

2017

Annual Report



SOCIALACTION
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATED CENTRE



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Social Development Integrated Centre (Social Action) is a Nigerian organisation that works to promote resource democracy, social justice and human rights with a focus on the sectors of petroleum, mining, the environment and climate change, trade and debt, and public budgets. We engage in research and monitoring, popular education and advocacy in solidarity with communities, activists, and scholars working to promote social change in Nigeria and other countries in the Gulf of Guinea region of Africa.

Our Vision

A democratic order in which communities of conscious citizens contribute to and benefit from the building of just societies and environments adequate for production and sustenance of life.

Our Mission

We support and inspire community groups and other segments of civil society to participate directly in social movements demanding for change and building just societies.

We work with communities and organisations to develop collective self-analysis and alternative development models that work for people.

We work with others to identify and tackle the root causes of environmental and social problems and to build the power of people to advance solutions that will ensure democratic accountability and environmental sustainability.

Our Values

We believe that grassroots democracy and popular participation are necessary for social change, and this can best be expressed with communities' ability to organise and set forth their own development agenda.

Our role is to work with social constituencies to achieve a shared understanding of the context as a basis for promoting alternatives that recognise the right of people to just livelihoods within communities adequate for the enjoyment of life.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Successful network building: Strong network building with citizens groups, communities, academics and organisations working on climate change adaptation in northeast Nigeria, gas flaring in the Niger Delta, and public expenditure accountability with a particular focus on the sub-national level, and on national public debts.

Supporting civil society collaboration in northeast Nigeria: Social Action created spaces for civil society in northeastern Nigeria to collaborate in ensuring that immediate humanitarian interventions strengthen beneficiaries empowerment, local governance and accountability mechanisms, and improve opportunities for addressing the underlying ecological (climate change) causes of the social conflicts in northeastern Nigeria, and other parts of the Lake Chad Basin.

Community participation: Social Action supported Community Advocacy Centres (CACs) were strengthened to improve community participation. Through the CACs, Social maintained significant relationships with beneficiary communities through training and regular interactions and collaborative activities. Social Action delivered significant successes in its transparency and accountability campaign using **Community Budget Advocates** associated with its Community Centres.

Focus and expertise on sub-national level: During the year, Social Action has scaled up anti-corruption advocacy at the sub-national level. The organisation's work enabled citizens in target communities to amplify their voices and influence as well as take action against corruption at the sub-national level while promoting spaces for engagement and participation in local governance through participatory budget monitoring and public advocacy.

Broad national coverage of activities: Social Action expanded community budget advocacy from the Niger Delta (Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Edo, Rivers) to northern Nigeria with activities in Nasarawa and Kano States; and the South-East with budget monitoring activities in Abia State.

Attention to social investment policies in the oil and gas sector: Social Action's activities have contributed to maximising opportunities for supporting the collaboration of civil society, host communities, business and government towards reversing the adverse environmental and social impacts of oil and gas production on communities in the Niger Delta of Nigeria. In particular, Social Action has achieved positive results in working with other stakeholders to address crude oil theft and artisanal refining operations that are the now the worse source of environmental pollution in the Niger Delta. Social Action is working with operators of artisanal refineries to identify and advocate for alternative and more sustainable livelihood options for youths in the Niger Delta.

RESOURCE JUSTICE

Working with Stakeholders to address pollution from crude oil theft and artisanal refineries:

The work of Social Action culminated in the convening of the National Conference on Oil Theft and Artisanal Refineries in Port Harcourt in March 2017. That conference was the first time that different stakeholders representing the Governments of Bayelsa and Rivers State, Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), federal agencies such as the (National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), security services such as the military Joint Task Force (JTF), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, traditional rulers and other community leaders, NGOs, media, oil companies and representatives of operators of artisanal refineries gathered in a single forum to share information and proffer sustainable solutions to the problems. Social Action succeeded in creating the inclusive platform following months of background work that included research and monitoring, and engagements with institutions at the national and sub-national levels. These meetings and the Conference, in particular, created a steering group for engagement on crude oil theft and artisanal refineries. Following the conference, engagement with target communities continued during the year. In particular, Social Action engaged ex-artisanal crude oil refiners in Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers States through workshops and meetings. The focus of the engagement was to discuss the adverse environmental impacts of artisanal crude oil refining and to identify alternative livelihood options for local youth.



