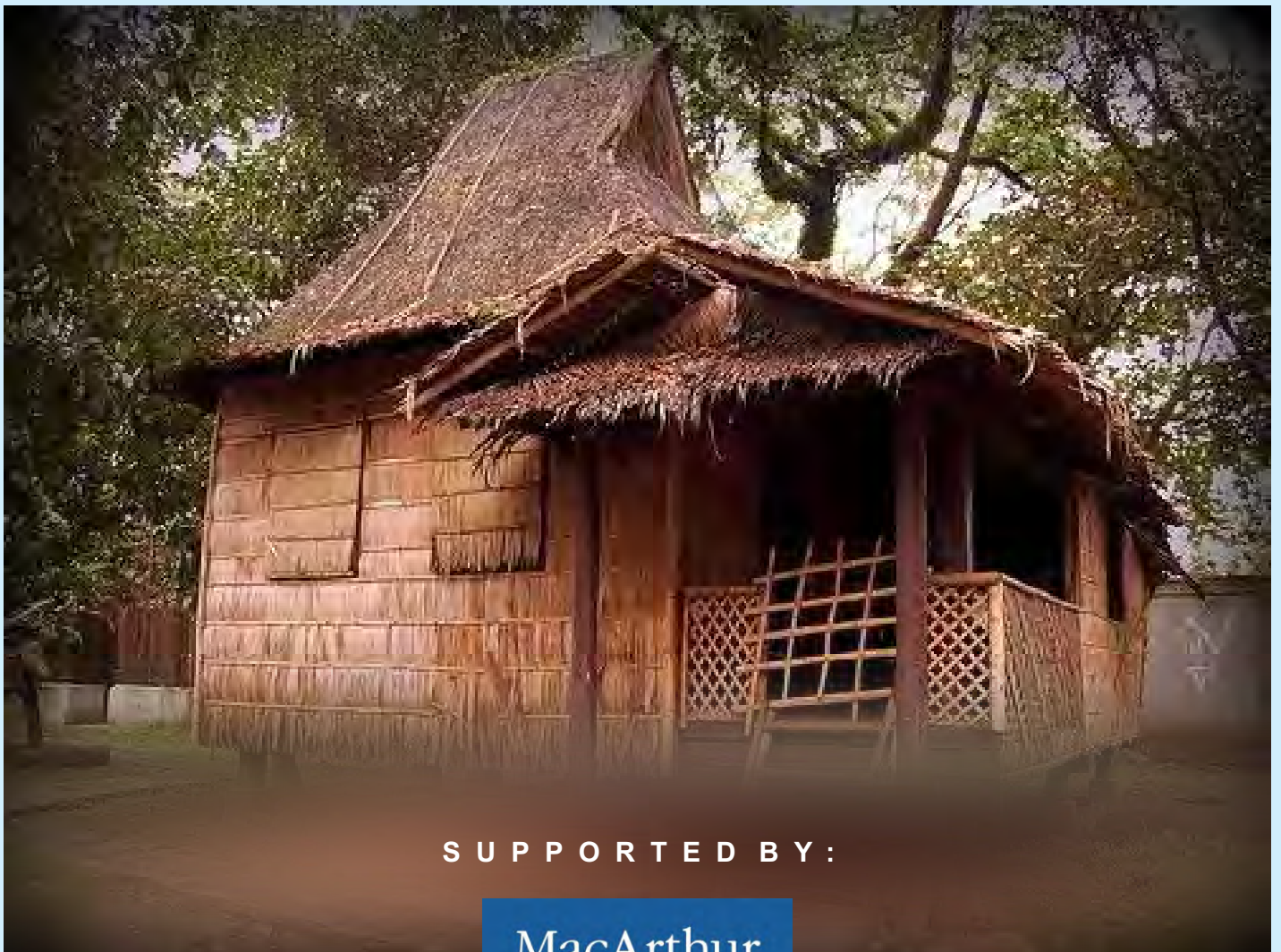




REPORT ON 2018

FEDERAL
CONSTITUENCY
PROJECTS

IN ZAMFARA STATE



S U P P O R T E D B Y :

MacArthur
Foundation

INTRODUCTION

Constituency Projects tracking in Zamfara State is one of the activities of the Arewa Research & Development Project (ARDP), as one of the MacArthur Foundation supported grantees of the "On Nigeria 2.0 Project". The strategic objective is focused on reducing corruption through assisting community-based programs and efforts that would strengthen and systematize culture of accountability, transparency and popular participation in the conduct of public affairs. One key concern of this activity is to determine the degree of the involvement of the respective communities in the origin and the implementation of constituency projects and their resourcefulness to societal needs. The activity is also expected to institutionalize or scale up citizens' participation in the incubation process of constituency projects as well as to galvanize community-based drive in the monitoring and tracking of the projects. The activity is anchored by the ARDP in close partnership with ZamTracka.

