

SWIFT

Mary Awweroro, 80, a flood survivor in Esaba Community, Ughelli South LGA, Delta State receives survival kit courtesy of ActionAid Nigeria.

Photo credit : ActionAid Nigeria

What's New?

In response to the emergency in Nigeria as a result of the periodic flooding, ActionAid Nigeria reached 28,482 survivors with relief kits consisting of food and nonfood items in Niger, Kogi, Benue, Delta and Kebbi States after a needs assessment was conducted in September 2018.

On September 14, 2018, ActionAid Nigeria in partnership with Kogi State Youth Advocacy Cluster, and Participation Initiative for Behavioral Change in Development (PIBCID) organized a public hearing at the Kogi State House of Assembly on the Kogi State Development Commission Bill (KYDC Bill) to further push for the signing of the bill into law. After much debate, the Kogi State House of Assembly on the 14th of November 2018, passed the bill into law with the following three key deliverables; provision of a legal framework for the establishment of the Youth Development Commission; provision of implementation of policies for youth empowerment, and provision of a sustainable policy guide for youth activities in the state.

ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) with funding from MacArthur Foundation, established and reactivated 150 School Based Management Committees (SBMCs) across 10 Local Government areas in Kaduna State. Members of the SBMC were trained in monitoring and supervision of the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP), an initiative of the Federal Government of Nigeria aimed at improving nutrition of school children, promoting

attendance and retention in schools and stimulating agricultural production and local economic development by linking local small-scale producers to markets (schools). The SBMCs have now been positioned to link issues arising from the various schools to the State committee of the HGSFP in Kaduna for effectiveness of the programme in the state.

Also, in the news, the Sustainable Mechanisms for Improving Livelihoods and Household Empowerment (SMILE), a 5-year project, implemented by a consortium led by CRS in collaboration with ActionAid Nigeria and Westat to improve the lives of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and their Caregivers has ended. AANs component of the project, Organisational Capacity Strengthening, yielded results with Social Development secretariats, States Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MSWAD) in 4 states, 48 Local Government and 5 Area councils poised to proficiently coordinate and manage Vulnerable Children (VC) response. Other key achievement includes the approval of VC budget lines in 2018 appropriation across three states and the FCT as follows: - 18million in FCT, 10 million in Nasarawa, 45 Million in Benue and 100 million in Kogi. The project ended with commitment by the state governments and relevant agencies to own and scale up results.

Welcome to Swift!

actionaid

WALK THE TALK.... STAND AGAINST CORRUPTION



Various studies have shown that corruption is a social problem that affects social, political and economic life in any society where it exists. It hinders development and prevents investment in public values. In Nigeria's context, the focus has been on fighting corruption in public offices, however, more civil society organisations are now focussing the lens on the citizens as research has shown that corruption has a demand and supply side.

While citizens are demanding transparency and accountability in governance, how are our attitudes towards the menace? Are there social norms that promote or pressure public office holders into corruption?

On September 27, 2018 ActionAid Nigeria through the Strengthening Citizens Resistance Against Prevalence of Corruption, SCRAP-C, a 5-year project of the UK Anti-Corruption in Nigeria Programme (ACORN), took to the streets to raise awareness and stimulate public discourse on the key roles of the citizens in the anti-corruption fight.

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How are you supporting the anti-corruption fight in your own space?

Join the conversation.
Take a stand against corruption:

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FROM BILL TO LAW...

KOGI YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



Did you know that about 408 million youths (ages 15 – 29) live in regions affected by conflict or organized violence? In these areas, youths are often vulnerable and easy to manipulate. Research shows that some of the key drivers of extreme radicalization include unemployment, poverty, idleness, and poor education system.

In Kogi state the issue of violent extremism has been a sore spot counteracting every effort to improve the state with a massive negative effect on the growth and development of the youths. The ministry of Youths and sports, has so far focused mainly on developing the sports sector without paying so much attention to youth's skill building and development.

Proper planning of capacity building initiatives and execution need to be on ground if sustainable growth must be achieved within the state.

Against this backdrop, ActionAid Nigeria in partnership with Kogi State Youth Advocacy Cluster, and Participation Initiative for Behavioral Change in Development (PIBCID) organized a public hearing at the Kogi State House of Assembly on the Kogi State Development Commission Bill (KYDC Bill) to further push for the signing of the bill into law.

