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Embassy of Switzerland in Nigeria

2020

## Tackling Human Trafficking through Advocacy to Increase Investment on Human Capital Development and Civic Engagement in Edo State



## Table of Contents

<b>PROJECT BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b><i>Executive Summary</i> .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Programmatic Progress Narrative .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Courtesy Visit by Swiss Ambassadors to ANEEJ’s Office.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Challenges.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Lessons Learnt .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Results Achieved .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>ANNEX .....</b>	<b>26</b>

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

<b>Project Title</b>	Tackling human trafficking through advocacy to increase investment on Human Capital Development and Civic Engagement in Edo State.
<b>Name of Organization</b>	Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)
<b>Start Date</b>	March 25, 2019
<b>End Date</b>	December 7, 2020
<b>Brief Summary of the Project</b>	<p>The goal of the project is to improve the knowledge of Citizens, media and Policy Makers around the issues of good governance and Open Budgetary processes that support civic engagement.</p> <p>The project is an eight-month project supported by the Switzerland Embassy in Nigeria to curb illegal migration through increase advocacy on human capital development and Improved CSOs knowledge on Corruption-Migration nexus in Nigeria.</p> <p>ANEEJ Commissioned the Research on “Corruption-Migration Nexus” to generate data that will provide evidence to support Public Policy in combating irregular migration in the State. The research report was presented to relevant Stakeholders to strengthen their capacity to advocate for increased investment in Human Capital Development. CSOs, Media, Academia and citizens were also trained and engaged in budget monitoring of human capital development intervention in 2019/2020 Edo state budget with focus on the Education sector to promote transparency and accountability in public spending needed to engender good governance and sustainable development.</p>
<b>Target Groups/Beneficiaries</b>	Civil Society Organisations, Media practitioners, Edo Citizens and International Community (Europe, Canada, Americas and the Middle East).
<b>Report Prepared By</b>	Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)

## Executive Summary

The “Tackling human trafficking through advocacy to increase investment on human capital development and civic engagement in Edo state” project is aimed at improving the knowledge of Citizens, media and Policy Makers around the issues of good governance and Open Budgetary processes that support civic engagement.

In furtherance of this goal, ANEEJ conducted a research on “Corruption-Migration Nexus” to proffer alternative approaches to stem the migration crisis in Edo state as well as innovative ways of promoting the principles of transparency and accountability in the management of public resources through budget monitoring and tracking in Edo state.

The research report was presented to stakeholders in the state as an advocacy tool to facilitate the increase in Budgetary Allocation to Human Capital Development in the State and to promote policy dialogue between ANEEJ/CSOs and relevant government institutions.

Consequently, ANEEJ also trained 39 participants made up of CSOs, Media, Academia and citizens at a 3-day workshop organized for CSOs and Media Practitioners on Human Capital Development, Anti-Corruption, Budget monitoring and tracking.

Field monitors, were later engaged to track the implementation of some projects in Edo state 2019/2020 budget. Owing to COVID-19 Pandemic, EndSARs protests and other security challenges experienced in the state, the monitoring exercise covered selected projects in the Education sector as against the initial plan to monitor other human capital development interventions in the state. The projects monitored cover budget allocation to constructions and renovation of primary, secondary and Tertiary schools in 10 LGAs in the three senatorial districts of Edo state. A total of 20 projects were assessed with 5 on-going projects, 14 completed projects and one (1) yet to commence.

ANEEJ presented the outcome of the monitoring exercise to stakeholders CSOs, Media at the Town hall meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2020 where participants resolved to work together as a group to advance the issues discussed and the outcome sent to the Governor of the state.

All the interventions implemented contributed to improved CSOs knowledge on Corruption-Migration nexus in Nigeria. This is confirmed in the number and type of stakeholders’ participation in Meeting and percentage increase in the scores of participants during the training

on human capital development, anti-corruption and budget monitoring. About 120 participants representing government agencies, CSOs, Media and Academia were in attendance and the post-tests shows 50% increase in knowledge as against the pre-test.

There was also increased public awareness and citizen's action against Corruption and Irregular migration nexus. This resulted to a total number of 45 stakeholders agreed on action plan to support government policy agenda on human capital interventions and also offered their commitment to the state government to monitor the process.

The project also provided a common platform for policy dialogue between state actors and non-state actors there by leading to improved citizens collaboration with Anti-Corruption/Migration Agencies.

Lastly, the project also contributed to improved policy environment for combating corruption and underdevelopment among others through facilitating the OGP process in the state and supporting the government policy agenda on human trafficking.

During the project implementation, the Switzerland Embassy Delegates led by the outgoing Nigerian Adviser, Jolanda Pfister, paid courtesy visit to ANEEJ Secretariat in Benin City, the Edo State capital on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The aim was to formally introduce the incoming Switzerland Nigerian Adviser Manuel Muehlebach to ANEEJ and other relevant stakeholders in Edo State.

Jolanda Pfister recommends creating an independent taskforce on migration in Nigeria to have a general rethink around illegal trafficking and organised crime. In response to this recommendation ANEEJ facilitated the process in the Town hall meeting where stakeholders resolved to work as a group to continue to advocate and monitor budgetary allocation related to human capital development projects in the state and communicated same to the government and other relevant stakeholders.

## Programmatic Progress Narrative

### I. “Corruption-Migration Nexus” Research Report

The “Corruption-Migration Nexus” research conducted by ANEEJ at the onset of the project provided the baseline for the project. The research report sheds light on the connection between corruption and migration and generated data on public spending on Human Capital Investment. The Corruption-Migration Nexus” research also proffered alternatives approaches to stem the

migration crisis in Edo state as well as innovative ways of promoting the principles of transparency, accountability in the management of public resources through budget monitoring and tracking in Edo state.

