



SOCIALACTION
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATED CENTRE

Consolidating Grassroot Democracy

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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SOCIALACTION
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THE ORGANISATION

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, 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 in Nigeria and other countries in the Gulf of Guinea region of Africa.

Founded in 2007, Social Action has expanded nationally with offices in Port Harcourt, Bori (Rivers State), Warri (Delta State), Maiduguri (Borno State) and Abuja (Federal Capital Territory).

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

Building networks of solidarity and action among citizens groups

We work to create networks and platforms for solidarity and collaboration among citizens groups to promote human rights and sustainability in the areas of public revenues, energy, mining and trade

Supporting community participation in development

We support marginalized communities to organise and take direct actions to protect their rights to resources and livelihoods, seek participation in development processes and defend democracy. Working through our Community Centres, networks and outreaches, we encourage participation in advancing solutions to environmental and social problems.

Investing in popular education to create alternative visions for social change

Working with communities and other citizens' groups via our popular education platforms, we forge peoples' alternatives to dominant but inadequate neoliberal development models while

widening the spaces for civil society solidarity.

We focus on analysis of issues around specific policies and practices and how they interconnect and affect citizen's rights and livelihoods.

Monitoring for impact on policies and practices

We monitor and document the environmental and social practices of government, private investors, international financial institutions and communities for use by local and international citizens groups involved in advocating for change

Supporting movements for social change

We participate in and support communities and social movements involved in resistance to the negative impacts of resource extraction, trade policy and climate change through the provision of information, media outlet and capacity building through community exchanges. In so doing, we are working to build a national citizens movement that is active in the global movement for social change

FROM OUR CHAIR

The General Elections in 2019 were the sixth since the restoration of civil rule in Nigerian in 1999. In twenty years, the country has had an unprecedented period of uninterrupted civil rule. Some young Nigerians that voted for the first time were born after the era of military rule. However, despite the symbolism of 2019 for Nigerian democracy, there was little to celebrate.

While Nigerians expected nothing short of a democracy that would usher in the protection of the rights of its citizens, ensure progressive improvements in social, economic and infrastructural development and promote popular interests, successive civilian governments since 1999 continue to grapple with the most basic social tasks. There is rising insecurity, dwindling economic fortunes and decay in social and economic infrastructures. Moreover, there is an alienation of the people from the government.

Part of the problem remains the electoral system that is still very prone to mismanagement, resulting in the emergence of some of the most reprobate elected officials in history. Elections in the past have been characterised by massive rigging, violence and financial inducements, resulting in widespread cynicism and complicity among citizens that have lost expectation.

Our 2019 interventions contributed to tackling the problems plaguing

governance from the pre-election, election and the post-election stages.

Through our programmes, Popular Education and Democracy, Public Finance Accountability and Access to Justice programmes, we worked to promote attitudinal changes and citizens action. We organised activities that aimed at producing a system of active participation and enshrined accountability through the pre-election, election and post-election periods. We gave particular attention to youths and women, and we encouraged their participation in platforms such as the Social Action supported Civil Rights Councils (CRCs) and Anti-Corruption Networks (AcoNets).

Beyond the elections, we continued to work with communities to promote human rights, ecological sustainability and livelihoods in the Niger Delta and northeast Nigeria – geographies that expose enormous challenges for the state and civil society.

With limited funding, we made enormous achievements, as we present in the pages that follow. Our impact is made possible by the solidarity and support of partners, funders, volunteers, and that share our objectives and goals. It is only through reinforcing such collaboration that we can collectively achieve the changes that we need for our country.

Dr. Lemual Owugah
Chair, Governing Board

RESOURCE JUSTICE

The exploitation of petroleum is associated with adverse environmental and social consequences for communities in the sites of extraction in the Niger Delta and nationally. Therefore, we work with others to achieve improved natural resource regime in which the rights, livelihoods and environment of host communities are protected and to encourage broader benefits for the Nigerian population.

We support participatory environmental monitoring, advocacy and mobilisation to pressure the Nigerian government

and polluting companies to clean up polluted sites, as well as environmental litigation to defend land rights and livelihoods in the petroleum-bearing communities.

Through building coalitions of civil society groups, academics and the media, we implement legislative and policy advocacy to ensure that new legislation and policies redress historical iniquities and colonial legacies of extraction while promoting a new regime of land rights and resource democracy.

Children are exposed to toxic flares in the Niger Delta



Communities in sites of oil and gas extraction bear the impact of pollution



Crops wither as a result of the heat from the gas flare, impacting negatively on agriculture and food sufficiency

Key Outcomes in 2019

Our target communities improved capacity for participation through strengthened Community Advocacy Centres (CACs).

✔ Community Advocacy Centres in D-Line (Port Harcourt), Diobu, Bori and Warri refurbished and re-equipped for improved service to community members.

✔ We provided the largest, most diverse, and most representative platform for interaction among community members and leaders, citizens groups, scholars, and elected representatives of the people on oil and gas, the environment, and communities.

✔ We contributed to halting dangerous national petroleum legislation.

2000 and more community beneficiaries received monitoring and reporting training and participated in fora for addressing challenges in the areas of natural resource exploitation and revenue management

1000 and more people participated in the Social Action organised Resources Justice Conference 2019.