After much debate, the Kogi State House of Assembly on the 14th of November 2018, passed the bill into law with the following three key deliverables; provision of a legal framework for the establishment of the Youth Development Commission; provision of implementation of policies for youth empowerment, and provision of a sustainable policy guide for youth activities in the state. ActionAid Nigeria believes that the youth empowerment focused Commission will pave way for sustainable development and curb violent extremism in the state.



THE NEW BREED OF JOURNALISTS; JOURNALISTS AGAINST POVERTY (JAP)

It's easy to find the things wrong with journalism today, with the large number of non-professionals flocking into the industry based on the assumption that the art of gathering and dissemination of news can be done by anybody; case in point, in Nigeria, fake news, unbalanced reports, “copy and paste” reporting has taken centre stage, with only few journalists going through the rigorous but ideal route of investigative reporting. It is against this backdrop that ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) prioritised building the capacity of journalist as core of its communication strategy. AAN had continued to build the capacity of journalists covering various beats including; Conflict and Emergencies, Agriculture, Corruption and Governance - to mention a few.

Despite intensive trainings, gaps exist; lack of synergy between journalists and low skills share topped the list. Journalist Against Poverty (JAP) was set up to address these challenges and more. JAP also focus on amplifying the voices of vulnerable groups through investigative reports and partners with ActionAid Nigeria in the fight against all forms of injustices. The network operates as a loose media networking platform that provide opportunities for journalists to work with development organisations such as ActionAid, get technical support and learn the innovation and dynamics of development in Nigeria through the lens of non-state actors while providing training opportunities and other work tools and resources for members.

JAP is now partnering with other INGOs and is poised to amplify voices of vulnerable groups for social justice.

**For more information on JAP - Facebook: JAP Initiative
Twitter and Instagram: JapInitiative | Email: japinitiativeng@gmail.com**

UNDAUNTED

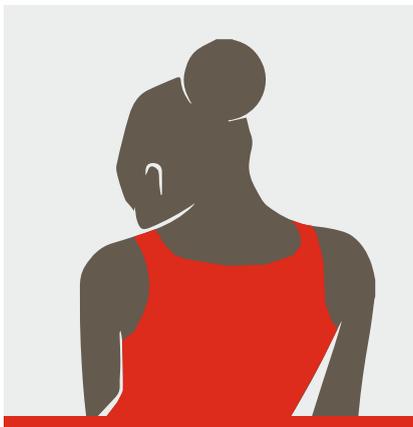
Osaro's Story

This is a true story. The real name and image of the beneficiary has been hidden for protection. The Migration project is funded by the Italian Ministry of Interior and Implemented by [ActionAid Nigeria](#).

My first experience to sex was rape. I was raped by 5 men on my way from school while in JSS3 here in Benin and was in coma for over a month, but God kept me. After completing my SSCE, I had to stop school to enable my parents send my 5 younger ones to school because they could not afford to pay for all of us. Looking at the resources they had as at that time, my parents had to choose either to send me to higher institution or to put the education of my younger ones on standby, so I volunteered to drop out.

The Quest

After dropping out, to keep myself engaged, I started learning hair dressing, but after graduation I couldn't get funds to open my own shop. It was during this time that a friend of mine introduced me to a woman who could help me go to Russia and work as a stylist. My instinct told me nothing to do with "hair to go because I needed the family and myself. I left home parents. On arrival in Russia I girls at "The Recramer". The hub and an online site where for prostitution service. As is entrant was to work for "the back \$46,000 before we get passport, which was seized go and live on our own. I off but not without blood and refusing a customer anal sex, from a 10-story building due customer. As workers, for the first one year, we had to steal from our clients to buy necessities for body care. This is because the money from clients goes straight to our madam who doesn't care about that. Our Madam is from Edo and all the men that work with her to monitor us are also Nigerians. For that period of one year, I slept with an average of 30 men daily, I moved with pain from one place to another and all I had in my mind was to pay the madam off, regain my freedom and make enough to support my family back home. We were paid 6000 Rubles (90 dollars) for two hours.



me go to Russia and work as that the job I will do had styling" but I was determined money to make a life for my in 2011 without telling my met about 30 other Nigerian Recramer has both a physical all girls like me were enlisted the custom, every new madam" for one year to pay back our international on arrival and become free to successfully paid my madam sweat. I was stabbed for on another occasion I jumped to fear of being killed by a

After paying my madam off, she allowed me stay in her place for one month extra to make some money for myself to rent a place. During this period, I was working as a stripper and on the streets, but the street was tough. I was coming out from an overnight job when I was arrested and deported in 2016 after spending 4 years and 8 months.

