



REPORT ON

2019

FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY PROJECTS IN ZAMFARA STATE

*Supported By:*

MacArthur  
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# INTRODUCTION

Constituency Projects tracking in Zamfara 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 these projects and their resourcefulness to their social 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

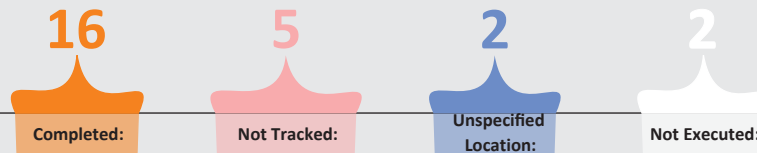
Zonal Intervention Projects (popularly known as Constituency Projects) are public projects nominated by federal lawmakers to extend the dividends of democratic governance to their various constituencies to spur development at the grassroots level of the country. The projects, by practice, are recommended 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 morally and even more officially responsible to provide their people with updates on every project domiciled (at least) in their constituency. This is because community members cannot easily access MDAs as they access their elected representatives. For tracking of these projects in real-time, we took advantage of our Constituency projects tracking unit. This unit was responsible for visiting project sites and returned with written and pictorial data on the status of projects' execution.

Due to the Supreme Court ruling that ushered in a new set of federal lawmakers in Zamfara, the current lawmakers are not the nominators of the projects in the year under review. The federal budget had already been passed prior to their assumption of office and thus, they are absolved from the scrutiny on rationale of the projects on their constituents. However, they are mandated by law to exercise oversight responsibility and ensure that the projects are executed satisfactorily.

In 2019, the total sum of N1.42bn was allocated for constituency projects in Zamfara but most of them are so-called empowerment and sensitization drives and are therefore not capital projects in nature. It was evident that no NEEDS assessments were carried out in the respective constituencies as most of the projects didn't address the pressing needs of the constituents. Another area of concern was the wrong assumption by constituents that materials distributed are largess from the lawmakers, which prevents the constituents from demanding for inclusion, accountability and transparency in the nomination and execution processes.

In conclusion, the volatile security situation in the State played a critical factor in inhibiting tracking of the projects particularly in some area of the Northern Senatorial District that included Zurmi, Shinkafi and Birnin Magaji Local Government Areas.

## 2019 CONSTITUENCY PROJECT TRACKING SUMMARY IN ZAMFARA STATE



**25**  
TOTAL NUMBER OF  
PROJECTS:

# Zamfara Central Senatorial Zone

**PROJECT NAME: FINISHING AND FURNISHING OF HOSPITAL AT YANDOTON DAJI, TSAFE LGA, ZAMFARA STATE.**

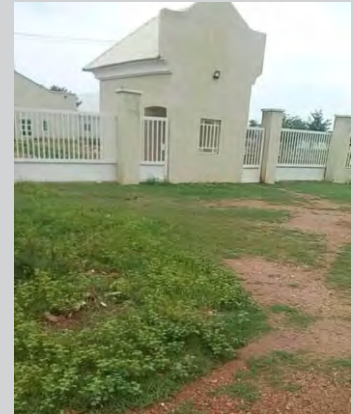
**COST: N224.28M**

**STATUS: COMPLETED BUT NOT EQUIPPED**

This project was started the previous year through its nomination by immediate past Senator for the district, Sen. Kabiru Marafa. It was roughly at 50% completion.

We took particular interest in the project on the account that the area has been on the fringes of healthcare delivery and the State General Hospitals that are accessible to the people in the area are in dire need of structural and technical support. Over the years, the inhabitants around this area must find their way to the State capital, Gusau, for medical attention. For this reason, the importance of this project, if fully executed will reduce the strain on overstretched medical facility in the capital city.

Our team first visited the project site in January 2020 and reported that construction work was at a steady pace. A follow up visit months after found all fittings had been installed and painting work was done. As at January 2021, the hospital has been completed, but unfortunately, it is yet to be equipped and has been under lock and key.



