

Spot-check on Payment of Cash Transfer to Beneficiaries Involving Returned \$322.5million Abacha Loot to Beneficiaries in FCT-Abuja and Nasarawa State.

ANEEJ MANTRA Update - April 4, 2020

COVID-19: Details of payment to beneficiaries

Period of Payment	Amount (N)	Amount for 4 months (N)
• January – April, 2020	• N5000 monthly	• N20,000

Findings during Monitoring

- The beneficiaries are being paid N20,000 each representing four months (January—April, 2020)
- In Nasarawa State, the monitoring team have been able to track payment to about 6,564 beneficiaries across 83 communities in Lafia-East, Wamba and Akwanga Local government.
- In FCT-Abuja, the monitoring team have been able to track payment to about 1,306 beneficiaries across 26 communities in Kwali Area Council.
- The MANTRA team had an interview session with some of the beneficiaries of the Programme using the MANTRA beneficiary monitoring tool.



The Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) through her MANTRA project, is monitoring the ongoing payment along side her eight MANTRA project partners: Resource Centre for Human Rights & Civic Education (CHRICED), Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC), FAHINTA Women and Youths Development (FAWOYDI), New Apostolic Church Centre for Development, Bayelsa State Non-Governmental Organisations Forum (BANGOF), Centre for Social Justice, New Initiative for Social Development (NISD) and Socio Eco-

conomic Research and Development Centre (SERDEC), This follows the directive by the President to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to commence payment to beneficiaries of NCTP as a palliative measure to cushion the effect of the lockdown due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Breakdown of beneficiaries paid in Abuja and Nasarawa for 3days

Day	Abuja			Nasarawa State		
	No of Beneficiaries	No of Wards	No of Communities	No of Beneficiaries	No of Wards	No of Communities
1	778	1	10	3,247	2	42
2	No payment	Nil	Nil	2,667	3	28
3	524	2	16	650	2	13
Total	1,306	3	26	6,564	7	83



Photos from the field

Day-2: Payment to beneficiaries of recovered Abacha loot in As-sakio Ward, Lafia LGA, Nasarawa

From field: Aged beneficiaries of the recovered Abacha loot waiting patiently to be paid in Agyaragu Ward, Lafia LGA, Nasarawa State

Payment Service Provider (PSP)

The Payment Service Provider (PSP) in Abuja is **Faith Electronics Transfer Services (FETS)**.
PSP in Nasarawa State is **TeazyPay International and Business Support Microfinance Bank**

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, beneficiaries on que observing social distancing why awaiting payment.

Observation & Recommendations

- Initially, the arrangement in most payment centres did not reflect social distancing, we encouraged NCTO to take this into consideration in the payment and advised their staff and payment operators to comply. The situation improved subsequently in some payment points
- The points created for hand washing at payment locations and facilities provided were insufficient. We encouraged NCTO to provide more facilities and increase the number of hand washing points/locations for beneficiaries, officials and security agents.
- The number of communities being paid at a time were too many, we encouraged NCTO and the payment operators to further split the communities, so as to reduce the crowd at a particular payment point.
- Proper planning should be done to ensure that the payment agents do not run out of cash during payment.
- The open display of cash during payment should be discouraged

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