



Nigeria Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement (Nigeria SCALE)

SCALE ADVOCACY COMPENDIUM



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Produced by
African Centre for Leadership,
Strategy & Development
(Centre LSD)

February 2022



INTRODUCTION SCALE IN NIGERIA

The United States Agency for International Development's Mission to Nigeria (USAID/Nigeria) awarded a Cooperative Agreement for the implementation of the "Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement" ("SCALE") Activity in order to strengthen the financial, managerial, technical and advocacy capacity of local civil society organizations (CSOs) and business membership organizations (BMOs) in Nigeria. This activity is being carried out over a five-year period from the effective date of award in 2021.

The objective of the SCALE Activity is to support CSOs and BMOs across all of USAID/Nigeria's programmatic sectors with a basket of managerial, business strengthening, and advocacy capacity-building interventions aimed at advancing Nigerian CSO sustainability combined with targeted grants to advance mutually agreed upon priorities. The activity is designed to enhance local civil society organizations' ability to be positive and responsible change agents in Nigeria.



CENTRE LSD IN SCALE

African Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development (Centre LSD) as a resource partner of Palladium is working on Leadership capacity enhancement; Developing a pool of advocacy issues from CSOs/BMOs' response to SCALE review; Capacity support for GESI, CS for clusters and Monthly cluster virtual mentoring and coaching check-ins. To be able to execute this project, the extraction and compilation of advocacy issues is very critical.



A man in a blue shirt is shouting into a megaphone, with his mouth wide open and a determined expression. The background is a warm orange color.

COMPENDIUM - OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of this project is to come up with a compendium of advocacy issues which will serve as a reference point for CSOs/BMOs in the country and beyond. It is in furtherance of SCALE co-creation approach that recognizes the need to harness the huge advocacy issues domiciled within CSOs/BMOs in Nigeria.





CONTENT ANALYSIS

The compendium is categorized into eleven (11) sectors and has the following number of issues compiled for each sector and level of governance as follows:

QUICK TAKE-AWAY





NIGERIA CONTEXT

Nigeria is endowed with enormous human and natural resources. But the country is faced with a lot of developmental challenges including low and fragile economic growth, insecurity, weak institutions, insufficient public service delivery, notable infrastructure deficits, climate change and weak social indicators. The end result of this is poor service delivery, high level of poverty and challenges in different sectors such as health, education, economy, WASH, governance, Trafficking in Persons, security etc. Over the years, what needs to be done to bring about development is known. It is clear to us that every society has the capacity to develop, and people are the real wealth of a nation. From past experiences, development scholars have concluded that while there are no silver bullets, some development approaches bring better outcomes. For instance, it has been proven that progress in health and education can drive success in human development. In addition, it has been shown that country factors such as policies, institutions and geography are important.

Meanwhile, there is a lack of significant correlation between economic growth and improvement in health and education e.g. Kerala in India, Costa Rica, Cuba and Sri Lanka attained higher human development than the countries at their income level. Similarly, experience has shown that markets are very bad at ensuring the provision of public goods such as security, stability, health and education and a capable, focused developmental state can help achieve development and the growth of markets. Ibid.

Development theorists and practitioners are agreed that partnership among government, private sector and civil society is the most effective way to achieve sustainable economic and social benefits and achieve the sustainable development goals.



NIGERIA CONTEXT

It has been recognized that the three sectors: Government, private sector and civil society have great roles to play in the development of society and that this needs to be done in partnership. But it must be understood that the three sectors have different motivations, approaches and experiences. The motivation for government is provision of services to all citizens; the motivation of the private sector is profit while the motivation of civil society is the protection of specialized groups and the vulnerable (the poor, persons with disability, persons living with HIV/AIDS, women, children, trafficked persons etc).

World Bank (2000), Working Together: The World Bank's Partnership with Civil Society. Washington DC, World Bank.

Igbuzor, Otiye (2009), Challenges of Development in Nigeria. Lagos, Robitos Alliance Publishers.

We can delineate at least four distinct approaches to development work. First there are NGOs who utilize the welfare/service delivery approach. This approach seeks to provide short term relief to the poor and excluded or to people in emergency situations. This approach merely provides relief and does not look at the factors, structures and institutions that created the problem in the first instance. This approach provides temporary relief to the poor and excluded but will not lead to poverty eradication because it does not tackle the root causes of poverty. Secondly, there are NGOs who go beyond the provision of relief to build the capacity of communities to deal with situations in which they find themselves. For instance, the NGOs will seek to enable communities to improve their agricultural systems so as to deal with the problem of food shortage. Initially, this approach to development was largely externally driven. Thirdly, there are NGOs who utilize the participatory development approach. Ibid.

This approach to development improves on the development approach by giving room for the poor and excluded to participate in the definition of the problem as well as designing context specific responses to the problem. Finally, there are NGOs who utilize



NIGERIA CONTEXT

the rights based approach, a participatory development approach that recognizes the rights of the poor and excluded people as well as the duty of government to meet these rights. RBA recognizes that the poor and excluded people are entitled to fundamental human rights solely by reason of being human. These rights are not privileges. They are not depended on grace or benevolence of rulers.

This approach to development improves on the development approach by giving room for the poor and excluded to participate in the definition of the problem as well as designing context specific responses to the problem. Finally, there are NGOs who utilize the rights based approach, a participatory development approach that recognizes the rights of the poor and excluded people as well as the duty of government to meet these rights. RBA recognizes that the poor and excluded people are entitled to fundamental human rights solely by reason of being human. These rights are not privileges. They are not depended on grace or benevolence of rulers.

These rights are fundamental, inalienable, universal, interdependent and indivisible.

01

That the rights are fundamental means that they are basic for human existence.

02

That the rights are inalienable means that they are entitlements which can not be denied or taken away from an individual without an injury being done to the dignity of that person.

