops identifying; harmonizing the positions of government & non-government actors and validating commitments for the draft action plan were held with different stakeholders resulting in many productive feedbacks and inclusion of fresh aspirations which improved the action plan and increased stakeholders' ownership of the Open Government Partnership initiative.
- vii. **Finalizing the Action Plan** – the harmonized and validated state action plan was finalized by a multi-stakeholder meeting.

SECTION 4

THE COMMITMENTS

4.1 Fiscal Transparency

Thematic Area:		Fiscal Transparency
Commitment 1:	Ensure Increased Transparency & Accountability and Enhance Citizens' Engagement, in the State Budget Process.	
Start and end date:	2018 -2020	
Lead MDA:	Abia State Ministry of Finance	
Responsible person:	Obinna Oriaku	
Designation:	Hon. Commissioner for Finance	
Email and Phone:	noblinkeze@yahoo.com/08033170422	
Other Actors involve in implementation:	MDAs	Abia State Planning Commission, Office of the Head of Service, Committees of Finance, Public Accounts and Appropriation of State House of Assembly, Ministry of Rural Development, Cooperatives and Poverty Reduction, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, State Board of Internal Revenue Service, Office of the Accountant-General, State Office of the Auditor-General and Auditor-General of the Local Governments
	CSOs, Private sector, etc.	ACCIMA, ASANGO, ASSOCIATION OF ABIA TOWN UNIONS, ABIA OGP-TWGs, NBA, NMA, NUJ,ASMATA, NURTW, etc

General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	The State Budget Process has continued to suffer credibility deficit owing to lack of budget performance reporting and citizens involvement.	
Main Objective:	To Enhance the Credibility of the Budget Process and Increase Inputs by Citizens in the Entire Budget Process.	
Brief description of commitment:	This commitment improves citizen’s involvement in the budget process and also builds a foundation for accountability and transparency.	
Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective Management of Public Resources; • Enhanced Citizen’s Participation; • Improved Public Services; 	
Rationale for commitment:	To improve citizen’s participation and ownership of the budget process and improve transparency and accountability by the government leading to increased trust by the citizens on Government.	
Expected Outcome/impact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improved transparency and accountability. ii. Enhanced sustainability of all projects. iii. Increased participation from the citizens. iv. Improved government accountability through regular budget performance reporting. 	
Performance Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Number of Town Hall meetings ii. Number of non-state actors involved in the budget process iii. Number of Audit Forum held 	

	iv. Online Publication of the Budget v. Publication of citizens guide to the state budget vi. Number of public hearing in the House of Assembly vii. Frequency and quality of budget performance reporting		
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	Online Publishing of the State Budget Calendar and the 2019 budget	February 2019	-
2	Conduct Budget Town Hall Meetings across the three Senatorial Zones and Publish the Outcomes.	June, 2019	July, 2019
3	Publish a comprehensive citizen's guide to the budget.	April, 2019	
4	Conduct Budget Public Hearing at the House of Assembly	January, 2019	March, 2019
5	Issuance of Quarterly Budget Performance Report.	End of Each Quarter, 2019	
6	Conduct State-level Audit Forum	End of each 3 rd Quarter	
Source of Funding:		State Government Budget, OGP National Secretariat and Development Partners.	

Thematic Area:		Fiscal Transparency
Commitment 2:	Ensure Transparency in Public Procurement Process through full Implementation of Abia State Public Procurement Law And Adoption of Open Contracting Standards.	
Start and End Date:	2018 – 2020	
Lead MDA:	Bureau of Public Procurement	
Responsible Person:	Rt Hon Kalu Uduma	
Designation:	Director-General	
Email and Phone:	kaluigu@yahoo.com ; 08033253372	
Other Actors Involved in implementation	MDAs	Abia State Public procurement Board, Ministry of Works, Abia State Planning Commission, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health etc.
	CSOs, Private sector, etc.	ACCIMA, ASANGO, ASSOCIATION OF ABIA TOWN UNIONS, ABIA OGP-TWGs, NBA, NMA, NUJ,ASMATA, NURTW, etc
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	A state procurement practice has not been in full compliance with the State Public Procurement Law and there has not been established or adopted an open contracting standard for the State.	
Main Objective:	To improve compliance with the State Public Procurement Law and ensure effective Open Procurement Process.	
Brief description of commitment:	This commitment seeks to improve transparency in the Procurement Process and compliance with the State Procurement Law.	

Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Public Services; • Increasing Public Integrity and Accountability; • Effective Management of Public Resources; 			
Rationale for commitment:	This commitment will enhance public integrity and more prudent utilization of public resources.			
Expected Outcome/impact:	Increased participation of the citizens and enhanced trust in the procurement process			
Performance Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in contracts awarded through open competitive bidding. • Increase in the number of citizens participating in the Procurement process • Increase in the flow of information to the public on procurement issues • Development of a procurement data bank • Establishment of procurement portal 			
Specific Activities/Milestones			Start Date	End Date
1	Adoption of Open Contracting Standards and training of public institution employees on the Open Contracting Standards		January, 2019	March, 2019
2	Establish Public Procurement Website/portal.		March, 2019	December, 2019
3	Establish open contracting forum comprising of government, Civil Society and Private Sector to ensure sustained engagement and improved procurement processes.		March, 2019	June, 2019
4	Development and regular publication of periodic expenditure profile		At end of each quarter, 2019	
Source of Funding:		State Government Budget, OGP Secretariat, Development Partners and the Private Sector		

--	--

Thematic Area :		Fiscal Transparency
Commitment 3:	Ensure More Effective and Transparent Revenue Generation and Utilization Process.	
Start and end date:	2018-2020	
Lead MDA:	Abia State Board of Internal Revenue Service	
Responsible Person	Udochukwu Ogbonna	
Designation:	Chairman	
Email and Phone:	kellyogbo2004@yahoo.com ; 08080353071	
Other Actor Involve in implementation:	MDAs	Abia State Internal Revenue Services, all revenue yielding MDA's.
	CSOs, Private sector, etc.	ACCIMA, ASANGO, ACCIMA, ASANGO, ASSOCIATION OF ABIA TOWN UNIONS, ABIA OGP-TWGs, NBA, NMA, NUJ,ASMATA, NURTW, etc ABIA OGP-TWGs, NBA, NMA, NUJ,ASMATA, NURTW, etc
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	Revenue Generation has been hindered by non-restructuring of the service, by poor cash management in the system, leakages and poor linkage between the utilization of proceeds and improved public service delivery.	
Main Objective:	To increase internally generated revenue by more prudent management of resources and increased citizens' trust through improved public service delivery.	

Brief description of commitment:	<p>This commitment seeks to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase revenue generation through better cash management and closing up of leakages and 2. Engender public trust in the State revenue drive through improved service delivery. 		
Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Public Service; • Increased Public Integrity and Accountability; • Citizens participation; 		
Rationale for commitment:	<p>Revenue generation will increase where there is a better management of cash and leakages in the system and Citizens are more willing to pay their taxes if they perceive the taxation process to be fair and equitable and could also link it to improved service delivery.</p>		
Expected Outcome/impact:	<p>Increased revenue generation.</p>		
Performance Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people and businesses pay their taxes • Voluntary tax compliance • Number of people complaining of multiple taxation reduced. • A single Account established - TSA 		
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	Harmonization of the Revenue Generation process to avoid multiple taxation	December, 2018	March, 2019
2	Issuance of directives to eliminate multiple taxation	December, 2018	March, 2019
3	Expansion of the tax net	December,	March,

		2018	2020
Source of Funding:	State Government Budget, OGP National Secretariat and Development Partners		

