

act:onaid
nigeria



2010 Annual Report

OUR VISION

is a world without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys the right to a life with dignity.

OUR MISSION

is to work with poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2009-2013 drive and underpin everything we do:

Strategic Objective 1:

Work with government and their institutions to promote laws, policies and practices that address the rights of poor and excluded communities.

Strategic Objective 2:

Work with organizations to advocate accountable, democratic and transparent governance with pro-poor policies and programmes.

Strategic Objective 3:

Enhance access for women and girls to decision-making process, resources and justice at all levels.

Strategic Objective 4:

Strengthen poor and excluded people and communities to influence policies and practices that affect their rights.

Strategic Objective 5:

Strengthen the structures, systems and processes of ActionAid Nigeria and partners for accountable, effective and dynamic operations.

OUR APPROACH

We work in partnership with people and their organizations because we believe that poor and excluded people have the right and ability to shape their own lives.

Our role includes empowerment, solidarity and advocacy. We work with the poor to analyse the root causes of their poverty. We help them establish projects and organisations that can meet their immediate needs while also mobilizing them to demand their rights from government and society.

We link poor and excluded people and their agencies of people together to negotiate common demands, helping them speak with a more powerful voice in local, national, regional and international platforms, movements and networks.

We carry out policy advocacy with our partners and in our own right, and mobilize supporters, partners and allies in campaigns for transformative change.

We organize our work around six themes: women's rights, the right to education, right to food, right to health, right to human security, and right to just and democratic governance. We also implement a long-term integrated partnership against poverty programme which delivers the six thematic areas of our work in about 197 communities in 12 states.

Our work is supported through the generous solidarity of individuals and organisations, who give money and take action in our campaigns. We also partner with institutional donors.

We are members of ActionAid International Federation. Our staff, board and assembly members are drawn from across the country. Some of our staff are located in our main office in Abuja, while we have others in our regional office in Lagos and project offices in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River, Kaduna, and Nasarawa states.



Probably one of the best parts of this job is experiencing change like this and witnessing the real impact on the ground.... What is huge is the fact that community members are no longer complacent or cynical about their government. No matter who is in power, they have responsibilities for their citizens; as active citizens (even the children) their role is to ensure that political leaders deliver. ,

Joanne Kerr, Chief Executive, ActionAid International during her visit to a makeshift classroom in Kogi state. The structure, the land it is on and the two teachers who attend to the kids are a result of a hard fought battle by the community to get the government to provide what was rightfully theirs. It was not much, but it was a start.

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Cover photo:
Children from Kogi State PAP
programme.

Photo credit:
Kogi State PAP Nigeria /ActionAid

1. Reflection on the Year



Community Prioritisation
process in Nassarawa State

In the 10 years of ActionAid presence in Nigeria, at no time before 2010 had addressing the power imbalance against the poor and excluded been more important for us.

This was underscored in our emphasis in the year on building solidarity through movements, networks and coalitions. Conscious efforts were made in the year to work with various organs of the poor, supporting them to get their voices projected in all available spaces that were available for us.

Other efforts in the year were also targeted at strengthening communities, both physical and thematic, to be able to make demands, ask questions and do advocacy of their own issues. We have consciously in the year worked more at ensuring that people realise their power to effect change and exercise same. This is manifest in the people's determination in achieving change as experienced in places where we have supported people's action, from the North in Zamfara where people are consistently demanding for public accountability and quality services and down South in Anambra where people's power to effect peaceful change and violence-free election was made real.

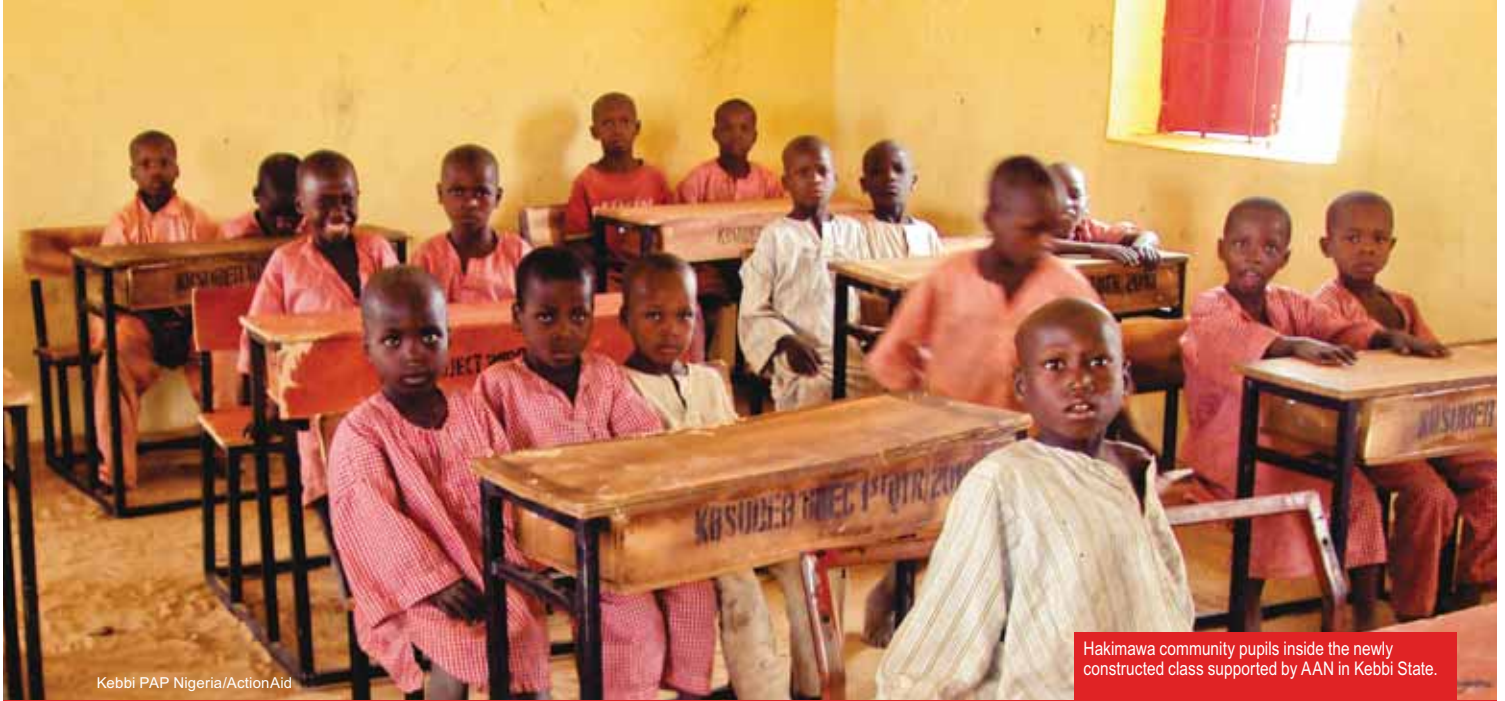
Enhancing people's perception of power and ability to engage with it through deployment of our methodologies had new meanings in the year as STAR, REFLECT, PVA etc became more powerful change-effecting tools

in the hands of the people. These methodologies in their deployment moved from mere abstractions to mobilising mechanism owned by the people; and also ceased to be indefinable and sometime delicate end but tangible means to some perceptible end.

The "State of the State" research conducted and validated in the year and which explored the State from the perspective of those denied and the poor also informed and sharpened several advocacy efforts we supported in the year.

Key lessons were learnt in the year and most crucial for us include the significance of focusing our energies on linking grassroots needs with national priorities; need to sharpen the focus of our governance work on citizen empowerment in local governance; necessity of facilitating the emergence of a movement of the poor as opposed to prioritising network of intervening agencies.

In this report, we have also presented here a report of efforts made with the people at achieving transformation in the first decade of our work in the country. We have also documented our learning in the belief that they would be significant shared learning for other development agencies that are desirous of truly people-powered interventions and could make use of them.



Kebbi PAP Nigeria/ActionAid

Hakimawa community pupils inside the newly constructed class supported by AAN in Kebbi State.

We salute the courage and conviction of the staff and partners who have in the year worked tirelessly at achieving change. We thank supporters and donors whose believe and support have significantly made changes possible. Most importantly, we celebrate those poor people, the smallholder farmers, the women and those little children in remote locations who have refused to give up hope and have resolutely continued to demand for a new Nigeria.

Ovie Igun (Prof)
Chair, Board of Trustees

Hussaini Abdu PhD
Country Director

Abbreviations

* Glossary

AA

ActionAid

LGA

Local Government Area

AAI

ActionAid International

kbps

Kilo Bytes Per Second

ADVANCE

Advocacy, Awareness and Civic Empowerment

MAP

Multi-Country AIDS Programme

AIDS

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

MDG

Millennium Development Goals

AHP

African Health Project

M&E

Monitoring and Evaluation

CAADP

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

MOT

Modes of HIV Transmission

CAPP

Community Action for Popular Participation

NAIP

Nigerian Agricultural Investment Plan

CBA

Community Based Approach

NASACA

Nasarawa State AIDS Control Agency

CDC

Community Development Committee

NDS

National Development Strategies

CECDI

Child Education and Community Development Initiative

NK

Nkonsonkonson

CiSHAN

Civil Society Network on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria

NPHCDA

National Primary Healthcare Development Agency

CJ2

Chiwuba, John and Justice

NSF

Nigeria Social Forum

CMF

Change Monitoring Framework

NSU

Net Spending Unit

CNL

Community News Letter

NYAP

Nigerian Youth AIDS Programme

CMT

Country Management Team

PADEF

Partnership Assessment and Development Framework

CREST

Children Reflection and Empowerment for Social Transformation

PAP

Partnership Against Poverty

CRR

Conflict Risk Reduction

PDA

Participatory Development Alternatives

CSACEFA

Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All

PHC

Primary Healthcare Centre

CSI

Civil Society Index

PLWHA

Person(s) Living With HIV & AIDS

CSO

Civil Society Organisation

PRO

Progress Report

CSP

Country Strategy Paper

PRRP

Participatory Review and Reflection Process

*** FADAMA**

The Hausa name for irrigable land or flood plains and low lying areas underlined by shallow aquifers and found along Nigeria's river system. In the 1990's, government introduced the National Fadama Development Project under a World Bank financing, which is aimed at empowering the economic status of local farmers by involving them in various agricultural ventures of their choice through a participatory approach.

