



"SALT OF THE NATION"

EBONYI STATE

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)

STATE ACTION PLAN (SAP)

2022-2024

FOREWORD

The Government and people of Ebonyi State share the values of openness, transparency, citizen engagement, prudent management of public resources and improved public service delivery which the Open Government Partnership (OGP) seeks to promote. Our Administration in furtherance of our reform efforts joined the OGP in Nigeria on 27th October 2017 to deepen the efforts towards achieving an accountable and citizen-focused democratic society in Ebonyi State.

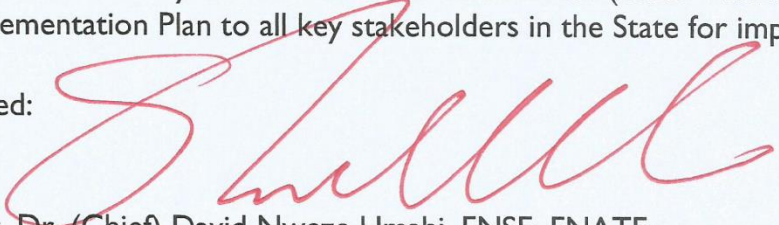
This OGP State Action Plan (SAP) recognizes and reflects Ebonyi State's priorities and responds to our contextual issues. The Action Plan was developed through a robust process of citizens' participation and collaboration with the government, and with support from the Nigeria OGP National Secretariat. It sets out how we will use the OGP platform to improve the lives of our people, empower the people to be part of governance, improve service delivery, learn and share lessons and experiences with others.

During the implementation of the State Action Plan, government will strive to use the OGP reform platform to pursue and sustain lasting changes in the way government and society operate, transferring power to the people and communities and ensuring that decisions are made in the best interest of all.

The OGP SAP builds and consolidates on the achievements of the State Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) programme, and other ongoing reforms like State Action on Business Enabling Reforms (SABER) programme. The commitments laid out in the OGP SAP aim to help our people to better understand how government works, enable them to make inputs and be in a position to not only influence decision making but also to more effectively hold government accountable.

We intend to use the OGP as a transparency and development tool for the ultimate benefit of the people of Ebonyi State. It is therefore, my pleasure to sign off and present the Ebonyi State OGP State Action Plan (2022 – 2024) together with the Implementation Plan to all key stakeholders in the State for implementation.

Signed:


Engr. Dr. (Chief) David Nweze Umahi, FNSE, FNATE
Governor of Ebonyi State

25/05/23

THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) was founded in 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens. Since then, OGP has grown from 8 countries to 75 participating countries.

In all of these countries, government and non-state actors are working together to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms to engage in peer learning and exchange with counterparts around the world, enabling the spread of new ideas and solutions to public policy challenges.

Nigeria signed onto the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2016. The Nigerian Open Government Partnership National Secretariat took steps to cascade the program down to sub-national entities and encouraged state governments to join the OGP in Nigeria and develop action plans towards the introduction and implementation of the principles within the relevant state. This encouraged the government of Ebonyi state to sign onto the OGP in October 27th, 2017. Prior to joining the Open Government Partnership, the State was already addressing the principles of the OGP in areas of:

- a) Transparency
- b) Citizens Engagement
- c) Access to Information
- d) Peace Building and Conflict Management

Ebonyi State was the first in Southeast Nigeria to enact laws and establish institutions including the enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility Law and the Public Procurement Law. His Excellency Engr. David Nweze Umahi, the Executive Governor of Ebonyi State upon assumption of office made Transparency and Development his watch word and took steps to ensure that our communities are taken into account in the development of government policies. No wonder Ebonyi State ranked second in the SFTAS programme in Nigeria.

The OGP efforts are being undertaken by a broad spectrum of our society including government functionaries, civil society organizations, the academia, organized private sector, professional associations and community development groups – including women, youth and representatives of people living with disability. With the ownership already assumed by local actors and the trust engendered in government by the public, Ebonyi State is on the path to sustainable development.