4.2 Access to Information

Thematic Area:		Access to Information
Commitment 4	Establish the Legal Right of Citizens to Information and Records in Government Custody.	
Start and end date:	2018 – 2020	
Lead MDA:	Ministry of Justice	
Responsible Person:	Chief Umeh Kalu	
Designation:	Hon. Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice	
Email and phone:	08036804415	
Other Actor Involved in Implementation:	MDAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Information • BCA, • Abia Newspapers, • ASPC, • Abia Library Board, • ABSHA, • Government Press, E-Library

	CSOs, Private sector, etc.	ACCIMA, ASANGO, ASSOCIATION OF ABIA TOWN UNIONS, ABIA OGP-TWGs, NBA, NMA, NUJ,ASMATA, NURTW, etc	
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	The state does not have any specific legal, legislative or administrative framework providing for the right of citizens to access information or records held by government.		
Main Objective:	To establish the right of citizens to access information or records in government custody.		
Brief description of commitment:	This commitment seeks to provide the citizens an enforceable right to access information; a procedure for the exercise of that right; and provide guidance to the public institutions on the implementation of an access to information regime.		
Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens' participation 		
Rationale for commitment:	The implementation of the commitment will enhance orderly and collaborative citizens' participation in governance.		
Expected Outcome/impact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improved citizens participation ii. Enhanced government accountability 		
Performance Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Policy on Freedom of Information created and publicized for implementation ii. Legal or Administrative instruments and directives issued. iii. Freedom of Information officers designated and trained 		
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	Develop Access to Information Policy, Administrative, Legal and legislative instruments and	January,	March,

	standards	2019	2019
2	Identify, select, appoint and train Access to information Desk officers	January, 2019	March, 2019
3	Design and Develop an Executive Order on Access to Information and public participation.	March, 2019	June, 2019
Source of Funding:		State Government Budget, OGP National Secretariat and Development Partners	

4.3 Citizen Engagement and Empowerment

Thematic Area:		Citizen Engagement and Empowerment
Commitment 5	Establish a Legal, Administrative or Legislative Framework for sustainable and continuous engagements between Abia Citizens and Government.	
Start and end date:	2018 – 2020	
Lead MDA:	State OGP Secretariat/Ministry of Information and Culture	
Responsible Person:	Amaechi Chukwu	
Designation:	State OGP Desk Officer/Coordinator	
Email and phone	metshee@gmail.com ; 08038949595	
Other Actors Involved in Implementation:	MDAs	Abia State Planning Commission, Ministry of Youth Development, Ministry of Sports Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Ministry of Cooperatives, Rural Development & Poverty Reduction, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs
	CSOs, Private	ACCIMA, ASANGO, ASSOCIATION OF ABIA TOWN UNIONS, ABIA OGP-TWGs, NBA, NMA, NUJ, ASMATA, NURTW, etc

	sector, etc.	
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:		Citizens Engagement has been on an ad-hoc basis employed by the government as the need arises. The establishment of a more enduring platform for government interaction with and feedback from the people is therefore of pre-requisite for building trust and partnership to accelerate development.
Main Objective:		To establish a clear, practical and open platform for a continuous interaction between the people and the government.
Brief description of commitment:		The commitment seeks to ensure a periodic but continuous avenue for the people and the government to engage and interact.
Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increases public integrity. 2. Public participation. 3. Improves public services.
Rationale for commitment:		To provide a tool for the citizens to be part of government and the government to receive inputs and feedback from the citizens.
Expected Outcome/impact:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased participation of citizens in governance. 2. Increased responsiveness by government to the people's needs. 3. Improved service delivery to citizens.