ARDP is a research-based non-governmental, non-partisan, non-ethnic, and non-religious organization dedicated to the study and examination of major contemporary challenges facing Northern Nigeria and its peoples, and to provide the needed framework for the strategic thinking and practical program of action needed to address those challenges. Its Mission is to nurture the economic and social transformation of the Region through undertaking projects that seek to bring together all northern social groups; pooling together the human and material resources in a manner that bring about strategic alliance and synergy with governmental and non-governmental organizations working for the progress and well-being of the people

ZamTracka is civil society organization based in Gusau, Zamfara State, which seeks to champion the cause of civic advocacy with a view to entrenching social accountability in the State. Its main activities have been to source and simplify relevant data on the Zamfara State's fiscal budgets and Zonal Intervention Projects, and to use same to sensitize the public on critical public information. The objective is to assist the citizens to follow up on budgetary capital expenditures and other public projects in their respective communities. This is envisaged to create vanguards of active citizens that demand and ensure effective and efficient service delivery by governments and their agents, as well as stimulate and sustain the demand for open government in Zamfara State.

HIGHLIGHTS

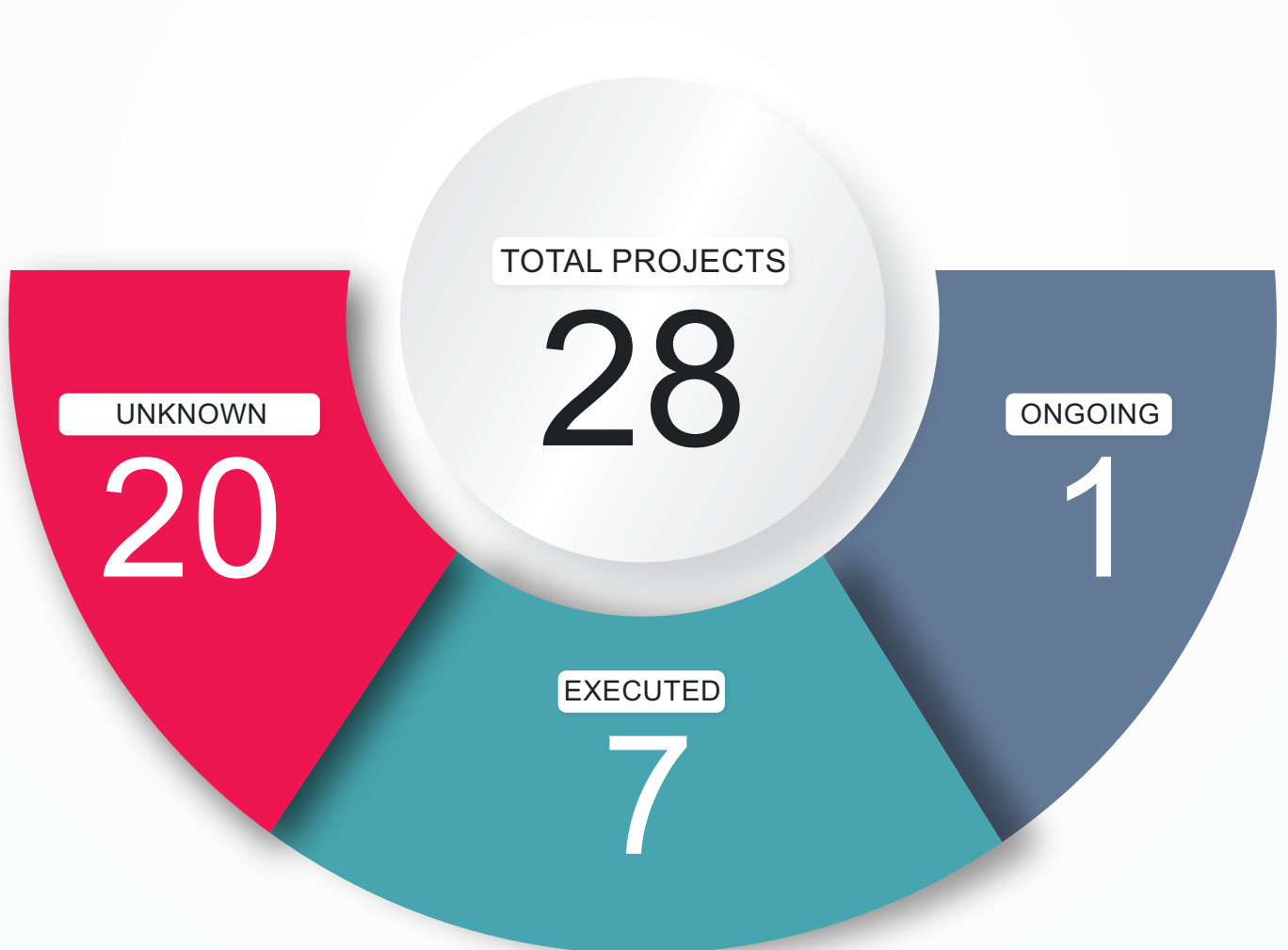
Zonal Intervention Projects (popularly known as Constituency Projects) are public projects nominated by federal lawmakers to extend the dividends of democratic governance to their various constituencies in order to spur development at the grassroots. The projects, by practice, are recommended to the executive during the budgeting process. Constitutionally, the National Assembly has the oversight obligation on government projects. Given the fact that these projects are nominated by lawmakers, they are therefore+ morally and even practically expected to provide their people with updates on the projects. This is because ordinary community members cannot access MDAs with as much ease as they can access their elected representatives. In tracking these projects in real-time, we took advantage of our field workers who are conversant with the locations of the projects to be tracked and monitored.