The Next Turn

On getting back to Nigeria from Russia, I had about 2 million Naira in the account, I had been sending money home and my dad had been putting it in the account. I also purchased a land, but I lost some of the money mysteriously. [Continue reading from page 3.....](#)

In March 2017, with the remaining five hundred thousand naira I had, I decided to go to Italy and embarked on the journey through Libya. The journey was not easy, we were about 59 girls and 18 died in the desert when our car broke down and the smuggler abandoned us there. Fortunately for me, I got to Italy, however, a day after I arrived, I was deported back to Nigeria in September after a 6 months journey. When I got back, I thought of trying Canada, but I had no funds, so I started looking for what to do until I was introduced to the ActionAid Nigeria project which is empowering young people like me through skill acquisition and provision of business capital to start my business. Now with what I have learned, I don't plan to go anywhere for now. I have started producing insecticides on my own and I am hoping to make something out of life. My suggestion is for government to improve on this project and make it a national programme to encourage youths like me, especially young girls so that they don't fall prey and end in the wrong path.

BUILDING RESILIENCE



“All my children are out of school. My last child is 6 years and I gave birth to her during the last flood in 2012 at this IDP camp. The last time this happened, the only thing we got from government was three thousand naira (\$8) and one small paint rubber of rice. After the flood, we took loan of five hundred-thousand-naira (\$1,400) and tried reinvesting in our farm and rebuilding our lives, but just as we are trying to fully recover, another flood happened in 2015 and now in 2018. Government needs to find a lasting solution to this problem” –

Franca Felix, 45, mother of 8 told ActionAid Nigeria EFAS team on arrival at Ndokwa East IDP camp, Delta State. In September 2018, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) had declared state of emergency in 4 states; Kogi, Niger, Delta and Anambra due to the flood. The torrential rainfall between August and September 2018 caused displacement, death, destruction and disruption of livelihoods in Niger, Jigawa, Kogi, Adamawa, Bayelsa, Anambra, Delta, Benue among other States. The Floods killed over 150 persons and affected about 3Million persons across 12 states.

ActionAid Nigeria swung into action to assess the situation and support governments effort in providing immediate needs for survivors. ActionAid Nigeria responded and provided survival kits containing food and non-food materials across 5 states. In Benue state where the living conditions of IDPs have become worse, ActionAid Nigeria reached 326 nursing and pregnant women, 250 girls of reproductive age, 395 children and 86 persons with disability with relevant relief items. In Niger State, 2160 women led household were reached with food items, while another 300 women received conditional cash transfers of N30,000 each.

ActionAid Nigeria recommends that the strategic emergency response plan of government on combating flooding should include relocation of people to upland, construction of bridges and waterway for overflow, dredging and clearing of drainages, renovation of existing camps and setting up proper camps, as most IDP camps in the country are make shift camps without proper facilities such as functional toilets for women, men and persons with disabilities, as well as schools for children.

FINISHING STRONG

SMILE (Sustainable Mechanism for Improving Livelihoods & Household Empowerment)

The SMILE project ended in September 2018, below are highlights of the project milestones:



Formal and informal linkages on Child Protection strengthened: this resulted in increased cases of early child marriage, sexual and physical violence taken up and addressed by religious and traditional institutions



Development and continuous implementation of the End Violence against Children (EndVaC) multi sectorial response plan for Edo, Benue and the FCT



Child Right Implementation Committees (CRIC) in 48 LGAs hear and determine cases in line with the Child Right Act 2003



Sustainability efforts yield positive results with the approval of VC budget lines in 2018 appropriation across 4 states as follows: - 18million in FCT, 10 million in Nasarawa, 45 Million in Benue,



Over 100 communities campaigning and reporting child abuse cases in Edo, Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa and FCT



Capacity and knowledge of the social welfare personnel in government and non-government sectors deepened.



Vulnerable Children (VC) referral pathways were established encompassing all service areas in line with national service standard and has become important tool in facilitating access to services for children and their caregivers.



Vulnerable Children (VC) Desk Officers and units established/ reactivated and functional in 48 LGAs



VC Task Force teams enforcing, tracking, monitoring and reporting within a defined referral pathway on child related cases



Multi-sectoral implementation of 6 policy documents (Understanding my Basic Rights as a Child, Child Protection Policy, the State Plan of Action, EndVaC Response Plan, Service Standards and Directory, Resource Mobilisation Strategy.