✔ We advocated against the Petroleum Industries Governance Bill (PIGB) as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate as the legislation would promote corruption, undermine environmental regulation and community rights. We successfully called on President Buhari to withhold assent to the bill.



Oilspills devastate wetlands and mangroves in Bayelsa State

Highlights of Projects and Activities In 2019

Roundtables, townhall meetings on petroleum and the rights of communities

Social Action organised regular town hall meetings, roundtables and workshops for communities, civil society organisations, government agencies and the media to promote learning, dialogue and action to protect the environment and human rights of communities in sites of oil and gas extraction.

We support participatory environmental monitoring, advocacy and mobilisation to pressure the Nigerian government

In 2019, we focused on gas flaring, the clean-up of polluted sites in the Niger Delta, and on the processes of enacting new federal legislation for the petroleum sector.



Social Action promotes female voices on petroleum and community issues

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THE COMMUNITIES OF THE NIGER DELTA HAVE ENDURED DECADES OF DESTRUCTION OF THEIR SOURCES OF LIVELIHOOD THROUGH POLLUTION OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT BY PETROLEUM COMPANIES. WE MUST WORK TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS, LIVELIHOODS AND SECURITY OF CITIZENS

Dr. Isaac “Asume” Osuoka Director, Social Action

”



Women dry cassava for food near a toxic gas flare in Delta State

Petroleum and communities in the Niger Delta: Setting the policy agenda following two decades of civil rule

Social Action organised a conference on Petroleum and Communities in the Niger Delta: setting the policy agenda following two decades of civil rule.

The conference provided a platform for interaction among over 1000 participants including,

opinion leaders, civil society activists, media, academics and state institutions and elected representatives of the people. The conference examine the current challenges to human rights, livelihoods and environmental sustainability in the sites of petroleum extraction in the Niger Delta basin and profer solutions.

Participants also examined bills before the National Assembly with relevance to communities in the site of petroleum extraction and made recommendations.



A cross-section of participants at the town hall meeting



A panel session at the Conference on Petroleum and Communities



A cross-section of participants at the Conference



Dr. Isaac 'Asume' Osuoka of Social Action welcoming participants to the Conference on Petroleum and Communities

The conference provided a platform for over

1000

participants and groups to interact

Monitoring Implementation of the Recommendations of the UNEP Report on Ogoniland

Social Action continued to monitor government and other stakeholders' actions concerning the proposed clean-up of polluted sites in Ogoniland as recommended by the UNEP. Social Action monitoring informed collaborative advocacy with host communities and press statements to highlight concerns and inadequacies on the clean-up process in 2019.



Farmlands in Ogoniland devastated by crude oil pollution



Town hall meeting of stakeholders, including HUPREP officials, media , CSOs and community groups to address concerns about pollution clean-up in Ogoniland



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Human right abuses by state security agents, the rich and powerful, and corporations against powerless Nigerians have increased since the restoration of civil rule in Nigeria. Therefore, we work to improve access to justice by supporting citizens action through organisational development, promoting awareness about rights, training, legal support and public litigation.

Social Action founded and supports Civil Rights Councils (CRCs), as membership-based, participatory platforms for defending human rights and promoting alternatives to social systems that encourage repression and economic exclusion.

We support access to justice for some communities affected by environmental (gas flaring, oil spills, air pollution), social (environmental refugees and forced evictions, oil-fuelled conflicts) and human rights abuses.

KEY OUTCOMES IN 2019

26 Units of the Civil Rights Councils created in Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta, Edo, Cross River, Imo, Enugu, Ebonyi, and the Federal Capital Territory

500 and more members of CRCs benefit from training on human rights and led to increased awareness and participation among the CRC members.

400 police officers trained on human rights protection

32 victims of human rights supported by units of Civil Rights Councils (CRCs)

✓ **Enhanced capacity of resident of waterfronts in Port Harcourt to seek redress as a community in cases of rights abuses**

✓ **Commitment from the police to grant the CRCs periodic access to inspect police detention facilities in the Choba Area Command in Rivers State.**

Support for slum dwellers

✓ To address the incessant human rights abuses by the government and other powerful economic interests in the waterfront mostly inhabited by the urban poor, the Civil Rights Council (CRC) Port Harcourt and Diobu Units, supported by Social Action, organised trainings for the residents of Afikpo, Nanka and Obidianso waterfronts in Rivers State.



CRC Port Harcourt intervention in a case of a female citizen shot by a police officer

Highlights of Projects and Activities In 2019



Group photograph with police officers after human rights training organised by Social Action and Civil Rights Council (CRC) in Choba, Rivers State



Members of Civil Rights Council (CRC) in Port Harcourt support a young mother to address human rights abuses



Members of CRC Warri unit after a crucial meeting



Social Action and the Civil Rights Council Warri unit, supports dialogue between the police and residents



Social Civil Rights Council (CRC), Warri sensitizing community members on human rights



Civil Rights Council (CRC) activists in Warri after a court session. CRCs use litigation to defend human rights



Victims of torture by the Eagle Crack Team of the Nigeria Police, Port Harcourt released after the intervention of the Civil Rights Council (CRC)

PUBLIC FINANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

The bulk of public revenues from petroleum and other sources are stolen or mismanaged by a small group of public office holders and their cronies.

we work for a more accountable government at the federal, state and local government levels to ensure that communities and citizens benefit more from public revenues realised from oil, mining and gas.

