

SWIFT

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WHAT'S NEW?

You are welcome to another exciting edition of SWIFT!

It is a pleasure sharing updates on ActionAid Nigeria's activities within the last quarter with you.

In my last update, I mentioned that Nigeria was experiencing the worst flood in a decade. At the height of the flood in 2022, ActionAid Nigeria provided emergency response to some households severely affected in Bayelsa, Jigawa, Kogi, Anambra, and Delta states. Within the last few months, we have also provided post-emergency responses to some households in Bayelsa and Jigawa with the hopes of helping them gradually rebuild their lives. Thousands of families and many states have not recovered from the catastrophic event of last year. Yet, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) warned Nigeria to prepare for another severe flood in 2023.

Undoubtedly, the annual displacement of people from their communities and severe losses across Nigeria because of the flood will continue to deepen the poverty levels of states and Nigerians. ActionAid Nigeria will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that the plans and interventions on flood this year are commensurate with the level of impact.

Nigeria has also concluded her general elections. Although plagued by the lowest voter turnout since democracy and other issues such as vote buying and voter apathy, a President-elect has emerged.

ActionAid Nigeria aligns with the Situation Room's demand for an independent inquiry into the conduct of the 2023 Nigeria General Elections.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank Chipper Cash for donating to our post-flood intervention in Bayelsa State. Preventing the flood disaster and its implications on lives and livelihoods is a collective responsibility, with the Nigerian government in the leading space. However, ActionAid Nigeria welcomes partnerships with corporate organisations and philanthropists through her community sponsorship initiative to support families and communities still trying to recover from the flood

in 2022 and those likely to be affected this year.

The donation from Leadway Assurance towards ActionAid's Community Sponsorship initiative is worthy of mention. This has led to the renovation of a school in Yobe State.

Please, enjoy reading this edition of SWIFT and learn more about the impact of our work across Nigeria.

Ene Obi

Country Director
ActionAid Nigeria



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A BETTER, SMARTER, AND MORE REWARDING EXPERIENCE IN TANBUTU COMMUNITY

In 2022, ActionAid Nigeria's Community Sponsorship received a donation of N5.5million from Leadway Insurance to improve the quality of learning and for the provision of a conducive learning environment for primary school pupils in the Tanbutu community, Yobe State.



ActionAid Nigeria, through her local rights partner, YOPCODI, has now renovated a block of two classrooms, an office, and a store for Tanbutu community primary school, with an additional 100 desks and chairs provided for the children.

Leadway Insurance has indeed provided a better, smarter, and more rewarding experience for Tanbutu community primary school pupils. Children also will no longer sit on the floor to learn.



Promoting #AlternativeToMigration:

N42million Grants to 100 Youth-Cooperatives

In December 2022, ActionAid Nigeria, in partnership with GIZ GOPA, hosted a Challenge Fund Award and Entrepreneurship Development Solution Certification (EDSC) designed to empower 2000 youths with vocational and technical skills in fashion, hair styling, poultry, fishery, aluminum fabrication, graphics designing, cosmetology and lots more to assist in commencing and promoting their business operations.

The challenge fund award and EDSC are part of a series of activities carried out through AAN's Migration project tagged "Dare To Hope." The three-year project, which ends in 2023, created alternatives to migration through the socio-economic empowerment of youths (18-35 years). The project also sensitised community groups to the risk of irregular migration and strengthened some of the State's institutional structures to mitigate irregular migration.

The Challenge Fund, which stood at Forty-two million naira, was given as grants to one hundred youth cooperatives based on their performances and progress made within six months.

The Migration project is funded by the Italian Ministry of Interior and ActionAid Italy.



ActionAid Nigeria welcomes partnerships with corporate organisations and philanthropists through her community sponsorship initiative to provide grants to more youth and women cooperatives across Nigeria.

NIGERIA FLOODS 2022



Nigeria experienced the worst flood in a decade in 2022, with about 1.4 million people across 31 States affected, over 700,000 were displaced, and an estimated 500 deaths recorded. At the height of the flood in 2022, ActionAid Nigeria provided emergency response to some households severely affected in Bayelsa, Jigawa, Kogi, Anambra, and Delta states.

As part of ActionAid's effort to provide post-flood support to survivors, with the hopes of gradually helping them rebuild their lives, ActionAid partnered with Chipper Cash, a cross-border payment application, through the Community Sponsorship Initiative to provide financial and non-financial support to affected households in Bayelsa State.