Prompt and quick response to child protection issues in the formal child justice system



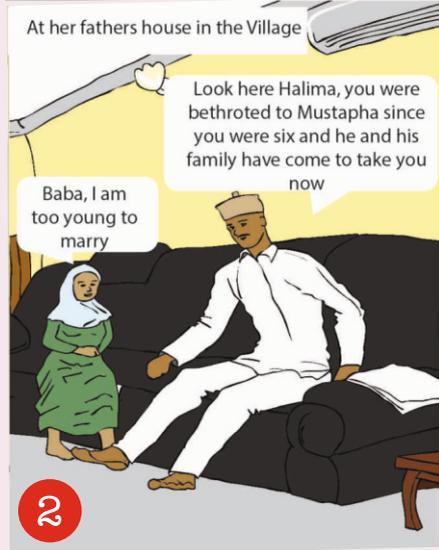
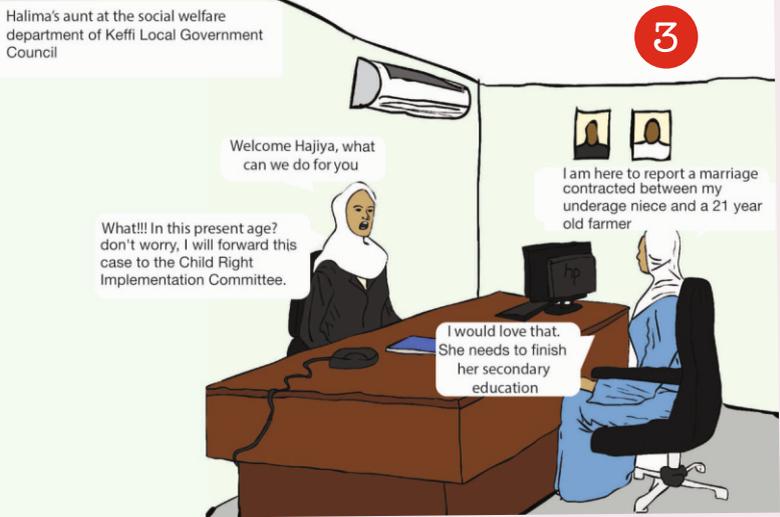
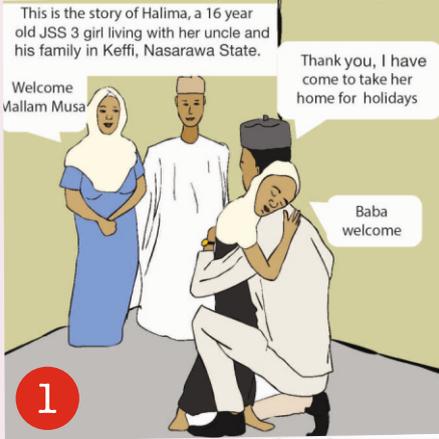
Renovation of 8 Children Homes and facilities



Development of civil procedure and reactivation of the Family Court has revived closed Child cases with trial and prosecution of offenders

Child; Not Bride

A true story from the SMILE (Sustainable Mechanism for Improving Livelihoods & Household Empowerment) project.



The Child Right Committee is not giving up. They have been empowered by ActionAid Nigeria through SMILE project to handle cases of Child Right Protection. They are committed to fighting for Halima's right to Basic Education by ensuring that the marriage does not hold. But if it however takes place before a court injunction is declared, their hope is also hinged on the possibility of an annulment of the said marriage of an underaged as provided in the Nassarawa State Child Rights Law of 2005.

A group of people, including a young boy in a grey bucket hat and a woman in a black headscarf, are holding a large white sign. The sign has the text "SAY NO TO RAPE" written on it in a bold, serif font. "SAY" and "TO RAPE" are in black, while "NO" is in red. The background shows other people and a blurred outdoor setting.

SAY NO
TO RAPE

#JUSTICEFOROCHANYA

Advocating Safe Cities for Every Child

It is no longer news that cases of child abuse and child molestation seem to have gained grounds in Nigeria. Report shows that about 50% of children under the age of 18 years have experienced either physical violence or emotional violence.