We work with our Anti-Corruption Network (AcoNet) partners to increase citizens' voices on amplifying accountability and anticorruption issues to bring about both behavioral and policy change(s) that will institute a culture of transparency and accountability in Nigeria, especially at the sub-national levels of government.

KEY OUTCOMES IN 2019

✔ Social Action and Anticorruption Network partners organised anti-corruption sensitization rallies, radio shows and engagements in Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa Ibom States contributed to increased awareness and consciousness of good governance among residents.

Influencing and changing the pattern of capital spending and service delivery in some states

✔ Following advocacy by Social Action about poor capital allocations to key social sectors in the budgets of sub-national governments in 2018, there were noticeable changes in 2019 budgets by some state governments in the Niger Delta region that increased capital allocations to key sectors of education and healthcare.

✔ State Commissioners in Edo and Akwa Ibom committed to making changes on contract execution of specific projects and service delivery in direct response to reports and advocacy of Social Action and AcoNet partners

Enhanced capacity of community activists to carry out constituency and abandoned project tracking:

✔ Social Action's training improved community members' capacity to petition observed infractions and non-accountability in public service delivery.

✔ Project beneficiaries made over 20 petitions and FOI requests to relevant institutions demanding explanations over operations of government.

Commitments from EFCC to challenge perpetual injunction against prosecution of corrupt officials in Rivers State

✔ Following engagement by Social Action and other partner organizations under the Anticorruption Network engaged the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over the perpetual court injunction restricting anti-corruption agencies from investigating government officials accused of massive graft, looting and mismanagement of public resources in Rivers State, the EFCC openly made documented commitment to challenge the said injunction.

Commitment of federal agencies to track Constituency Projects

✔ Social Action and partners' monitoring and advocacy resulted in commitment by federal anti-graft agencies committing to monitoring implementation of constituency projects. ICPC in Akwa Ibom State announced the discovery of hospital equipment including ambulance, running into several millions of Naira, meant for a constituency project, diverted and hidden away in a private residence in the State.

Multiple high-level stakeholder engagements with over

2000

participants drawn from different sectors of the society

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2019

The 2019 Regional Accountability Conference

Social Action organised the 2019 Niger Delta Regional Accountability Conference in Asaba, Delta State with the theme, Promoting Accountability in Service Delivery and Public Finance Management at Sub-National Level. The conference afforded participants the opportunity to dialogue on the best

approaches to combat the phenomenon of low public budget performance and service delivery at the sub-national levels towards achieving optimal judicious use of public resources and attaining the development aspirations of citizens in these areas.

The conference had in attendance, Civil Society Organisations, members and representatives of the local and state governments in the Niger Delta, the law enforcement and antigraft agencies, community, youth and women groups and scholars and researchers



A cross-section of participants at the Regional Accountability Conference in Asaba, Delta State



Concerned citizens join the Anticorruption Rally in Port Harcourt



Banners displaying key messages at the Anticorruption day rally in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State



Addressing corruption and deprivation of the rights of persons living with disability in Nigeria

Examining the challenges PWDs encounter in a fast changing world

Social Action organised a consultative meeting with people living with disability (PWD). The program examined the challenges PWDs encounter in a fast-changing world and attempted to provide solutions to resolutions reached. Participants decried the way those saddled with the responsibility of ensuring that PWDs are provided for have rather chosen to increase their sufferings, by deliberately allowing corruption to fester.



Participants at the the consultative meeting with PWDs in Rivers State



Rivers State Chairman of PWD, Mr. Kie Obomanu making an intervention during the consultation

Capacity training of community activists on constituency and abandoned project tracking

As part of the effort to increase citizens' voice around issues of corruption in the Niger delta, Social Action organized training for community activists in Port Harcourt, Rivers State in 2019. The training provided an opportunity for over 50 activists and community members to understand some tools and strategies needed for tracking and following up on constituency and other public projects.



Participants at the Anti-Corruption Network (ACONET) Media Chat in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State



Capacity training for CSOs and CBOs on tools and strategies for tracking and following up on constituency and other public projects





2019 constituency project and budget monitoring

In December 2019, Social Action's anticorruption and budget monitoring network members, armed with the material data and information from the budgets and its analysis, hit the field in monitoring exercise to track constituency projects and public budgets implementation by States in the region. The 2019 monitoring exercise was deliberately designed to include tracking of constituency projects. To effectively carry out the constituency projects tracking.