Some of the participants at the National Conference on Oil Theft and Artisanal Refineries

Working for fair extractive policies and legislation:

In May 2017, the Nigerian Senate passed the Petroleum Industry Governance Bill (PIGB), which is a revised version of the original Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) that was presented to the National Assembly by the Yar'adua administration in 2008. Social Action published a briefing paper, [The Petroleum Industries Governance Bill \(PIGB\), 2017: Implications for the Environment and local communities](#). The briefing paper provides an analysis of the PIGB, which focuses almost exclusively on the creation of new commercial entities to manage privatised national petroleum assets. The briefing paper shows that the PIGB does not provide for the health, safety and environment concerns. For example, there is no provision for an end to gas flaring. The PIGB proposes to remove all powers of the Federal Ministry of Environment (and its agencies) over environmental regulation and enforcement in the petroleum sector.



Isaac 'Asume' Osuoka (Executive Director, middle), Vivian Bellonwu-Okafor (Head of Advocacy, left) addressing the media at Social Action's National Advocacy Centre, Abuja

In 2017, Social Action organised different meetings in Abuja to mobilise other civil society organisations to review the PIGB. The groups produced a joint memo, which was presented by Social Action at a 3-day public hearing on the PIGB organised by the Nigerian Senate. Our position paper was prepared and submitted as a Memorandum to the Committee Secretariat alongside the presentation. Social Action actively supported other CSOs in its coalition to participate in this event organised by the Senate Committee on Petroleum (Upstream).

Monitoring Implementation of the Recommendations of the UNEP Report on Ogoniland:

Social Action monitored the preparatory processes for the cleanup of polluted sites in Ogoniland, which was yet to commence as at the end of 2017. Social Action began the identification and training of 50 young people from the four local government areas of Ogoniland to serve as UNEP Report monitors.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Monitoring Threats to Livelihoods in Forest Dependent Communities of Cross River State/ Community Consultative Meeting on REDD:

Social Action carried out research and monitoring of activities on the implementation of United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) to determine the impacts on the rights and livelihoods of community people in Cross River State. Working with other civil society organisations and community people in the state, Social Action visited the REDD+ clusters in during 2017 and discovered that a proposed Super Highway project, together with REDD, was having an adverse impact on local communities. Based on these findings, Social Action organised meetings with various community interest groups in 2017 to discuss with community representatives and outline strategies to collectively address threats to community rights and livelihoods.

Meeting of Gas Flaring and CDM impacted communities in Delta State/ Action on community petition to the UNFCCC:

Social Action organised a meeting of gas flaring, and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) impacted communities in Warri, Delta State. The meeting reviewed developments with regards to current practice and legislation on gas flaring and concluded on the need for concerted pressure on the authorities. Members of the communities also signed a new petition to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) over community concerns on CDM projects that have not been addressed by the CDM Board.



A session of Social Action's School of Ecology

Social Action School of Ecology and Climate Change:

In 2017 Social Action organised a **School of Ecology and Climate Action**. Through this space, Social Action worked with communities and civil society groups to advance alternative discourses and popular mobilisations aimed at building community-led platforms for ecological justice in Nigeria. The School of Ecology and Climate Change was hosted by forest-dependent communities in the Cross River forests and featured field trips to REDD+ affected sites in Cross River State, lectures, debates, planning session and documentary film screenings.

Addressing immediate and long-term impacts of the ecological crisis and violent conflicts in the Lake Chad basin/Sahel region of northeastern Nigeria:

Social Action continued to monitor and document changes in the security and humanitarian situation in Borno State. Working with local partner organisations, consultants and volunteers, additional data have been collected to inform a regional analysis for future engagement by Social Action and partners in the areas of human rights and humanitarian intervention. Visits to camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) provided better insight into the humanitarian and security challenges in the northeast region of Nigeria.



Social Action's Isaac 'Asume' Osuoka addressing participants at the Maiduguri Roundtable in July 2017

Civil society/community meetings and exchanges on the Sahel/Lake Chad basin:

Social Action organised a roundtable Conference in July 2017 in Maiduguri, Borno State on *The Ecological Crisis and Conflict in the Lake Chad Basin: Forecasting a Post-Humanitarian Situation*. There were 25 participants at the meeting, including civil society activists, leading scholars from the universities, media personalities and a representative from the Chad Basin Development Authority (CDBA). The purpose of the meeting was to provide another space for interaction towards improving understanding of the immediate problems, underlying causes and ongoing initiatives by the state and non-state actors to address the challenges in the northeast of Nigeria. Thus the meeting served as another step towards the development of joint analysis and a broad agenda for concerted action.

