



GOVERNMENT OF NIGER STATE

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

STATE ACTION PLAN

(2019 -2021)

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ACRONYMS

NSHA	Niger State House of Assembly
NSOSIC	Niger State One-Stop Investment Centre
NSLGSC	Niger State Local Government Service Commission
NISEPA	Niger State Environmental Protection Agency
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
GIHSD	Grassroots Initiative for Health and Social Development
CPN	Child Protection Network
CAI	Community Aid Initiative
HHF	Hurting Heart Foundation
EDF	Engage Diaspora Foundation
NU	Nisa'u Ummati
GPCI	Global Promoters for Community Initiative
ISDA	Initiative for Social Development in Africa
PCI	Pears Care Initiative
CAPP	Community Action for Popular Participation
NBA	Nigerian Bar Association
VE	Voices of the Electorates
NSE	Nigeria Society of Engineers
NCWS	National Council of Women Societies
WRAPA	Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative
NAWOJ	Nigeria Union of Women Journalist
PAPA	Polio Affected Person's Association

FOREWORD



I am pleased to present Niger State Open Government Action Plan. Niger State is one of the leading states in Nigeria; it has abundant arable land, and makes enormous contribution in the area of agriculture in Nigeria.

The State has improved in the areas of security and is conducive for investments.

Having successfully embarked on public governance reforms with the support of the World Bank, Niger State has taken steps to become even more open, transparent and accountable.

We are focused on achieving the following:

- Stimulate economic growth and innovation;
- Improve service delivery
- Be more responsive to the expectations of the citizens;
- Enhance government and non-state actors collaboration; and
- Continue efforts to maintain peace and harmony.

Niger State Government is on an assured path towards increased openness and public participation.

Our budget process has been infused with the active involvement of non-governmental organizations, organized private sector and various citizens groups.

We have encouraged our people to be more involved in government activities, take ownership and lead in their execution and monitoring - this has led to increased trust between the government and the people.

As Governor, I have insisted that all Government functionaries must demonstrate an understanding of accountability and transparency in their various activities.

Niger State is happy to foster increased collaboration between the government and all other external stakeholders with the main aim of improving the living conditions of our citizens.

To achieve this, the grand challenges which Niger State Open Government Initiative aims to address includes:-

Improving Public Services:

Poor public service delivery has been one of the biggest issues standing between Government and the citizen. People have expressed their frustrations and are very skeptical with any improvement effort.

Increasing Public Integrity:

Inefficiencies and low performance in both the State and Local Government level have made it difficult to restore faith from the public. Niger state aims to engender trust in the public by minimizing these negative tendencies.

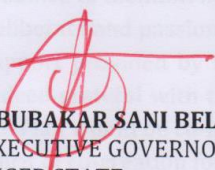
More Effectively Managing Public Resources:

For too long the public has been kept in the dark when it comes to public resources, especially revenues and outlays. The Government of Niger state aims to improve transparency through open budgeting, and more transparent public procurement system.

The above being premised, our state action plan spans the following thematic areas:

- a) ***Fiscal Transparency,***
- b) ***Right and Access to Information,***
- c) ***Citizen Engagement and Empowerment, and***
- d) ***Service Delivery.***

This Plan is our road map to enhancing transparent, accountable and citizen focused governance in the next two years.

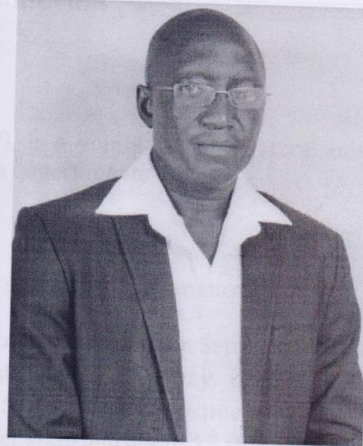
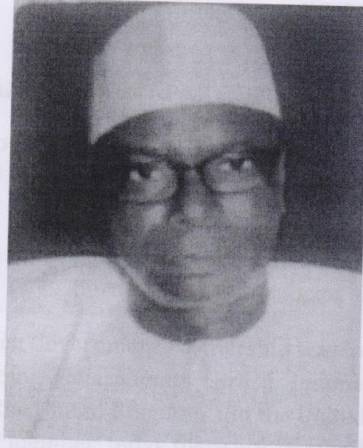