03

That the rights are universal means that they are recognized in every human society across regions of the world.



NIGERIA CONTEXT

04

That the rights are interdependent means that the loss of one right is a denial of other rights, and the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights in one area support other human rights.

05

That the rights are indivisible means that they should be addressed as one body; whether they are civil, political, economic, social, cultural, solidarity or collective and respect for them is all encompassing.

The range of rights recognized by RBA can be categorized into:

01

Civil and political rights e.g. right to life, personal liberty, fair hearing, freedom of movement etc.

02

Social and economic rights e.g. right to education, health, work, housing e.t.c.

03

Right to development.

These rights have been documented and codified and draw principally from three main sources:

01

International conventions, agreements and charters.

02

National Constitutions.

03

National laws and other statutory enactments.



NIGERIA CONTEXT

The RBA is premised on the recognition that the rights of individuals impose obligations on the State. It is widely recognized that states have obligations in civil and political rights. But some people argue that there is less obligations in terms of social and economic rights. But we argue that there are three levels of obligations in matters of social and economic rights: obligations to respect, protect and fulfill. The obligation to respect requires states to refrain from interfering with social and economic rights e.g. refrain from forced eviction. The obligation to protect requires states to prevent violations by third parties e.g. ensure that private employers comply with labour standards.

The obligation to fulfill requires states to take appropriate legislative, administrative, budgetary, judicial and other measures towards the full realization of such rights. It is important to note that apart from the State, other duty bearers are necessary in every society for the enjoyment of rights. These include individuals, families, communities, NGOs, donor agencies, international community and the private sector. The role of NGOs in RBA is to create awareness, educate in rights and obligations, build capacity of rights holders, organize and mobilize rights holders, advocate for pro-poor policies and provide alternatives. Whenever services are provided by NGOs, it should be to serve as entry points for the NGOs to perform the roles mentioned above more effectively.

Advocacy can play vital role in the RBA approach utilized by NGO to overcome the development challenges of a country. As noted above, given the enormous resources available in Nigeria and the small amount of development aid compared to the resources of the country, the rights-based approach is the best approach and advocacy is a veritable tool.



METHODOLOGY

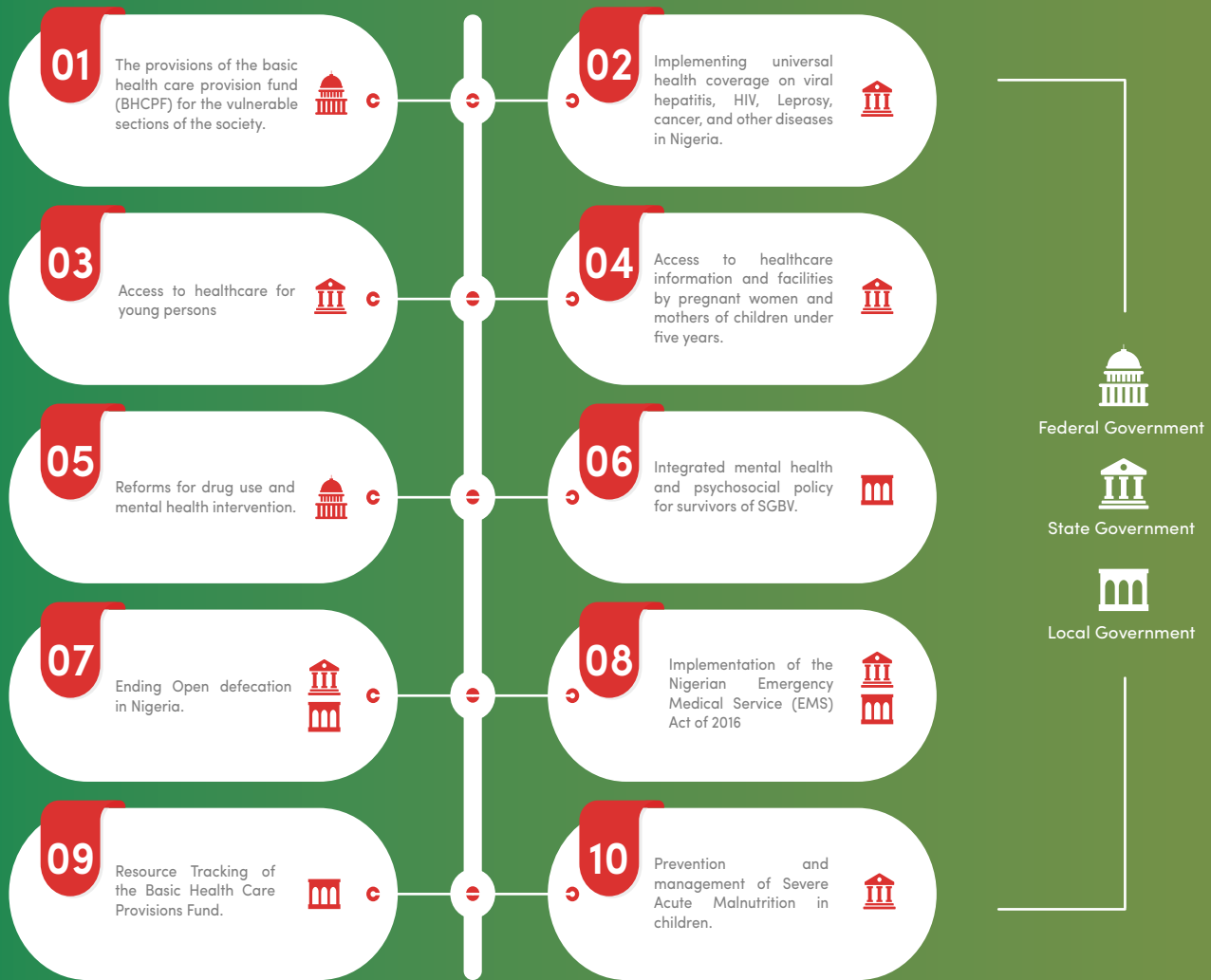
To achieve the compilation of a comprehensive CSOs/BMOs advocacy issues compendium which ultimately will be SCALE resource bank that will be referenced for CSOs/BMOs in Nigeria, the following methodology was adopted.