The Research report was ANEEJ's commitments towards providing evidence in support of public policy to combat irregular migration as well as strengthen the CSOs advocacy on human capital development.

The Corruption-Migration Nexus research report is a 80-page document divided into 6 chapters namely;

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Literature
- Chapter 3: Migration and Migration Control in Edo State
- Chapter 4: Budget Analysis and Civic Engagement
- Chapter 5: Anti-corruption institution Framework
- Chapter 6: Conclusion.

This has been completed and printed.

## **2. Media Engagement**

ANEEJ organized a press conference on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 at ANEEJ secretariat to convey the outcome of the research on Corruption -Migration Nexus to journalist who are expected to join in advocating for an end to irregular migration and to support the campaign for human capital development in Edo State as recommended by the research report. The press conference was held a day to the governorship election in Benin with the aim of urging who ever emerged as the next governor of the state to tackle the challenge of migration as a priority in the state. In attendance were 20 participants made up of 17 males and 3 females who were majorly journalists.

ANEEJ Executive Director, Rev David Ugolor during the press briefing acknowledge the support from Embassy of Switzerland in Nigeria to produce the research on Migration and Corruption

Nexus as part of the implementation of a project ‘Tackling human trafficking through advocacy to increase investment on human capital development and civic engagement in Edo state.

Rev David Ugolor who was represented by Mr. Leo Atakpu said “The research focused on generating data and evidence on Public Spending on Human Capital Investment and proffer alternative approaches to stem the migration crisis in Edo State. He called on the next governor of the state to integrate in his policies and programmes, economic considerations, budgetary allocations, security issues, social norms, anticorruption and other governance reforms. And also to commit investments in key sectors such as education, healthcare and entrepreneurship with the objective of addressing social and economic drivers of migration

According to Atakpu, the next governor of Edo State must provide a clear roadmap that builds on the ongoing efforts of the Edo State Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking and strengthens extant partnerships with relevant development actors such as the International Organisation for Migration. As well as fast track the process of signing the Open Government partnership (OGP) State Action Plan.

While the facilitator of Edo Women Initiatives and a member Human Trafficking Taskforce, Edo State, Dr. (Mrs.) Roseline Okosun pointed out that leaders should be good role models to children noted that “we must all stand up and speak out against illegal migration.”

The researcher, Dr. Oscar Ubhenin who presented the research report said this is a wakeup call for responsible leadership, adding that priority should be given to education and health to stem challenges of illegal migration in the state.

### **3. Advocacy for Increase in Budgetary Allocation to Human Capital Development in Edo State, Sept 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

ANEEJ made presentation of the Research Report on “Corruption Migration Nexus to Stakeholders in Edo as an advocacy tool to facilitate the Increase in Budgetary Allocation to Human Capital Development in the State. The Event was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2020, at Vichi Gates Hotel in Benin City, a total of 37 participants, made up of 21 males, 26 Females and 2 PWDs were in attendance. They were drawn from relevant government agencies working on Human trafficking, CSOs, Academia and Media. ANEEJ Executive Director, Rev David Ugolor, Edo State Commissioner of Justice and Attorney General, Prof Yinka Omorogbe and the Zonal

Director of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Mrs. Ijeoma Uduak were among the dignitaries present at the event.

The objective of the meeting was to present the Research report to stakeholders as an advocacy tool for effective engagement with government and religious/traditional leaders on human capital development in the state.

### **Opening Remarks by ANEEJ Executive Director, Rev David Ugolor**

Rev David Ugolor while welcoming all the stakeholders to the public presentation of the Research Report on Corruption Migration Nexus said that the aim is to improve the knowledge base of citizens, Civil society organizations, media and policy makers on the issues of good governance and open budgeting processes in support of civic engagement.

The Executive Director concluded by encouraging all stakeholders present to use this research report as advocacy tool to engage government, Religious and Traditional leaders on tackling human trafficking and to increase spending on human capital development. And appreciated the Swiss Embassy for their support to ANEEJ and ANEEJ research team led by Dr Oscar Ubhenin.

There were goodwill messages from the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, and Head of Edo State Task Force on Human Trafficking, Prof. Yinka Omorogbe who urged participants at the presentation ceremony to look at how budgetary allocation affects education. According to Prof. Omorogbe who was represented by Bamidele Ikusika, personal research assistant to the Attorney General, “we will all come to realize that at the very foundation of human capital development is education.”

The Zonal Commander, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Benin Zonal Office, Mrs. Ijeoma Uduak disclosed that the agency has been carrying out public enlightenment to educate the public on the ills of irregular migration and human trafficking, rescuing victims of human trafficking; counselling them and reintegrating them back into the society.

Mrs. Uduak while assuring that the agency will continue to put in efforts to prevent the scourge of irregular migration and human trafficking, said the agency has been prosecuting offenders and had secured some convictions.



## **Presentation of the Research Report on Corruption Migration Nexus by Dr. Oscar Ubhenin**

While presenting the Research report, Dr. Oscar Ubhenin, gave a summary of the different sessions of the report and urged participants to make inputs into the findings and recommendations.

The questions and Answers session were characterized with discussions and inputs from participants on the research report. Summary of the inputs covered need to include components of transparency in investment in human capital and behavioral change as well as promotion of cooperation amongst CSOs in tackling illegal migration in the state.