Hon Emmanuel Obasi
Principal Secretary to the Governor
Co- Chair Ebonyi State OGP

Commitment 1: Improve the ease of doing business, tax transparency and revenue generation in Ebonyi state.

Start and end date:	December 2022 to September 2024	
Lead Ministries	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	
Responsible Person:	Hon. Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development	
Designation:	Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development	
Email and Phone:		
Other Actors involved In Implementation	MDAs	Office of Accountant General, Office of State Auditor General, Office of LGA Auditor General, Fiscal Responsibility Commission, House of Assembly (House Committee on Appropriation, Clerk of the House, Public Account Committee’s liaison officer, CSO and independent reviewer), Ministry of Information and State Orientation, State Planning Commission, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Trade & Investment, Board of Internal Revenue, Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Matters and Rural Development.
	CSOs, Private Sector, etc.	Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Centre (HRCRC), Initiative for Social Change in Africa (VOFCA), Neighborhood Initiative for Women (NIWA), Health for the Society, Justice and Peace Initiative (HSJPI), Safe Motherhood Ladies Association (SMLAS), Agape Foundation for Literacy and Rural Development (AGAPE), Family Reformation and Community Development Initiative (FARICOD Development & Integrity Intervention Goal Foundation (DIG), Transparency and Economic Initiative (TEDI), Participatory Development Alternative (PDA), Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Catholic Diocese of Abakaliki Succor and Development Services Initiative (SUCCDEV), Methodist Care Ministry (MCM), Civil Resource and Development Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC) Nigeria, Federation of Muslims women’s Associations in Nigeria(FOMWAN), Joint Association of Persons With Disability (JONAPWD), Academia, Association of Town Unions, Media etc.

General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is multiple taxation, over taxation and arbitrary assessment. • Need to review tax law (Ebonyi State internal revenue service, for the collection and administration of Revenue due to Ebonyi State and Local Government Council Law (2020) . • Poor tax education • Poor taxpayer database • Low/inadequate capacity of tax administrators (assessment, collection, enforcement, accounting and reporting) • Use of Revenue/Tax Contractors
Main Objective:		To improve the ease of doing business and increase revenue generation in Ebonyi State.
Brief description of commitment:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve investor’s confidence in doing business in Ebonyi State • This commitment will create enabling environment for citizens to pay taxes, • Provide a legal framework and tax incentive for businesses to thrive.
Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insecurity 2. Multiple taxation 3. Tax incentive 4. Taxpayer database 5. Tax education – Seminars, Stakeholders meetings 6. Capacity building of tax administrators – Training Workshops 7. Inadequate power supply 8. Ease of registering businesses – New Administrative Guidelines and Proccess for Registration os Cooperative Societies in Ebonyi State
Rationale for commitment:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investors are leaving the state rapidly because of high tax rate/multiple taxation. • Loss of revenue by Government. • Inadequate technical capacity • Poor taxpayer database • Taxpayers are not well educated

Expected outcome/impact;		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved favorable environment for investors • Discourage Tax evasion • Increased Trust, confidence, and citizen participation in governance • Improved fiscal transparency • Improved tax awareness • Improved taxpayer database • Improved tax assessment and collection • Improved capacity of tax administrators • Satisfying citizens needs • Improved revenue generation
Performance Indicators:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Measurable improvement in internal revenue generation ($\geq 20\%$) ii. Increase in tax awareness ($\geq 10\%$) iii. Increase in taxpayer database ($\geq 10\%$) iv. Increase in Number of business registration v. Improved security in the state vi. Increased Number of non-state actors invited to public hearings by the legislature