- 01 Reviewed the existing literature on advocacy in Nigeria.
- 02 Conducted desk review on SCALE concept papers and proposals domiciled in the SCALE resource depository.
- 03 Collated, analyzed and synthesized advocacy issues by sectors and levels (LGAs/State/Federal).
- 04 Harmonized advocacy issues from the stakeholders' engagement forum (SEF) with the advocacies from the CSOs/BMOs proposals.
- 05 Produced advocacy issues compendium for reference by CSOs/BMOs.

This concept clarification is important to highlight the seriousness attached to this assignment. The seriousness of this activity led to the call for advocacy issues during the inception of the SCALE project in Nigeria.

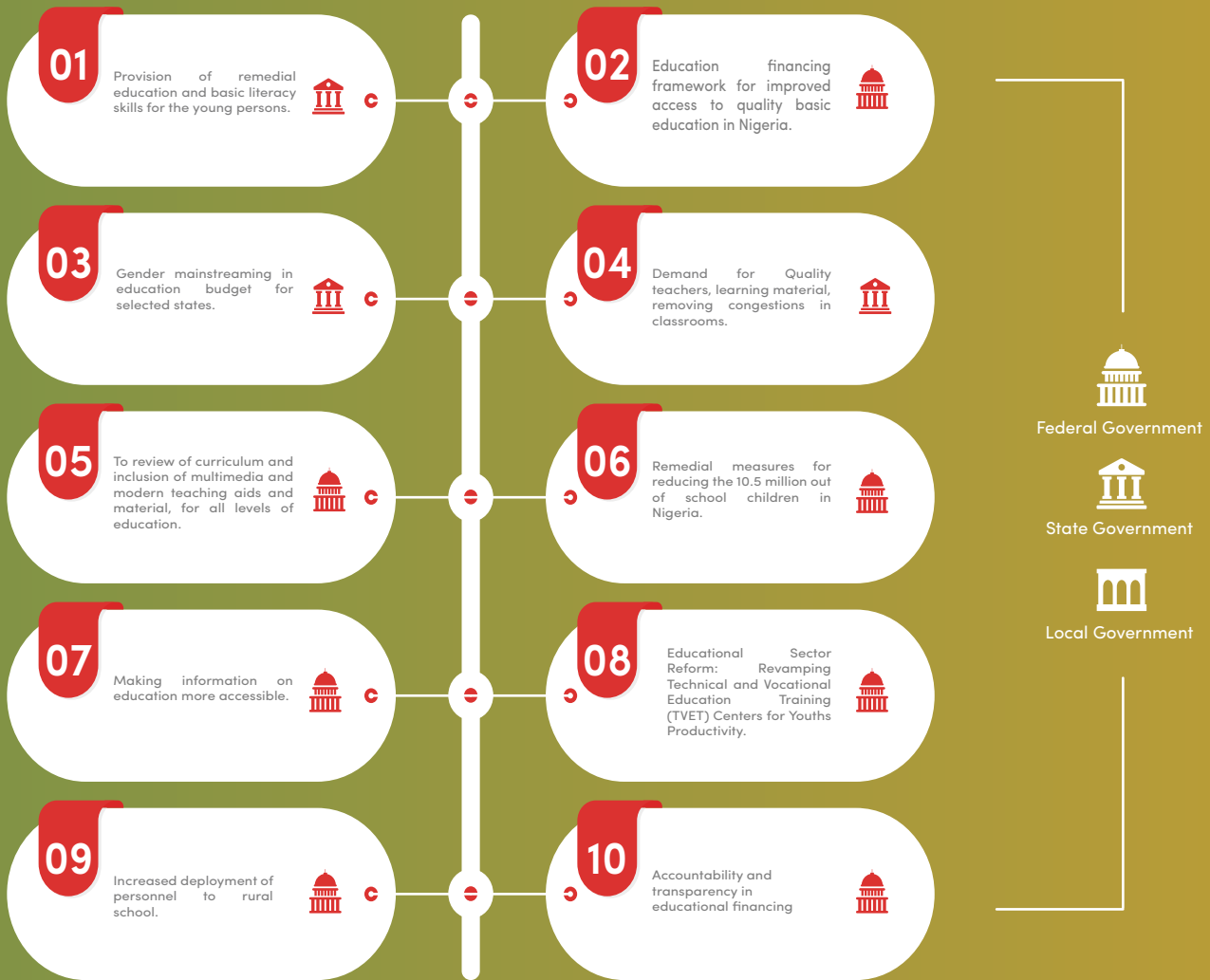
ADVOCACY ISSUES

Health



Most of the issues raised in the proposals revolved around policies, service delivery and challenges of transparency in fund management and utilization of drugs and facilities. The implementation of the various health policies and driving the programs to the rural areas and individual families was also highlighted in some states like Edo, Cross River, Adamawa, Taraba and Kaduna states.