Social Action trained over

50

activists and community members on tools to track and follow up on capital projects



Flooded General Hospita, Joinkrama, Rivers State without a medical staff nor security in sight



Social Action Budget monitoring team on a field assessment of projects in Rivers State

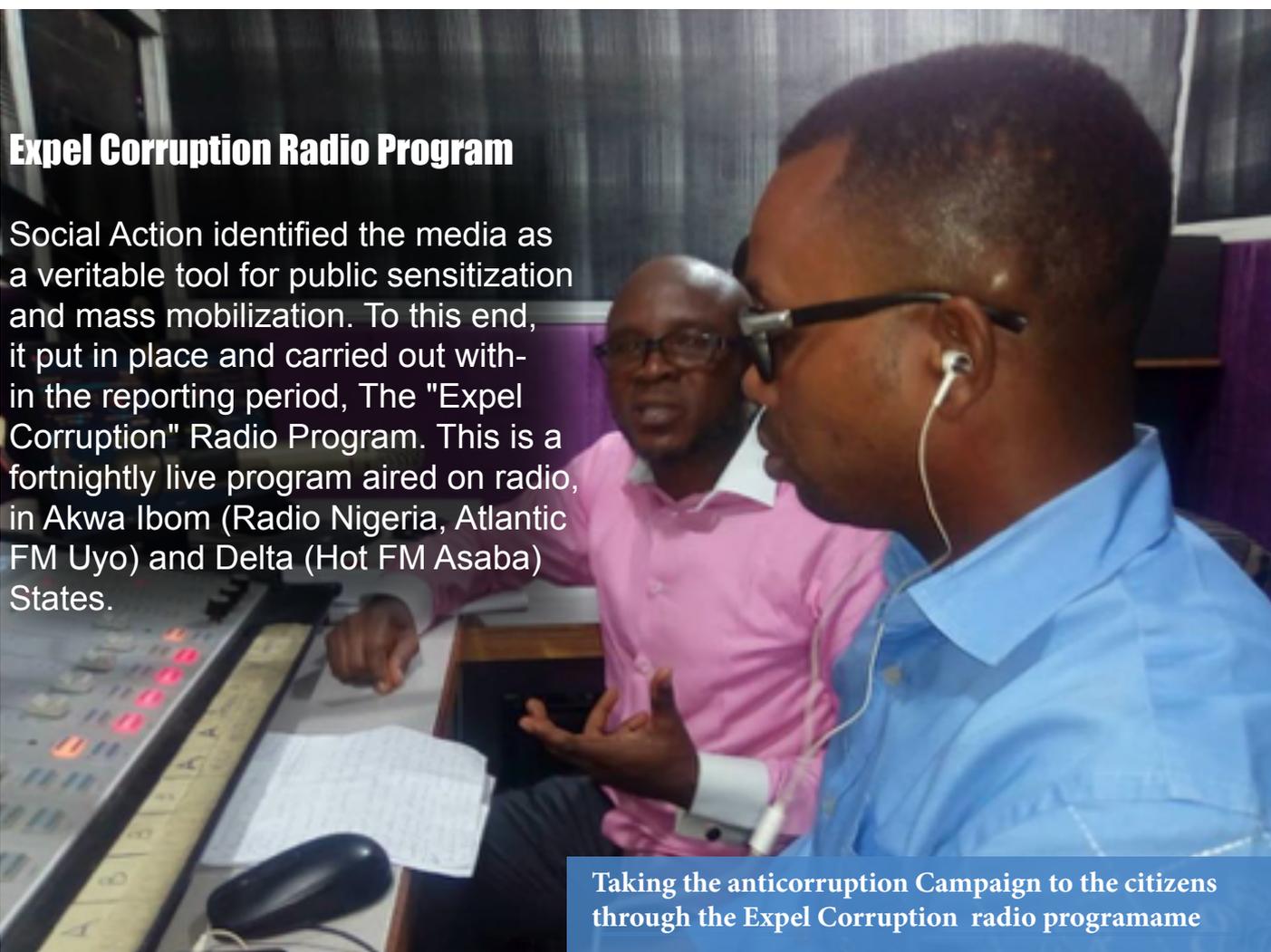
Amplifying Premium Times investigative report on corruption in HYPREP contract awards

Following monitoring by Social Action and an investigative report by our media collaborator, Premium Times, we wrote an FOI request to HYPREP demanding details of the body's contract awards and procurement. Social Action and its Anti-Corruption Network also promptly convened a state-wide press conference to further bring the issues at stake to the public domain.

Social Action organised a Town Hall Meeting that brought together local community members and HYPREP in a rare HYPREP-Communities convergence. It afforded local community members, whose voices and concerns on the clean up in their area hardly get to the ears of or attention of HYPREP, to without constraints, engage HYPREP directly and voice out their observations, issues as well as concerns on the exercise.



Press conference to amplify Premium Times report on the clean-up of polluted sites in Ogoniland



Expel Corruption Radio Program

Social Action identified the media as a veritable tool for public sensitization and mass mobilization. To this end, it put in place and carried out with- in the reporting period, The "Expel Corruption" Radio Program. This is a fortnightly live program aired on radio, in Akwa Ibom (Radio Nigeria, Atlantic FM Uyo) and Delta (Hot FM Asaba) States.