Performance Indicators:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Establishment of a legal or administrative instrument to direct and guide public institutions on the citizens right to participate in government. ii. Number of open and user-friendly platform for citizens/government town hall meetings. iii. Published list of platforms, timelines and venues for government engagement with the people. iv. Increased number of public meetings organized by the various MDAs. 	
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	Establish legal, policy or administrative Instrument for citizens' participation in government.	January 2019	March 2019
2	Advocacy in local languages for people to report concerns in a user friendly manner in and identifiable platform	March 2019	December 2019
3	Institutionalize citizens' forums in key ministries, departments and agencies	March 2019	December 2019
4	Establish a website/portal or office dedicated to receiving complaints and ideas on better governance.	June 2019	December 2019
5	Development of poverty map to guide government interventions	April 2019	December 2019
6	Adopt a technology based citizens' feedback Mechanism through a portal on the State OGP website and other websites of the MDAs.	December 2019	October 2020
Source of Funding:		State Government Budget, OGP Secretariat and Development Partners	

4.4 Service Delivery

THEMATIC AREA:	SERVICE DELIVERY	
Commitment: 6	Establish and Implement Service Charter for Improved Service Delivery in the Education and Health Sectors.	
Start and end date:	2018 – 2020	
Lead MDA:	Office of the Head of Service	
Responsible Person:	IROKANSI PATRICK	
Designation:	Permanent Secretary	
Email and Phone:	rockview@yahoo.com ; 08035487665	
Other Actors Involved in implementation:	MDAs	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Public Utilities, Office of the accountant general of the state etc
	CSOs, Private sector, etc.	ACCIMA, ASANGO, ASSOCIATION OF ABIA TOWN UNIONS, ABIA OGP-TWGs, NBA, NMA, NUJ,ASMATA, NURTW, etc
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a decline in the quality of service delivery in the identified key sectors. 	
Main Objective:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve efficiency in service delivery through the observance of service rules/regulations. 	

Brief description of commitment:	The commitment is aimed at making the institutions more responsive to their responsibilities.		
Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:	1. Public Service Delivery		
Rationale for commitment:	Need to improve the standard of living of the people through improved public service delivery.		
Expected Outcome/impact:	Better service, reduction in waste and abuse		
Performance Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of complaint on service failure in education and health sector. 		
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	Develop service charters in the Education and Health sectors.	March 2019	December 2019
2	Ensure development of teacher education policy as a measure to address poor teacher quality in the state.	March 2019	March 2020
3.	Rehabilitation of Educational and Health Infrastructure	March 2019	December 2020
4	Development of Education Sector Strategic Plan	March 2019	December 2019
Source of Funding:	State Government Budget, OGP National Secretariat and Development Partners		

Climate Change and Natural Resource Transparency

Commitment 7	Ensure Climate Change Resilience and Natural Resource Transparency.	
Start and end date:	2018 -2020	
Lead MDA:	Ministry of Environment	
Responsible Person:	Dr AHAM UKO	
Designation:	Hon. Commissioner	
Email and Phone:	ahamuko@yahoo.com ; 08033088876	
Other Actors Involved in Implementation:	MDAs	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Utilities, Water Board, Ministries of Lands Survey, Housing and Urban development, Ministries of Health, Women Affairs, Youth Development, Education, Agriculture and Rural Development. Science and Technology, Information and culture, Abia State Planning Commission. Development Partners, Waste Management Authority (ASEPA),and NEWMAP
	CSOs, Private sector, etc.	ACCIMA, ASANGO, ASSOCIATION OF ABIA TOWN UNIONS, ABIA OGP-TWGs, NBA, NMA, NUJ,ASMATA, NURTW, Association of Miners, Abia State, Development partners and relevant Corporate Organizations in Abia State
General problem/challenge	It is already very well understood in Abia State that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. In our context as a society, it poses the danger of flooding, loss of top soil,	