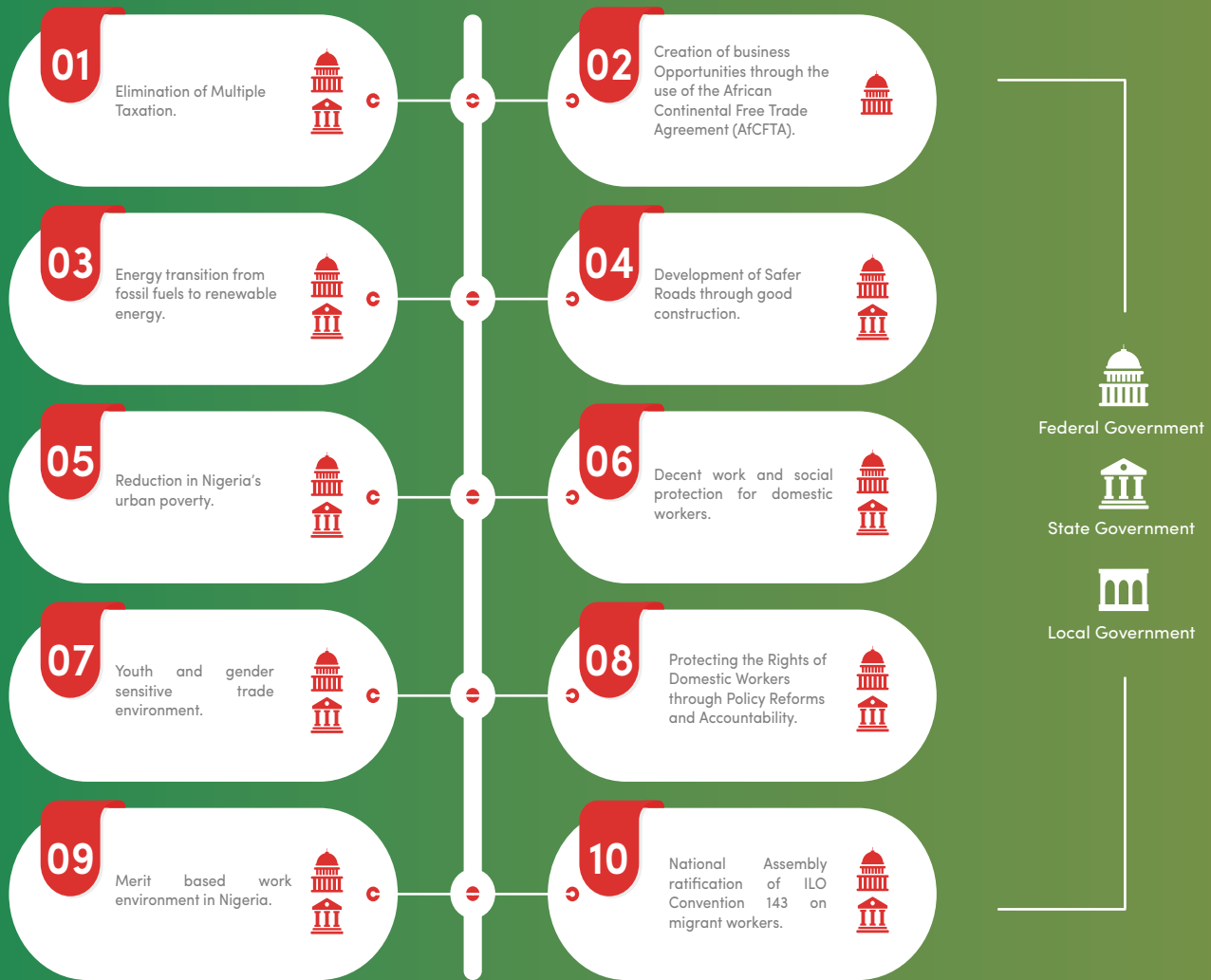
ADVOCACY ISSUES Education



Advocacy issues in education revolves around accountability, transparency, curriculum, budgeting, out of school children, and technical and vocational education. The decline in school enrollment in the country, non-formal education and challenges of rural education. The issue of education resonated at all the tiers of governance. The challenge of out of school children was high in the states of the north and Cross River, Ebonyi and Abia states.

ADVOCACY ISSUES

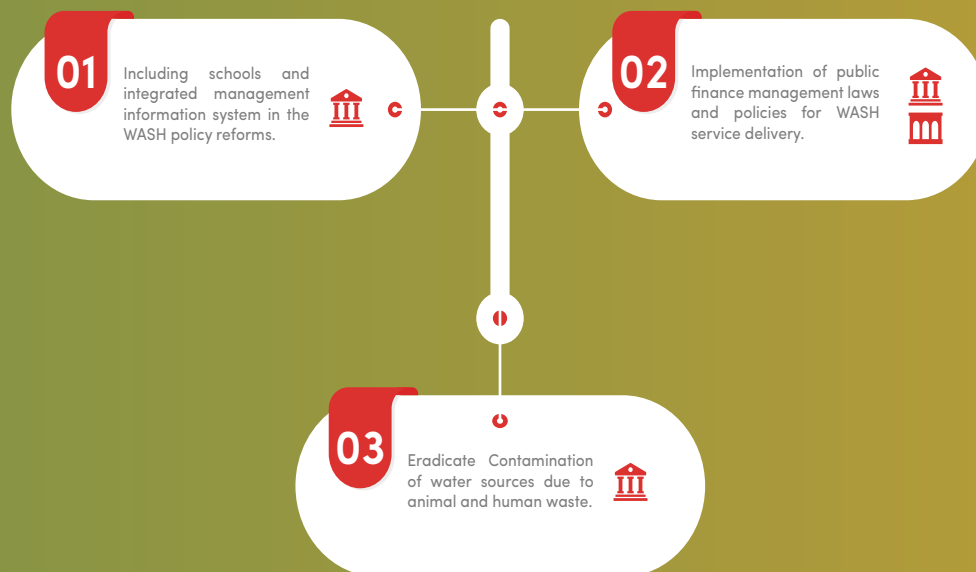
Economy



The various issues highlighted in the concepts and proposals submitted to SCALE on the economy shows the variables that directly affect the daily running of business in the country such as infrastructure, energy, diplomatic relations, and regional economic policies. It also highlighted the topical issue of multiple taxation across all the tiers of governance.