CSS
Community System Strengthening

PSI
Population Service International

DFID
UK Department for International Development

PSRHH
Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV Reduction

DRR
Disaster Risk Reduction

PVA
Participatory Vulnerability Analysis

ECOWAS
Economic Community of West African States

REFLECT
Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowerment Community Technique

EFA
Education for All

RSHIDP
Reproductive Health Service among Internally Displaced Persons

EGBENN
Enhancing Girls Basic Education in Northern Nigeria

SAAEVIN
Strengthening Action Against Electoral Violence in Nigeria

ENR
Enhancing National Multi-sectoral Response to HIV/AIDS Programme

SACA
State AIDS Control Agency

FEMIN
Feminist Movement of Nigeria

SFH
Society for Family Health

FO
Farmer and Producer Organisations

SIPAA
Support to International Partnership against AIDS in Africa

FPMP
Fighting Poverty in the Midst of Plenty

SMT
Senior Management Team

GMF
Global Monitoring Framework

SNR
Strengthening Nigeria's Response to HIV/AIDS Programme

HAF
HIV and AIDS Fund

SRHR
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

HCT
HIV Counselling and Testing

STAR
Societies Tackling AIDS through Rights

HIV
Human Immunodeficiency Virus

SUBEB
State Universal Basic Education Board

HR/OD
Human Resources and Organisational Development

TEGIN
Transforming Education for Girls in Nigeria

HSS
Health Systems Strengthening

UA
Universal Access

IASL
Impact Assessment and Shared Learning

UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

IDP
Internally Displaced Persons

UNGASS
United Nations General Assembly Special Session

IWD
International Women's Day

UK
United Kingdom

LG
Local Government

WWW
Women Won't Wait

2. Overview of Our Work in 2010



In 2010, our programmes were implemented in six right-based themes: women's rights, right to just and democratic governance, right to education, right to health, right to food, right to human security in conflict and emergencies. These were implemented through donor funded projects and our long-term integrated partnership against poverty programme in 197 communities in 12 states. The framework for our work remain the Action Aid International (AAI) strategy Right to End Poverty, our country strategy Fighting Poverty in the Midst of Plenty II and our Participatory Reviews and Reflection Process (PRRP). Inevitably, we are also guided by the country programme reviews, as well as the various project output-to-purpose reviews that took place in some projects in 2009.

Our work under the women's rights theme focused on raising awareness and mobilising against the systems and structures that inhibit the promotion and fulfillment of women's rights to resources including land. The capacity of government agencies, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), networks/coalitions were strengthened on women rights analysis to programme for women and to advocate for actualisation of women's rights. Our work focused also on violence against women and the intersection with HIV and AIDS, as well as with women in post-conflict

communities. The women's rights work was also characterised by campaign to end violence against girls in school, monitoring of the 35% Affirmative Action for women's participation in political offices and decision making structures at all levels. Also, efforts were directed at strengthening the capacity of staff and partners on women's rights programming and institutionalisation of Women Forum in AA Nigeria. This is expected to promote women's leadership skills within and outside the organisation.

Under our right to just and democratic governance theme, we focused on enhancing capacity for economic literacy, resource and budget tracking and budget advocacy. Several trainings were conducted at different levels in public finance analysis, budget tracking and policy advocacy. Effort was made to sensitize the government and its agencies on development of a redistributive national development strategy. We advocated for financing of people centered development and commenced a research on tax justice. Poor and excluded people, civil society organisations and partners were mobilised to increase their involvement in decision-making processes and to influence policies and practices that affect the rights of poor and excluded communities. In addition, we made interventions during the last governorship elections in Anambra state in South East Nigeria. Many people in the country had expected outbreak of violence in the state during the election.

A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

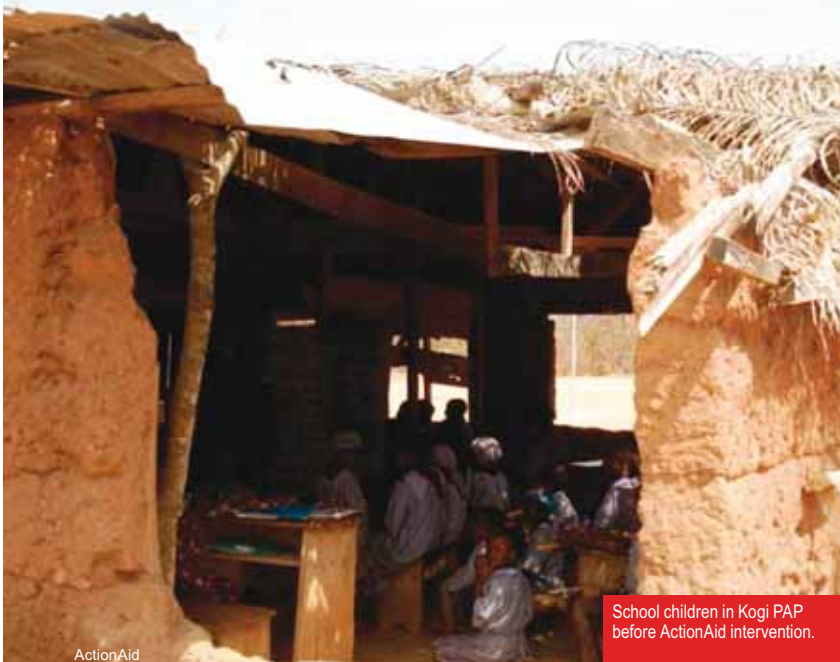
1999

ActionAid opens country office in Nigeria

2000

MacArthur Foundation asks AA Nigeria to coordinate the deployment of stepping stones package with the view to address HIV and gender issues in Nigeria

AA Nigeria launches the civil society mapping initiative which led to the formation of Civil Society Network on HIV/AIDS (CISHAN) and Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA)



School children in Kogi PAP before ActionAid intervention.

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A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2001

UK Department for International Development (DFID) contracts a consortium which includes AA Nigeria to manage a six-year, £52 million Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV Reduction (PSRHH) programme with Population Service International (PSI) and Society for Family Health (SFH)

The Queen of England's only daughter, Princess Ann visits AA Nigeria. The Princess Royal has earned herself a reputation through her work and private work over the years

European Commission selects AA Nigeria to coordinate a civil society capacity building on the use of REFLECT methodology. Reflect is an innovative approach to adult learning and social change, which fuses the theories of Paulo Freire with the methodologies of participatory rural appraisal. Originally developed in pilot projects in Bangladesh, El Salvador and Uganda between 1993 & 1995, Reflect is now used by over 500 organisations in around 70 countries worldwide.

UNESCO and the National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-Formal Education presents AA Nigeria with an award in recognition of AA Nigeria's support for literacy programme in Nigeria

This was, however, averted with our deployment of a unique approach to election work in Nigeria. Our regional level work focused on linkage with the sub-regional body of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Actions were taken under our right to health theme to influence the national health reforms from a rights perspective and strengthen the primary healthcare delivery systems especially the Ward (Health) Development Committees. We worked to track health resources and programmes through participatory monitoring processes with communities. Demand for the uptake of maternal and child health, family planning, AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria services were created among communities using participatory social mobilization approaches.

Community education on nutrition, hygiene, safe water and sanitation, malaria prevention, childhood immunisation and family planning were also promoted. We established community policy dialogues to link community issues to States and National policy discourse/agendas. Policy influencing through advocacy and campaigns, networking and alliance building were also a prominent aspect of our work in 2010.

Under the right to education theme, we prioritised our work around promoting girl child education using participatory approaches (Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowerment Community Technique (REFLECT) & piloted Children Reflection and Empowerment for Social Transformation (CREST) and education resource tracking. We also focused on promoting early child care and basic education as a justifiable fundamental human right of a child. In addition, we advocated for the commitment of the government, international development partners and the private sector to increase and improve management of resources for the achievement of Education For All (EFA) goals. We organised and mobilised Non-State Actors (NSA) to advocate for the elimination of gender disparities in access to basic education.

Our work under the right to human security in conflicts and emergencies focused hugely on facilitating community approach to conflict transformation and peace building, especially among communities that have been affected by conflict. While providing immediate support to victims of perennial flooding, we put in place emergency preparedness measures through our Conflict Risk Response (CRR) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for impact mitigation programmes.



Pupils in newly constructed school building.

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The capacity of the poor, their communities and institutions were strengthened for protection and security. Our programmes also focused on conflict prevention, transformation and emergencies mitigation as well as work on action against electoral violence. We did this through intensified work on community based approach to conflict transformation and disaster risk reduction.

Our work under the right to food theme focused on the HungerFREE campaign. We made efforts to influence government and donor agencies to invest in sustainable agriculture, rural development and to make food security an issue of political priority. We facilitated non-state actors participation in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and have secured the commitment of the Nigerian government to address the identified gaps on small holder farmers especially women in the country CAADP plan.

We took steps to advocate for increased access to market, agriculture inputs for poor farmers, food preservation and storage. We partnered with small holder farmer groups to advocate for enhanced tenure rights for poor and excluded communities, redistribution of land allocation of irrigation water to poor farmers. In 2010, we continued to strengthen our alliances with civil society organisations, farmers, cooperatives and commodity associations at all levels to engage with government to adapt and finance technology in response to climate change.

Story of Change

Ikot Akama community is a remote rural village in Oruk Anam local government area of Akwa Ibom State located in the southern white mangrove forest of Nigeria. Their major economic activities include petty trading and peasant farming, with palm oil production being their most important means of family and community income.

Here, like in most parts of traditional Africa, women are discriminated against, even though they form about 50% of the over 3,000 population. Women and girls are regarded as the weaker sex in many communities in Akwa Ibom state. They do not have a voice in family or community matters and neither can they inherit property or land. However, women have many responsibilities – preparing meals, looking after the home, raising children, fetching water, and working in the fields – which remain unvalued by the dominating patriarchal society. This means that many issues specifically affecting women and children, including access to water, healthcare and education, are not deemed important by the community decision makers: the men.