### **Outcome**

- The stakeholders present acknowledged the research report which will form part of their activity around tackling illegal migration in the state.
- The meeting provided the opportunity for ANEEJ and other CSOs to engage in policy dialogue with NAPTIP on how to combat illegal migration in the state.

#### **4. 3-day Workshop for CSOs/Media Practitioners on Human Capital Development, Anti-Corruption, Budget Monitoring and Tracking.**

### **Introduction**

ANEEJ conducted a three-day workshop for CSOs and Media Practitioners on Human Capital Development, Anti-Corruption, Budget monitoring and tracking. The Event was held November 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Vichi Gates Hotel in Benin City. In attendance were 39 participants made up of 27 males and 12 females include 2 PWDs, participants were drawn from CSOs, Media and Academia

### **The objectives of the workshop**

- To create awareness on Edo State government budgets and provisions for human capital development
- To understand Anti- corruption issues, structures and institutions in the country
- To present an overview of budget monitoring and reporting process to participants

- To agree on key government interventions in 2019/2020 budget of Edo state for CSOs monitoring and advocate for increase in public spending on Human Capital Development programmes.
- To discuss advocacy issues and agree on points for increased investment on human capital development in Edo State

### **Opening Remarks by ANEEJ Executive Director, Rev David Ugolor**

Rev David Ugolor who was represented by Mr. Leo Atakpu stated the goal and objectives of the workshop and made mention of Edo state Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki commitment to dedicate better part of efforts of his second tenure to human capital development with a view to build on the efforts laid in his first tenure. The Executive Director tasked the CSOs and Media present to hold the government accountable to his commitment made few days to his inauguration.

Mr. Leo Atakpu also indicated that at the end of the workshop, CSOs will identify projects and monitor the implementation of human capital development projects in the 2019/2020 Edo state budget. And also develop advocacy plan for engagement with Edo state government on increased investment and budgetary allocation to support human capital development in the state as well as public awareness activities.

The ANEEJ Deputy Executive Director concluded by acknowledging the support of the Swiss Embassy and informed participants that the findings and recommendations of the monitoring exercise will be presented to the public and relevant stakeholders to drive investment in human capital development projects in the state

There were Goodwill messages from Rev Sister Florence Nwaonuma, Project Coordinator of FULLIFE organization and Comrade Jude Obasonmi, the Chief Senior Officer of Josemaria Escriva Foundation acknowledged ANEEJ approach to tackling illegal migration in the state. They encouraged CSOs present to engage the government in positive manner on the issues of trafficking and investment in human capital projects.

### **Training Session**

The 3-day workshop was facilitated by two consultants; namely Mr. Lambert Otubor and Mr. Lawrence Edemhanria.

Ground rules were established to guide the workshop to ensure effective participation of participants, this was followed by a pre-evaluation section which was anchored by Sandra Eguagie.

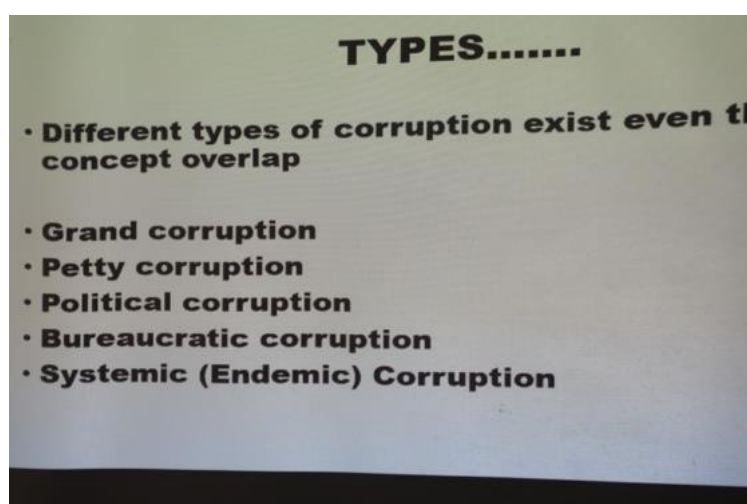
The three major presentation slides delivered in day I of the workshop covered the overview of the project, the Context of Corruption in Nigeria and the Concept of Migration.

### **Overview of Tackling human trafficking through advocacy to increase investment on human capital development and civic engagement in Edo State” project**

The first presentation on the *Overview of Tackling human trafficking through advocacy to increase investment on human capital development and civic engagement in Edo State” project* implemented by ANEEJ was presented by Mr. Lambert Otubor. The major highlights of the presentation speak to the background of the project, the goal and objectives, activities, expected result and the source of fund.

### **The Context of Corruption in Nigeria by Mr. Lambert Otubor**

The second presentation on the Context of Corruption in Nigeria presented by Mr. Lambert Otubor started with a broad definition of the term “corruption” viewing from the economic, social and political contexts. He explained the manifestations of corruption and how it can be identified as well as the need of reporting corruption cases to Anti-Corruption Agencies in Nigeria. The presentation also looked at types of corruption, measuring corruption, Corruption perception index, World governance indicator and index for public integrity.



*Presentation Slide on types of Corruption*

## **The Concept of Migration by Lawrence Edemhanria (PGDE, Ph.D.) Consultant**

The Concept of Migration by Lawrence Edemhanria being the last presentation for day 1 dealt with definition of human migration, the reasons for migration, illegal migration and human trafficking, drivers of illegal migration and how to combat illegal migration.