# Zamfara West Senatorial District

**PROJECT NAME: SUPPLY OF SOLAR STREET LIGHTS AND INSTALLATION OF TWO TRANSFORMERS  
IN BAKURA LGA, ZAMFARA STATE.**

**COST: N214.28M**

**STATUS: UNSPECIFIED LOCATION.**

Bakura Local Government is among the remotest local governments in the State and has little federal presence; a large part of which lacked electricity, roads and healthcare facilities. Our team cannot specify where these projects are located - and this is one critical issue that has been raised by CSOs with regards to tracking ZIP projects. After interactions with residents from across the zone, we realized that this zone is poorly represented at the National Assembly. The inhabitants cannot point at a single capital constituency project executed in the past 10 years. The team thus distributed flyers of 2019 constituency projects to the citizens of the constituency as a means of educating them.

## Kaura/Birnin Magaji Federal Constituency

**PROJECT TITLE: SENSITIZATION PROGRAM FOR YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN KAURA/BIRNIN MAGAJI FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY.**

**COST: N35M**

**STATUS: UNEXECUTED**

Our team cannot authenticate the implementation of this project. The team made series of inquiries to residents within the constituency but found no proof as regards implementation of the project, despite the fact that the project was nominated in 2019 Constituency Projects. ZamTracka, however, has continued to follow up on the project, and is taking appropriate measures to see that justice is done to this Constituency.

# Zamfara North Senatorial Zone

**PROJECT NAME:** KAURA NAMODA WATER WORKS FOR IRRIGATION AGRICULTURE

**COST:** N150M

**STATUS:** EXECUTED

Our team witnessed the commissioning of this project on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. The project consisted of digging tube wells and supplying of pumping machines (complete with hoses) to beneficiaries to enhance irrigation for agricultural production.

The beneficiaries were sourced from all the LGAs of this zone, namely: Kaura Namoda, Zurmi, Shinkafi and Birnin Magaji. In total, 200 pumping machines were distributed in batches. The sharing formula was based on the population size of each of the LGAs. Accordingly, Kaura Namoda got the largest allocation followed by Zurmi, Shinkafi and Birnin Magaji. The only concern, however, is that most of the beneficiaries were handpicked without any defined criteria. We can safely say that the overwhelming majority of the beneficiaries are political loyalists of the lawmaker.



# Gusau/Tsafe Constituency

**PROJECT NAME: COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN GUSAU**

**COST: N65M**

**STATUS: EXECUTED**

Field assessors were present at Kotonon Shehi on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 when the lawmaker Hon. Kabiru Amadu delivered these items to the beneficiaries in Gusau LGA, namely: 50 grinding machines, 50 butterfly sewing machines, 30 generator sets, 30 barbing kits, 50 motorcycles and cartons of assorted foods consisting of Pasta, Vegetable oil and noodles.

The main concern here is that most of the beneficiaries were handpicked without any defined criteria. We can safely say that the overwhelming majority of the beneficiaries are political loyalists of the lawmaker.



# Gusau/Tsafe Constituency

**PROJECT NAME:** COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN TSAFE

**COST:** N60M

**STATUS:** EXECUTED

The field assessors were present on 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2020, when Hon. Kabiru Amadu delivered assorted items to the selected beneficiaries in Tsafe LGA. Items distributed are Motorcycles, sewing machines, generator sets and assorted food items consisting of Pasta, Vegetable oil and noodles. Similar to what earlier obtained in Gusau LGA on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, the beneficiaries were handpicked without any defined criteria, and thus were essentially political loyalists of the lawmaker.



# Bakura/Maradun Constituency

**PROJECT TITLE: TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR YOUTH ON FICTION CLASSIFICATION IN BAKURA/MARADUN FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY.**

**COST: N45M**

**STATUS: EXECUTED**

Field assessors were at the Maradun Private Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2020 for the implementation of this project. A total of 100 people selected from the two local governments that made up the constituency (Bakura and Maradun) benefited from this program. The participants were tutored on different categories of fictional contents.

This project was obviously a total waste to the Constituency, which also shows a clear absence of NEEDS assessment before its nomination. Our team interviewed some of the participants and realized that they had no prior knowledge or expertise in the film industry to warrant this type of project in the first place. Evidently, the scope and quality of the contents of this project was abysmal and does not justify the amount allocated to it.