In 2018, a total of 28 projects were nominated, totaling the sum of N1.69bn; most of which are empowerment and sensitization projects and not capital in nature. A whopping 24 projects out of 28, totaling to the sum of N1.34bn, belong to this category. Ironically, only 4 projects were capital in nature. It was evident to us that no needs assessments were carried out in the respective constituencies, and unfortunately most of the projects didn't address the critical needs of the constituents. In addition, these so-called empowerment projects. are unspecific in nature and therefore their scope and impact cannot be easily be verified.

In the course of tracking the status of the 2018 projects, our field assessors could not establish their level of execution due to the fact that there were no physical structures to track or monitor as at the time of the field assessments.

In view of the above, we resorted to the use of questionnaire in order to gauge responses from the constituencies with a view to establishing the possible execution of the projects in this category. It is also clear that majority of the people in the constituencies had no idea of the zonal intervention projects to enable them exercise their right to inclusiveness in the projects nomination processes. In almost all the constituencies, such empowerment projects were couched in a manner that portray it as a personal contribution of the lawmaker to his constituents. Invariably, most of the beneficiaries were political associates of the lawmakers.

STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN



TOTAL AMOUNT: N1.69BN

14%

CAPITAL
PROJECTS

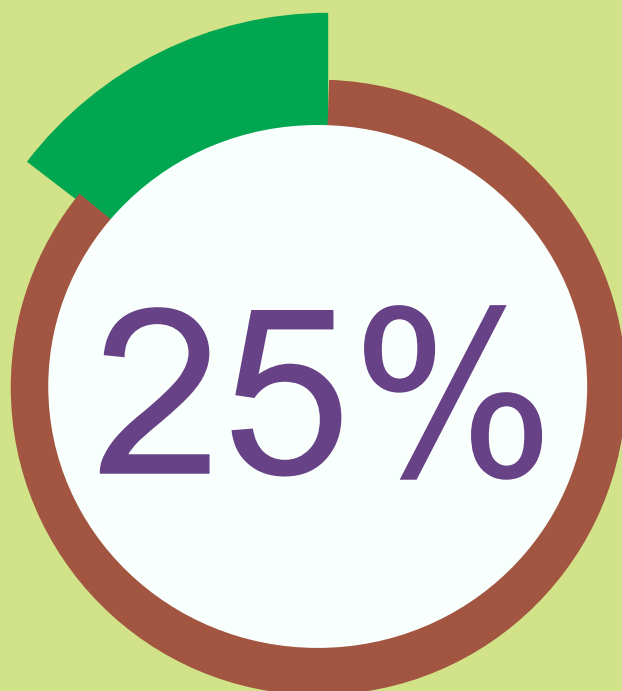
N348M

86%

EMPOWERMENT
PROJECTS

N1.34BN

TOTAL PERCENTAGE EXECUTION





ZAMFARA CENTRAL

Total Projects

3

Executed Projects

2

On-Going Project

1

Unknown

0

**CONSTRUCTION OF MINI STADIUM WITH FENCE IN YANDOTON DAJI,
ZAMFARA CENTRAL – 90m
Status: Executed**

Yan Doton Daji is a small town located in Tsafe Local Government, some few kilometers away from Gusau. This project for construction of a mini stadium is a misplaced priority taking into cognizance the dire economic realities of the people in the area. It is very difficult to find a cogent justification for the nomination of this project.