*Presentation slide on Human Capital Development*

## **DAY 2**

The section started with a recap of day one activities as it provided opportunity for everyone to share their views followed by the presentations and group work

### **Human Capital Development: The essential by Lawrence Edemhanria**

The presentation considered various definitions of Human Capital Development, the key areas of human capital development such as Education and training which include formal and vocational Education. Specialized trainings such as workshops, seminars and inhouse trainings as well as Telecommunications trainings and innovations was also emphasized. Opportunities for learning, quality enhancement in education and training, and the need for the inclusion of health and government provisions and implementation in these areas was also discussed. The facilitator also reiterated the need for review of curriculum and institutional commitment and support to learners and transparency in operations of government interventionist agencies in Edo State. Other outline covered in the presentation were basic economic foundation, model of human capital theory and personal experience briefs.

### **Combatting Corruption through Budget access presented by Mr. Lambert Otubor**

The Presentation began with a brief discussion with participants on the true cost of corruption on the economy which was the first slide in the presentation. Mr. Otubor further explained the component of the budget which is revenue and expenditure and presented 2019 Federal

government budget. The budget process, budget cycle and the stages of monitoring were also presented.

### **Budget tracking by Mr. Lambert Otubor**

The presentation on budget tracking looked at reasons for tracking and monitoring budgets and what should be done while monitoring a budget. The facilitator took participants through the 2019/2020 Edo State budget and sectors related to human capital development was also identified. Please see attached links to the state budget in Annex.

During the presentation, participants identified health sector, Education, Agriculture and Natural resources, Infrastructure, Wealth Creation, Cooperatives and Employment, Social development and Science and Technology in the state budget as sectors that relates to human capital development.

### **GROUP WORK.**

Participants worked in four groups to identify priority areas to monitor in relation to allocations in Edo State 2019/2020 budget.

- Group 1 worked on Education Sector
- Group 2 worked on Agriculture and Natural Resources and Wealth Creation, Cooperatives and Employment sectors
- Group 3 worked on infrastructure and Social Development sectors
- Group 4 worked on health sector.



*Participants brainstorming session*

### **Day 3**

Day three began with a recap of day 2 activity followed by presentation of the outcome of the group work.

In the Education sector, the group identified budget allocation to eight-line items which were primarily budget related to Land, Buildings and Administration. The capital projects identified were: Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo University, Iyamho, IMT, Usen, College of Education, Igueben, Tayo Akpata University, Ekiolor and Institute of Continuing Education, Benin City.

In Agriculture and Natural Resources sector, the group identified budget allocation to 17-line items related to trainings, provisions of basic amenities, procurement of fish farming and farm inputs among others. While 13-line items relating to micro credit scheme, specialised trainings of Fadama Co-operative associations and other trainings were selected for monitoring in the Wealth Creation, Cooperatives and Employment sector.

The group work on the infrastructure sector selected 19 capital projects in four LGAs namely; Edo North, Edo Central, Oredo and Esan West. The projects relate to construction of roads and drains while four of the projects allocations in Social Development sector such as procurement of items for HIV/AIDS, purchase of Emergency relief materials and distributions, yearly women activities and construction of billboards on child rights law were selected for monitoring.

In the health sector, the projects selected for monitoring were: allocations to Disaster Management, Integrated Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (IMNCH) program, Health Management Information System/Monitoring and Evaluation of government projects and programmes among others.

At the end of the group presentation, line items from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Wealth Creation, Cooperatives and Employment were then suggested for monitoring.

### **Monitoring and reporting template by Mr. Lambert Otubor**

Participants were taken through the Monitoring and reporting template which was projected by the facilitator. The template was divided into three sub-sessions such as basic information of the monitor, location and source of the project, while the second part dealt with information on the budget title, implementing agency, budget amount among others. The last session speaks to stakeholder's engagement which covers information on the date of visit, location and

stakeholders engaged, details of the discussion as well as the impact of the project in the community among others.

### **Advocating for Increase in Investment in Human Capital Development**

The last presentation was on Advocacy for increase in Human Capital development investments aimed at strengthening participants' capacity to engage government on the subject matter. The strategies for effect advocacy was discussed, including key target/ stakeholder's advocacy and the techniques for advocacy as well as strategies for effective advocacy and engagement strategies. The facilitator also presented an Advocacy template which the participants used to develop an Advocacy plan to specific stakeholders.

#### **Group work:**

Participants worked in four groups to jointly develop an advocacy plan using the template provided by the facilitator. Four different advocacy messages were developed namely;

- “Insufficient funding for Human Capital Development Projects”
- “Health; Government needs to improve on human capacity development eg. School health program, disaster management etc”
- “Matching budget allocation to actual releases in each fiscal year”
- “Increase in Human Capital development in education sector”.



#### *Group Exercise*

While developing the advocacy plan, the four groups also identified the goal/objectives of the advocacy message, target stakeholders, what methods to use to reach stakeholders, activities to be implemented, timeline, resources needed, members responsibility, existing opportunity and the success indicators.

## **Outcome/Recommendation of the Workshop**

1. The need for CSOs engagement with government on human capital development projects.
2. Review of the NAPTIP law to reflect current realities as it was noted that most of the reports released by NAPTIP could be estimated and not actual. This is because of the different channels of transportation used by the returnees back to the country which may not be captured by NAPTIP.
3. Identification and selection of Human Capital Development projects from the 2019/2020 Edo state budget.
4. Development of an Advocacy plan by the participants
5. A call for sensitization workshop in rural areas
6. CSOs and Media to track the release of funds and government actual budget
7. Engagement of youth in independent monitoring of projects in each community is very important
8. Inclusion of projects related to primary and secondary education among the projects identified for monitoring
9. Suggestion for CSOs to build coalition so as to have an effective advocacy
10. The participants suggested opportunities for skills acquisition be given to those who really need it and restructuring of the Nigerian economy and society for the purpose of productive activities is apt.