The partnership with Chipper Cash was timely because it was the Yuletide Season when people's hearts should be merry. The collaboration provided varieties of food and ten thousand naira each to seventy households across the Gbarain and Ekpetiama clans in Yenogoa LGA.

Petty Jumbo, a mother of 2, was eight months pregnant when the floods reached Okolobiri community. She said,

'We woke up one night to see our entire house flooded; 2 of my children couldn't stand because the height of the water was already above them, and members of the community were already running helter-skelter. We all would have been submerged in the water if we'd stayed one more hour in the community. My husband and I had to carry the children to safety so we couldn't take many belongings besides a few clothes. That was how we lost everything.'

Petty attended her ante-natal appointments in the community health centre before the flood, but it became submerged too. She eventually registered in another hospital in Yenogoa when all displaced persons were moved to the IDP camp. There, she welcomed her newborn daughter.

"Before the flood, my husband and I had a good

business; we produced and supplied scent leaves, and Ugwu leaves in bags to Traders. We also had a fishpond thriving in sales until the flood displaced us. Suddenly, our lives changed, and we became people that depended on Government for feeding at the camp and now still relying on the goodwill of people for survival as we try to start our farm again. My family is happy for the timely gift of cash and foodstuff from ActionAid."



CHRISTMAS CAME CORRECT

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Despite all that happened to my family and the entire community this year arising from the flood - the losses, the destruction, the displacement, Christmas came correct! Yesterday, the only meal I had was Gaari. Even then, I begged for the N100 I used to buy it. I had no idea where the meal for today would come from. Last night, MACJIM Foundation (ActionAid's Partner) visited me, said I should come to their office today, and gave me the address. I was one of the early arrivals, even though I had no idea what the call was about. I was hoping for good news and didn't even know who they were. I just bought a bathing soap, Vaseline, and groundnut to drink gaari. I will cook rice later tonight. I haven't used soap to have my bath in a long time. I opened the package and saw vegetable oil, rice, gaari, maggi. Today is just a good day." Savannah Brady, Ogoloma Community.

Savannah Brady, Ogoloma Community

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SWIFT WOMAN

Fadeela: The First Female Vice President leading in Kebbi State

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Before I was selected to be one of the 50 mentees under WV-L-N Young Women Leaders Mentorship Programme, I was very shy and did not have the courage and confidence to stand in front of a crowd to speak, but based on the knowledge I gained during the mentorship program I now have a truckload of self-esteem.

”

Fadeela Bello, a student at the College of Nursing Sciences, is a mentee on the Young Women Leaders Mentorship programme organised by Kungiyar Tallafin Mata Development Initiative (KTMDI), a partner on ActionAid Nigeria's Women Voice and Leadership-Nigeria (WV-L-N) project in Kebbi state. Due to the high level of patriarchal dominance, cultural and religious hindrances that plague young women from participating in leadership and political spaces in the North, the WV-L-N project sought to help women and girls project their voices and attain leadership positions in their various communities.



Fadeela is among the fifty Young Women Leaders Mentees drawn from Tertiary institutions in Kebbi state and allowed to break the barriers and norms that limit them from participating in political and leadership positions. With a six-month mentorship programme enroute, they are being taught topics around life skills, leadership, and communication skills. These serve as an eye-opener for women and girls, building their confidence to vie for any position they choose.

With her confidence built, Fadeela contested for the position of Student Union Government (SUG) Vice President of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Vice President National Association of Kebbi State students (NAKSS) and won both positions against her male counterpart and other candidates making her the first female student to become a Vice President of Student Union Government (SUG) of College of Nursing Sciences in Kebbi state.

“

As an elected female vice president, I am mentoring other female students to build their self-esteem. After completing my education, I hope to participate in political and leadership spaces beyond the school level, and I will continue to mobilise other young women to develop ambition for leadership wherever they find themselves

says Fadeela

”

Global Affairs Canada is funding the WVL project.

LELEYI BASSA COMMUNITY – The Quest for Social Justice

In commemoration of World Social Justice Day, ActionAid Nigeria, working within the ambiance of the theme for 2023 – Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice, fostered dialogue with communities, women, children, youths, civil society, other stakeholders, and the media. The discussion sought to strengthen the social contract (agreement, between the ruled and their rulers, defining the rights and duties of each) that has been punctured by the spate of inequalities, conflicts and have weakened institutions meant to protect the rights of individuals.

The dialogue was an opportunity for the communities to reflect on their rights and how or otherwise they have been able to engage the duty bearers in ensuring equitable distribution of resources to all.