Field assessors who went to track its implementation found out that the small community had no clue that it was funded by the Federal Government. There was a general belief that it was just out of benevolence of the Lawmaker to create a recreational center for them.

During inspection, we found out that the project had stalled for more than 2 years, with only the fencing and some foundational works for the sitting section of the audience that has been completed. During our research, we discovered that, again in 2019, this same project was re-nominated for another sum of N100m. Work has resumed and the structure is gradually taking shape. .



**SUPPLY OF FOOD AND NON FOOD ITEMS TO IDPs IN ZAMFARA CENTRAL
Lot 1: N107.142m Status: Executed.**

2018-19 was the height of insurgency in the Northwest, and in Zamfara to be specific. It has created a humanitarian crises with thousands displaced from their rural settlements to the urban region, thus putting pressure on the already overstretched urban infrastructure. There was therefore an urgent need for intervention from all organizations - the government, civil society and development partners alike.

We realized that grains such as maize, millet, guinea corn and items such as rice, sugar, mattresses, blankets and tents were distributed to IDPs in makeshift camps scattered across the zone. We could neither verify the exact amount of items procured nor the exact number of the beneficiaries. Also, modalities for the distribution of these items couldn't be ascertained.

**SUPPLY OF FOOD AND NON FOOD ITEMS TO IDPs IN ZAMFARA
CENTRAL Lot 2: N107.142m Status: Executed.**

2018-19 was the height of insurgency in the Northwest, and in Zamfara to be specific. It has created a humanitarian crises with thousands displaced from their rural settlements to the urban region, thus putting pressure on the already overstretched urban infrastructure. There was therefore an urgent need for intervention from all organizations - the government, civil society and development partners alike.

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ZAMFARA NORTH

Total Projects

3

Executed Projects

1

On-Going Project

0

Unknown

2

SUPPLY OF FARM IMPLEMENTS AND INSECTICIDE TO DRY SEASON FARMERS IN 4 LGAs OF ZAMFARA NORTH – N60m Status: Executed.

Our respondents informed our field assessors that this project was implemented at a public function where the beneficiaries were from the local governments in the Senatorial Zone, namely: Shinkafi, Zurmi, Kaura Namoda and Birnin Magaji. The items distributed included sprayer systems, insecticides, pesticides, boosters and fertilizers.

The selection formula was not very clear to us, but it seems to be mainly based on political affiliation as the beneficiaries were cronies or supporters of the Lawmaker. The exact number of beneficiaries cannot be ascertained as we learn that they were informally sourced from all the wards in each of the local governments in the zone.

SPECIALIZED ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUTH IN ZAMFARA NORTH – N25m - Status: Unknown

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

SUPPLY OF MOTORCYCLES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO AGRIC EXTENTION OFFICERS – 214.28m - Status: Unknown

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

ZAMFARA WEST

Total Projects

1

Executed Projects

0

On-Going Project

0

Unknown

1

**SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR STREETLIGHTS IN VILLAGES AS
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FOR VEGETATION REGENERATION AND AGRO
FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT IN ZAMFARA WEST – N214.28M
STATUS: UNKNOWN**

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.



GUSAU/ TSAFE

Total Projects

2

Executed Projects

2

On-Going Project

0

Unknownt

0

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM IN GUSAU – N75m

Status: Executed.

This particular constituency has only benefitted from the empowerment projects nominated by the Lawmaker that represented it from 2015 to 2019. During this period, not a single capital project was nominated. The vagueness in the title of this project is indicative of the thinking behind the conception of such projects by the lawmakers. This make its tracking impracticable as there was no scope or nature of the support to be provided.

The field assessors were informed that this project was implemented in Gusau. The materials distributed includes grinding machines, generators, barbing sets, manual and electric sewing machines, motorcycles and food stuff ranging from Pasta, Macaroni, and Vegetable Oil. The beneficiaries, as characterized in such empowerment projects, were normally loyalists and people chosen by close associates of the Lawmaker. It was also discovered that the constituents were not aware that it was a project funded by the Federal Government, and not by their representative as erroneously believed.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM IN TSAFE – N50.24m

Status: Executed.