Lastly, CSOs, Media and Academia present at the workshop developed an advocacy message through an advocacy plan indicating increase investment in human capital projects in the state

### **5. Budget Monitoring of 2019/2020 Edo State Budget**

ANEEJ engaged field monitors to track the implementation of some projects in Edo state 2019/2020 budget. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, EndSARs protest and other security challenges experienced in the state, the monitoring exercise only covered projects in the Education sector as against the initial plan to monitor other human capital development interventions in the state. Education is one of the key components in human capital development as captured from the 3-day training.



The monitoring exercise was conducted in the three senatorial districts of the state, namely; Edo South, Edo Central and Edo North. The exercise spans between the period of September to November 2020, the field monitors engaged were university lecturers and CSOs.

### **Objectives**

1. To activate citizens' action to project monitoring.
2. To increase the oversight function of government and other relevant stakeholders to the implementation and completion of human capital development projects in the state.

### **METHODOLOGY**

A mixed method approach involving both quantitative and qualitative research methods was used. A quantitative method consists of a field survey to selected projects while the qualitative method consists of assessment of community members on the impact of the projects in the community.

The projects monitored were selected from Edo state 2019/2020 budget around the Education Sector because is one of the key components in Human capital development intervention.

The projects monitored cover budget allocation to constructions and renovation of primary, secondary and Tertiary schools in 10 LGAs in the three senatorial districts of Edo state.

### **Key Findings**

A total of 20 projects assessed, 2 in Edo South, 11 in Edo Central and 7 in Edo North, 5 on-going projects while 14 of the projects assessed have been completed.

Most of the inhabitants of the communities interviewed expressed their joy and happiness over the project. All projects monitored were accessible by the communities.

However, the Construction of Solar Street light in the Main Campus (AAU) with budget allocation of 5,000,000.00 in the 2019 and 2020 Edo state budget is yet to commence. The breakdown of the projects monitored is in the ANNEX.



Renovation/construction of three blocks classrooms with offices and a unit of six toilet at Arinze Primary School

Renovation of ten classrooms drilling of bore hole and construction of six units Toilet and renovation of 4 unit toilet @Oghodua primary school



Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma (AAU) Administrative Block

Construction/renovation of blocks of classrooms/offices at uhumora owan west lg

## Challenges

- Lack of cooperation from project supervisors in some of the sites visited
- Some of the community were not willingly to speak
- Some heads of schools and contractors could not be accessed by the monitor as such could not grant interview.

## RECOMMENDATION

- On-going projects as well as projects allocated for in the 2019/2020 budget yet to commence be completed in time.
- CSOs, Media and citizens should always engage in regular monitoring of projects to

forestall projects abandonment.

- The House of Assembly members should step up their oversight functions and adequately mobilized contractors to site to enable them complete projects allocated for in time.
- There should be sanctions for Contractors who used substandard materials in execution of projects.
- Government should ensure that contracts are awarded on merit by following due process on procurement.
- Communities benefiting from government projects should report any abandoned project to appropriate authorities
- Media sensitization to Communities benefitting from government projects to ensure the protection of government projects executed in their localities

#### **6. Report of the Town Hall Meeting to discuss the report of budget monitoring of the Education sector in Edo state.**

ANEEJ convened a town hall meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2020 at ANEEJ secretariat to discuss the report of budget monitoring of the Education sector in Edo state.

A total number of 45 persons comprise of 30 males and 15 females were in attendance among who are ANEEJ Executive Director, Rev David Ugolor, NAPTIP Benin Zonal Commander, Ijeoma Uduak, representatives from Ministry of Education, CSOs, media and lecturers from AAU University.

#### **Objectives**

1. To activate citizens' action to project monitoring.
2. To increase the oversight function of government and other relevant stakeholders to the implementation and completion of human capital development projects in the state.

#### **Welcome Address by ANEEJ Executive Director, Rev David Ugolor**

ANEEJ Executive Director, Rev David Ugolor welcomed participants to the town hall meeting to discuss the Report of Budget Monitoring into the Education Sector of Edo State. He stated the

goal and objectives of the town hall meeting and made mention of other activities implemented since the inception of the project.

Rev David Ugolor also shared the findings from the report based on the implementation of the 2019/2020 Edo state Government budget and a couple of recommendations contained in the report. calling on law makers to step up their oversight role, the Executive Arm of Government to adequately mobilize contractors to site to enable them complete projects allocated within the contractual time frame. As well as CSOs, Media and citizens at large to always engage government to ensure regular monitoring of projects to forestall projects abandonment.

In his conclusion, ANEEJ Executive Director called on the Edo State Government to increase its interventions in the Education and Health sectors in subsequent budgets as a way to curb illegal migration and express his appreciation to the Swiss Embassy for the funds provided ANEEJ.

### **Good Will Messages**

#### **Dr. Oscar Ubhenin; Lecturer AAU Ekpoma**

In his goodwill message, Dr. Ubhenin expressed his appreciation to ANEEJ and confirmed ANEEJ intervention in tackling human trafficking has been supporting the interest of government towards investing in human capital development in the state. He also noted that the 2021 State budget and the policy statement by the government shows government commitment to tackle human trafficking in the state.

Dr. Ubhenin went further to say the monitoring in education sector shows that the project has not been in vain and appreciated the Swiss Embassy for supporting the lofty initiative.

While concluding his goodwill message, Dr. Ubhenin desired a road map to be put in place for the next steps and the scaling up of the project through research to address the influx of foreigners especially unskilled labour into the state and other parts of the country.