Patience Johnson, 52, is a widow and a mother of 8 children (5 girls and 3 boys). She has lived all her life in Ikot Akama and has this to say; “Right from when I was born, men have always been the only ones to take decisions in the family and community, also, it is a taboo for a woman to inherit land in this village. If a man has only female daughters, he has to immediately look for another wife that can bear him a male child, if not he stands to lose all his land when he dies; daughters are not allowed to inherit land or buildings.”

Further analysis of the situation with the women in Ikot Akama revealed that factors reinforcing these inequalities are quite complex and compound. First, because they are not organized they could not speak with one voice and be heard. Also, awareness and skills to take on their issues as part of the community is lacking. Furthermore there is no common platform that propels their concerns and promotes their rights as members of the community. These are continuously compounded by the strong mesh of local beliefs and cultural systems that promote ignorance and wide spread misconceptions about roles women can or cannot play in the community. For example, it is considered a taboo for a woman to be seen near the place where major community decisions are taken. The men believe that they will lose their lands and properties once a female inherits them, as it will immediately become property of another man when she marries. They also believe that the ancestors will make palm fruits rot on the trees once a woman is involved in deciding the harvest days.

This unequal situation over the years had come to be respected and institutionalized by the traditional patriarchal elites and this had perpetually widened the vicious cycle of poverty, promoted low self esteem, aggravated ignorance and powerlessness, increased fear and resignation to fate among the women.

ActionAid and its local rights programme partner had been working in Ikot Akama for the past four years. We began by working closely with the women groups in the community, bringing them together to form larger interest groups to discuss the issues affecting them and their children in the community. These groups also forms platform for women to unite and put pressure to influence decisions made in the community by the traditional authorities that are discriminatory. We were able to support the emergence of two women groups with over 60 women as members. These groups were sensitized on a continuous basis about women's rights issues, training in leadership skills, advocacy and planning, as well as commodity project management, for improved household incomes. Further to this, ActionAid and partner deployed the REFLECT methodology in Ikot Akama. REFLECT is ActionAid's unique methodology that help people discuss important issues that affect their community and develop plan together to overcome them. Over 110 women and 40 men are participating in the cycle.

AA Nigeria and partner supported the women groups in Ikot Akama to organize empowerment and advocacy activities that brought them together more often, and to embark on series of visits to dialogue with traditional village head and other chiefs in council. The visits were aimed at raising awareness among other community members and the leadership about the importance of involving women in community activities such as decision making, skills training and community meetings. These visits were designed to reinforce sensitisation efforts in drawing attention to the importance of women realising their rights and the tremendous benefits women participation and involvement in community decision making would bring. They were also shown how granting land inheritance and ownership to women would positively influence family income as women can freely engage in farming and selling of farm produce to increase household earnings.

After two years of repeated meetings on the identified issues affecting the rights of women, a new dawn is unfolding for the women and girls in Ikot Akama:

Women are now elected into the village council which is the highest decision making institution in the community (Women were previously never allowed to be members of the council)

Men have started allowing their women and the girl child to exercise the right to own land and buildings

According to Chief Moses Jackson, “I do not have a daughter yet but at least I have a mother and her good advice has seen me to where I am today. I believe that women have

so many things to offer. It is good to have them (women) in the village council and I will encourage other village heads to admit women into their councils”, -the village head of Ikot Akama speaking during one of the numerous visits embarked upon by the community women in his council chambers to seek for support and encouragement. He reiterated the fact that women have the right to be part of the community in every sphere because they are the “backbone” of the society.

Patience Johnson who lost her husband in 2009 has this testimony “Before my husband died, he made sure he shared his lands among all our eight children including the girls. Although my eldest daughter is married, she is using her land to farm now. I am very grateful that we were able to fight this injustice.”

Iboro Johnson (18) is one of the first girls to own land in Ikot Akama. She is so excited and has high hopes. “When my father decided he was going to share land to his daughters, his friends warned him against it, saying that the land will end up in the hands of a stranger (my future husband). I am very proud of my father and I am happy that men in our village understand that a girl is as important as a boy.” Iboro hopes to be a lawyer in future and plans to lease her land to raise funds for school. When asked why she wants to be a lawyer, her answer was “So I can help my family and make sure all women are treated with respect.”

In Ikot Akama, women were not just nominated into the village council, they participate actively and are given opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives, which are heard and respected accordingly. Esther Umoette, a female member of the village council for the past two years shares her experiences as a woman on the desired changes currently coming to her community as a result of the joint actions carried out to promote women rights and increase their participation in community decision making.

Esther comments: “Our group has already been recognised by the village council, which is a huge achievement. And even though we may not be able to change some traditions right away, we at least do have a voice now. I remember that before now, the village council decided everything for us, from personal to community issues. They naturally decide when the villagers would harvest palm kernel fruits from their farmlands at such seating. Oil palm is the most important income generating produce from our area and the women as well as the men depend on the sale of the palm oil, kernel oil, kernel meal or even the kernel fruits for some sustaining income, therefore everyone anticipate with great hope the declaration of harvesting days.”

According to tradition, it is a taboo to lay hands on the palm fruits before it is declared fit for harvest by the village leaders. However, when harvesting days and time are declared by the village council it is never favourable to the women since most times it clashes with days and times that they are attending markets or are engaged in joint events at church, or they had gone to different farmlands. Therefore only the men get

to know the right days and time. They will quickly book the few available expert palm fruits harvesters and arrange to cut down the biggest and most juicy palm fruits, while women lose out from enjoying a greater part of the harvest at the end of the day. There are many other such practices against women in different communities.

On the current situation in her village, Esther smiled with an air of excitement and continued: “we are really happy now, because presently we can speak as women in Ikot Akama and what we say is being considered by the village head and other council members; this made it possible to negotiate and change the days selected for harvesting palm kernel fruits in our community last year to days that were suitable for us women to participate fully. We now have equal opportunity to participate in the palm fruits harvesting. However, money to bid for more harvesters is not really there, we are trying and will continue. This was made possible by the active involvement of women in the village executive council meetings.”

Increasing number of women are joining the women’s group in Ikot Akama community, knowing that together they can make other changes happen. They are proudly sharing their success stories with other women to stimulate thinking and popular action. However, the challenges ahead are still enormous, even in Ikot Akama; there are still pockets of resistance and slow cooperation. We are just beginning and the community is one out of numerous villages where disempowering and discriminatory practices against women still abound. So much more needs to be done about promoting and protecting the rights of women. Nigeria is a signatory to many international and regional charters aimed at ending violence and elimination of discrimination against women and girls. These charters must leave the shelves and get into the towns and villages to aid groups like the women of Ikot Akama.



Women from Ikot Akama community in Akwa Ibom State at a women’s meeting.

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3. Impact of Our Work

Influencing policy change for sustained rights and justice

Rights of women, girl child and persons living with HIV and AIDS were the dominant issues in our efforts at effecting change to policies and practices of state and non-state institutions. Efforts were also intensified in addressing issues of education in general, right to health care and food security with some measure of success in institutionalising rights at national and sub-national levels.

Influencing government and workplace community

A study on the Modes of HIV Transmission (MoT) was conducted in 7 project states in order to assist these states to align their HIV prevention efforts with the best available knowledge of where new cases/infection of HIV are occurring. The findings of the MoT study were shared with the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State. Confronted with the magnitude of the HIV infection in the state, the Executive Governor approved and released N26 million (£104,000) for HIV prevention work. Our advocacy helped to influence an HIV & AIDS workplace policy that provides a guide on the implementation of standards for enterprises to put in place appropriate workplace response to HIV/AIDS. If fully implemented, the impact of HIV & AIDS in the workplace should be largely mitigated.

Promoting Right to Food

Smallholder female farmers and their issues gained prominence in most of the campaigns and advocacy activities in the year. During the International Women's Day (IWD) celebration in March 2010 and the observance of the World Food Day and International Poverty Eradication Day, women voices were dominant in our engagements.

In the course of 2010, we worked in the Voices for Food Security Campaign Consortium to submit a proposal to the House Committee on Agriculture on issues of access to farm inputs by smallholder farmers, national budget of agriculture and the inclusion of the Right to Food Act in the Federal Republic of Nigeria's constitution. We were able to get the commitment of the Federal House Committee on Agriculture to ensure that the sharp decline in the agriculture budget from 12% in 2009 to 3.7% in 2010 in the next budgeting cycle. We were also able to get their commitment to support the inclusion of Right to Food Act or clause in the Constitution.

A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2002

AA Nigeria introduces the Child Sponsorship system; an ActionAid tried and tested fund-raising mechanism to support its development work in its thematic areas

2003

AA Nigeria publishes the first-of-its-kind Partnership Assessment and Development Framework (PADEF) manual, a tool for partnership selection and development which was later nationally adapted by others

AA Nigeria commences its Partnership Against Poverty (PAP) programmes in Kaduna and Nasarawa states. The PAP programme is now implemented in 12 Nigerian states reaching 12,875 children directly across 197 communities



A woman receiving treatment in ActionAid Nigeria supported health facility constructed in Ebonyi State.

Ebonyi State PAP/ActionAid

Promoting Right to Health

Efforts at ensuring people-protection laws in 2010 included focus on the Internal Displaced Persons (IDP), the Anti-stigma and the Universal Access to HIV and AIDS treatment Bills. The Anti-stigma Bill got more push in Nasarawa, Kaduna, Benue, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Ogun and Lagos States. The Bill has been presented at the parliaments in Plateau, Nasarawa, Delta, Cross River, Bayelsa and Rivers States. AA Nigeria and partners have engaged with these state governments and parliamentary bodies through civil society mobilisation to lobby for these bills. We received significant media coverage around the states on these bills. Although the laws are yet to be approved, public hearings have been carried out in these states.

HIV and AIDS and stigma associated with it continue to be a huge burden in Nigeria. In responding to this, AA Nigeria is supporting the network of people living with HIV and AIDS at the federal level to pursue an Anti-stigma Bill which has passed second reading at the national assembly. It is expected that when passed, this bill will provide the legal framework that will enable persons living with the virus to actualize their right to a life of dignity devoid of harassment by service providers, and society in general. At the state level, AA Nigeria is also working with partners for the passage of same bill in Cross River and Plateau States.

