

OGP Project Success Story

The project goal is to strengthen the legal framework and institutional support for the open government partnership (OGP) in Nigeria. In so doing, the Centre did the following: Carried out advocacy at the national level and deepened engagement in states that had already signed up for OGP; sensitized and empowered both state and non-state actors in states that are yet to sign up, encouraging them to adopt OGP principles and practices. Various engagements were carried out, including providing technical support to state and non-state actors, establishing national and subnational OGP steering committees, developing OGP State Action Plans (SAP), guiding the establishment of OGP administrative structures, and raising awareness about OGP in Nigeria.

Centre LSD worked at the national level where we engaged with the OGP administrative structures as well as the National Secretariat of OGP and other partners – government and CSOs. We also worked at the subnational level – with state governments and FCT Area Councils and CSOs. The beneficiaries our intervention includes government, CSO actors at various levels, OGP administrative structures - Steering Committees (SC) Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), and Citizens including the marginalized groups – women, youths and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Results: - 27 states, 3 FCT Area Councils and 1 Local Government Council in Nigeria have successfully signed up to the Open Government Partnership (OGP). These include Kaduna, Kano, Niger, Anambra, Abia, Enugu, Jigawa, Ebonyi, Delta, Cross River, Imo, Edo, Ekiti, Adamawa, Taraba, Kebbi, Zamfara, Plateau, Kogi, Sokoto, Ondo, Gombe, Nasarawa, Bauchi, Oyo, Osun, And Katsina while AMAC, Gwagwalada, Kwali and Anambra East Area Council

- Each of these states has developed a State Action Plan (SAP) in collaboration with citizens' groups, and they are at various stages of implementing the commitments outlined in their respective SAP. It is important to emphasize also that while some are implementing their first Action Plan, some have initiated a review of their first Action Plan and set the second Action Plan in motion showcasing the capacity for sustainability of the OGP in their states beyond the influential support provided by Centre LSD-MacArthur funding.

The expansion of the OGP to the sub-national level has resulted in increased transparency and accountability, civic participation, greater citizen engagement in governance, and strengthened trust between the government and citizens. In a state like Gombe, the Fiscal Responsibility Commission now has CSO representatives on the board of the state government body. This shift amongst many others marks a significant departure from the previous lack of public/citizens involvement in governance and as a consequence, leading to a more open, inclusive, and participatory system where CSOs and citizens are actively involved in policy discussions, budget processes, and setting the agenda for government

leveraging on extant policies and programmes and the opportunities provided by the OGP as a platform for reforms.

The efforts of Centre LSD is now being complimented to sustained the OGP programme in Gombe where together with USAID State2State collaborated to implement the training State and Non-State Actors on OGP; in Adamawa where State2State is further supporting the State OGP structures to stay committed to the ideals of OGP and the reforms it brings to governance in Nigeria. In Taraba State Oxfam has also taken that sustainability challenge. To this extent Centre LSD has been drawn into OGP engagements involving the respective states.

As a result of the implementation of the MacArthur supported OGP project and the collaboration with other organizations with similar objectives, smaller grants support was provided to DEAN Initiative, IRIAD and Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution through Centre LSD. The support was used to propagate the ideals of OGP at the local levels. These advancements are not only fostering accountability, transparency, and participation but are also contributing to the reduction of corruption in Nigeria and the sustainability of the OGP in Nigeria. The Centre LSD OGP project had a nationwide impact, covering all 6 geopolitical zones of Nigeria and making more in-roads into the more Local Councils (Abaji, Bwari and Kuje) beyond the 3 FCT Area Councils (AMAC, Gwagwalada, Kwali and Anambra East) whose presence have been registered as subnational governments practicing the Open Government practices in their respective jurisdictions.