On the 17th of October 2018, 13-year-old Elizabeth Ochanya died following complications from sexual abuse by her guardian, a 51-year-old lecturer, Andrew Ogbuja, a heinous act he committed with his son Victor Ogbuja. ActionAid Nigeria joined Civil Society Organizations and other concerned citizens to demand Justice for Ochanya in a peaceful march to End Violence Against Children. Although Andrew Ogbuja who was previously free is now cooling off behind bars pending his sentence, Ochanya's death could have been prevented if the school in her community was functional and provided quality services.

According to sources close to Ochanya's family, Ochanya had left her parent to live with her abuser all in a bid to access quality Education due to the incessant strike in the public school in her community.

As a passionate advocate for child protection, ActionAid Nigeria will like to use this medium to remind the Federal and State Government that access to quality and basic education is the right of every Nigerian Child, while urging all state governments who are yet to activate the child right law to expedite action.



PROMOTING PEACE THROUGH CREATIVITY

Peace is not merely a possibility; it is a constant reality that is always with us. We must remove the chains we have put on it, to release it, so it can bless our lives and society". Governor Yahaya Bello (speaking through Kogi State Chief of Staff, Mr. Edward Onoja) at the Kogi Peace Fiesta organized by AAN in commemoration of the Global Peace Day 2018. A-list and upcoming musicians and Nollywood artistes were present to motivate the youths and encourage them to shun all forms of violence ahead of the 2019 election, amongst whom were the senior special adviser to Kogi State Governor on tourism and Actress, Mercy Johnson,

ActionAid Nigeria's Ambassador, Mark Angel, Zainab Sule, Harrysong, Lepacious Bose amongst others. The peace musical concert which was preceded by a peace walk strengthened the resolve of Kogi youths to remain 2nd of 10th most peaceful states in Nigeria or move to be the 1st most peaceful state in Nigeria. The event also gave upcoming talents a platform for visibility. Highlight was the giveaway of freebies such as phones and laptops by local vendors and youths pledging to embrace peace and commending ActionAid Nigeria for the initiative which was first of its kind in the state.



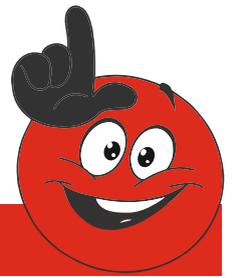
The Million People's Movement Against Poverty (MILMAP)

MILMAP is an online platform which employs a multi-level referral system where individuals sign up to join the movement and can mobilize supports/invite others on their social network without glitches through a fully automated Customer Relationship Management component that is linked to an automated call management system and online payment gateway.

This is in tandem with ActionAid Nigeria's Community Sponsorship initiative that provides opportunity for Nigerians to make regular donations in support of extremely poor communities through a structured and accountable mechanism.

Watch out for the next edition of SWIFT for launch details or visit www.actionaid-ngr.org/

One More THING!



Have you heard about Internet of Things (IoT)?

IoT is not just about connecting devices to the internet, but also making sense of the "things" that are connected. Over the past decade, the advent of digital technology innovations has changed many things for good; it has enhanced intelligent building, smart healthcare, smart transportation systems together with smart energy and water networks. Simply put, IoT has helped developed countries across the world build smart and safe cities, but the questions are how and when will Nigeria embrace the possibilities of IoT for development?

In Nigeria, we have increasingly deployed digital systems to improve our way of life. However, many of these digital systems lack intelligence and analytics. By embracing the Internet of Things, we can benefit from its numerous applications such as smart traffic systems, smart buildings, smart plugs, smart electric meters, smart water meters and many more. Smart Waste Management system can send information to waste control agencies giving real-time information about the status of the waste bin leading to efficient waste collection schedule.

In Smart Farming, farmers can receive precise information on current weather, slope of land, soil moisture, sunshine exposure, chemicals and other conditions which can affect crop growth positively or negatively. A Smart Flood Detection system can be deployed to monitor water level variations in rivers, dams and reservoirs which will help determine the chances of flooding and ensure proper flood defenses are put in place.

In summary, Internet of Things has been proven to boost health, agriculture, finance, education, manufacturing, security and energy of any given economy. The challenge in Nigeria is that there is no central data bank and no transition in data over the years. An analysis of Nigeria's challenges in attaining proper IoT is slightly different because Nigeria is still struggling with data collection. Until Nigeria perfects the dependent entities of IoT like power, data bank, cyber security, internet access and development of its human capital, the imported smart technologies will still struggle to attain IoT advancement.

In 2019, we hope that the next dispensation of leadership will embrace this new emerging technology and the possibilities that IoT can bring in fast-tracking Nigeria's development.

Source : interesting.io

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