<p>addressed by the commitment:</p>	<p>gully erosion and land degradation, loss of livelihoods which has led to massive loss of infrastructure, agricultural land and even lives. As a primarily agrarian state, given the fact that the major national contribution to the global emission factor is from Agriculture, forestry and other land uses, a properly institutionalized, proactive and coordinated response to the impact on climate change is vital not only to the feeding and survival of the citizens but to the livelihood of the local farmers with the attendant multiplier effects.</p> <p>There is need for the increase in climate change resilience of local communities within the state. This can be achieved by putting in place appropriate climate change governance and institutional structures in the state including strengthening the capacity of government ministries, agencies, civil society and the private sector to respond appropriately to the issues and challenges of climate change in the various levels of governance in the state. This institutional framework would then be utilized to properly determine profile, analyse, assess, detail, collate and document the vulnerability index of the state empirically and hence design appropriate responses on mitigation and adaptation at the various levels.</p>
<p>Main Objective:</p>	<p>To achieve an appropriate climate change governance and institutional structure in the state including strengthening the capacity of government ministries, agencies, civil society and the private sector to respond appropriately to the issues and challenges of climate change in the various levels of governance in the state setting the stage for necessary steps to slow down and remedy the adverse effects of climate change as exemplified by flooding, erosion, landslides etc.</p>
<p>Brief description of commitment:</p>	<p>Under this commitment we will work together with other state /national government institutions, civil society, private sector, the academia, media, local communities and various</p>

	<p>social and cultural groups (including youth and women groups) to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate the creation and institutionalization of a proper climate change governance and institutional framework to drive, mainstream and coordinate the responses within the State. 2. Facilitate a proper profiling and vulnerability assessment of the state to empirically determine the state's circumstance and extent of environmental degradation resulting from erosion and other adverse effect of climate change while designing appropriate responses tailored to the mitigation/adaptation needs observed in the state. 3. Craft and coordinate a proper activity driven action plan based on findings and recommendations of profile and vulnerability assessment. 4. Promote inclusive participation, peaceful collaboration /mutual working relationship among stakeholders in the sub-sector to take action on issues raised in assessment. 5. Advocacy, sensitization and education of the citizens' on climate change issues.
<p>Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:</p>	<p>Mainstreaming climate change issues, properly coordinated institutional/government participation and response, More effective channelling and management of public resources to vital areas of need, Creating safer, more productive communities, Sustaining livelihoods and Citizens Participation.</p>
<p>Rationale for commitment:</p>	<p>Our commitment will help to lay the foundation for an effective, enduring and sustainable response against adverse effects of climate change while building capacity for climate change resilience which will help stabilize our ecosystem, enhance the capacity of our people to combat environmental degradation and push back a grave threat to our environment.</p>
<p>Expected Outcome/impact:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearly outlined climate change governance and institutional framework. 2. Fully staffed state department of climate change with relevant linkages with desk offices in

	<p>line MDAs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Accurately compiled state profile 4. Detailed and accurate climate change vulnerability assessment/analysis of the state. 5. Detailed, relevant and specific action plans for proper adaption and mitigation measures. 6. Increased ability /capacity for accessing funding for climate change related interventions and developmental projects at both state, regional, national and international levels. 7. Enhanced capacity for combating erosion and other adverse effects of climate change 8. Improved service delivery to citizens. 9. Introduction of Climate change education and citizen information/engagement
<p>Performance Indicators:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Approval for and set up of Governance and institutional framework on climate change. ii. Approval for and establishment of Department of Climate change and circular published. iii. Abia state Profile and Vulnerability assessment document produced. iv. Detailed action plan and activities from recommendations from (iii). v. Improved capacity at all levels of government in responding to climate change issues vi. Multi-stakeholder group constituted and linked to institutional framework for proper synergy. vii. Increased awareness and sensitization on climate change issues including enlisting of Teachers Trained to Teach Climate Change and NGOs, CSOs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> viii. Increased number of communities involved in flood and erosion control efforts ix. Increased number of trees planted annually x. Increased number of restored (degraded/eroded) land xi. Improved collaboration between government, citizens, development partners 		
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Prepare proposal and seek approval for set up of Governance and institutional framework on climate change. ii. Approval for and set up of Department of Climate change and established circular published. iii. Engage consultants for the Abia state Profile and Vulnerability assessment document. iv. Review of the Document produced. v. Detailed action plan and activities from recommendations in the profile and assessment document 	October 2018	December 2019
2	Establish a Multi-Stakeholder Group consisting state departments and others (representing industry, OGP State Secretariat, NEWMAP, non-government organisations	January2020	Dec 2020