Taking the anticorruption Campaign to the citizens through the Expel Corruption radio program



Practical demonstration on how to use the App

Social Action Partners with OrderPaperNG to launch app for tracking constituency projects across states in the Niger Delta

Social Action Nigeria, with support from the MacArthur Foundation partnered with OrderPaperNG to launch CONSTRACK in the Niger Delta. The App, a public Accountability tool that provides VERIFIED Information about legislators' projects being

funded by the government across constituencies, allows individuals to be able to directly MONITOR, TRACK and SHARE updates/information about such projects. The App was developed by OrderPaperNG, Nigeria's premier multi-platform organization dedicated to reporting, tracking and archiving activities of the legislature in the digital age.



Presentation of the CONSTRACK to the participants



Civic groups and public thrust-holders in Edo State converged at a Town Hall meeting on "Promoting Accountable Governance Through Tracking Of Constituency and Public Projects Implementation"

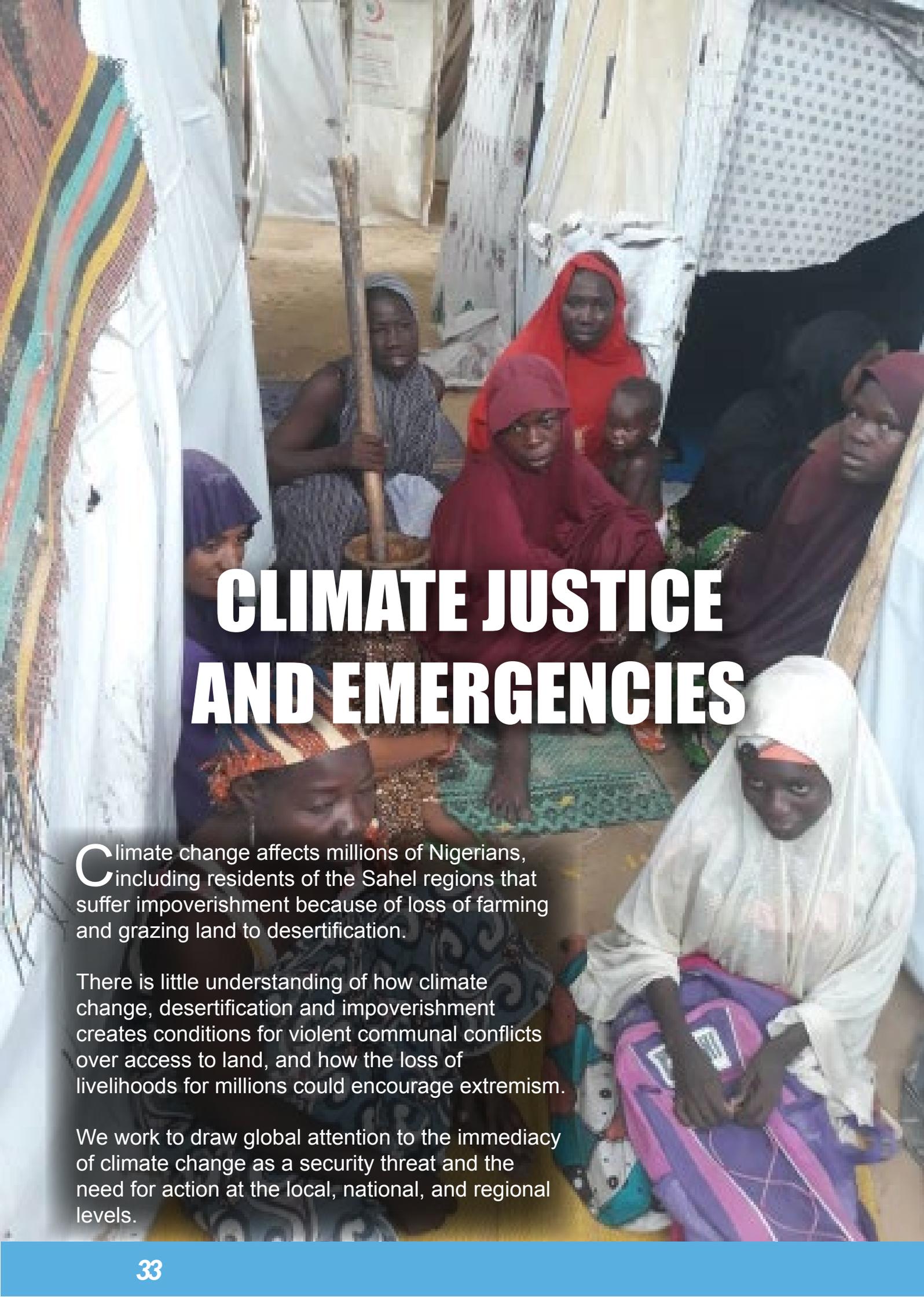
Closing the gap between intent and reality: Citizens Report on budgets of selected states in Nigeria, 2018

Social Action's report, Closing the Gap Between Intent and Reality: Citizens Report on Budgets of Selected States in Nigeria, 2018, contains conclusions of in-depth analysis of expenditure trends, and monitoring of budget implementation of the 2018 budgets of selected states of Nigeria (that includes Edo, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Delta, Kano and Nasarawa States), by members of the Niger Delta Citizens Budget Platform and the Anti-Corruption Networks (AcoNets)..