Women and youths across three communities in Leleiyi Bassa, Kwali Area Council, Abuja reiterated their demands for social justice to all tiers of government through the media, particularly an urgent request for cash swap for communities that are hard reach amidst the introduction of new naira notes in Nigeria and lack of access to cash. Their other demands revolve around accessibility to basic amenities and the lack of them for some.



MY FIRST PROGRAMMES MEETING EXPERIENCE – Queen Asue

I resumed ActionAid in January 2023, when the organisation was planning for a supposed programme meeting. The aura around the office made me realise that the meeting was significant to the organisation's staff, including the Janitors. It gave me a feeling of 'Santa is coming' with a stint of a 'defense meeting at the national assembly.'

When I eventually saw the agenda with the scheduled dates of 1st to 3rd February, the tasks and activities looked nothing short of WAEC and JAMB. I quickly shifted my focus to the dress codes and other seemingly exciting activities on the agenda.

I wore the best of my corporate suit for the first day, feeling like I had 'killed' the event. I was saying my mind, your new communications Intern has arrived! I was eventually nominated as one of the best dressed but didn't win. On the second day, the Country Director, Ene Obi, sat beside me (the woman with the Afro I had always seen on TV). It was pretty inspiring listening to her up close and personal, and it was indeed a eureka moment.



I didn't enjoy the long lectures, particularly on the first day. Still, I learnt a lot about ActionAid, the different projects, programmes, and the organisation's implementation strategy and plans for 2023. I also had an in-depth insight into what each directorate did in 2022. Once I realised that every presentation made (well over 5) had a detailed communications support request for 2023, I knew I was on a long ride.

The major highlight for me was the last day of the meeting, it was the day to boggie down, and I rocked it. I came in my favorite pink dress with makeup on point for the red carpet. Seeing all ActionAid staff dressed for the cocktail was beautiful, away from the branded t-shirt and

jeans. There were drama presentations from various units, and hidden talents came out in full force, even amongst the senior management team. Lots of awards were given, and the dance was amazing.

The three days of programmes meeting officially ushered me into the development sector. That intern two months ago (me) is now becoming a communications pro. I am coming; look out for me!

ZERO TOLERANCE TO LITTER: My Environment, My Pride



IYN during the Zero Tolerance to litter: my Environment my Pride

Waste management has been a significant challenge for Ikorodu, Lagos State residents. Within the last few years, recurrent health issues have affected children and older people, like tuberculosis, pneumonia, diarrhea, tetanus, and whooping cough, which can spread quickly with improper wastemanagement.

Inspired Youth Network, with support from ActionAid, took the initiative to start a clean-up exercise tagged "Zero Tolerance to litter: my Environment my Pride." The activity sought to promote environmental awareness and educate residents on the need to ensure a safe and clean environment in preparation for the raining reason which had caused flooding in previous years, leading to the destruction of lives, property, and

livelihood. The exercise also sensitised people on recycling activities and reducing their carbon footprint.

Youth Volunteers organised themselves to clean up the Ikorodu Garage in Lagos. The clean-up exercise lasted for almost six hours; they also mobilised market men and women to join in the activity and used the opportunity to sensitise them on the need for proper waste management and the dangers of improper waste disposal to their health.

John Obasi, the team lead of the clean-up exercise was one of the 74 Youths whose capacity was developed for community led research for climate action in Lagos and Akwalbom he said.

“

We carried out the exercise as part of our effort to promote environmental awareness and ensure environmental sustainability; to eradicate diseases that thrive in dirty environments and stop flooding and to provide a long-lasting solution to it. We also sensitised them on recycling to improve climate change. We are grateful to ActionAid for the support to carry out this activity

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The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, Alausa, the Lagos Waste Management Authority - LAWMA, Inspired Youth Network, and Activista Nigeria (Lagos) supported and participated in the clean-up activity.



SAVING THE CHILDREN; One at a time

At thirteen years old, Zainab was married and pregnant to an older man. Her difficult pregnancy led to partial paralysis, seizures, and psychosis. Eleven months after the birth of her child - Fatima, she was diagnosed with SAM and oedema +1 (a tumor on the right side of the chick), and Malnutrition.

Zainab, a child herself, couldn't meet Fatima's basic needs.

ActionAid Nigeria, through the Nigerian Humanitarian Fund, provided Zainab and her daughter and immediate medical care, and both have fully recovered.

They were subsequently transferred to the outreach centre in Kankare, Borno State, for psychosocial support.