This Constituency is among the most impoverished in the State. It lacks basic amenities such as access roads, potable water and electricity. It would have been worthwhile for such federal intervention to be used in addressing these gaps and not wasteful projects such as this one.



# Bakura/Maradun Constituency

**PROJECT TITLE: TRAINING/MEDIA LITERACY WORKSHOP FOR YOUTHS AND WOMEN ON CENSORSHIP, MORAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BAKURA/MARADUN FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY.**

**COST: N45M**

**STATUS: EXECUTED**

This project was executed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 as a follow up to the one held the day earlier. Both were held at the same venue . The participants who were trained the previous day were those also retained for this project, which particularly centered on filming and its content/censorship.

Like the one that preceded it, this projects has no practical benefit to this Constituency. This Constituency lacked basic amenities such as access roads, potable water and electricity. It would have been worthwhile for such federal intervention to be used in addressing these gaps and not wasteful projects such as this one. In fact, the content and scope of the project did not in anyway justify the amount allocated to it.



# Bakura/Maradun Constituency

**PROJECT TITLE: SAFER INTERNET AND CAPACITY BUILDING  
AGAINST HATE SPEECH IN BAKURA/MARADUN FEDERAL  
CONSTITUENCY.**

**COST: N35M STATUS: EXECUTED**

This project was executed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2020 being the last of the three projects nominated for the constituency. The same participants for the previous two projects were also the beneficiaries to this one, and all the three projects were held at the same venue with all services provided by the same contractors. This project, like the two previous ones, was not only wasteful but completely irrelevant to the needs of the constituents. It only amplifies the disconnect between the constituents and their representative at the Federal Parliament. The amount allotted for the program far exceeded the quality and effectiveness of its execution.

Our team later engaged the constituents on the need to agitate for projects that would socially impact on the Constituency through constructive engagements.



# Kaura/Birnin Magaji Constituency

**PROJECT TITLE: EMPOWERMENT FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CONFLICTS IN KAURA/BIRNIN MAGAJI FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY.**  
**COST: N95M      STATUS: EXECUTED**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, our team was at Kaura LG PDP Headquarters where the project was commissioned. Motorcycles and grinding machines were the palliative items distributed. It was meant to assist the victims of violent conflicts in the Constituency but we found out that the beneficiaries were largely made up of supporters and loyalists of the lawmaker. In all, 100 grinding machines and 150 motorcycles were distributed.

If this project have been objectively executed, it could have played significant role in supporting the actual victims of violent conflicts in the Constituency, most of whom are from Birnin Magaji LGA.



# Gummi/Bukkuyum Constituency

**PROJECT NAME: SUPPLY OF TRICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES IN GUMMI LGA**

**COST: N75M**

**STATUS: EXECUTED**

This Constituency is predominantly rural and lacked appreciable federal presence. The project could have served as a socio-economic empowerment drive capable of making positive impact on the living standards of the people in Gummi Local Government Area.

Our team tracked the commissioning of the project on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020, where 10 tricycles and 53 motorcycles were distributed. However, due to clear absence of defined criteria the beneficiaries were predominantly political loyalists and not the people who needed to be supported.



# Gummi/Bukkuyum Constituency

**PROJECT NAME: SUPPLY OF TRICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES IN BUKKUYUM LGA**

**COST: N50M**

**STATUS: EXECUTED**

Bukkuyum is also predominantly rural area lacking appreciable State and Federal presence. The terrain is mostly eroded by gully erosion and desperately need access roads/bridges. The project could also have served as a socio-economic empowerment stimulus, which may be capable of making positive impact on the living standards of the people in Bukkuyum Local Government Area

Our team tracked its commissioning on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020, where 9 tricycles and 23 motorcycles were distributed. However, due to clear absence of defined criteria the beneficiaries were predominantly political loyalists and not the appropriate people who needed to be supported.



## Anka/Mafara Constituency

**PROJECT: COMPLETION OF ANKA VIEWING CENTRE, ANKA/MAFARA CONSTITUENCY**

**COST: N62M**

**STATUS: UNSPECIFIED LOCATION.**

This project, despite its apparent lack of social merit, could not be tracked due to lack of information on its specific location. We engaged the residents about the project and its location but no one knew about its existence or location.