The study is based on months of field assessment of performance analysis of budget and fiscal documents interviews with local residents and relevant officials. The assessment also appraised the implementation of random selected projects in three key social and economic sectors of Health, Education and Agriculture



Launching of the 2018 Citizens Report on Budgets of Selected States in Nigeria



CLIMATE JUSTICE AND EMERGENCIES

Climate change affects millions of Nigerians, including residents of the Sahel regions that suffer impoverishment because of loss of farming and grazing land to desertification.

There is little understanding of how climate change, desertification and impoverishment creates conditions for violent communal conflicts over access to land, and how the loss of livelihoods for millions could encourage extremism.

We work to draw global attention to the immediacy of climate change as a security threat and the need for action at the local, national, and regional levels.

KEY OUTCOMES IN 2019

Improved awareness on the need for a climate change adaptation

✓ In 2019, Social Action's research and learning activities contributed to improving knowledge on links between climate change and conflict in the Lake Chad Basin. There is a better understanding of the need for climate change adaptation measures that will result in improved livelihoods for poor people in northeastern Nigeria.

Publication of report, **Boiling Over: Global Warming, Hunger and Violence in the Lake Chad Basin**

✓ Social Action and Development and Peace – Caritas Canada produced the report, **Boiling Over: Global Warming, Hunger and Violence in the Lake Chad Basin**. The report addresses the need to integrate urgent humanitarian assistance to victims of conflict in the Lake Chad Basin while promoting ecological justice and sustained climate change adaptation measures.



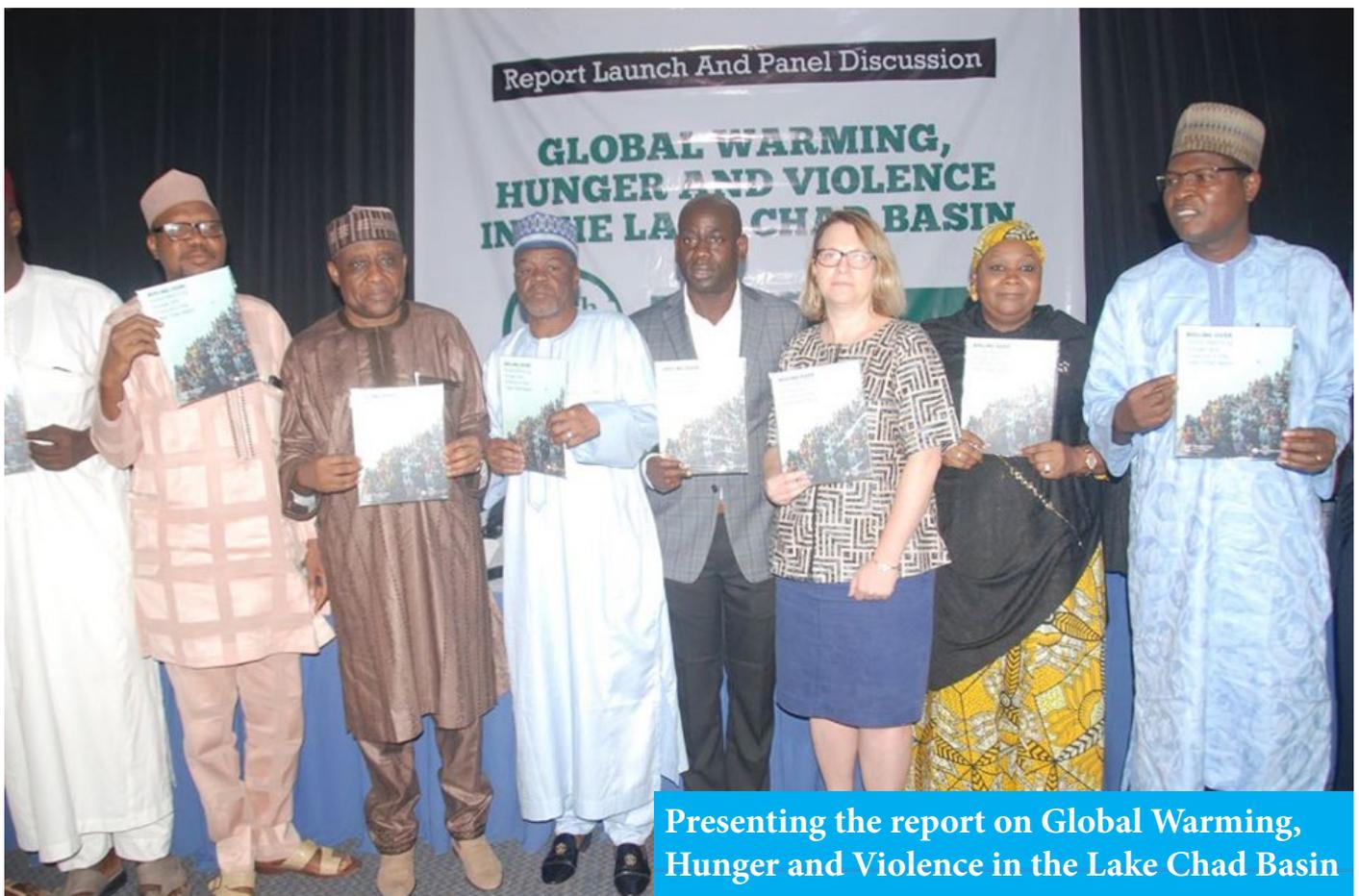
Bread winners in the IDP camp displaced as a result of climate conditions and conflict