ActionAid Nigeria has supported two thousand, three hundred and fifty children (2,350) under the age of 5 to address issues malnutrition and five hundred and twenty (520) women across Dapchi, Bayamari, Guba and Garin Alkali/Jawa wards in Yobe State to gradually rebuild lives.

This project is funded by the UNOCHA.



PHOTO REEL



Facilitators and Participants at the online GOLD training for Organising and Mobilising for selected social movements, human rights defenders and civil society organizations to foster collaboration amongst social movements, HRDs and CSOs.



The ACTIVISTA-Led dialogue on World Social Justice Day



Community Sponsorship - Courtesy visit by some ActionAid Nigeria's community sponsors to the Abuja office. They also received their milestone awards for donating consistently to the fundraising initiative.

PHOTO REEL



In commemoration of the 2023 International Women's Day, ActionAid Nigeria through the System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism (SARVE III) project celebrated with women across 12 communities in Kaduna State.



ENLOGIC TECHNICAL ROOM - The Country Director, Ene Obi (in red) leading the launch of AAN's Technical Room at Rockview Hotel, Abuja



Elections Observers Training in Abuja, Enugu, Kano and Lagos



BUILDING SOCIAL COHESION: A Catalyst for Peace

ActionAid Nigeria CSP emphasises building the media's capacity to understand relevant development issues to improve the quality of reportage and media engagement on such topics. We also recognise that the media are the primary machinery for promoting social cohesion and conflict (Curran et al. 1996). Given this, a 2-day Media Masterclass on Preventing and

Countering Violent Extremism was conceptualised with the theme, Strengthening Media Capacity as Catalyst for Social Cohesion. The training also strengthened the capacity of twenty-eight (28) media professionals from Kano and Kaduna states to shape society positively and prevent pre- and post-election violence.

“

The training helped me during the election period as I took more time to peruse the Electoral Act 2022, which allowed me better approach my interaction with my guests and political analysts during and after the electioneering period. – Oche, Wazobia FM, Kano State

”





ActionAid Nigeria's Social Mobilisation Manager, Adewale Adeduntan, and Dr. Rukkaya Aliyu of Bayero University, Kano also led discussions around Understanding and Reporting on Social Issues and Conflict Sensitive Reporting: Skills and Methodologies in Reporting in Conflict Prone Environments, respectively.

Within the first, second, and the current third phase of the System and Structure Strengthening Approach Against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism (SARVE I, II, III), funded by the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund

(GCERF), ActionAid Nigeria trained a total of 151 mid and high-level media professionals from Kogi, Nasarawa, Kano and Kaduna states on preventing violent extremism through conflict-sensitive reportage, social cohesion, and counternarratives. The trained Journalists are part of Journalist Against Violent Extremism (JAVE), supporting AAN's effort through the project to promote peace and social cohesion.

The experience-sharing session revealed to participants that media reports must be accurate, impartial, fair, objective, and responsible, not to cause conflict. Also, Journalists must stop labeling, profiling, and using stereotypes but should apply survival centered approach to reporting. Participants developed and circulated a communique at the end of the training. One of the recommendations was for Journalists to have good knowledge of the Electoral Act to enable seamless coverage of the general elections.

ActionAid Nigeria facilitated the training with the Global Peace Development and Dispute Resolution and Development Initiative.

Nigeria Election: THE RISE OF A NEW DAWN

In the months leading to Nigeria's 2023 general elections, the aura was inordinate aspiration and yearning for good governance. Despite this, Nigeria had the lowest voter turnout rate in the country's history in the 2023 presidential elections. The low voter turnout at the polls has been attributed to voter apathy, poor economic situation, and late deployment of INEC staff and materials.

Ahead of the 2023 general elections, ActionAid launched an application- I-Observer to support the process of election observance. This application enables Observers to provide real-time information and data to ActionAid through her technical room. The data revolves around officials/materials arrival, polling units set up, accreditation & voting, disruptions, vote buying, and other logistics matters.





As part of a series of activities organised for the 2023 elections, ActionAid Nigeria also trained six hundred volunteers across 15 States and FCT on the electoral processes and election observance using the I-Observer application. The technical room provided reports from the I-Observer and escalated relevant emergencies to the Nigeria Civil Society Room, also chaired by ActionAid Nigeria's Country Director, Ene Obi.

Following the elections, Nigeria now has a President-Elect. Out of the 1,019 females who contested in the Nigerian 2023 state houses of assembly elections, only 48 won, amounting to just 4.7%.

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