This particular constituency has only benefited from the empowerment projects nominated by the Lawmaker that represented it from 2015 to 2019. During this period, not a single capital project was nominated. The vagueness in the title of this project is indicative of the thinking behind the conception of such projects by the lawmakers. This make its tracking impracticable as there was no scope or nature of the support to be provided.

The field assessors were informed that this project was implemented in Tsafe. Items and materials distributed included grinding machines, generators, barbing sets, manual and electric sewing machines, motorcycles and food stuff ranging from Pasta, Macaroni, and Vegetable Oil. The beneficiaries, as characterized in such empowerment projects, were normally loyalists and people chosen by close associates of the Lawmaker. It was also discovered that the constituents were not aware that it was a project funded by the Federal Government, and not by their representative as erroneously believed.



MARU/ BUNGUDU

Total Projects

3

Executed Projects

2

On-Going Project

0

Unknown

1

**SUPPLY OF MOTORCYLES IN MARU/BUNGUDU – N38.4m -
Status: Executed.**

This Constituency is largely rural with poor access roads, lacking in power and potable water supply. The nomination of this project for a community that lack basic socio-economic infrastructure is insensitive to the needs and plight of the constituents.

This is said to have been executed in Maru Local Government where motorcycles were procured and distributed to wards in the local government. The exact number of beneficiaries and the mode of their selection could not be ascertained.

**SUPPLY OF MOTORCYLES IN MARU/BUNGUDU
– N37m - Status: Executed.**

This Constituency is largely rural with poor access roads, lacking in power and potable water supply. The nomination of this project for a community that lacks basic socio-economic infrastructure is insensitive to the needs and plight of the constituents.

This is said to have been executed in Bungudu Local Government where motorcycles were procured and distributed to wards in the local government. The exact number of beneficiaries and the mode of their selection could not be ascertained.

**EMPOWERMENT TRAINING OF YOUTH AND WOMEN
IN MARU/BUNGUDU – N50m - Status: Unknown**

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

ANKA/ MAFARA

Total Projects

3

Executed Projects

0

On-Going Project

0

Unknown

3

FILM GRANTS FOR YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN ANKA/MAFARA – N52.24m
Status: Unknown

This is one project whose nomination cannot be justified by whatever means in a state like Zamfara which has been in the throes of rural banditry for the past ten years. It also begs comprehension because there is no known film industry in the state.

This may just be a case of diversion of public fund through nomination of bogus project. As prove of this not a single beneficiary can be identified in the whole federal constituency by our field assessors.

YOUTH AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN ANKA/MAFARA – N36.24m
Status: Unknown

This may just be another case of diversion of public fund through nomination of bogus project, as not a single beneficiary of it can be identified in the whole federal constituency by our field assessors.

YOUTH AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN ANKA/MAFARA – N36.76m
Status: Unknown

Another case of diversion of public fund through nomination of bogus project, as not a single beneficiary of it can be identified in the whole federal constituency by our field assessors.

BAKURA/ MARADUN

Total Projects

4

Executed Projects

1

On-Going Project

0

Unknown

3

**TRAINING OF YOUTH IN FILM CENSORING IN BAKURA/MARADUN – N23m
Status: Executed**

This project was obviously a total waste of resources taking into cognizance the dire economic realities of the area. Moreover, there is no thriving film industry to warrant this project. The selection process for the beneficiaries was difficult to establish. It is clear to us that no NEEDS assessment was done prior to its nomination.

Field Assessors that followed on the project realized that its beneficiaries were selected from different parts of the constituency. They were lectured for a day on basics of filmography and censorship, and at the end of the program each participant was given N20,000.

**TRAINING FOR RURAL FARMERS ON PLANTATION OF RICE – N40m
Status: Unknown**

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

**TRAINING FOR RURAL FARMERS ON MILLET CULTIVATION – N40m.
Status: Unknown**

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

**TRAINING OF YOUTH AND WOMEN ON GUINEA CORN
PLANTATION – N22.24m. Status: Unknown**

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.