	<p>and government) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. oversee the adoption and implementation of action plan ; ii. Identify possible sources of alternative funding for interventions and mitigation/adaptation measures. iii. Design a strategy with a focus on community engagement using NGOs, CSOs, for effective dissemination of information on climate change at the grass root level deploying citizen participation to spread adaptation measures with respect to agriculture and farming. 		
3	Work with the OGP Secretariat, Consultants and other stakeholders to develop a curriculum for the teaching of Climate Change in primary and post primary schools in the state.	January 2020	December 2020
4	Exploring and developing tools for better citizen participation (e.g. new forms of online participation; guidelines on dealing with various impacts of climate change)	January 2020	Dec 2020
5	Carrying out at least biannual town hall meetings on citizen participation	Jan 2020	December 2020
6	Carrying out at least biannual town hall meetings on citizen participation	Dec 2018	June 2019
7	Develop policies and programs for linking to ongoing climate risk responses and	Oct 2019	Dec 2020

	sustainable development like REDD++		
Source of Funding:	State Government Budget, OGP Secretariat and Development Partners and the private sector		

Technology and Innovation

Commitment 8	Establish the provision and adoption of an integrated agile information communication technology system & structure to ensure a robust and seamless G2C, and C2G engagement for all Abia State government business activities	
Start and end date:	2018 -2020	
Lead MDA:	Ministry of Science and Technology	
Responsible Person:	Chief Fabian Nwankwo	
Designation:	Hon. Commissioner	
Email and Phone:	08037412405	
Other Actors Involved in Implementation:	MDAs	ALL OGP Commitment Area MDAs
	CSOs, Private sector, etc.	ITPAN (IT Practitioners Association of Nigeria, Abia Chapter), IT Services & Business Centre Providers (Aba & Umuahia), OIIE-NITDA (SS-SE Coordinating Region, PH), COSON - Computer Society of Nigeria (Abia State Chapter), Nigeria Society of Engineers/IEEE (Abia State chapters), ATCON (Abia State Chapter), Online Media Practitioners of Nigeria (Abia), Each One Aid One Foundation, IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force, Abia Chapter), Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (Abia State Chapter,
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	Accountability and transparency in Abia state government business which has been hindered due to the unavailability of innovative, interactive and intuitive service based technology solution; as a tool for managing relationship between Abia citizens and government.	
Main Objective:	To utilize sustainable, innovative, information communication technology tools to increase participatory governance, promote Abia citizens' satisfaction and create a high quality performance culture within Abia State Government Bureaucracy. This serves the basis to power online all the OGP Commitment Area MDAs.	
Brief description of commitment:	The Innovation and Technology commitment seeks to ensure an intuitive, information communication open-technology platform for continuous, engaging and robust G2C and C2G engagement. Such	