ABUBAKAR SANI BELLO,
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR
NIGER STATE
NIGERIA

ZAKARI ABUBAKAR
HON. COMMISSIONER FOR FINANCE
CO-CHAIR GOVERNMENT

SAMUEL S. YISA
CO-CHAIR NON-STATE ACTORS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



This is to sincerely appreciate the collective effort by the State and Non-State actors in the process of developing the Niger State Open Government Partnership Action Plan for Year 2019 - 2021 in our resolve to improve governance and making government more accountable and responsive.

In pursuant of these and in conformity with the OGP principles, we are convinced that the holistic implementation of our identified areas of commitment would ensure effective and efficient service delivery for the benefit of our people.

It suffice to mention here that, this giant stride wouldn't have been possible without the deliberate and passionate efforts of all stakeholders and most importantly, the technical support provided by the National OGP Secretariat and Open Alliance Nigeria. We are indeed grateful with the assurance that, our concerted efforts would not be in vain as the Plan would be co-implemented by both the State and Non-State Actors guided by the spirit of co-creation for us to succeed in the State.

ZAKARI ABUBAKAR
HON. COMMISSIONER FOR FINANCE
CO-CHAIR GOVERNMENT

SAMUEL S. YISA
CO-CHAIR NON-STATE ACTORS

- Increasing Public Integrity: Measures that address corruption and public ethics, access to information, campaign finance reform, and media and civil society freedom;
- More Effectively Managing Public Resources: Measures that address budgets, procurement, natural resources and foreign assistance;
- Creating Safer Communities: Measures that address public safety, the security sector, disaster and crisis response, and environmental threats; and

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Open Government Partnership (OGP), is a voluntary, multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to

- I. promote transparency,
- II. empower citizens,
- III. fight corruption, and
- IV. Harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

The Open Government Partnership was formally launched on September 20, 2011, with 8 founding governments (Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States) Nigeria became a member in 2016 as the 70th member; today there are 76 member state and about 15 sub-national entities.

Open government proposes a new model of state reform and modernization of public administration to improve the 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 transparency initiatives, citizen participation, and stakeholder collaboration.

The membership process requires that Niger state government shall in conjunction with non-state actors develop an action plan that will provide a roadmap to the implementation of OGP principles and address relevant challenges that seek to:

- i. increase the level of transparency and accountability;
- ii. expand effective mechanisms for citizen participation, and
- iii. develop innovative platforms for civic collaboration in order to co-produce public value in the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies and services.

The above requires that both the public sector and non-state actors in Niger State work together in a collaborative manner to develop a state action plan that speaks to the under-listed five OGP challenges:-

- **Improving Public Services:** Measures that address the full range of citizen services, by fostering public service improvement or private sector innovation;
- **Increasing Public Integrity:** Measures that address corruption and public ethics, access to information, campaign finance reform, and media and civil society freedom;
- **More Effectively Managing Public Resources:** Measures that address budgets, procurement, natural resources and foreign assistance;

- **Creating Safer Communities:** Measures that address public safety, the security sector, disaster and crisis response, and environmental threats; and
- **Increasing Corporate Accountability:** Measures that address corporate responsibility on issues such as the environment, anti-corruption, market/consumer protection, and community engagement.

Niger State has already initiated the process to address the above challenges.

OVERVIEW OF THE STATE ACTION PLAN

Niger State OGP Action Plan consists of 4 thematic areas and 7 commitments.

Our approach in the Action Plan is structured within five thematic areas:

a. **Fiscal Transparency:**

Revenue Generation, Budget and Public procurement processes are conducted with input from the people, the relevant information is available, assessable and easy to understand, allowing the people to track how their monies are spent and understand how government fiscal decisions are made.

b. **Access to Information:**

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

c. **Citizen Engagement:**

The people are mobilized and engaged to meaningfully interact with and participate in government decision making. They have the opportunity to make their voices heard on government policy and programs from the start.