#### **Rev Sister Florence Nwaomma- Project Coordinator, FULIFE**

In her goodwill message, she commended ANEEJ for the invitation to the meeting and training of CSOs and media on budget monitoring and human capital development previously organized by ANEEJ.

She stated that other CSOs working in Edo state are doing the same thing but ANEEJ came up with different approach to tackle human trafficking in the state, which remained why she and her organization have continued to participate in ANEEJ programmes and will follow up with the new approach.

Rev Sister Nwaomma reiterated that the training of CSOs and media to track government investment in human capital interventions is very relevant. In her conclusion she affirmed that the impact of the research will be felt when there is expansion of the work into a larger scale in the long run.

### **NAPTIP Zonal Commander, Ijeoma Uduak**

NAPTIP Zonal Commander, Ijeoma Uduak thanked ANEEJ for organizing the Town hall meeting and enjoined everyone including the press to take issues of human capital development to their various angle.

Mrs. Ijeoma Uduak said if there was empowerment of youths in the country, the recent EndSARS saga wouldn't have occurred. From the perspective of human trafficking, she noted that victims need to be empowered as part of rehabilitating them back to the society. She concluded that, the reason for the Town Hall meeting is to better the state and our nation Nigeria.

### **Presentation of the project monitoring findings; Sandra Eguagie, ANEEJ M&E officer**

The project monitoring findings as presented by ANEEJ M&E officer Sandra Eguagie shows the projects monitored in the Education sector based on the implementation of the 2019/2020 Edo state Government budget. In her presentation the findings of the report show that a total of 20 projects were assessed in the three senatorial districts of the state. Other major highlight of the presentation were the Objectives of the monitoring exercise, Methodology, key findings, Category of line items in the 2019/2020 budget monitored, Breakdown of completed and on-going projects, Challenges and recommendations.

### **Presentation of the Next Step by Mr. Innocent Edemhanria; ANEEJ Programme Manager**

Mr. Innocent Edemhanria made a presentation on the next step by informing participants on how to continue the monitoring exercise through accessing information from Edo state government website on the list of contracts awarded by the stated government. Mr. Edemhanria

took participants through the Edo state government website and the public procurement page where data on contracts awarded on a monthly basis are published. He informed CSOs and Media to sustain the budget monitoring of projects sited in their location, as they can also issue out a report through their individual organization and also to ANEEJ. As ANEEJ will provide a platform to discuss the outcome of the project findings which can be done quarterly.

### **The Outcome of the Meeting.**

Participants resolved to work together as a group to advance the issues discussed and agreed on the following:

- Congratulate His Excellency, Governor Godwin Obaseki for his victory in the 19 September 2020 governorship election in Edo State and welcomed him to a second term in office.
- Welcomed the governor's policy statement on investment in human capital development as reflected in the 2021 budget proposal currently before the State House of Assembly.
- Noted that the ANEEJ research report on "Corruption-Migration Nexus" is a useful document in advancing the governor's policy agenda on human capital development.
- Applauded the recent Civil Society monitoring exercise of government projects in Edo State, particularly in the education sector. And agreed to share the outcome and recommendations with Edo State Government and all key stakeholders in the State.
- Participants resolved to continue monitoring government investments in support of Human Capital Development interventions in Edo State under ANEEJ's coordination.

The outcome statement of the meeting sent to Edo state governor was signed by the stakeholders present at the meeting.

### **Courtesy Visit by Swiss Ambassadors to ANEEJ's Office.**

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the Switzerland Embassy Delegates led by the outgoing Nigerian Adviser, Jolanda Pfister, paid courtesy visit to ANEEJ Secretariat in Benin City, the Edo State capital. With her during the visit was the incoming Nigerian Adviser, Manuel Muehlebach and Senior Project Assistant, International Organisation for Migration, Agbeze Uhimwen. The aim was to formally introduce the incoming Switzerland Nigerian Adviser Manuel Muehlebach to ANEEJ and relevant stakeholders in Edo State.

ANEEJ team led by the Executive Director, Rev. David Ugolor had the pleasure of receiving the Switzerland Embassy Delegates. Rev David Ugolor gave brief history of ANEEJ and relationship with the Switzerland government. He elaborated on partnership with Swiss embassy and how ANEEJ as an organization witnessed signing of the tripartite agreement between the Nigerian government, Switzerland and the World bank, and independently monitored the use of the recovered \$322.5M Abacha Loot to Nigeria by the Swiss government. He went further to talk about some projects that Swiss Embassy has funded ANEEJ to implement, like the Media training on Asset Recovery and Anti-corruption, the ongoing Corruption Migration Nexus project and many others. Human capital development is key to eradicating illegal migration, because if unemployment increases, human trafficking increases as well. To address human trafficking, development must be addressed as there is a nexus between corruption, human trafficking and Poverty.

The Outgoing Switzerland Nigerian Adviser Jolanda Pfister in her reaction thanked ANEEJ for such explicit partnership with the Swiss embassy and noted that the embassy is commitment to human capital development as a way to mitigate illegal migration in Nigeria. No doubt, the poverty in Nigeria spikes on a daily basis but she believes there are still some persons in government trying to do good things hence the need to improve cooperation and partnership. Furthermore, she talked about interest in thriving state in line with improved governance and positive migration as Nigeria have relatively free press potentials. Just as it is in Switzerland, Jolanda Pfister recommends creating an independent taskforce on migration in Nigeria to have a general rethink around illegal trafficking and organised crime.