	innovative technology tool must be resilient, agile, scalable and sustainable across all fronts.
Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Abia government business accountability, transparency and integrity using innovative information communication technology tools. • Engendering the culture of participatory governance and effective public resources management powered by innovation and technology tools • Creating responsive government which performance levels could be evaluated, monitored and tuned to align with best government business practices using information communication technology tools and solutions
Rationale for commitment:	Our commitment to using standard, robust, scalable and agile innovation & technology in form of an information communication technology tool will help to lay the foundation for online real-time participatory governance development and build Abia public trust necessary for an enduring and sustainable open government. The design, development and adoption of so technology provides a vehicle for powering all the other OGP commitment area MDAs and providing measurable, accountable, tunable public service delivery levels in Abia State.
Expected Outcome/impact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Abia citizens' access to government business via simple, affordable citizens' (end-user) devices. • Enhanced openness, monitoring, and evaluation in real-time, online/offline of Abia government business processes, activities, prospects and plans. • Acts as the one-stop smart power base for the OGP implementation and monitoring – the technology evaluation barometer for all other OGP commitment area MDAs. • Data Warehousing & Mining capabilities
Performance Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established integrated, interactive, agile Information Communication Technology portal that meets ICT standards and specifications.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability of an accessible, available, accurate e-government practices. • Increased citizens' awareness of all Government businesses, plans and actions. • Predictability by citizens and self-check, of all Government service delivery levels. <p>Increased openness and transparency for a robust and engaging G2C and C2G from an innovation and technology perspective.</p>		
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	<p>Establish an Implementation Committee (representing Industry/private IT sector players, Consultants and government) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design the OGP Innovation & Technology plan, - Provide Data source intelligence; - Match gathered intelligence to the OGP Innovation & Technology adoption framework plans: - Conduct a Compatibility estimation survey and assessment of any existing Abia G2C/C2G infrastructure. - Define the Innovation & Technology framework for the Architectural development, Content settings and Application process map design for the Information Communication Technology tool. 	Jan 2019	July 2019
2	Standard settings & Acceptability Tests:	Aug 2019	Aug 2019

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Run Technology run-time tests for scalability, service agility, compatibility tests, and robustness and UAT/Sustainability tests. - Technology Integration and Application implementation (Online, offline portal) - Carry out extensive Media/Publicity and Enlightenment for Citizens knowledge and uses about the new technology 		
3	Launch of Abia OGP Innovation & Technology Tools, and Services	Sept 2019	Oct 2019
4	Recurrent Technology Management & Optimization	Recurrent	Recurrent
Source of Funding:		State Government Budget, OGP Secretariat , Development Partners and private sector	

Monitoring and Evaluation

Commitment 9	Ensure that implementation and outputs of the OGP Commitments are on track and that the objectives, goals are achieved	
Start and end date:	2018 -2020	
Lead MDA:	Abia State Statistical Agency	
Responsible Person:	Nnanna Eze	
Designation:	Statistician-General	
Email and Phone:	ezennanna@gmail.com , 08064334383	
Other Actors Involved in Implementation:	Government	State House of Assembly relevant Committees, Abia State Planning Commission, State Bureau of Statistics
	CSOs, Private sector, etc.	M&E Technical Working Group
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tendency of deviating from the action plan • Need to take corrective actions while implementing plan • Measure the performance of theory of change that underlie choice of projects 	
Main Objective:	To ensure that intended goals are achieved and correctional measures taken while the project is running.	
Brief description of commitment:	Lack of framework for monitoring implementation could result in unintended deviations from the action plan. Thus the M&E framework provides the tool for the TWG and other government actors to review and make suggestions that will improve plan implementation	
Rationale for commitment:	To ensure that the plan achieve set objectives	
Expected Outcome/impact:	Effective implementation of the Work Plan	
Performance Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of meetings attended to review plan 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M&E tool developed to monitor plan • Number of quarterly TWG meetings and State Steering Committee meetings to review plan • Number of actions, workshops, town hall meetings, advocacy engagements, delivered by the TWG each quarter 		
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	Steering Committee meetings	30 th Jan 2019	30 th December, 2020
2	Develop and review M&E framework tool annually	30 th Jan 2019	30 th December, 2020
3	Receive report from the M&E TWG on quarterly basis	30 th Jan 2019	30 th December, 2020
4	Organise annual performance reviews and attend meetings	30 th Jan 2019	30 th December, 2020
Source of Funding:		State Government Budget, OGP Secretariat, Private Sector and Development Partners	

Section 5

Implementation and Co-ordination Plans

1.1 Context

The Abia State OGP Action Plan provides a road map to the actualization of the government's goal for achieving improved service delivery and better standard of living for the people.

This is based on the aspirations and domestic issues identified and prioritized by the people and government of the state. It speaks to the needs and strategies that would lead to an impactful but sustainable change in our communities.