Budgets indicate the priorities of government and articulate its policy thrust. In Nigeria, CSO engagement in the budget process has remained largely adhoc. Through its Advocacy, Awareness and Civic Empowerment (ADVANCE) project, AA Nigeria was able to create a pool of economic literate CSOs and media partners that are now actively engaged in the budget process. The project supported the Lagos State Government to launch a budget website where it post budget information making it easier for CSOs and the media to access budget information and to monitor budget implementation. This has also contributed to increased accountability to the citizenry. In Ejigbo Local Government Area in Lagos State for example, the LGA chairperson holds monthly town hall meetings where he presents what the LG funds were used for in the previous month and plans for the coming month. This also provides opportunities for citizens to ask questions and push for their community priorities to be included in the LG plans.

A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2004
AA Nigeria launches its first Country Strategy Paper 'Fighting Poverty in the Midst of Plenty 1'



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Increasing Access to Education

Issues of girl child education got a boost with traditional rulers from Northern Nigeria becoming more involved in the campaigns. At a Conference for Traditional Rulers, held in Abuja, the leaders, some parliamentarians and policy makers from some government agencies made commitments to actualize the rights of girls to formal education in Northern Nigeria. The Traditional Rulers for the first time agreed to hold political leaders accountable on girls' education. They also expressed interest in having their capacity built on education budget tracking. Our 2009 review and reflection led us to improve our rights-based approach to education by making more explicit links between service delivery and rights.

Some significant achievements and progress recorded as a result of this link include: more than 20% increase in girls enrolment in Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara States; increase from 30% to 90% basic education completion rate for girls in Domoso, Kaduna State; increased response from government to the needs of school, as a result of media advocacy in Kallah community in Kaduna State; improved completion/transition rates for girls from 0% to 50% in Gamji community in Bakura LGA of Zamfara State; construction of a new block of classrooms in Fanfifi

community, Kaura Namoda LGA of Zamfara State and renovation of school infrastructure in 20 project communities by government as a result of intense advocacies by AA Nigeria, partners and the communities; accreditation of Ikot Akama community school in Akwa Ibom State built by AA Nigeria; increase of education budget in Zamfara State to N500 million (£2,000,000) in the 2010 budget; and replication of Enhancing Girls Basic Education in Northern Nigeria (EGBENN) strategies in 140 communities in Zamfara State.

A resounding success in change practices that had for several years affected girl child education was recorded among the people of Gidan Kude community in Zamfara State. The community agreed to ban hawking by girls during school hours. Following the creation of REFLECT circles in the community and subsequent empowerment of members of the community, including children, girls now resist early marriages and report cases of forced marriage arrangements to appropriate authorities.

A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2004

UK Department for International Development (DFID) selects AA International to coordinate the Support to International Partnership against AIDS in Africa (SIPAA) project in 9 African countries including Nigeria. This strengthens AA Nigeria's link with the responsible government agencies on HIV & AIDS

The Nigerian Parliament accepts REFLECT methodology as one of the national official methodologies for the delivery of adult literacy in Nigeria

AA Nigeria launches the Nigeria Social Forum (NSF), a united front platform and open meeting space for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and inter-linking for effective action, by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neo-liberalism, and are committed to building a society centred on the human person



Launch of ActionAid Nigeria's report on Strengthening Action Against Electoral Violence in Nigeria.

ActionAid

Action against electoral violence

Elections in Anambra State, South East Nigeria, since the country returned to civil rule has always been characterized by violence. It was therefore expected that the March 2010 governorship elections in the state would be characterized by violence and bloodbath. The state has earned itself the reputation of being one of the states with high level of electoral related violence in the country. It also has the unenviable record of being the state where a sitting governor was abducted by private persons.

The spate of political violence has been so high and rampant in the state that one of the greatest literary icons in Africa, Prof. Chinua Achebe, in protest rejected a national honour from the Federal Government of Nigeria which has been accused of complicity in some of the violence. However, contrary to expectations, the pendulum never fell to Anambra State in March 2010. The electoral violence that was expected to consume the whole state never happened.

This was due to the intervention made by AA Nigeria through its “Strengthening Action Against Electoral Violence in Nigeria (SAAEVIN)” before the election. Our response was a more participatory approach to elections and managing electoral violence which was designed to strengthen the capacity of the people and institutions responsible for protection and security of the people. This enabled the state to facilitate such actions that were capable of energizing consolidated political, socio-cultural, institutional and legal regimes conducive for elections.

This intervention has since been documented by the organization for the purpose of experience sharing, creation of model and sharing of good practices. The report was disseminated to the public in June 2010.

A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2005

AA Nigeria's consortium wins a five-year £25 million Strengthening Nigeria's Response to HIV/AIDS (SNR) Programme funded by UK Department for International Development (DFID)

AA Nigeria losses 3 senior staff to Bellview Airline crash in October 22. To immortalize them, the organization commissions a CJ2 Foundation

AA Nigeria commissions the Civil Society Index (CSI), a participatory research project that assessed the state of civil society in Nigeria. The CSI contributed to the development and strengthening of civil society in Nigeria



ActionAid

Using research to influence policies and practices

A study on the 'state' of the State was conducted to challenge the uneven development pattern that neglect and sacrifice people's interest in true freedom and growth for economic and political development with its inequitable distribution of wealth. The project explored the State from the perspective of those denied and the poor. It also sought to analyse, understand and build peoples' issues and alternatives. Consequently, the findings/analysis/outcomes of the study informed and sharpened several advocacy efforts we supported in Bauchi, Ebonyi, Kaduna, Kebbi and Nasarawa States.

As a result, the state governments are responding to demands made by the communities in these states by providing equipment and deploying staff to health centres and schools, rehabilitating roads, constructing hand pump wells and providing electricity.

A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2005

Banyan Tree Foundation selects AA Nigeria to conduct a research on accountability, transformation and mobilization in Nigerian education. The research focused on changing school-based learning processes and the school environment by bringing rights into the classroom and making schools into places that do not just produce literate people, but transform society.

AA Nigeria receives grant from the European Commission to implement a Public Finance Analysis project. The project experiences and lessons informs the development of a public finance analysis manual currently used by others to promote accountability and track practice.

Our Learning

Most of our campaigns in 2010 did "not create or generate creative integrated bridges that are easily identified from the data of the campaigns between and across AA Nigeria's programming boundaries". There are some clear examples of where we have created bridges such as our HungerFREE campaign which successfully influenced specific investments for small holder farmers across 5 states. While it is accurate to say that this is something that we have not invested directly on, we have come to appreciate the significance of focusing our energies on linking grassroots needs with national priorities.



ActionAid Nigeria's celebrity campaigners Patience Ozokwor and Ejiike Asiegbu with AAN Staff members.

ActionAid

Mobilising civil society to challenge power imbalances

Building solidarity through movements and networks

In order to address the power imbalance against the poor and excluded, which is responsible for the inadequate social services and injustice, we continued to mobilize citizens, and the CSOs, networks and coalitions around issues that affect the poor and excluded. We focused our efforts on mobilizing civil society networks to raise their voices on the Universal Access (UA) priorities. We led a consortium of CSO networks and media organizations drawn from across Nigeria to engage with the Nigeria 2010 United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) report and released a communiqué stating the CSO coalition's dissatisfaction on the dismal lack of access of PLHWA to treatment and care. The communiqué also highlighted that about 94% of the HIV response in Nigeria was donor funded and demanded that the Nigerian government should invest its own resources in the HIV response.

Exactly one month after the release of the communiqué, which was widely broadcasted by several media houses, the Federal Government released N900 million (£3,600,000) for the procurement of HIV counselling and testing (HCT) kits with a promise to release more

funds for treatment and care.

In Kaduna State, we supported the formation of various community associations, cooperative societies and women groups in Kurmi-Bi and Madauchi communities to raise their voices on the hunger situation within the country and demand for government's action on the right to food during the 2010 World Food Day and International Poverty Eradication Day. As a result of this mobilization, five groups received support from FADAMA III (WET Lands) project. Equipment and materials, such as wheel barrows, fertilizers, spraying machines, water pumping machines and grinding/milling machines worth N1.95 million (£7,804) were donated by the project.

A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2006

AA Nigeria was selected to implement the Community Based Approach to Conflict Transformation and Peace Building in Nigeria (CBA) and Strengthening Action against Electoral Violence in Nigeria (SAAEVIN) projects. The £1 million initiatives were funded by UK Department for International Development (DFID) facilitated the evolution of participatory community based institutions for conflict transformation and peace building, which was effective for emergencies preparedness and response, within the context of redressing wrongs, guaranteeing rights and engendering social justice.

AA Nigeria allocates a quarter of a million for a project aimed to change the unequal power relations among men and women, by challenging the patriarchal system which promotes these unequal power relations in the society. The project, called Challenging Patriarchy, provides widows with sustainable livelihood options through economic empowerment projects.

AA Nigeria releases the Hausa version of Stepping Stones - a training package on gender & HIV communication and relationship skills.



ActionAid

Emir of Sokoto endorsing ActionAid Nigeria one goal Campaign.

Mobilising for quality education

For over four years, we have taken a thorough approach to mobilizing students and community members in dialogues and persistent advocacy to the Zamfara State government. The outcome of this mobilization and subsequent engagements led to the construction of a school block consisting of three classrooms with a head teacher's office, toilet facilities for boys and girls and a hand pump water source for Gidan Kude community.

The construction was supervised by the School Based Management Committee (SBMC) formed by community members to ensure that their demands are met. The impact of these efforts is captured in the words of Alhaji Ibrahim Yahaya, the community head, during the foundation laying ceremony of the block of classrooms: "Today marks the beginning of proper schooling in my community. When four years ago, ActionAid and their partners came to our community to ask us to send our girls to school, I showed them our school and informed them that parents are worried about the safety of their children in our school. They promised to help us make government come to our aid.... We are grateful to ActionAid and Alhaji Aliyu Anka for helping my community get a new school. Today government is building us a new school".