### Challenges

The COVID-19 Pandemic, EndSARs protest and other security crisis in the country and state were some of the challenges experienced during the implementation of the project. This affect the planned Advocacy to some Government and Traditional institutions

- i) ANEEJ ensured these relevant stakeholders participated in meetings, for example The NAPTIP Benin Zonal commander was present at the presentation of the research report and at the Town hall meeting. While the officials from the Ministry of justice/Edo state Task force on Human trafficking and Ministry of Education were present at the presentation of the research report to stakeholders and Town hall

meeting respectively.

### Lessons Learnt

1. Relevant stakeholders made up of state and non-state actors are willing to work together to tackle migration crisis in the state if a platform is created.
2. The Corruption -Migration Nexus research report produced by ANEEJ made stakeholders especially CSOs and Media to review their strategy in campaigning against human trafficking in the state as it provided an alternative approach to tackling human trafficking in the state.

### Results Achieved

#### **1. Improved CSOs knowledge on Corruption-Migration nexus in Nigeria.**

- CSOs from the three senatorial districts of Edo state participated in ANEEJ activities.
- Professional groups e.g. lecturers attended training and meetings
- The Media group participated in the press briefing, trainings and meetings
- The Youth and women group also participated in trainings and meeting
- The pre-test scores during the training exercise ranges from 0%-to 50% while the post-test scores range from 50% to 90%

#### **2. Increased public awareness and citizen's action against Corruption and Irregular migration nexus.**

- An estimated 10million persons in Edo, Delta, Ondo and Part of Anambra states was reached with public awareness creation messages. This was achieved through the participation of Media Houses such as ITV/Radio and STV that coverage in these states.
- 18 print media reports on ANEEJ activities related to migration issues
- A total number of 45 stakeholders agreed on action plan to support government policy agenda on human capital interventions and also offer their commitment to the state government to monitor the process.
- The stakeholders were representatives from CSOs, Media, Academia and citizens



resident in the three Senatorial district of Edo state.

- The findings and recommendation of the 20 Educational projects monitored under the 2019/2020 Edo state budget was presented to the public.

### **3. Improved citizens collaboration with Anti-Corruption/Migration Agencies**

- 120 persons participated in meetings under this project.
- The type of stakeholders who participated in Meeting were officials from Edo state Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, National Agency for prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Lecturers from Ambrose Alli University, CSOs, Media and Citizens.
- 45 stakeholders agreed on an outcome statement on human capital development to curb illegal migration and communicated same to the governor of Edo state.

### **4. Improved policy environment for combating corruption and underdevelopment**

ANEEJ Contributed to the policy Environment

- The adoption of the OGP by the state government
- Government and CSOs co-create programs and policies as seen in the development of Edo state SAP
- The establishment of the Edo State Task Force Against Human trafficking by the governor as a result of the event organised by Edo Women Development initiative of which ANEEJ was a partner.
- The law against human trafficking passed in the state
- The Governor pronouncement to focus on human capital development in his second term.
- The Edo State Open Data Portal Initiative which is the official data repository of the State government that makes it possible for the public to access information on government activities undertaken in different Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The 2019/2020 budget was assessed from Edo state website and the

contracts awarded by the public procurement Agencies is assessable also through Edo state website.

- Secretariat for the OGP established in the State
- Increase in public access to information

## CONCLUSION

The Tackling human trafficking through advocacy to increase investment on Human Capital Development and Civic Engagement in Edo State project implemented by ANEEJ through the support of the Swiss Embassy provided different approach in tackling human trafficking in Edo state. The project contribution improved CSOs knowledge and public awareness on corruption-Migration Nexus in Nigeria as well as citizens action against corruption and irregular migration. This was demonstrated in the town hall meeting facilitated by ANEEJ where stakeholders' committed to work as a group to increase advocacy towards investment in the human capital project and to sustain the monitoring exercise in the state.

## ANNEX

Table 1: Category of line items in the 2019/2020 budget monitored.

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Budget Amount 2019</b>	<b>Budget Amount 2020</b>
Construction and Rehabilitation of Primary and JSS Schools across the State	100,000,000.00	No budget allocation
Land and Building of Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma (AAU) Administrative Block	700,000,000.00	200,000,000.00
Construction of Solar Street light in the Main Campus (AAU) .	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00

Table 2: Break down of Completed Projects

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.	Renovation/construction of three blocks classrooms with offices and a unit of six toilet at Arinze Primary School, located in Second East Circular Road, Oka, Benin City.	Completed
2	Renovation of ten classrooms drilling of bore hole and construction of six units Toilet and renovation of 4 unit	Completed
3	Land and Building of Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma (AAU) Administrative Block	Completed

4	Edo State Government School Renovation in Igueben Girls Secondary School	Completed
5	Construction/Renovation of Blocks of Classroom and Offices and Toilet at Central Primary School Ubiaja.	Completed
6	Construction/Renovation of Blocks of Classroom/Offices and Toilet at Uromi Girls Primary School, Uromi.	Completed
7	Construction and Renovation of two blocks of classrooms, Toilet, Generator House, water scheme and generating set at Egbele Primary School, Uromi.	Completed
8	Renovation of Three Classrooms and office block at Government Science and Technical College, Usugbenu Irrua	Completed
9	Construction/Renovation of Blocks of classrooms/ Toilet at Uwenigie Primary, Irrua.	Completed
10	Construction/Renovation of blocks of classrooms/ Toilet at Idumebo Primary School, Irrua.	Completed
11	Construction of a block of Class rooms with stores/offices. A block of six toilet and renovation of all class rooms at Azama Primary School, Jattu, Etsako West West L.G.A. UBEC/SUBEB PROJECT 2014/NC	Completed
12	Construction/renovation of Blocks of Classrooms/Offices at Uhumora Owan West LG	Completed
13	School Renovation/Examination Hall Assisted by International Development Association	Completed
14	School Renovation Assisted by International Development Association	Completed