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.	Enhance Citizens Participation in the Entire Budget Cycle
Ii	Ensure transparency in public procurement process through full implementation of Niger State Public Procurement law and adoption of open contracting standard.
Iii	Ensure More Effective and Transparent Revenue Generation and Utilization Process.
<i>Access to Information</i>	
iv.	Grant Citizens Right to Access Government Held Information and Records
<i>Citizen Engagement and Empowerment</i>	
v.	Ensure a sustainable interaction platform for Citizens engagement to enhance our Culture of Openness.
<i>Service Delivery</i>	
vi.	Improve Public Service Delivery in the Education; Health, Water and Agriculture Sectors In The State.

SECTION 2

PROGRESS TO DATE IN OPEN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

The Government of Niger State has since the return of civil democratic governance in 1999 been committed to Programs and activities geared towards enhancing transparency and accountability and ensuring that due process is observed in all state activities.

a) **Participatory Budgetary Process**

The Government has continued to seek the involvement and contribution of citizens in the state budget process. It has put measures in place to open up the process and make it more participatory. Such that not only will the public take part but also to influence final decisions.

b) **Fiscal Transparency**

The state has enacted the Public Procurement Law to guide the open and transparent procurement system adopted by the state.

c) **State Integrated Financial Management Information System (SIFMIS):**

SIFMIS was established to ensure proper monitoring and reporting of government revenues and expenditures.

d) **Central Payment System:**

This was introduced to ensure prudent and efficient resource allocation.

e) **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

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

The MTSS is aimed at providing guidance to prioritize government spending within identified key sectors.

The state is committed to the utilization of the OGP platform to strengthen ongoing reforms and collaborate with other sub-national entities and the OGP National Secretariat to achieve better results.



State Actors (Hon. Comms, Perm. Secs, GMs, and Directors) at the OGP Sensitization Workshop



Non-State Actors (CSOs, Organized Private Sectors) at the OGP Sensitization Workshop

SECTION 3 METHODOLOGY



DEVELOPING THE NIGER STATE ACTION PLAN

State Actors at the OGP Action Plan Development Session



Non-State Actors at the OGP Action Plan Development Session



State and Non-State Actors at the OGP Action Plan Harmonization/Validation Session

Niger State Open Government Partnership Action Plan was developed through a robust and rigorous public consultation process, which include:

1. Public Sector Consultation:

This involved extensive discussions and workshops for government officials only to understand the core principles of Open Government especially the need to collaborate with non-state actors in an equal and reciprocal manner.

2. Working with Non-State Actors

This involved further discussions and training of Civil Society Organisations and other Non-State Actors to foster shared understanding of the Open government partnership Initiative. This also offered the non-state actors an opportunity to better organize themselves for incisive engagement with government.

3. Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)

This was facilitated by the consultant/Technical Adviser (Sir, Jideani Chukwuemeka) retained by the Government. Here the leadership of the Non-State Actors and the State Government officials were able to hold focused group discussions to gain aspirations, identify priorities and harmonize positions.

4. Multi-Stakeholder Workshops

A series of workshops identifying and validating commitments for the draft action plan were held with different stakeholders resulting in many productive feedbacks and fresh aspirations which further improved the action plan and increased stakeholders ownerships to the overall open government initiative.

5. Internet-based communication

A multi-stakeholder platform was established on WhatsApp to mainstream discussions and keep alive the dialogue on Open Government Partnership.

SECTION 4

THE COMMITMENTS

4.1 Fiscal Transparency

Thematic Area: Fiscal Transparency	
Commitment 1:	Enhance Citizens Participation in the Entire Budget Cycle
Start and end date:	2019 -2021
Lead MDA:	Niger State Planning Commission
Responsible person:	Kabir Musa Abbas
Designation:	Hon. Commissioner, Niger State Planning Commission
Email and Phone:	kabiruabbas@gmail.com 08032228127
Other Actors involve in implementation:	MDAs Ministry of Finance, Office of the Head of Service, Niger State House of Assembly, Office of Auditor General, Fiscal Responsibility Commission, Niger State Revenue Service, all MDA's.
	CSOs, Private sector, etc. GIFHASD, EDFI, NISA'U UMMATI, GPCI, ISDA, CAPP, NUJ, CPN, FIDA, NBA, SSBFI, VOICE OF THE ELECTORATES.
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	The State Budget Process has not been all inclusive. This commitment seeks to increase the involvement of the people in the entire Budget process.
Main Objective:	To expand the involvement of the people of Niger State in the entire Budget process.
Brief description of commitment:	This commitment gives our people the opportunity to participate and influence decisions of the Government regarding the State Budget.