We played a catalytic role in mobilizing community groups and maintaining consistency around their demands for public accountability and quality services. This led to the replication of best practices from Gidan Kude community in other 140 communities by the Zamfara State government through the setting up of Girls Education Technical committee facilitated by AA Nigeria. The Technical committee has built the capacity of 1,104 head teachers on participatory school governance in the entire state.

Creating a platform for voices to be heard

The HungerFREE campaigns of the organisation built on the success of 2009 activities brought to the fore voices of poor and small holder farmers who hitherto were unheard voices. At an event marking the 2010 World Food Day and International Poverty Eradication Day, AA Nigeria and partners in Kogi, Ondo, Kebbi, Bauchi States and Abuja created space for poor and small holder farmers to engage with policy makers, media and other state actors.

A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2007

In partnership with the Sultan of Sokoto, AA Nigeria mobilizes all Northern Emirs and other traditional Rulers to promote girls' education in northern Nigeria

The Corporate Affairs Commission registers AA Nigeria as a Nigerian Foundation. Thereafter, AA Nigeria signs an Associate Agreement with ActionAid International and proceeds to inaugurate its Board of Trustees

AA Nigeria commissions a desk study on Niger Delta. The reports of the study informed the contents of the Book 'Ablaze for Oil!' published in 2008

AA Nigeria begins work to build the capacities of State AIDS Control Agencies (SACA) in Enugu and Plateau states on HIV and AIDS Budget Tracking and Advocacy with support from MacArthur Foundation



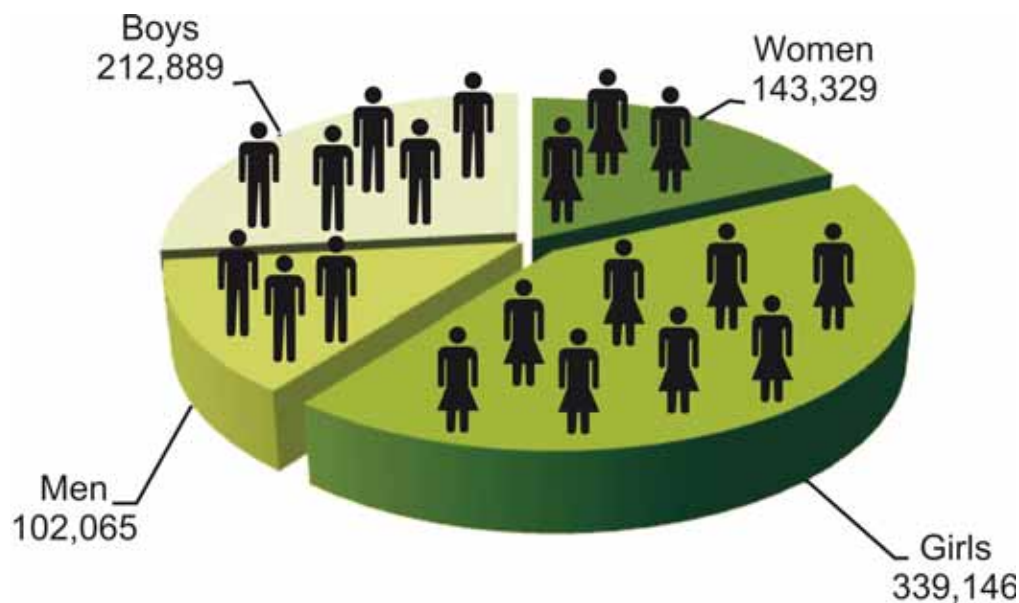
Journalists at AAN training in Abuja.

ActionAid

As part of the HungerFREE activities, a photo exhibition was organised, showing the hard realities of poverty and challenges that threaten food security in the nation. This evoked deep responses from government agencies such as FADAMA III and CAADP. They admitted that interventions currently in place to support smallholder farmers have not worked and that they were going to start looking at collaborations between the agencies and CSOs for a new way to achieve success.

Our Learning

In the midst of limited finances, we learnt to cut back on our expansion and focused on key areas of our solidarity work particularly on right to food and women's rights. Our reflection from the year is to balance meeting donor deliverables and deadlines with commitments made in our Country Strategy Paper (CSP).





Suwaiba Yakubu-Jubrin

Members of Muslim Women Forum in Jiwa community.

Creating rights consciousness

Using participatory methodologies to raise rights awareness and capacity

One of the key participatory methodologies used by ActionAid to raise consciousness on rights amongst the poor and excluded communities is the Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowerment Community Technique (REFLECT) and the Children Reflection and Empowerment for Social Transformation (CREST). By use of REFLECT and CREST methodologies, we were able to create more consciousness amongst people and communities on the issues affecting them in all the communities we work in.

We have been able to support the formation of REFLECT circles where common community issues are discussed, analyzed resulting in action plans on how to resolve the issues. A REFLECT circle member in Gungun Tagwaye community in Ngaski LGA in Kebbi State, Tanko Abdullahi (a head teacher), has this to say on REFLECT “After the meeting of the community with the REFLECT facilitator, the community resolved that the school needed a rapid change. The effort of the REFLECT circle brought about the following: increase in enrolment in schools with the immediate enrolment of 30 girls and 41 boys, construction of toilets for boys and girls, posting of a female

teacher to our school as a result of the liaison between the School Based Management Committee (SBMC) and the Education Secretary. In addition, follow up for children absent from school are being done by SBMC member”.

Other participatory methodologies like Societies Tackling AIDS through Rights (STAR) developed by ActionAid in 2006 to ensure the centrality of rights, social justice, gender and women rights in our response to HIV epidemic has also been deployed in project communities. Through the use of STAR, it was observed that most of the stigma and discrimination experienced by persons living with HIV & AIDS (PLWHA) occur in health care facilities and worship places. As a result of this, we trained 87 health workers and 35 religious leaders on HIV & AIDS related stigma and discrimination which in the past has been responsible for the reduction in number of PLWHA who access services in health facilities. In addition, we were able to deploy STAR in Ogun, Lagos and Akwa Ibom states after training 50 persons (23 males and 27 females). We supported existing STAR circles in the internally displaced persons camps and post conflict communities in Nasarawa, Plateau, Delta, Cross River, Bayelsa and Rivers States. STAR is being used to address weaknesses in health systems and to ensure accountability for services from the government in these states.

A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2007

AA Nigeria publishes Intersection of Two Current Pandemics: HIV/AIDS and Violence Against Women. The book presents a report of the twin study on the level of commitment of some identified international agencies and the government of Nigeria to gender specific actions in the response to HIV/AIDS; as well as the role of VAW in women's high vulnerability to the pandemic

AA Nigeria collaborates with Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) to monitor the 30% Affirmative Action for the advancement of women in Nigeria. The project creates awareness and advocacies on Affirmative Action for gender parity in order to enable women to influence power structures and decision-making positions at all levels



Sequel to the deployment of STAR, we were able to mobilize over two hundred and seventy (270) religious leaders in a Summit to deliberate on what their roles should be in the context of their religious tenets as regards addressing stigmatization of PLWHA in worship places. The communiqué released at the end of the 2-day Summit read in part:

We would continue to preach and teach sexual abstinence for the unmarried and mutual fidelity for the married as their ethical code. However, we would not antagonize the efficacy of the condom as a scientific means of HIV prevention amongst married discordant couples....

Building capacity and empowering people

Within the framework of building human capital, we organised several capacity building programmes including critical writing, policy influencing and advocacy, STAR and REFLECT methodologies, economic literacy and budget accountability in governance, civic empowerment, human rights based approach, and participatory vulnerability analysis trainings. A total of 67 political editors and correspondents and 33 security agents were trained on conflict sensitivity and protection and policing respectively in readiness for the Anambra State elections. In addition, we organised trainings on gender responsive budgeting in order to build a

community of CSOs who are aware of the need for gender sensitive budgets and to advocate for a 2011 budget that is responsive to the needs of women and girls.

All of these trainings have enhanced the capacity of our partners and community people to engage with duty bearers both at state and local government levels on issues of denial of rights and also to improve our programme delivery. These have led to increased government response to communities where we work. For example, as a result of our capacity building programmes, the Ago Daada community people in Ondo State were able to mobilize themselves to meet with the local government authority to seek approval and construction of Ago Daada – Ala Bridge, which is almost completed, with a commitment from the government to also grade the road.

Similarly, there is increased rights consciousness and advocacy skills among community members. Communities are beginning to make demands from local governments with positive results. In Obi LGA of Nasarawa State for instance, the community demanded for portable drinking water to address the difficulties women and children face to get water. As a result of their advocacy, four of the communities in the LGA now have borehole water.



Water source in Kuchibuyi community FCT before AAN intervention.

ActionAid

Our Learning

While the project of the 'state' of the State research enabled us to offer a paradigm of providing support and developing knowledge resources for the emergence of a new democratic developing state, it illuminated the need for us to sharpen the focus of our governance work on citizen empowerment in local governance. An immediate response in meeting this ambition is to develop a community user friendly resource kit that would be used for building local democracy and governance including women empowerment.

A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2007

Oxfam Novib awards AA Nigeria a three year contract to implement the Enhancing Girls Basic Education in Northern Nigeria (EGBENN) project aimed at eliminating gender disparities in basic education in Northern Nigeria

AA Nigeria organizes Music for Justice Concert as part of the national HungerFREE activities around food crisis and serves to ensure ActionAid becoming a credible voice in raising the profile of hunger and influencing policy responses

AA Nigeria launches the Women Won't Wait (WWW) campaign. The campaign seeks to empower women to claim their right to be free of violence and secure their power to reduce their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS

Under the DFID funded SNR programme, AA Nigeria convenes a Royal Summit on HIV/AIDS with over 120 Traditional Rulers and civil society organization participating in reaching agreements that are radically revolutionizing the HIV/AIDS response in Benue State



Community women at an AAN Women's Forum in Gofidna Community, FCT.