SHINKAFI/ ZURMI

Total Projects

4

Executed Projects

0

On-Going Projects

0

Unknown

4

PROVISION OF TRICYCLES FOR COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEURIAL PURPOSES IN SHINKAFI/ZURMI – N13.24M Status: Unknown

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

SKILLS ACQUISITION TRAINING AND PROVISION OF EMPOWERMENT IN SHINKAFI/ZURMI – N42m Status: Unknown

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

MSMSE ENTREPRENEURSHIO TRAINING AND PROVISION OF MOTORCYCLES IN SHINKAFI/ZURMI – N40m - Status: Unknown

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

CONSTRUCTION OF MOTORIZED BOREHOLES IN SHINKAFI/ZURMI – N30m - Status: Unknown

On its surface value, this project would have been a welcome development considering its importance to the people in the constituency.

Unfortunately, the field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

Total Projects

2

Executed Projects

0

On-Going Projects

0

Unknown

2

**KAURA/
B/MAGAJI**

**EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM IN KAURA/BIRNIN
MAGAJI – N65m Status: Unknown**

The title of this project alone was ambiguous and makes tracking impracticable as there was no specificity or scope of support to be provided.

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM IN KAURA/BIRNIN
MAGAJI – N60.24m Status: Unknown**

The title of this project alone was ambiguous and makes tracking impracticable as there was no specificity or scope of support to be provided.

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

GUMMI/ BUKKUYUM

Total Projects

3

Executed Projects

0

On-Going Projects

0

Unknown

3

**YOUTH AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM
IN GUMMI/BUKKUYUM – N60m Status: Unknown**

The title of this project alone was ambiguous and makes tracking impracticable as there was no specificity or scope of support to be provided.

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

**YOUTH AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM
IN GUMMI/BUKKUYUM – N50m Status: Unknown**

The title of this project alone was ambiguous and makes tracking impracticable as there was no specificity or scope of support to be provided.

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

**SMALL IRRIGATION SCHEME IN GUMMI/BUKKUYUM – N13.24m
Status: Unknown**

The field assessors went round the constituency for proof of execution of this project but all responses were negative as constituents could not establish a case for its execution.

KEY CHALLENGES FACED ON TRACKING 2018 CONSTITUENCY PROJECTS

INSECURITY

Zamfara state has been at the very core of banditry activities in the North West region and this has created a huge humanitarian crisis. This singular challenge has hindered our team from sensitizing constituents prior to our following up on the projects. We hope the security situation gets better.

PREPONDERANCE OF NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS CREATES FLUIDITY OF TRACKING INDICES

Empowerment project are short-term provisions that meet immediate individual needs but without any long term impact on the community and these types of projects are replete here. Our field assessors had a challenge in following up on them because of the lack of scope and also the modality adopted in selecting the beneficiaries as most beneficiaries are mainly party loyalists and not constituents who need the interventions the most.

ABSENCE OF FRAMEWORK ON CITIZENS ENGAGEMENTS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

One of the challenges to the effectiveness of constituency projects is the citizens' lack of access to information about them and the framework for sensitization and engagements in their nomination and execution processes. Thus, most projects nominated do not therefore address critical needs of the people in the respective constituencies.

WHAT WE LEARN AND STRATEGY WE WILL ADOPT.

We learnt that the payment pattern of these projects is not stable and is paid in batches which often spills to the next fiscal year. This creates a vacuum for more evidence gathering on fund releases for projects implementation. Follow-up information is critical in evidence based advocacy and further gives credence to our efforts for improved social accountability.

Thus, in light of the above challenge, we will make effective utilization of the Freedom of Information Act, 2011, to demand for financial information from the implementing MDAs. This will give us the opportunity to amplify our voices on projects that received funding so as to push for them to get completed or to spark an argument in cases of abandonment or non-execution. It will further enable the right of the constituents to take ownership as well as to demand for accountability and effective service delivery from the lawmakers.

IN SUMMARY...

CITIZEN'S ENGAGEMENTS

Since the fundamental purpose of constituency projects is to ensure rural communities feel the impact of these interventions, representatives should engage their constituents in the budget-making process to ensure their priority needs are captured in the Constituency Projects.

PROPER BUDGETING WITH RELEVANT INFORMATION:

Project locations should be included in the budget, for easy access by citizens and organizations. As noted in most of the nominated projects had titles, specifications and amounts, but failed to establish the actual project site. Provisions like these are extremely prone to misappropriation of funds and corruption.

N1.13bn

was allotted to projects whose status of execution remained largely unknown

N551m

was duly spent on execution of the Constituency Projects in the State.



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Tudun Wada, Gusau, Zamfara State.



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