ADVOCACY ISSUES

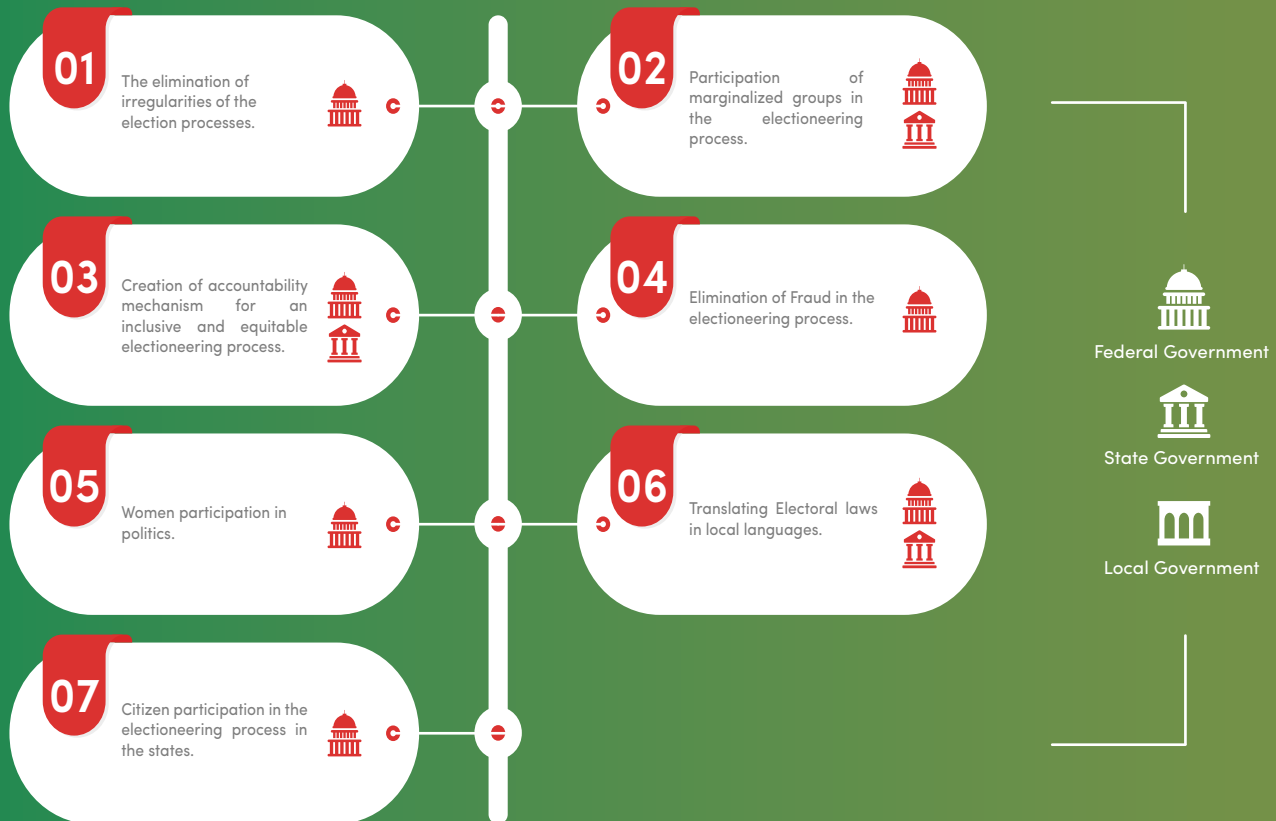
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector is a very critical sector in development as it directly impacts the lives of the people and their daily living. In the list of issues raised around the WASH was the hygiene of females during menstruation in the school environment, provision of pads, integrated WASH policy across all levels of government, challenges of water contamination by humans and animals alike and the funding of WASH related projects and the management of WASH related matters at all levels.

ADVOCACY ISSUES

Election & Political Participation

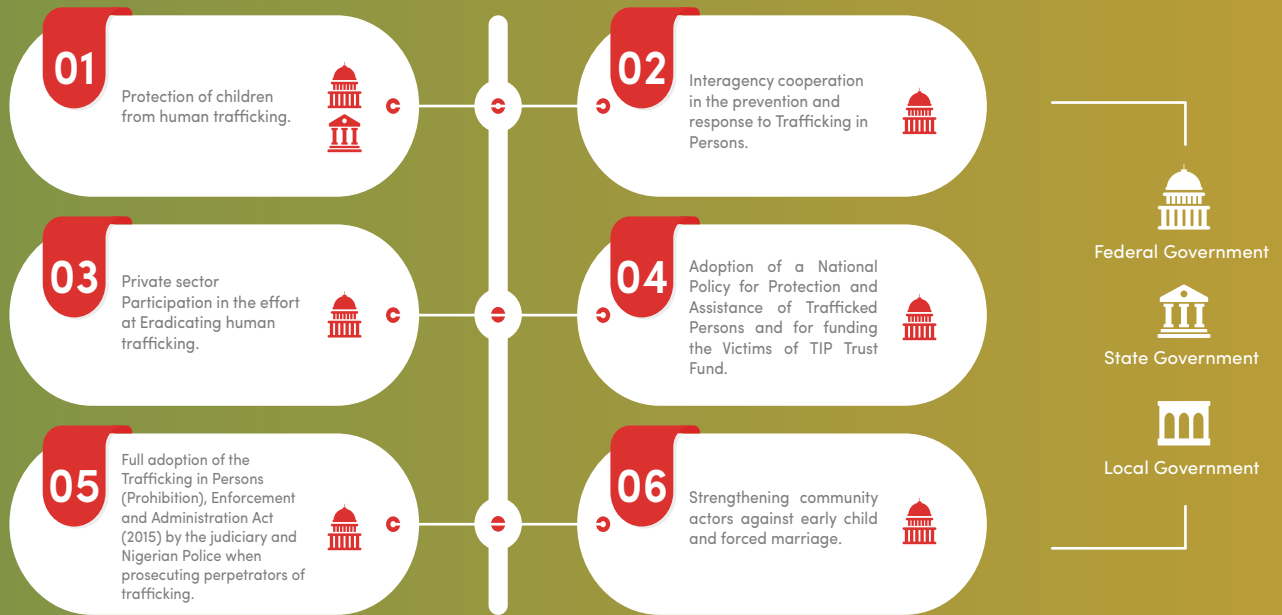


The management of electioneering issues in Nigeria has been lingering for so many years in the country and these bothers around legal and institutional framework of the election body and its stakeholders. Politics and its outcomes depend a lot on the elections and its management. Issues raised in this section range from elections reforms, fraud in the process, women participation and converting the electoral laws to local languages to ease understanding.