S/N	Specific Activities/Milestones	Start Date	End Date
1	Quarterly Stakeholder consultative meeting	DEC. 2022	Sept 2024
2	Public quarterly Sensitization	DEC 2022	Oct 2024
3	Continuous engagement with House of Assembly members	DEC 2022	Sept 2024
4	Town Hall meeting with Gate keepers	DEC 2022	Oct 2024
5	Bi –annual Motivation of tax champions	Jan 2023	Sept 2024

6	Creation of One Stop Shop for coordinated Tax collection and other related matters	Feb 2023	Feb 2023
7	Yearly training of Tax officers	Jan 2023	Jan 2024
8	Establishment of Toll free line for customer care services	Dec 2022	Feb 2023
9	Making all budget documents available online	Feb 2023	Sept 2024
10	Conduct of tax enumeration/update of taxpayer database	June 2023	Jan 2024
Source of Funding:	Ebonyi State Government, Organized Private Sector, Citizens, OGP, CSOs and Development partners		

Thematic Area: Citizens' Engagement and Empowerment		
Commitment 2: Ensure a Regular Platform for Citizens Engagement with the Government especially in Budget processes and other Policies.		
Start and end date:	December, 2022September, 2024	
Lead Ministries	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	
Responsible Person:	Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development.	
Designation:	Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development	
Email and Phone:		
Other Actors involved In Implementation	MDAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Information and State Orientation • Ebonyi State Broadcasting Corporation, • Ebonyi State Newspaper Corporation, • Ministry of Human Capital Development and Empowerment • Ministry of Education, • Ministry of Justice, • Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, • Ministry of Local Govt, Chieftaincy Matters and Rural Development • Ministry of Youth and Sports, • Ministry of Internal Security, Border Peace and Conflict Resolution

	<p>Non State Actors (CSOs, Private Sector and Media etc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanity Foundation • Family Succour and Upliftment Foundation • Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Centre (HRCRC), • Initiative for Social Change (VOFCA), • Neighbourhood Initiative for Women Advancement (NIWA), • Health for the Society, Justice and Peace Initiative, • Safe Motherhood Ladies Association (SMLAS), • Agape Foundation for Literacy and Rural Development (AGAPE), • Family Reformation and Community Development Initiative (FARECOD), • Development & Integrity Intervention Goal Foundation (DIG), • Transparency and Economic Development Initiative (TEDI), • Participatory Development Alternative (PDA), • Nigerian Barr Association (NBA), • Catholic Diocese of Abakaliki Succour and Development Services Initiative (SUCCDEV), • Methodist Care Ministry (MCM), • Ebonyi People’s Assembly • Mother-Child Care and Development Forum (M-CCAD) • Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) • Anglican Diocese of Abakaliki Health and Community Development Initiative (ADOAHACDI) • Community Health and Development (CHAD) Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurship Initiative for African Youth (EIFAY) • Widows and Orphans Empowerment Organization (WEWE) • Beyond Disability Foundation (BDF) • Technology for Transformation Development (TTD) • Academia, Association of Town Unions, etc. • FIDA • Faith Community Counselling Organization • Advocates for Accountability and Inclusion in Africa
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General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:		Enhanced participation and empowerment of citizens in Government.
Main Objective:		To establish a platform for regular interaction between the people and the Government for Accountability, transparency and Effective Engagement
Brief description of commitment:		The commitment seeks to empower the people to participate and contribute to governance decisions within the State, National and Global levels
Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low citizens confidence in governance 2. Low public integrity 3. Low citizens knowledge, participation, and engagement in governance 4. Poor service delivery 5. Low accountability
Rationale for commitment:		Paucity of engagement or participation of citizens in budgetary and other policy processes of government.
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 4. Improved citizens trust on the government
Performance Indicators:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Number of open and user-friendly platforms for citizens/Government Town Hall meetings. ii. Published list of platforms, timelines, and venues for government engagement with the people. iii. Increased number of public meetings organized by the various MDAs. iv. Number of Community Chatter of Demand (CCD) items appropriated in the state budget. v. Number of persons empowered by government.