ActionAid

Number of persons trained

Resource Mobilization



Gender Mainstreaming



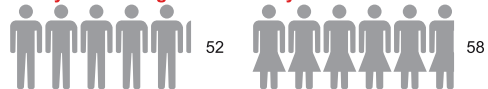
Stigma Reduction and Positive Living



Monitoring, Evaluation and Documentation



Policy Influencing and Advocacy



STAR



REFLECT



Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA)



Peer Education Plus (PEP)



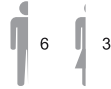
Critical Writing



Governance Accountability



Civic Empowerment



Development Journalism



Budget Tracking



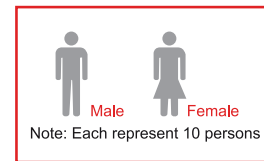
Sexual and Reproductive Health



Integrated ATM Response



Patients' Rights and Health Delivery Management





ActionAid

New water source in Kuchibuyi community FCT.

Addressing the conditions of the poor

Improving the health conditions of right holders

Our action researches and experiences in the field continued to confirm our basis to ensure a sustainable change in the condition of the poor. In 2010, we supported the construction of two health posts and 14 pit latrines in Tachia communities of Nasarawa State and a hand pump borehole was constructed in Oniyere community in Kwara State. As part of our advocacy to address the rights and immediate needs of internally displaced persons in Bayelsa and Cross River States, government responded by deploying health workers to community health facilities. In Cross River State, medical equipment were allocated to health facilities in some project communities.

While promoting an integrated community-based HIV & AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria prevention programmes with women and children and other high risk groups such as sex workers, we supported access to products and services for health promotion practices. In Plateau State, our partner collaborated with Christian Aid to distribute 20,000 insecticide treated nets to pregnant women and children in three local government areas. During 2010, the recurrent ethno-religious killings in Jos, Plateau

State increased the number of internally displaced persons in the state. We responded by providing food and non-food relief materials to over 350 women, children and infants.

In addition, we worked closely with our partners, Child Education and Community Development Initiative (CECDI), to influence the building of a primary health care centre in Tundun Abu community in Nasarawa State. Whilst AA Nigeria is funding the building project through our Partnership against Poverty (PAP) programme, the community on its part appointed an architect to design the health centre in line with the national guidelines, the local government committed to supervise the construction work to ensure compliance with standards as directed by the National primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) and the deployment of staff to the health centre when completed.



Local farmers during a HungerFree campaign in Ebonyi State.

ActionAid

Partnership against poverty

As part of our modelling service delivery, several communities in 12 project states were supported with basic amenities that helped in improving the lives of the people. In Jini-Mbol community of Farin-Ruwa Development Area in Wamba LGA of Nasarawa State, we supported the community in providing a Primary Health Centre with government's commitment to post more health personnel, supply drugs and other health equipment. In Zonkwa, Kaduna State, a total of 30 bags of fertilizer were donated by the councillor and a parliamentarian to one of our partners for distribution to the small holder farmers in the communities where we work.

In Ungwan Danbaki of Southern Kaduna, a child sponsorship supporter from the United Kingdom supported the construction of a safer community water-well after her sponsored child in the community fell and died in an old open water-well dug by the community people. The water-well was rehabilitated and an additional one was constructed from the funds donated by the supporter in memory of the late child.

Responding to conflicts and emergencies

In a bid to improve conditions of rights holders, we focused on basic strategic issues through Participatory Vulnerability Analysis (PVA) training carried out across various communities in Ondo and Lagos States. The training sensitized partners, stakeholders and communities on vulnerable areas that create adverse effects in their communities. The PVA process enhanced communities' capacity to carry out analysis of their vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms using participatory research and action tools.

During the PVA sessions, community action plans were developed which resulted in better management of diversity and provision of social and security amenities to the communities.

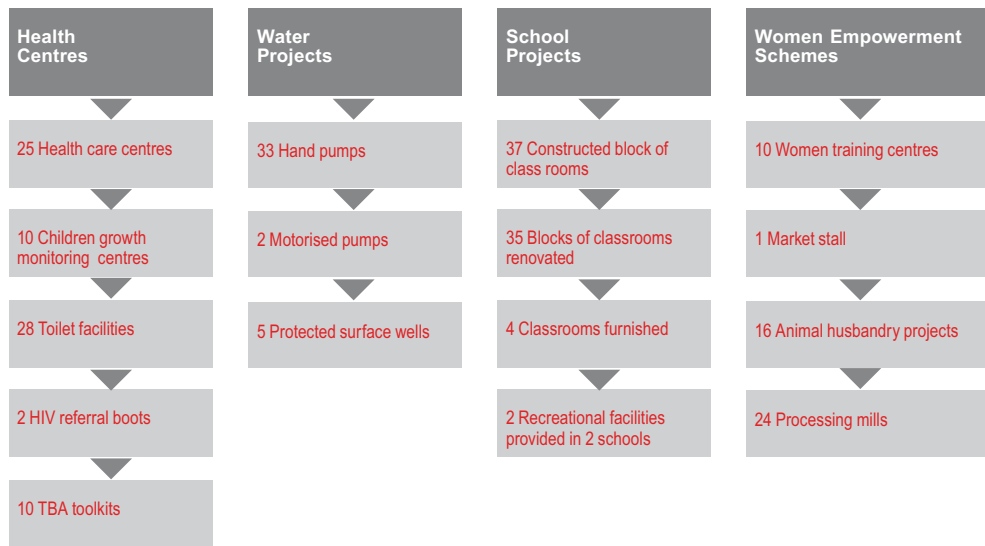
In Plateau State, women received healing and protection space following an integrated psycho-social support provided for them. The peace building coordinating mechanism established and supported at different PVA communities has brokered peace and harmony in these communities. The process secured the commitment of government to improve security, provide portable water, provide science equipment to an existing secondary school and construct a new junior secondary school.



Grain Processing Centre supported by ActionAid in Bauchi State.

ActionAid

The table below presents the physical projects completed in line with the community action plans in 2010 across 197 communities that we worked in.



Our Learning

In 2010, we were not as effective as we would have liked to be in responding to the flood situations in different parts of the country. Our turnaround time was not fast enough despite having early warning alerts. And while we had some good achievements with conflict risk reduction programmes, we need to review all our emergency preparedness tools and programmes to increase relevance to specific contexts, and to ensure stronger emphasis on response and follow-up elements.

Story of Change

Nasarawa State is located in the North-Central geopolitical region of Nigeria with 13 local government areas and a population of about 2.06 million persons made up of 51% males and 49% females. Over 80% of the people are rural subsistence farmers.

The state has experienced consistent higher prevalence than the national average over the years with 10% in the recent sentinel survey placing the state 2nd highest in the country. To address the increasing high prevalence and incidence of HIV in the face of low commitment to HIV funding, ActionAid Nigeria through the Enhancing Nigeria's Response to HIV (ENR) programme, a six year £90 million programme funded by UK Department for International Development (DFID) and managed by a consortium which includes AA Nigeria, stimulated the state government to commit more funding to HIV & AIDS in the state.

AIDS financing in Nasarawa State is drawn from both internal and external sources. The internal financing is expected to come from the government and the private sector. However, from 2007 to 2009, a whopping N600million (£2,400,000) was allocated for HIV prevention, care and support in the state. Out of this sum, less than 0.02% was released. In fact, in 2008 and 2009 respectively, there was zero release of allocated budget. That leaves AIDS financing completely in the hands of external sources. Moreover, the agency charged with the responsibility of coordinating HIV and AIDS intervention in state, existed only in name, without a functional Board that could provide strategic direction and oversight. All of these meant that HIV and AIDS interventions in the state were determined to a very large extent by the interest of donor agencies, and these interests in most cases do not align with state priorities.

This has led to the concentration of interventions in some areas, and in some cases duplication of efforts, while a vast majority of other local government areas in the state remain untouched, and consequently denied access to basic services. The gap in AIDS funding further complicate the worsening HIV situation in the state. By the end of 2008, the state recorded an HIV prevalence of 10%, second to only Benue State in the country. Within the same period also, it was estimated that over 500,000 people were living with HIV, with close to 50,000 on life saving antiretroviral treatment provided by external sources. To add to this, is the revelation from the Mode of Transmission (MoT) study that over 30% of the next 100 new infections would occur among people who are traditionally referred to as 'low risk heterosexual'. This means that people will get infected with HIV whether they are engaged in risky behaviour or not.

AA Nigeria through the ENR programme, working hand-in-hand with Nasarawa State AIDS Control Agency (NASACA) designed series of advocacy and policy influencing programmes to increase government allocation to HIV funding and more importantly, release of allocated funds in the state. Through technical support from AA Nigeria, NASACA-led donor coordination platform in the state became more functional. The platform provided the government the opportunity to understand what donor agencies were doing in the state and also become aware of the enormous funding gaps in the area of treatment and prevention. More importantly, the NASACA Board of Trustees, which had existed more in name since it's the establishment of the Agency, was inaugurated as a result of advocacy visits to the governor. Within the same period, the state government increased the amount of funds allocated and released for HIV and AIDS programmes. In other to complement government funding efforts, NASACA inaugurated the NASACA/Private Sector Forum in order to get the private sector involved in the AIDS response through their commitment of both financial and human resource capital.

Dr. Bako, the Executive Secretary of NASACA, notes that in the face of dwindling donor support, Nasarawa State government has taken action to sustain current HIV programmes, particularly the treatment programme, by committing more resources, and fulfilling its promise of making funds available for HIV programming. In 2010, the government made N100million (£400,000) budgetary allocation for the HIV response in the state, out of which N76 million (£304,000). This represents 76% of the total allocated funds released. More importantly, it also marked a radical departure from the past, where resources were allocated but not released.



Girls from Kukabakwai community Funakaye LGA, Gombe State.

ActionAid

4. Strengthening AA Nigeria

A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2009

AA Nigeria launches its second Country Strategy Plan 'Fighting Poverty in the Midst of Plenty 2 (2009 – 2013)'

AA Nigeria inaugurates its General Assembly to broaden the space for inclusion and participation of the poor and excluded in the governance of the organization as well as deepen its accountability to stakeholders at all levels

UK Department for International Development (DFID) awards a consortium including ActionAid a six-year £90 million Enhancing Nigeria's Multisectoral Response to HIV/AIDS (ENR) programme

AA Nigeria publishes Hunger Amidst Plenty following studies on aspects of the food crisis in Nigeria. The studies have thrown light on the argument to explore new ground and for better response to the crisis

Developing our people, systems and structures

Affirmative action is a major component of AA Nigeria's recruitment process. This gives preference to females where they are equally qualified as their male counterpart. As a result of this, our staff female to male ratio has improved to 52.7% to 47.3%. Based on this premise, female staff are groomed for leadership positions within the organization through training and deliberate succession planning process. So far, the Country Management Team (CMT) is made up of 70:30 female to male ratio while the Senior Management Team (SMT) is balanced.