ADVOCACY ISSUES

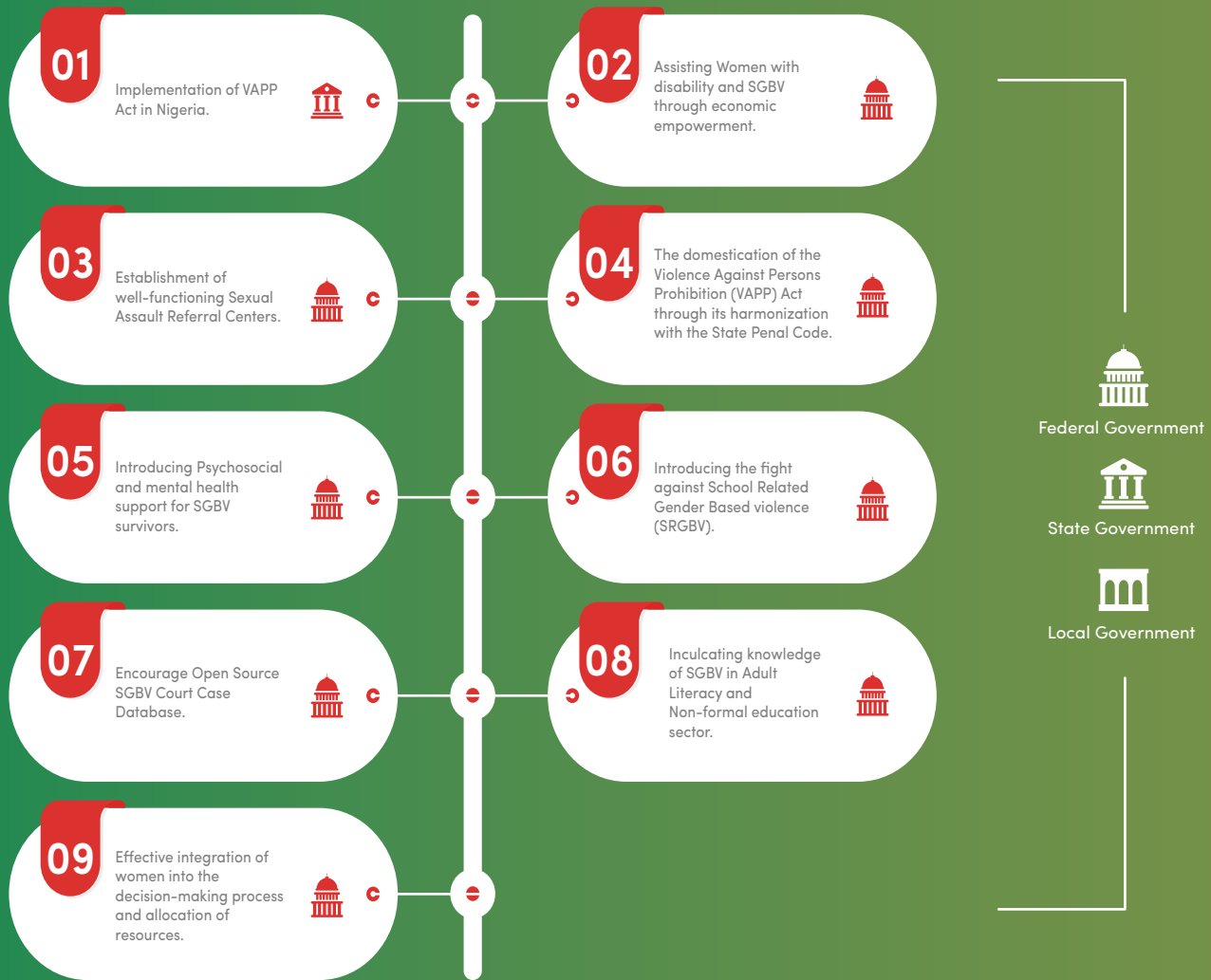
Trafficking In Persons (Tip)/ Child And Forced Marriage



The trafficking of persons, child marriage or forced marriage has been a challenge for the Nigerian society in the last two decades and there seem to be a consensus that its eradication is the only solution that is required. Most of the issues raised hover around getting the private sector to get involved in the resolution of this problem, funding of the after abuse management of the victims.