Specific OGP challenge addressed by commitment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective Management of Public Resources; • Enhanced Citizens Participation; • Improving Public Services; 		
Rationale for commitment:	To ensure that the citizens take ownership of the process leading to increased trust in 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. 		
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. Publication of the Budget iv. Publication of citizens guide to the state budget v. Number of public hearings in the State House of Assembly 		
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	Publish the State Budget Calendar	February 2019	-
2	Conduct Budget Town Hall Meetings in 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	
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 Niger State Public Procurement Law and adoption of open contracting standard.	
Start and End Date:	2019 – 2021	
Lead MDA:	Niger State Ministry of Finance	
Responsible Person:	Zakari Abubakar	
Designation:	Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Finance	
Email and Phone:	Zakariabubakar2@gmail.com	
Other Actors Involved in implementation	MDAs	Niger State Public Procurement Board, Ministry of Works, Planning Commission, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Fiscal Responsibility Commission, Ministry of Health etc.
	CSOs, Private sector, etc.	GIFHASD, EDFI, NISA'U UMMATI, GPCI, ISDA, CAPP, NUJ, CPN, FIDA, NBA, SSBFI, VOICE OF THE ELECTORATES.
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	There has not been substantial compliance with the State Procurement Law leading to a perceived lack of transparency.	
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; • Effectively 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 as well as other stakeholders 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 and Development Partners	

Thematic Area :		Fiscal Transparency
Commitment 3:	Ensure More Effective and Transparent Revenue Generation and Utilization Process.	
Start and end date:	2019-2021	
Lead MDA:	Ministry of Finance	
Responsible Person	Zakari Abubakar	
Designation:	Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Finance	
Email and Phone:	Zakariabubakar2@gmail.com	
Other Actor Involve in implementation:	MDAs	Niger State Internal Revenue Services, Planning Commission, Ministry of Land and Housing, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agric, Ministry of Investment, Fiscal Responsibility Commission , SME Agency all MDA's.
	CSOs, Private sector, etc.	GIFHASD, EDFI, NISA'U UMMATI, GPCI, ISDA, CAPP, NUJ, CPN, FIDA, NBA, SSBFI, VOICE OF THE ELECTORATES.
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	Revenue Generation has been hindered by low awareness by the people of the impact of revenue generation on Public Service delivery.	
Main Objective:	To increase internally generated revenue by showcasing the linkage between revenue generated and public service delivery.	
Brief description of commitment:	This commitment seeks to 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:	The Citizens are more willing to pay their taxes if they perceive the taxation process as fair and equitable and could also link it to improved service delivery.	
Expected Outcome/impact:	Increased revenue generation.	

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. 	
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	Passage of the Revenue Bill pending before the House of Assembly	August, 2019	April, 2020
2	Establishment of a comprehensive data base of tax payers	June, 2019	March, 2020
3	Harmonization of the Revenue Generation process to avoid multiple taxation	June, 2019	December, 2019
4	Issuance of directives to eliminate multiple taxation	December, 2019	December, 2019
Source of Funding:		State Government Budget, OGP National Secretariat and Development Partners	