1.2 State Steering Committee

Responsibility for the attainment of the goals of the action plan lies on all the stakeholders, but effective implementation is the responsibility of the State Steering Committee (SSC). The SSC is the highest decision-making body within the Abia OGP structure. It is made up of 22 members drawn equally from the public sector and non-state actors. There are also observers who attend and contribute to deliberations as non-voting members. Observers are included so as to get as wide representation of the society as possible.

Functions and Powers of the Steering Committee

The State Steering Committee (SSC) is drawn from civil society, private sector Actors and government institutions, and will ordinarily meet quarterly.

The roles of the SSC are to:

- Set high-level strategies, policies, and procedures;

- Provide targeted outreach and support to encourage members, government institutions, and non-state actors to meet their OGP commitments;
- Help with fund raising;
- Represent OGP and promote its accomplishments on the national and international platforms;
- Set a strong example by upholding OGP values and principles and make ambitious commitments;
- Recruit and brief new Steering Committee members during the second phase of the State Action Plan; Connect the State OGP Secretariat to key potential partners; and,
- Approve the Budget of the State OGP Secretariat and annual work plan.

1.2.1 Co-Chairs for the state OGP

The SSC is led by two Co-chairs. It comprises the Lead government Co-chair and CSO Co-chair. The Lead Government Co-Chair is to set the tone and theme during the two-year cycle, organize and convene the quarterly OGP meetings in the State and other high-profile events and campaigns. The two Co-chairs and the Head of the State OGP Secretariat (Desk Officer/Coordinator) will also serve as the governance and leadership sub-committee of the SSC.

Their responsibilities are to:

- Ensure vitality of OGP leadership by recruiting and orienting In-coming Co-chairs and members of the State Steering Committee;
- Work with the OGP Secretariat to plan and run Steering Committee meetings;
- Supervise the Head of the OGP Secretariat;
- Ensure sufficient funding for the OGP to achieve strategic objectives; and,
- Provide financial, legal and ethical oversight.

1.3 OGP Secretariat Management Team

The State OGP Secretariat will be led by the Focal Person/ OGP State Coordinator – who shall be the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Accounting Officer and would be assisted by such number of senior staff and support staff as may be required to ensure a smooth operation and also ensure that the interest of all stakeholders including the Non-State Actors and Public Sector Actors are harnessed and properly articulated and protected.

1.4 Technical Working Groups

Technical Working Groups is established along the thematic areas and related commitments headed by Co-chairs. Working Groups is made up of Representatives of MDAs, CSOs and private sector based on expertise and commitment.

1.5Accounts:

The OGP Secretariat shall maintain an account with commercial banks in the state and such account shall be managed by the State Coordinator/Focal Person who shall be a signatory to the account.

1.6 Funding

The State OGP process will be largely funded through government's annual budget, contribution from agencies that have primary responsibility on commitment areas and development partners.

Section 6

Cross-cutting Areas

To ensure effective implementation of the State OGP commitments, the SAP recognizes the imperative of a strong Information Communication Technology (ICT) presence; Strong Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and a Robust Finance System.

These three form the fulcrum of our cross cutting areas namely:

- a. ICT;

- b. Monitoring & Evaluation; and,
- c. Administration and Finance.

Achieving all the commitments and objectives under the SAP requires the effective utilization of the three tools. The specific working groups established are tasked with the responsibility of integrating these tools into the commitments under the thematic areas and will work closely with state and non-state actors in the use and implementation of these tools.

Section 7

Local Government Commitments

The State Government shall be cascading the principles of the Open Government Partnership in all the local government areas of the state.

Section 8

CONCLUSION

This first State Open Government Partnership Action Plan will help consolidate the on-going public sector reforms in the state. Working together with Non-State Actors and Development Partners, the state is hopeful of achieving the set goals and ensure improved service delivery, more effective utilization of public resources, re-establishment of public trust in government and deepening of democracy in our state.