S/N	Specific Activities/Milestones	Start Date	End Date
1	Engagement of community Leaders on Community Charter of Demand During budgetary processes.	December, 2022	August 2024
2	Institutionalize citizens' forums in key ministries, departments and agencies.	December,2022	August,2023
3	Advocacy in local languages for people to report concerns and make contributions in an identifiable platform.	Decembers,2022	August, 2024
4	Adopt a technology-based citizens' feedback Mechanism through a portal on the State OGP website and other websites of the MDAs.	December,2022	August,2024
5	Institutionalize citizen participation in citizens' budget preparation	December, 2022	August 2024
6	Organize quarterly citizens' accountability forum/reporting	December, 2022	August 2024
Source of Funding:	Ebonyi State Government, Private sector, Citizens, and Development Partners.		

Thematic Area: Access to Information	
Commitment - 3	Grant citizens the right to access information and records held or maintained by government
Start and end date:	1st December 2022 – 30th September 2024
Lead MDA:	Ministry of Information and State Orientation
Responsible Person:	Hon. Commissioner for Information and State Orientation
Designation:	Commissioner for Information and State Orientation
Email and phone:	ebonyiinformation@gmail.com www.ebonyistateministryofinformation.com
Other State and Non State Actors Involved in Implementation:	MDAs All MDAs.
	CSOs, Private sector, etc. All CSOs, CBOs, FBOs, Trade and Industrial Organizations.
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	The State does not have law, specific policy or administrative directive binding on the public service that addresses and ensures citizen’s right to access government held information and records freely, specifically FOI.
Main Objective:	Establish a legal, policy or administrative framework to guide the people on the rights to access information and records.
Brief description of commitment:	This commitment seeks to provide the citizens an enforceable right to access information, provide a procedure for the exercise of that right; and provide guidelines to the public institutions on the implementation of an access to information regime.
Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:	Mutual access to information between Government and citizens.

Rationale for commitment:	The implementation of the commitment will enhance orderly and collaborative citizens' participation in governance through shared information.		
Expected Outcome/impact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improved citizens' participation. ii. Enhanced government accountability iii. Increased Citizens knowledge and acceptance of Government policies and programmes . 		
Performance Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Information from citizens influencing government policies ii. Legal or Administrative instruments and directives available to protect citizens. iii. Unhindered access of citizen to government policy documents 		
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with OGP Secretariat and Consultants to develop Access to Information Framework for the State • Advocacy for domestication of Freedom of Information Act in Ebonyi State. 	December 2022	Sept. 2024
2	Citizens Enlightenment and Advocacy by State Actors.	December 2022	Sept. 2024
3	Development of publicity materials such as Jingles, Dramas and Documentaries	December 2022	Sept. 2024
4	Capacity building for Information Officers, LGA Area Information Officer, Public Relation Officers, CSOs, Media.	December 2022	Sept. 2024
Source of Funding:	Ebonyi State Government and Citizens, OGP National Secretariat and Development Partners.		