ADVOCACY ISSUES

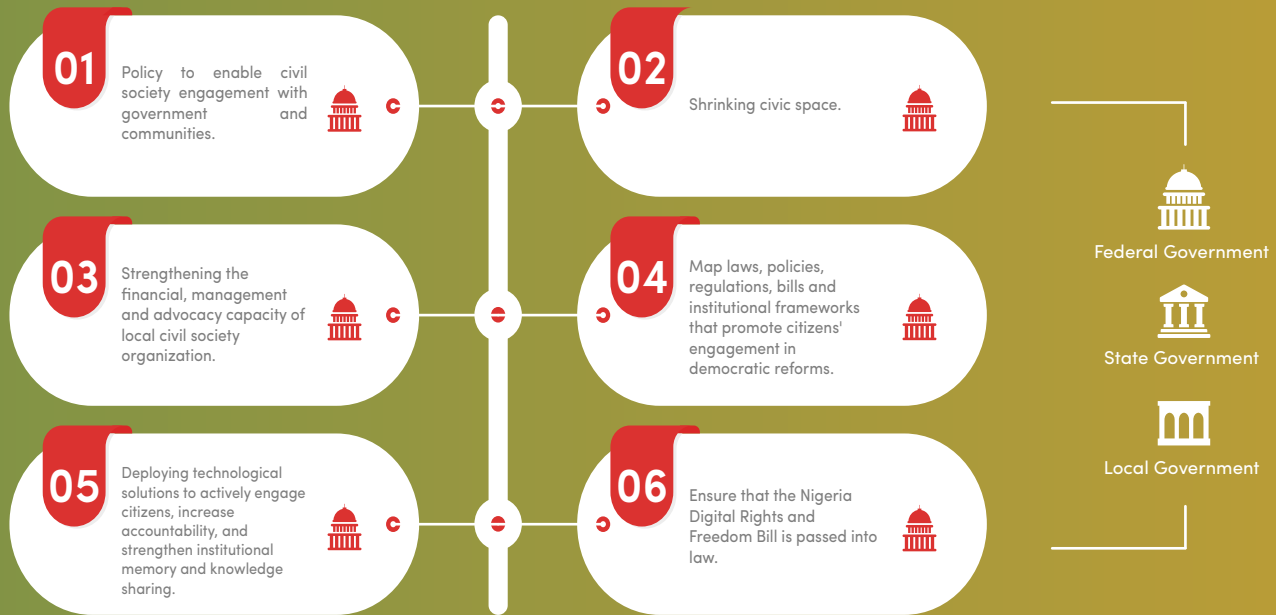
Gender/ Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)



The implementation of the VAPP act was raised so many things in the proposals, as a major issue to be advocated on. The provision of mental health and psychosocial services to the victim of SGBV and the provision of other essential services required for the management of sexual gender-based violence. The mainstreaming of GBV into non formal education and adult education is also being raised as an advocacy issue.

ADVOCACY ISSUES

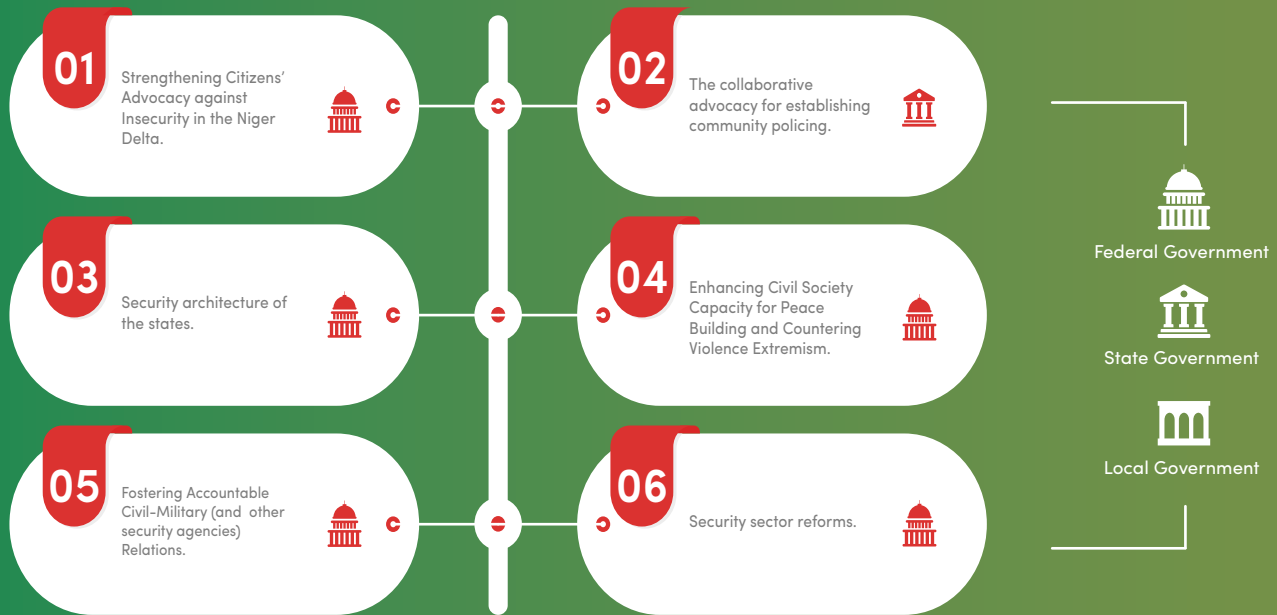
Civic Space/enabling Environment



Like the shrinking civic space in Nigeria, the civil society as most issues are not given the liberty to be expressed and the unspoken intention to regulate the civil society action in Nigeria is threatening the civic engagements in the country. The need for laws and bills to be sponsored to resist this development. The various issues raised include strengthening the capacity of the CSOs for advocacy. The new media and the use of information technology to aid development has never been this apt. The social issues arising from the use of the internet has been a major focus for civil societies around the globe as most governments are uncomfortable with fallouts of its strategic use in information dissemination. The freedom of the use of these tools in strengthening civil advocacy has been the main issue of this advocacy issue.