4.2 Access to Information

Thematic Area: Access to Information	
Commitment 4	Grant Citizens Right to Access Government Held Information and Records
Start and end date:	2019 – 2021
Lead MDA:	Ministry of Justice
Responsible Person:	Nasara Danmallam ESQ
Designation:	Hon. Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice
Email and phone:	Dan.mainasara@gmail.com 08052220261
Other Actors Involved in Implementation:	MDAs Ministry of Information, all MDA's.
	CSOs, Private sector, etc. HHF, CPN, CAI, NUJ, NAWOJ, KI, ISODAF, HHF, FIDA, YV, PAPA, CAI, VOICE OF THE ELECTORATES.
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	There is no 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 domain.
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 standards	January, 2019	June, 2019
2	Identify, select, appoint and train Access to information Desk officers	January, 2019	December, 2019
3	To design and Develop an Executive Order on Access to Information and public participation.	January, 2019	January, 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	Ensure a sustainable interaction platform for Citizens engagement to enhance our Culture of Openness.
Start and end date:	2019 – 2021
Lead MDA:	Ministry of Information and Strategy
Responsible Person:	Danjuma Sallau
Designation:	Hon. Commissioner for Information and Strategy
Email and phone	sallaudanjuma@gmail.com 08036062451
Other Actors Involved in Implementation:	MDAs Ministry of Youth Entrepreneurship and Sports Development, Ministry of Education
	CSOs, Private sector, etc. HHF, THIRDEYEPOLL, EDFI, NISA’U UMMATI, GPCI, ISDA, PCI, CAPP, WRAPA, NUJ, NAWOJ, SERI,
General problem/challenge addressed by the commitment:	Citizen’s 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 paramount importance to the state.
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. Increase public integrity. 2. Public participation. 3. Improve public services.

Rationale for commitment:	To provide mechanism 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:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Number of 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. 		
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	Institutionalize citizens' forums in key ministries, departments and agencies	March, 2019	December 2020
2	Advocacy in local languages for people to report concerns through town hall meetings and radio phone-in programmes	March, 2019	December 2019
3	Adopt a technology based citizens' feedback Mechanism through a portal on the State OGP website.	January, 2019	March, 2019
Source of Funding:	State Government Budget, OGP Secretariat and Development Partners		

4.4 Service Delivery

THEMATIC AREA:	SERVICE DELIVERY	
Commitment: 6	Improve Public Service Delivery in the Education; Health, Water and Agriculture Sectors In The State.	
Start and end date:	2019 – 2021	
Lead MDA:	Office of the Head of Service	
Responsible Person:	Shuaibu Adamu	
Designation:	Permanent Secretary PSO	
Email and Phone:	Danmasani.adamu4@gmail.com 08034983434, 07034934507	
Other Actors Involved in implementation:	MDAs	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Office of the Accountant General of the state.
	CSOs, Private sector, etc.	EDF, GPCI, FOSH PAD, BAG, NEWELISA, WRAPA, NSE, TOMWAN, VE, NCWS, ASWANHAN, SCIAN, CAPP
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. Improving Public Service	

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, health, water and agriculture institutions. 		
Specific Activities/Milestones		Start Date	End Date
1	Develop service charters in the Education, Health, Water and Agriculture sectors.	March, 2019	December, 2019
2	Reactivation of SERVICOM Directorate by appointment of Director and Supporting Staff.	June, 2019	January, 2020
3	Ensure development of teacher education policy as a measure to address poor teacher quality in the state.	March, 2019	March, 2020
Source of Funding:	State Government Budget, OGP National Secretariat and Development Partners		

Section 5

IMPLEMENTATION AND CO-ORDINATION PLANS

1.1 Context

The Niger State OGP framework is reflective of the desires and contextual 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 Niger 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 institutions and government agencies, 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 will be led by two Co-chairs. It comprises the lead government Co-chair and a lead 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 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;
- Hire and Supervise the Head of 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 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 are harnessed and properly articulated and protected.

1.4 Technical Working Groups

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

1.5 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:

- (1) ICT;
- (2) Monitoring & Evaluation; and,
- (3) 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

Context

Niger State is adopting a Whole-of-Government Approach to Open Government, consequently Local Government Areas are adequately catered for and utilized as a platform for transparency and accountability in the management of public resources as well as a platform to aggregate information dissemination and feedback in a well-articulated citizen's engagement process.

Section 8

CONCLUSION

The people and government of Niger State working together as one developed and co-created this plan through a robust engagement process. Together, we shall take all necessary steps to ensure improved service delivery, more effective utilization of public resources, re-establishment of public trust in government and deepening of democracy in our state.

The responsible entities for the implementation and monitoring of the commitments we have agreed upon, shall be well resourced and supported to achieve our joint set goals for the satisfaction of our people and communities.