In November 2017, Social Action organised two-phase roundtable meetings which involved CSOs and community people in Yola, Adamawa State and Maiduguri, Borno State. The meetings worked to support CSOs and community people to develop a common agenda for addressing the crisis in the region by identifying short, medium and long-term solutions. The meetings identified specific short, medium and long-term measures for addressing the ecological and humanitarian crises in northeast Nigeria.

POPULAR EDUCATION

Leadership Training Camps:

Social Action organised the annual national leadership training camp for young activists, students, civil society workers in Owerri, Imo State. From the 12th to 16th December 2017, 150 activists drawn from 17 states in Nigeria gathered in Owerri, Imo State to learn, share ideas and develop plans for pushing for social change in Nigeria under the theme, *Building Skills and Actions for Social Transformation*.

***Social Action National Conference:***

Social Action and the Claude Ake School of Government, University of Port Harcourt jointly organised the Nigeria Social Action National Conference in December 2017 in Port Harcourt. This

collaboration stemmed from the need to provide space for constructive dialogue between scholars and thought leaders in the civil space to provide clarity and understanding of the critical issues bordering on the restructuring of the Nigerian state. The National Conference brought together leading Nigerian academics and civil society actors including Prof. Adele Jinadu, Prof. Basil Nwankwo, Prof. Andrew Efemini, Prof Eme Ekekwe, Prof Okey Ibeanu, Dr. Sofiri Peterside, Dr. Yakubu Jae and author, Chido Onumah.



PUBLIC FINANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

Participatory Public Budget Monitoring:

In 2017, Social Action and partner organisations from the Niger Delta states of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and Abia, and northern states of Nasarawa and Kano analysed annual budgets of the states and monitored budget implementation of capital projects.

Promoting Open Budget:

Social Action organised CSO and Media Roundtable Conference on Open Budget tagged 'Tracking Corruption through the budget' in December 2017. The conference debated on the way forward on pressurizing the state government to publishing the budget, conclude (among other actions) to embark on a massive Twitter and Facebook campaigns to force the state government to comply with the provisions of the law with regards to making the budget available and creating an enabling

mechanism to harness the wishes of the people and reflecting them in the budget document through the proper budgeting preparation process.

Working with government to promote accountability:

Social Action made advocacy visits to relevant government officials in Delta, Rivers, Edo, Bayelsa and Akwa Ibom to discuss Open Budgets.

We organised the Open Budget Week 2017, aimed at educating the citizens on the need to support the call on the state governments in the Niger Delta to ingrain an open budget culture and enshrine the practice of citizens participation in all the phases of the budget cycle. The week-long budget advocacy campaign was targeted on the one hand at ensuring that citizens become interested in fiscal issues while pressuring sub-national government to become more engaging, transparent and accountable in the management of public resources.

Rallying against corruption:

Social Action organised an anti-corruption rally with several civil society organisations, pressure groups, students and business people in Rivers State participating. The rally which held on Saturday 9th of December 2017 at Mile 3 Motor Park, Port Harcourt focused on Open Budget as a tool for fighting corruption and engaging government on fiscal spending especially on capital projects to reflect accountability, transparency and equity. The rally was also used to mark the World Anticorruption Day, celebrated all over the world to draw the attention of relevant authorities to transparency and accountability



Anti-corruption rally in Port Harcourt, Rivers State

An SMS driven campaign targeted at randomly selected phone subscribers in Delta, Edo, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom and Rivers States was organised to conscientise and educate the people on the need to demand the budget to be proactively made open and available to the public at no cost. Members of the Open Budget Campaign team featured in three radio stations, including, Today FM (95.1), DON

FM (93.7) and Wave FM (91.7) Port Harcourt in audience participatory call-in programmes on the theme of open budgets.

Championing fair trade and debt policies of government:

Social Action debt campaign activity which started about a decade ago, witnessed an upsurge of attention in 2017. Media organisations such as Punch and BusinessDay have continued to collaborate with Social Action in amplifying issues around public debt management.



Press briefing on Nigeria's debt profile and management by the Social Development Integrated Centre (Social Action), Abuja, Nigeria, October 19, 2017.

PARTNERS IN 2017

Rosa Luxembourg Foundation

Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund of the Tides Foundation

Presbyterian Hunger Program

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada

MacArthur Foundation

Ford Foundation

USAID-SACE

Platform, UK

Global Greengrant Fund

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