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2019

Addressing Climate Change and Conflict in the Lake Chad Basin

Social Action and Development and Peace – Caritas Canada produced the report, *Boiling Over: Global Warming, Hunger and Violence in the Lake Chad Basin*. The report addresses the need to integrate urgent humanitarian assistance to victims of conflict in the Lake Chad Basin while promoting ecological justice and sustained climate change adaptation measures. The official launch of the report in May 2019 was attended by critical

actors including top federal and state government officials from northeast Nigeria, representatives of foreign missions and UN agencies, national and international NGOs, community leaders and activists and scholars from Nigeria and Cameroon. The event served as a platform for discussions on how to link climate change adaptation and rehabilitation of victims of conflict in northeastern Nigeria.



Presenting the report on Global Warming, Hunger and Violence in the Lake Chad Basin

Identifying gaps in humanitarian interventions in Borno State

Social Action commissioned a participatory Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment that focused on identifying gaps in humanitarian interventions in the context of mass displacement in Borno State. The results of the Needs Assessment enabled us to develop a programme that integrates immediate livelihoods support with addressing underlying ecological and social causes of conflict and displacement, including climate change and non-accountable government.

We encourage the integration of community rights in the development and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation schemes in Nigeria.



Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment Validation Workshop in Maiduguri



Access to sustainable energy in northeast Nigeria

Access to energy is one of the major issues confronting millions of displaced persons in IDPs camps across northeast Nigeria. Based on an earlier commissioned Needs Assessment study carried out with support from partners, Social Action and GREENCODE embarked on a collaboration to improve access

to energy for the most vulnerable households as a way of reducing the environmental impact of tree cutting while empowering the communities. We distributed efficient cooking stoves and solar-powered lamps to 141 displaced households in six communities in Borno State.



Women in the camps receive fuel efficient lamps and stoves



Samples of fuel efficient stoves and solar lamps for IDP camps

Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Engagement on Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Resettlement of IDPs in Borno State

Social Action organised a Stakeholders' Dialogue, "Repositioning Civic Constituencies for Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Resettlement in the Northeast". The dialogue examined and identified approaches to enhance civil society readiness to engage the process and to serve as independent monitors to achieve desired results.

Increased knowledge of stakeholders on the REDD in Cross Rivers State

The decade of violence conflict in the northeast region of Nigeria occasioned by climate change impact as well as the Boko Haram insurgency, has resulted in loss of lives, properties, means of livelihoods as well as general displacement among the citizens of the Sahel region



Discussing the protection needs of women in an IDP camp in Borno



Social Action convened a Multi-Stakeholders Dialogue in Maiduguri on the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Re-settlement agenda of the government



The vulnerable women and children at the IDP camp in Borno State hoping to be resettled in their ancestral homes

Increased knowledge of stakeholders on the REDD in Cross Rivers State

Through our community education work, Social Action contributed to improving knowledge and awareness about the potential impacts of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in Cross River and Ondo States.

Raising global awareness about climate change and conflict in the Lake Chad Basin

In collaboration with Development and Peace - Caritas Canana, we organised a speaking tour of Canada by a female victim of violence and displacement from Borno State, Nigeria. Victoria Filibus from an IDP camp in Maiduguri spoke at numerous venues in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton and other locations in Ontario, Canada about the impacts of the climate change on livelihoods and conflicts in the Lake Chad Basin, and contributed to building awareness among Canadian

audiences including international development specialists, university faculty and students, and the general public.

Increased knowledge of stakeholders on the REDD in Cross Rivers State

Social Action contributed to improving knowledge and awareness about the potential impacts of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in Cross River and Ondo States.



Discussing the impacts of the climate change on livelihoods and conflicts in the Lake Chad Basin



Victoria Filibus from an IDP camp in Bor-no State addressing audiences in Canada

A photograph of a group of people, likely at a community meeting or educational session. In the foreground, a man with glasses and a light blue shirt is looking towards the left. To his right, a man in a vibrant pink and white striped shirt and a dark cap with a green logo is smiling. The background is filled with other people, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The overall atmosphere appears to be one of active participation and engagement.

POPULAR EDUCATION AND DEMOCRACY

Since 1999 when civil rule was restored to Nigeria, conflicts and insecurity have escalated across the country. Successive general elections were mismanaged by the ruling elite, resulting in alienation of the people from governments at the federal, state and local government levels that have failed to address increasing impoverishment, environmental and human rights abuses, violent crime and extremism.

We work with others to raise popular consciousness and participation through collaborative learning, mobilisation and solidarity for communities and activists working for environmental justice, democracy, and social change in Nigeria.