Thematic Area: Peace Building and Conflict Management	
Commitment - 4	Promoting Peace Building and Citizen’s Mobilization to Enhance Peaceful Co-existence
Start and end date:	December 2022 – September 2024
Lead MDA:	Ministry of Boarder Peace and Internal Security
Responsible Person:	Commissioner for Ministry of Boarder Peace and Internal Security /Permanent Secretary
Designation:	Commissioner/Permanent Secretary
Email and phone:	
Other Actors Involved in Implementation:	MDAs Ministry of Boarder Peace and Internal Security Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Army, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, State Security Services (SSS), Ebonyi State Command, NDLEA
	CSOs, Private sector, etc. Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Centre (HRCRC), Initiative for Social Change (VOFCA), Neighbourhood Initiative for Women (NIWA), Health for the Society, Justice and Peace Initiative, Safe Motherhood Ladies Association (SMLAS), Agape Foundation for Literacy and Rural Development (AGAPE), Family Reformation and Community Development Initiative (FARECOD), Development & Integrity Intervention Goal Foundation (DIG), Transparency and Economic Initiative (TEDI), Participatory Development Alternative (PDA), Nigerian Barr Association (NBA), Catholic Diocese of Abakaliki Succour and Development Services Initiative (SUCCDEV), Methodist Care Ministry(MCM), Academia, Community Health and Development (CHAD) Initiative, Faith Community Counselling Organization, Civil Resource Development and Documentation Center (CIRDDOC), Abraham’s Children Foundation (ACF), Mother-Child Care and Development Forum (MCCAD), Association of Town Unions, JONAPWD, Advocates for Accountability and Inclusion in Africa (AAIA), Traditional Rulers, Town Union Leaders, etc.
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	There is widespread inter and intra Communal Violent Conflicts and there is no Strategic and Concerted approach to resolving the Conflicts.
Main Objective:	Setting up and supporting Peace Committees in all the Wards in Ebonyi State

Brief description of commitment:	This Commitment seeks to provide peaceful coexistence and gender sensitive responses in all parts of the State so that all other benefits of democracy and good governance can flourish and be harnessed.		
Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:	Citizens Engagement, Transparency, Access to Information		
Rationale for commitment:	The implementation of the commitment will enhance the achievement of all the other commitments in this State Action Plan (SAP).		
Expected Outcome/impact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Peaceful Coexistence among citizens. ii. Reduction in Communal Conflicts iii. Improved Agricultural Productivity. iv. Improved Development across Communities. v. Improved Peaceful communication among mining host Communities 		
Performance Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Number of Peace Committees created and supported ii. Number of Conflicting Communities that now live in Peace iii. Number of abandoned farmlands that are now cultivated iv. Number of Mining Sites that closed due to conflict that have reopened 		
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	Setting up Peace Committees and Early Warning and Response Systems in each Ward	December 2022	Sept 2024
2	Advocacy to Traditional and Community Leaders	December 2022	Sept 2024
3	Training of Community Leaders in Conflict Transformation	January 2023	Sept 2024
4	Sensitizations / Town hall meetings in the Communities		

5	Training and Retraining of Peace Committees in Conflict Management and Transformation and Early Warning and Response.	December 2022	
6	Advocacy to mining companies and communities and artisan miners	December 2022	Sept 2024
7	Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for conflicting Mining Communities	December 2022	Sept 2024
Source of Funding:		Ebonyi State Government and Citizens, OGP National Secretariat and Development Partners, MAN, Donors, Investors.	

EBONYI STATE OGP STEERING COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP

State Actors

1. Principal Secretary to the Governor (Co-Chair)
2. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED);
3. Secretary to the State Government SSG's Office
4. The Clerk of the State House of Assembly
5. Ministry of Justice
6. The Auditor General of the State
7. Bureau of Public Procurement
8. Ministry of Communication and Orientation
9. Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Matters and Rural Development Ministry of Health
10. Ministry of Water Resources
11. Ministry of education

Non-State Actors

1. Development & Integrity Intervention Goal Foundation (DIG Foundation) -Co-Chair
2. Initiative for Social Change in Nigeria (VOFCA)
3. Humanity Foundation
4. Civil Resource Development & Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC)
5. Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Centre (HRCRC)
6. Health for the Society, Justice and Peace Initiative (HSJPI)
7. Joint National Association of Persons with Disability (JONAPWD)
8. Nigeria Union Local Government Employees (NULGE)
9. Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ)
10. Ebonyi State Chamber of Commerce
11. Safe Motherhood Ladies Association (SMLAS),

EBONYI STATE OGP TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

FISCAL TRANSPARENCY.

- i. **Tax and Ease of Doing Business Working Group**
- ii. **Citizens Engagement Working Group**
- iii. **Access to Information Working Group**
- iv. **Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group**