ADVOCACY ISSUES

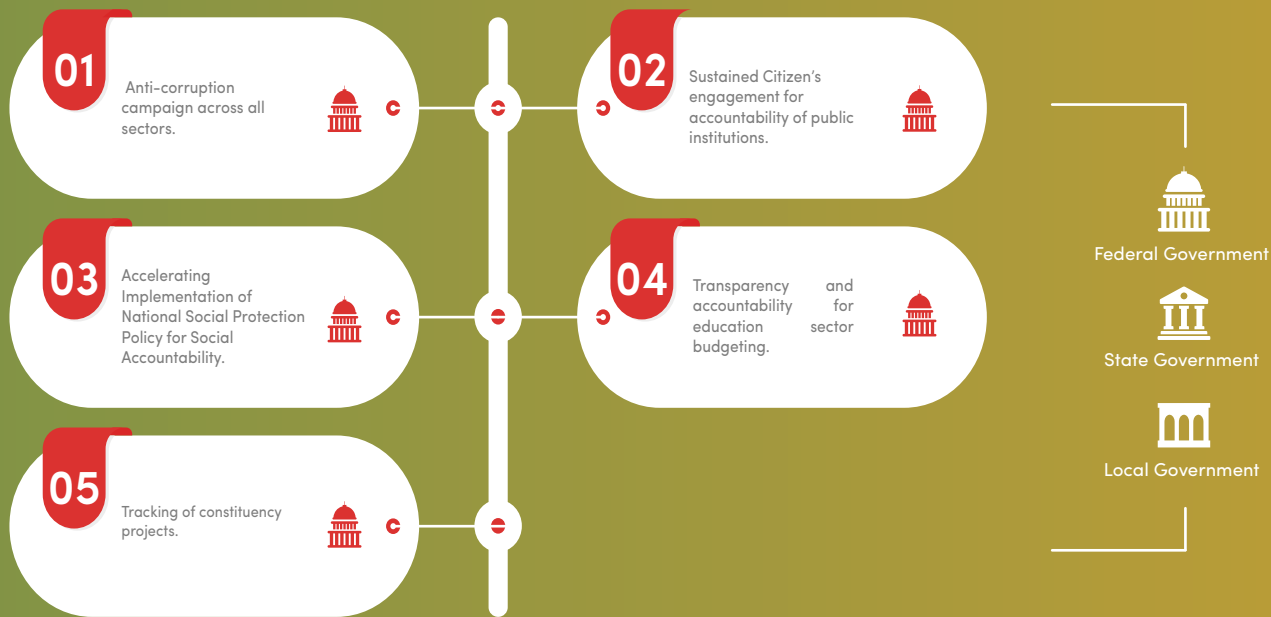
Security



The creation of harmony between the military and civilian populace could be a first step to realizing the security and peaceful accomplishment of our security goals. So many issues were raised and the few of them came up like community policing, peace building and security sector reforms.

ADVOCACY ISSUES

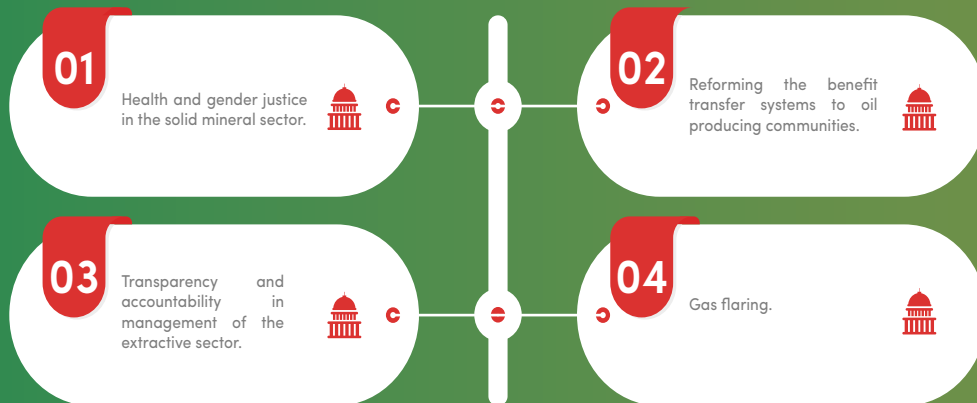
Anti Corruption/ Transparency



One of the major challenges of development is the issue of corruption and transparency in the dealings of organizations and individuals and this can only be done reduced through strong advocacies to government, The key mentions in this area is the issue of budget in education and tracking of constituency projects.

ADVOCACY ISSUES

Extractive sector



The extractive industry as the resource base of the nation presents an avalanche of issues amongst which is health concerns, gender issues, memorandum of Agreement, community benefits, CDAs and other agreements the state applies, gender issues etc. Other issues include transparency and the issues around gas flaring.

ANALYSIS BY SECTORS

01

HEALTH

10 Number of Issues



02

EDUCATION

10 Number of Issues



03

ECONOMY/LABOUR

10 Number of Issues



04

WASH

3 Number of Issues



05

ELECTION & POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

6 Number of Issues



06

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP)/ CHILD AND FORCED MARRIAGE

6 Number of Issues



ANALYSIS BY SECTORS

07

GENDER/SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

9 Number of Issues



08

CIVIC SPACE/ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

6 Number of Issues



09

SECURITY

6 Number of Issues



10

ANTI CORRUPTION/TRANSPARENCY

5 Number of Issues



11

EXTRACTIVE SECTOR

4 Number of Issues



Federal Government



State Government



Local Government



CONCLUSION

This report is presented as a product of the review of all concept notes and proposals submitted to the SCALE project as obtained from the SCALE resource depository. The compendium was successfully gleaned from 447 concept notes and proposals and produced some 78 advocacy issues cutting across 11 sectors and the three levels of governance (Local, state and federal) in Nigeria. It is believed that this compendium will serve as a reference point and effective tool for civil society advocacy in Nigeria for a long time to come.



END NOTES

National Development Plan (NDP)(2021-2025), Volume 1. Abuja, Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning.

UNDP Human Development Report, 1990

World Bank (2000), Working Together: The World Bank's Partnership with Civil Society. Washington DC, World Bank.

Igbuzor, Otive (2009), Challenges of Development in Nigeria. Lagos, Robitos Alliance Publishers.

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UNDP Human Development Report, 1990

Ibid

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Ibid



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