Table 3: Breakdown of Ongoing projects

S/N	Projects	Status
1	Fencing of Afuda Primary School, Igueben	Ongoing (40 to 50% work done)
2.	Construction of Toilet Block, water supply and Generating set building at Efandion Primary Uromi.	Ongoing (40 to 60% work done)
3	Construction/Renovation of Blocks of Classroom/Offices and Toilet at Uromi Girls Primary School, Uromi.	Ongoing (75 to 80% work done)
4	Construction of University Teaching Hospital, Uzairue	On-going 42.50% Complete

5	Construction of School fence at Emai Primary School, Afuze, Owan East LGA	On-going
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Table 4: Project yet to commenced

S/N	Projects	Status
1.	Construction of Solar Street light in the Main Campus (AAU)	Not Started

## MEDIA LINKS

1. Human Trafficking: Switzerland Signs N10million Agreement With ANEEJ  
<https://www.aneej.org/human-trafficking-switzerland-signs-n10million-agreement-with-aneej/>
2. Switzerland signs N10million agreement with ANEEJ  
<https://easitimes.com/switzerland-signs-n10million-agreement-with-aneej>
3. ANEEJ Articulates Programmes To Tackle Migration, Other Issues For Incoming Edo Government  
<https://www.independent.ng/aneej-articulates-programmes-to-tackle-migration-other-issues-for-incoming-edo-government/>
4. ANEEJ Identifies Drivers of Illegal Migration, Sets Agenda for Edo Incoming Administration  
<https://www.summit.ng/news/nigeria/aneej-identifies-drivers-of-illegal-migration-sets-agenda-for-edo-incoming-administration/>
5. Govt urged to accord the challenge of Migration the attention it deserves -ANEEJ  
<https://nigerianobservernews.com/2020/09/govt-urged-to-accord-the-challenge-of-migration-the-attention-it-deserves-aneej/>
6. ANEEJ Building Alliances to Tackle Irregular Migration and Corruption – Ugolor  
<https://www.summit.ng/news/nigeria/aneej-building-alliances-to-tackle-irregular-migration-and-corruption-ugolor/>
7. ANEEJ Backs Edo Governor On Human Capital Development, Urges Civic Engagement  
<https://www.aneej.org/aneej-backs-edo-governor-on-human-capital-development-urges-civic-engagement/>
8. CSOs, media'll hold govt at all levels responsible for human capital devt — ANEEJ  
<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/11/csos-mediall-hold-govt-at-all-levels-responsible-for-human-capital-devt-aneej/>
9. Combating Irregular Migration: ANEEJ Building Capacities of CSOs, Media on New Approaches  
<https://www.summit.ng/news/nigeria/combating-irregular-migration-aneej-building-capacities-of-csos-media-on-new-approaches/>
10. ANEEJ CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM CONSULTANTS TO FACILITATE 3-DAY WORKSHOP  
<https://easitimes.com/aneej-call-for-expression-of-interest-from-consultants-to-facilitate-3-day-workshop>
11. Use second term to boost human capital development, ANEEJ tells Obaseki

<https://guardian.ng/news/use-second-term-to-boost-human-capital-development-aneej-tells-obaseki/>

12. ANEEJ Charges Obaseki To Increase Investment On Human Capital Development In Second Term

<https://www.independent.ng/aneej-charges-obaseki-to-increase-investment-on-human-capital-development-in-second-term/>

13. CSOs, media'll hold govt at all levels responsible for human capital devt — ANEEJ

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/11/csos-mediall-hold-govt-at-all-levels-responsible-for-human-capital-devt-aneej/>

14. Increased Budget on Human Capital will curb illegal migration- CSO's

<https://nigerianobservernews.com/2020/11/increased-budget-on-human-capital-will-curb-illegal-migration-csos/>

15. ANEEJ Backs Edo Governor on Human Capital Development, Urges Civic Engagement

<https://easitimes.com/aneej-backs-edo-governor-on-human-capital-development-urges-civic-engagement>

16. ANEEJ Tasks CSOs on Project Monitoring to Forestall Abandonment.

<https://newscurve.blogspot.com/2020/12/aneej-tasks-csos-on-project-monitoring.html>

17. <https://www.facebook.com/aneejnigeria/posts/3445316035523977>

18. <https://www.facebook.com/aneejnigeria/posts/3445291715526409>

### **2019/2020 Edo state budget.**

1. [https://7lyn-mpfz.accessdomain.com/webmail/index.php/mail/viewmessage/getattachment/folder/INBOX/uniqueId/10003/filenameOriginal/2020-Approved-Budget..Print\\_.pdf](https://7lyn-mpfz.accessdomain.com/webmail/index.php/mail/viewmessage/getattachment/folder/INBOX/uniqueId/10003/filenameOriginal/2020-Approved-Budget..Print_.pdf)
2. <https://7lyn-mpfz.accessdomain.com/webmail/index.php/mail/viewmessage/getattachment/folder/INBOX/uniqueId/10003/filenameOriginal/2020-Approved-Revised-Budget%2Bfor%2BEdo%2BState.pdf>
3. <https://7lyn-mpfz.accessdomain.com/webmail/index.php/mail/viewmessage/getattachment/folder/INBOX/uniqueId/10003/filenameOriginal/Approved-Year-2019-Budget.pdf>