A women's forum which was inaugurated in 2009 continued strongly this year. The forum provided platform for specific trainings on leadership and balancing the home and career for female staff while also providing space for them to discuss issues affecting them in the workplace and at home. Staff were clearly motivated by ideas shared in this forum.

In the area of communications, we utilized social media for effective dissemination of information and as an avenue for receiving constructive feedback from our stakeholders. Two websites were expanded and re-designed to accommodate ActionAid Nigeria expanding work and to project the organization. Some key information

products were published including Women and Cross-Border trade, Walking the Talk, and Protection Model on Electoral Violence in Nigeria

In recognition of the role of the media in increasing the visibility and profile of AA Nigeria, media relations were strengthened. AA Nigeria proved to be an agenda setter, providing human and material resources for the media, as well as becoming a rallying point for mobilising and motivating the critical mass to work consciously for social change.

In addition, Teleworkers were installed to improve voice communication for teleconferencing, aCelera software for increased download speed on the Hive and other internet based request and a server for staff document redirection and backup. Internet speed was upgraded from 256 by 512 kbps in 2008, 512 by 512 kbps in 2009 to 640 by 1024 kbps in 2010. The outcomes of these are the efficient working of the Nkonsonkonson (NK) system and ease of communication, documentation and inter country interface between AA Nigeria and other country programmes.

The focus of training for 2010 was on ActionAid Methodologies. This was considered very important because it was noticed that staff were losing touch with the foundational basis of our work. Also prioritized were leadership trainings to aid succession in the organization. The trainings



A water point provided by AAN in Garin Abba community, Funakaye LGA, Gombe State.

ActionAid

improved staff understanding of ActionAid methodologies while building staff capacities in leadership and management.

Also key was the capacity building for staff and partners in the rudiments of development journalism, which has led to great improvement in the reporting of development news.

The second phase of inductions for the General Assembly members was concluded while a finance and fundraising training was conducted for members of the board. Both activities are part of process of continued training for the Governing Board of AA Nigeria geared towards enabling them to understand the workings and the dynamics of the organization.

In line with our CSP projections of increasing the impact of community engagements by opening two regional offices within the CSP implementation timeline (2009-2013), the first regional office was opened in September 2010.

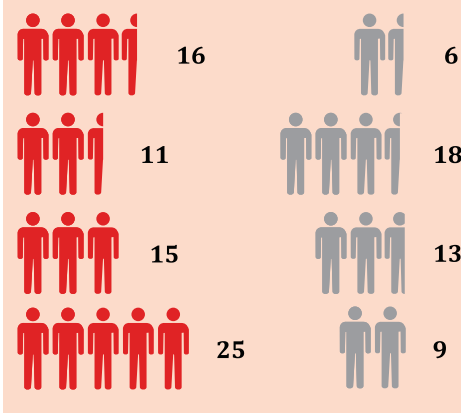
A comprehensive change management plan was put in place for the sensitization of staff and stakeholders and organizational re-positioning. This was done in preparation for the expected change in AA Nigeria status from Associate to Affiliate of AA International.

The communication unit was moved from the Human Resources and Organizational Development (HROD)

to the Policy, Advocacy & Campaign unit. The idea is to strengthen our campaign and advocacy work which is largely communication driven. It is also believed that locating communication in programmes will enhance synergy between community work and the projection of these in the public domain.

The Country Management Team (CMT) originally made up of the Senior Management Team (SMT) and the thematic heads was expanded to include all function and project coordinators. This was done to improve middle-level managers' participation in decision making processes as part of the implementation of our succession plan strategy.

With staff strength of 91 employees made up of 48 females and 43 males, staff movements were affected by new project start up, project expansion and project end. The analysis (below) of staff movement from 2007 to 2010 showed remarkable improvement in 2010.



A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2009

AA Nigeria and Community Action for Popular Participation (CAPP), with research partnership with Usman Dan Fodio University, Zaria to commence implementation of Transforming Education for Girls in Nigeria (TEGIN) project in response to findings that over 10 million children are not in school of which 60% of them are girls. TEGIN is funded by Comic Relief UK within its special education initiative

AA Nigeria publishes a report on Women and Cross-Border Trade in Nigeria as well as a Policy Guide on Women in Conflict



Celebrity campaigners Segun Odegbami and ace footballer JayJay Okocha at AAN One Goal campaign

ActionAid

A Decade Timeline of Working to End Poverty Together!

2010

With support from UK Department of International Development (DFID), AA Nigeria publishes a Protection Model on Electoral Violence in Nigeria. The publication combines the report of intervention with a protection model that is necessary for creating environment for violence-free and credible elections in a political environment

AA Nigeria is awarded a \$4 million project to manage the Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) component of the Global Fund Round 8 Health System Strengthening (HSS) project

AA Nigeria is awarded a \$4 million project to manage the Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) component of the Global Fund Round 8 Health System Strengthening (HSS) project

As set out in the current CSP, we adapted the Global Monitoring Framework (GMF) as part of unpacking the broad ‘theory’ or concept of how change happens. The GMF was being used to develop a data and analysis gathering system that enable us to focus on the areas of change we seek by consistently and regularly tracking progress, output, resource use and changes on the lives of the people that are attributed to programme activities. The GMF provided a much needed stimulus for AA Nigeria to design something similar at the country which is called Change Monitoring Framework (CMF). CMF is a broad framework that define how we assess the impact of our work in line with the commitment stated on our CSP II. This is a framework that provides a set of focused guidelines for gathering, consolidating and analysing data, information and stories about the nature, extent and results of our work.”

In terms of upward accountability, we ensured compliance with the legal statutory requirements to the Nigerian government by submitting annual and audited reports to the Corporate Affairs Commission as at when due. In addition, we also continued to keep up with compliance issues as contained in the terms of the associate agreements. In responding to these in 2010, we carried out external audits and internal audits.

Accountability to rights holders

Similarly, we deployed strategies to respond to downward accountability. For example, we reviewed our right to health, right to education and local rights programmes with communities (where we work). This helped us to have a feel of what priorities of the community people were, and also those of our partners. Critically, these reviews provided space cfor us to interact with communities and “report” back on activities.

At the broader organisational level, we undertook a Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP), an accountability mechanism in which the communities we work with, our partners and ActionAid put our achievements for each year under the scrutiny of community members. In 2010, we provided a forum for feedback by partners and communities on our work, and also on staff attitude. Unlike previous years, we made a concerted effort to decentralize the process to ensure the high quality of our PRRP processes. We installed accountability boards in 12 locations where our local rights programmes are implemented and carried out PRRPs in three communities.



An ActionAid supported water point in Bogoro local government, Bauchi State

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Anecdotally, there appears to have been positive testimonies from community members on the impact of AA Nigeria interventions as testified by a male community member on the impact of the activities of AA NIGERIA: "...before, we do not take our pregnant wives to the hospital but now we do. We not only take them there on our bikes, we also stay and listen to health talks along with them. Parents now take their wards to hospital on mere appearance of symptoms of sicknesses".

Management and governance accountability

In 2010, it was agreed by the organisation that in spite of the principle of low visibility that guides ActionAid work, it is important that communities understand the underlying values of AA Nigeria. This decision led to vigorous effort to profile the work done by the organisation by members of the national Board. As a result, community stakeholders now understand the reasons for our programmes and why we do things differently.

Significant progress was made in 2010 to prepare for the review of our affiliation. Preparation for the final associate review process helped the organisation to raise the consciousness of staff, donors, partners and other stakeholders on the impact of AA Nigeria work done so far over the years. It brought to the fore achievements and

successes that had hitherto not been documented, thus increasing the profile of the organisation both internally and externally in the communities where we work.

Support to our peers

In 2010, AA Nigeria provided peer support on governance development to other AAI countries. The board liaison & organizational development officer supported Sierra Leone in building up their governance structure while the Board chair supported Malawi in their Associate review process. These supports came as a result of recognition on progress made by AA Nigeria in its governance development and management process. The management accountant supported the close out process of the Cameroun programme.

Story of Change

The health post in Bakassi returnee resettlement community recorded the delivery of its first baby by a skilled health care worker in the wee hours of Thursday 2nd of December 2010. The mother of the child attended antenatal care at the health post within the community which prior to this time was nonexistent.

Bakassi returnee resettlement community in Ekpri Ikang, Bakassi local government area of Cross River state was selected in 2008 by ActionAid and Partner (NYAP) as an internally displaced community for the deployment of the EU funded Enhancing Essential Reproductive and Sexual Health Care in Post Conflict and Internally Displaced Persons Communities. Actual programme work started in the community in 2009 with the establishment of a STAR circle.

Societies Tackling AIDS through Rights (STAR) is a methodology deployed in the community that mobilizes communities to take decisions on issues affecting their lives and in this case Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. At the onset of programming, there was no health post in the returnee resettlement. Pregnant women would walk more than 10km to get to the nearby health centre, this greatly discouraged women from accessing health care. Most of them resorted to patronizing traditional birth attendants. The children were not left out as a cholera outbreak was experienced in the Returnee Resettlement community in early 2010 leading to the death of many children. Bakassi returnee resettlement community depends on a nearby stream for their water even though government has long approved the construction of a borehole.

Following a STAR training, community members formed a STAR circle and started holding regular community education meetings on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and taking decisions on issues that affect them. They prioritized immunization for their children and antenatal care, and embarked on advocacies to the Primary Health Care Coordinator of the LGA, for the establishment of a health post in the community. This posed a challenge as the LGA had not provided for such construction. Seeing this as a stumbling block, the community donated a building to be used as health post.

Unrelenting in their resolve to get improved health services and better care for the community, STAR circle members have continued to advocate for equipment and staffing of the health post donated by the community. The local government authority first responded by sending an adhoc staff to conduct monthly immunization exercises and was only holding bi-monthly clinic sessions, while promising that permanent staffing would be planned for in the coming year.