KEY OUTCOMES IN 2019

- ✔ **We created opportunities for youth learning and participation**
- ✔ **Citizens working to defend the human rights of citizens and for social change in Nigeria, including through the Civil Rights Councils (CRCs)**
- ✔ **We facilitated solidarity building and interaction between community activists, NGOs and the Nigerian pro-democracy community, and with African and global movements.**

During the year 2019, over

2000

young people benefited from our study centres, seminars, and popular education camps

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2019

The Nigeria Social Action Camp, 2019

We organised the 12th annual Nigeria Social Action Camp in Oweri, Imo State. The weeklong Camp provided platform for learning and solidarity building for training for young activists, students, labour unionists, NGO's, intellectuals, civil society actors from across the country. The 2019 Camp had the theme, Democracy in Nigeria: Building Popular Power from Below. This was in response to the shrinking democratic

space in Nigeria and the need to recreate civic spaces for collective political action in the country. The camp programme remains the most popular space for alternative political education and learning in Nigeria aside from the dominant neo-liberal orientation and policy direction of the government.



Plenary at the Nigeria Social Action Camp facilitated by Comrade Jaye Gaskia



Participants check their health status as they prepare for the day's plenary session



Taking the time out for some morning physical exercises at the Owerri Camp

The Nigeria Pro-Democracy Conference, 2019

The 2019 Nigeria Pro-Democracy Conference was organised in Lagos in solidarity with our partners. The conference served as a platform for pro-democracy activists, social justice advocates and organic scholars in Nigeria to examine the democratic practices in Nigeria since 1999 and discuss options for positive civic engagement in politics as a way of

promoting popular power and enthroning a representative and accountable government in Nigeria.

The conference was organised in solidarity with African Centre for Media & Information Literacy (AFRICMIL) the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and other organisations.



Plenary at the Nigeria Pro-Democracy Conference 2019



Facilitators as the Nigeria Pro-Democracy conference 2019

Study Centres in support of Civil Rights Councils

We supported units of the Civil Rights Council (CRC) to maintain study centres for learning human rights instruments. The workshops and seminars strengthened the resilience of members of CRC in the struggle to defend human rights.

“

We work to improve citizens' access to justice by supporting citizens action through organisational development, promoting awareness about rights, training, providing legal support and public litigation.

”



Members of the Civil Rights Council in Port Harcourt after a workshop

Political debate in Edo and Rivers States

As part of its programme to promote political accountability in Nigeria, Social Action teamed up with other citizens groups to organise participatory debates for aspirants to executive and legislative offices in Edo and Rivers States. These fora enabled representatives of different segments of society to ask relevant questions and engage the issues considered central to their preferred areas of interest.

We organised The Rivers Debate 2019 in collaboration with other civil society partners. Some gubernatorial candidates presented their agendas, enabling citizens and undecided voters who want to vote based on ideology to take a position. These events were aired live on national television.



Candidate from different parties gunning for legislative seats of the Federal and State Houses of Assembly in Edo Central Senatorial District



Edo Central Women posing questions to the candidates about matters pertaining to their interests



A cross-section of candidates representing different parties in Edo South, present at the town hall meeting in Benin City



Candidates for the gubernatorial election at the Rivers political debate on the podium



Concerned active citizens keenly observe, as candidates real out their manifestoes



Campaign for a peaceful, violence-free and credible election in Port Harcourt

Promoting nonviolence and malpractice-free and peaceful elections in Rivers State

Youth Alive Foundation and other NGOs to organise a rally to bring awareness on the need for a non-violent, peaceful & malpractice-free elections in Rivers State and across the country. The rally brought

together various youth groups, students, civil society actors, the media, the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), the National Orientation Agency (NOA), the Nigerian Police and other related stakeholders in the electoral process in Nigeria.



“_____

Several peace campaigns, orientation, education and sensitization were carried out with the focus on the youth who were not only the purveyors but also the greatest victims.

”_____

Step down training for electoral violence observers in Rivers State

In an effort to ensure a credible 2019 general elections in Nigeria, Social Action in collaboration with the Youth Alive Foundation and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems held a two-day step-down training for election observers and monitors of electoral violence in Rivers State.

The training created an opportunity for the participants to learn the tools and method to observe election violence and make the necessary report

We work with others to raise popular consciousness and participation through collaborative learning, mobilisation and solidarity for communities and activists working for environmental justice, democracy, and social change in Nigeria.



Group photograph of participants after the programme



Students of Government Girls Junior Secondary School, Oromineke, Port Harcourt listening a to a presentation by Social Action

Social Action also sensitised secondary school students on the dangers of corruption, drug and sexual abuse, examination and other malpractice, including other social vices as harmful to their future. This picture shows students of Government Girls Junior Secondary School, Oromineke, Port Harcourt listening to a presentation by Social Action.

Social Action organised a Town Hall Meeting on Post-Election Violence in Port Harcourt. Stakeholders from civil society organisations, the media, universities, and state institutions gathered at Aldgate Hotels, Port Harcourt for a post-mortem town hall meeting on the incidents of election violence in the 2019 general elections and to chart the way forward

APPRECIATION

We thank our donors, partners, collaborating organisations, communities, volunteers and supporters that contributed to the successes we achieved in 2019.

FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

Development and Peace - Caritas Canada

MacArthur Foundation

Rosa Luxemburg Foundation

Ford Foundation

Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund

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