**PROJECT: FILM GRANTS FOR WOMEN AND YOUTHS, ANKA/MAFARA CONSTITUENCY**

**COST: N63M STATUS: UNEXECUTED**

This project was not executed. In fact, when we sensitized the constituents they were stunned as no one was aware of any grant given to anyone as per this project.

## Maru/Bungudu Constituency

**PROJECT TITLE: SUPPLY OF TRICYCLES IN DANSADAU MARU/BUNGUDU FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY**

**COST: N42.22M**

**STATUS: UNTRACKED.**

This project was meant to be executed in Dansadau Village. Dansadau is one of the hotspots of banditry activities in the State. The security situation hindered our team to follow up on the project. However, we interacted on phones with residents from the area on whether the project has been executed and most of responses we got were on the negative.

# Maru/Bungudu Constituency

**PROJECT TITLE: EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN MARU/BUNGUDU FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY**

**COST: N32M**

**STATUS: EXECUTED**

Field assessors tracked the commissioning of this project on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. A total of 100 youths, comprising men and women were the beneficiaries of this program. Empowerment items distributed were 20 sewing machines, 30 grinding machines, and 50 motorcycles. Another batch of 50 people were each given N100,000 as empowerment grant to boost small businesses.

Our team spoke to some of the beneficiaries who expressed their delight, particularly those who received cash grant confessed that it was a huge assistance to them. Our team urged them to utilize the grants judiciously. However, the recurring trend is the issue of sourcing of beneficiaries, as in this case also, most of them were political loyalists of the lawmaker.



# Shinkafi/Zurmi Constituency

**PROJECT NAME: CONSTRUCTION OF HAND PUMPS IN SHINKAFI/ZURMI FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY**

**COST: N13M**

**STATUS: EXECUTED**

This Constituency is one of the areas frequently under attack by bandits. Our team tracked this project on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2020. The project was a mix of repairs and new supplies, as some new boreholes were drilled while some existing ones were rehabilitated. Our team engaged the residents and advised them to vocalize their immediate needs for inclusion in subsequent budgets.

It is important to note here that a total of 5 project sites were nominated but due to the escalation of violence as a result of banditry activities within the constituency, our team had to cancel the plan for visiting all the sites.



# Maru/Bungudu Constituency

**PROJECT TITLE: TRAINING OF YOUTHS AND WOMEN IN MARU/  
BUNGUDU FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY**

**COST: N50M**

**STATUS: EXECUTED**

This project was commissioned on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 and the training program spanned for 5 days. 100 Beneficiaries from the Constituency were trained on tailoring, knitting, computer skills and soap making. At the end of the training, beneficiaries were supported with equipments based on what the trade they were trained on.



# Key challenges...

## 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 and following up on projects in some of the hotspots in the State. For example, we couldn't venture into the dreaded Shinkafi and Zurmi LGAs to track many of the nominated constituency projects. This was a huge challenge and we hope the security situation gets better in the future.

## Preponderance of Empowerment Projects

Empowerment projects 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 were mainly party loyalists and not actually the constituents who needed such interventions the most.

## Unspecified Project Locations

For effective project tracking, specific project locations need to be incorporated into the budget. Unfortunately, the location was a missing detail and communities, civil society and auditing bodies are unaware of project locations thereby making monitoring near impossible. One key example of this problem was the supply of solar streetlights and 2 transformers in Bakura for which a huge sum of N214.28M was allotted.

**N557m**

**out of the N1.42bn allotted for constituency projects in Zamfara were for empowerments and training projects.**

**N164.22m**

**worth of projects were untracked due to insecurity.**

# In summary...

## **Citizen Engagement:**

One of the challenges to achieving effectiveness of these intervention projects is the citizens' lack of access to information about them, and in addition, there is no established framework for sensitization and engagements in their nomination and execution processes. Consequently most of the projects nominated did not address critical challenges faced by the people in the respective constituencies.

## **Proper Budgeting With Relevant Information:**

Project locations should be included in the budget, for easy access by citizens and organizations. As noted, in several cases, budget line items identify project titles, specifications and amounts, but fail to establish the actual project site. Provisions like these are extremely prone to misappropriation of funds and corruption.

# N98m

**worth of projects were  
not executed.**

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