STAR circle members kept on holding health campaigns on issues such as HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) and water sanitation, in the course of this; they donated medicines to the health post. Community commitment and advocacy led to closer relationship with the Head of the health centre who has continuously lent her support to the STAR circle with health education talks. On that fateful night, 2nd December, 2010, she was on hand to deliver the baby. Although we have started recording success, Bakassi resettlement still needs the support of the government, civil society and donors to ensure that they have access to basic healthcare as the health post lacks adequate equipment.



Mother and first baby delivered at the Bakassi Returnee Settlement health post supported by ActionAid Nigeria.

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5. Summarised 2010 Financial



Income and Expenditure

2010 was a relatively stable year in terms of inflation and exchange rates, two major critical economic indicators that shaped the performance of the NSU in term of project budget utilisation and income realisation.

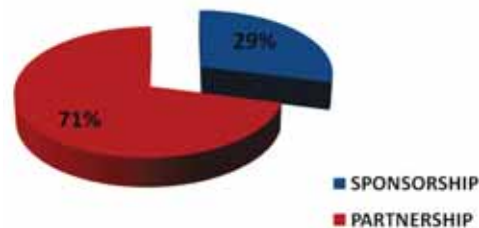
The local currency maintained stable rate against all major currency during the year. The budgeted inflation rate was 13% while the average at the end of the year was 12.8%.

Income

The income performance during the year 2010 was 93%. The lifting of the long 'hold' placed on sponsorship link allocation on the sponsorship income did not have much effect on income realisation since it was not immediately followed by new allocation of supporters to the Net Spending Unit. Total income compared to 2009 increased by 51%. This was due to the new Global Fund Health System Strengthening project and the DFID supported Election Monitoring and Voters Education project for Anambra State elections.

The ratio of sponsorship to partnership income was 29 / 71 per cent in 2010 as shown in the table below.

JAN - DEC 2010 INCOME (GBP'000)



Income and Expenditure Account, 31 December 2010

	Jan-Dec. 2010	%	Jan-Dec 2009	%
	GBP'000		GBP'000	
Income				
Regular giving (Sponsorship)	2,201	29%	2,551	51%
Other donations and partnership income	880	11.5%	176	4%
Official Partnership Income	4,444	58%	1,773	35%
Other income (interest, fx, other)	31	0.5%	76	2%
Goods in kind		1%	-	
Transfers In	57	100%	421	2%
Total Income	7,613		4,996	100%
Expenditure				
Project costs	5,557	85%	3,483	78%
Support costs	672	10%	571	13%
Fundraising costs	215	3%	304	7%
Governance costs	91	2%	91	2%
Transfers out	-		-	
Total Expenditure	6,535	100%	4,450	100%



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Community member at a stakeholder's meeting in FCT PAP

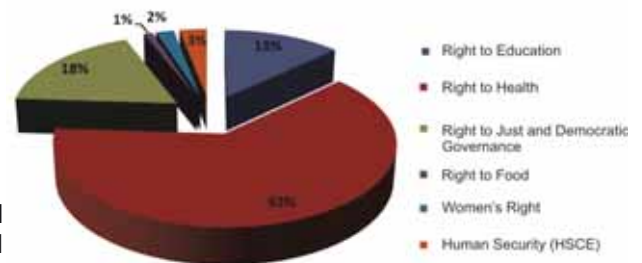
Expenditure

As a result of robust budget monitoring and cost control, expenditure in 2010 across projects, functions and units were in line with the income performance thus there was 47% increase in expenditure in 2010 compared to 2009. Expenditure spread between project and support, fundraising governance was above AAJ average of 70 / 30 percent at the ratio of 85 / 15 per cent.

Resource allocation was in line with the Net Spending Unit CSP. The thematic expenditure as shown in the table below, was in accordance with ActionAid Nigeria CSP, efforts are being intensified to secure more donor funds for the themes like Women's Right, Food Right and Just and Democratic Governance with low funding.

A resource allocation committee under the chairmanship of the country director was set up in 2009, and has since being responsible for allocation of funds to all themes, units and functions.

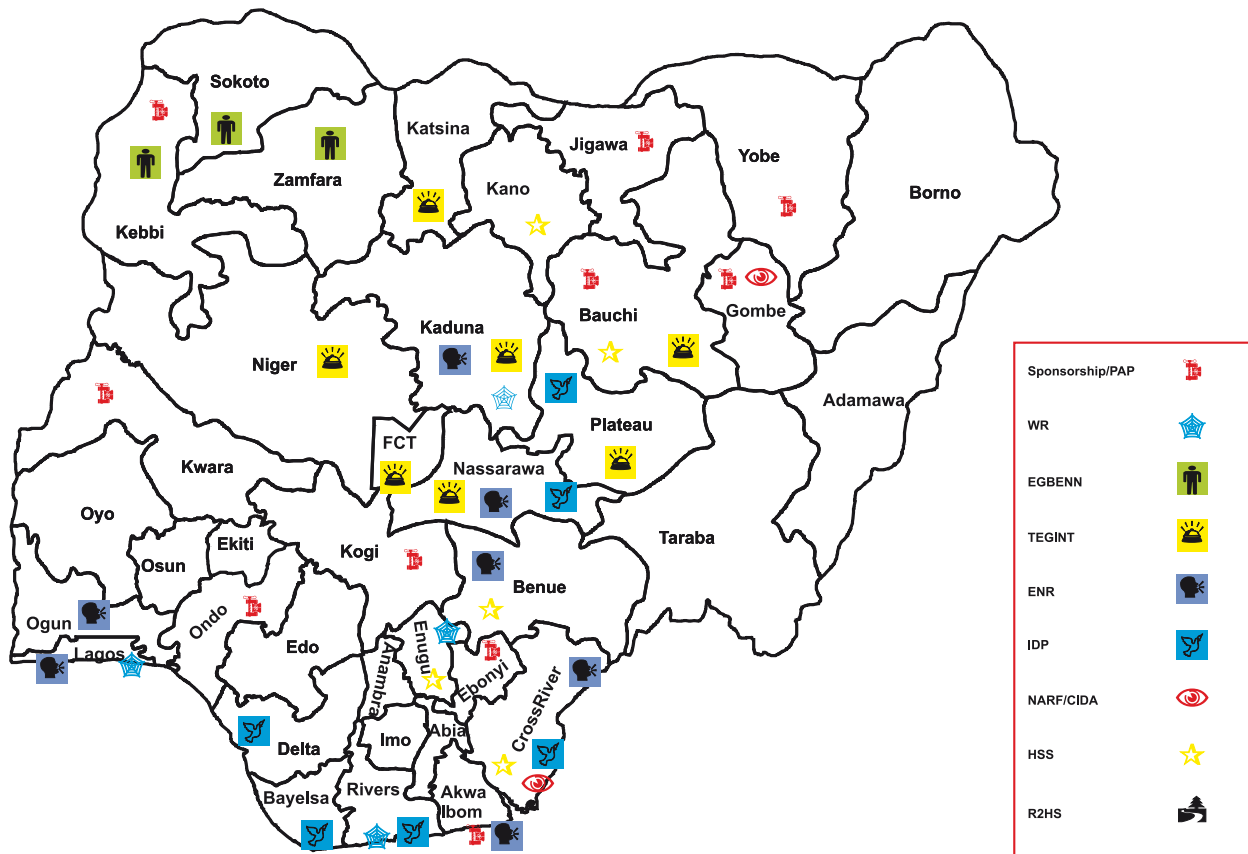
Jan - Dec 2010 Thematic Expenditure



Thematic Expenditure

Thematic Expenditure (January - December 2010)				
Themes	Budget	Actual	Variance	Utilisation Rate
	GBP'000	GBP'000	GBP'000	
Right to Education	1,093	711	382	65%
Right to Health	4,976	3,508	1,468	71%
Right to Just and Democratic Governance	544	993	-449	183%
Right to food	155	55	100	35%
Women's Right	301	94	207	31%
Human Security in Conflict & Emergencies	347	196	151	56%
Total	7,415	5,557	2,242	75%

7. Where we work





ActionAid

Physically challenged people during a campaign in Abuja

8. Our Values

Mutual respect, requiring us to recognize the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity.

Equity and justice, requiring us to work to ensure equal opportunity to everyone, irrespective of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, HIV status, colour, class, ethnicity, disability, location and religion.

Honesty and transparency: being accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and open in our judgements and communications with others.

Solidarity with poor, powerless and excluded people will be the only bias in our commitment to fight against poverty and injustice.

Courage of conviction, requiring us to be creative and radical, bold and innovative, without fear or failure – in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty.

Independence from any religious or party-political affiliation.

Humility in our presentation and behaviour, recognizing that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice.

ACTIONAID NIGERIA

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010**

	Note	2010 N	2009 N
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Grants	2	1,688,636,982	1,032,349,186
Other Income	3	54,578,771	53,037,757
Total Incoming resources		1,743,215,753	1,085,386,943
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Direct charitable expenditure	4	(1,059,841,281)	(544,353,492)
Management and administrative costs	5	(488,806,524)	(482,904,912)
UK expenditure		(1,585,251)	(2,099,899)
Total resources expended		(1,550,233,056)	(1,029,278,303)
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	14	192,982,697	56,108,640

ACTIONAID NIGERIA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010

	Note	2010 N	2009 N
FIXED ASSETS			
7		2,962,328	5,924,620
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and bank	8	266,956,641	74,578,399
Debtors	9	467,501,448	435,133,323
Other debtors	10	2,707,787	-
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year		737,165,876	509,711,722
Creditors	11	(53,576,729)	(35,642,980)
Deferred Income	12	(316,839,453)	(318,913,444)
		(370,416,182)	(354,556,424)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		366,749,694	155,155,298
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after one year			
Staff gratuity	13	(95,595,864)	(79,946,457)
NET ASSETS		274,116,158	81,133,461
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
14		274,116,158	81,133,461

The financial statements on pages 2 to 12 were approved by the Management on 29/02/2011 and signed on its behalf by:

IGNY, U/A
Osun in Hossain Akshay

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