



Real People



Real Impact



Outcome of ICPC/UNDP Grassroots Capacity Building on Budget Processes

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Outcome of ICPC/UNDP Grassroots
Capacity Building on
Budget Processes

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ISBN: 978-978-923-296-3

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Introduction

One of the key avenues through which the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) executes its public education and mobilization mandate is the engagement of non-governmental, civil society organizations in a coalition (National Anti-Corruption Coalition (NACC) for impactful outreach to the grassroots. The members of the Coalition are involved in education, enlightenment, training and mobilizing the grassroots on integrity, accountability, transparency and probity towards minimizing corruption in the polity.

The Commission, noting that entrenching accountability in local governance should necessarily involve the people, advertised for members of the NACC in 2009 to help train the grassroots on the Budget Processes and the need to get involved through all the stages – planning,





implementation and monitoring. Four (4) NGO members were selected to conduct a 2-day Capacity Building Training programme in each of the 3 Senatorial Districts of Delta, Niger and Sokoto states for a mix of participants spanning community leaders, youth activists, artisans, politicians and public officers. The objective of the training was to enlighten and empower grassroots people to get involved in budget processes.

The programme was funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by Afro Centre for Development, Peace and Justice (AFRODEP) and Poverty Alleviation for the Poor Initiative (PAFPI) in Delta State, Anti-Corruption Youth Movement, Nigeria (ACYMN) in Niger State and Democratic Action Group (DAG) in Sokoto State under the supervision of the Education Department, ICPC. All sessions of the training were held in November and December 2009.

In October 2010, a random set of participants at the 2009 training was selected to attend a follow-up meeting to discuss progress made and assess the efficacy of the programme. The follow-up meeting was held in Sokoto State. Participants shared various testimonies of knowledge from the training stepped-down to other members of their communities and advocacy actions most of which resulted in tangible projects such as boreholes, construction of schools, market stalls, drainages, etc.

It is hoped that the lessons learned from this exercise will become a training model to be applied in every local government of all the states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Participants at the 2 Day Follow-up Workshop at Sokoto





Delta State



Niger State



TRAINING

Sokoto State



LOCATIONS

Focus of the training

The training focused on the following key areas:

- Situation analysis - Articulating the actual needs of the community in view of existing realities and prioritizing them.
- Citizenship (Rights and Responsibilities) - The importance of knowing individual's rights and roles expected of a responsible citizen one of which is involvement in governance.
- The Budgeting Process and the Budget Cycle - Understanding the components of a budget and the budget cycle from planning, implementation to monitoring, etc
- Levels of Beneficiary Involvement - Capturing the different segments of the locality that should be involved in identifying and presenting priority needs through advocacy to various elected representatives.
- Budget Monitoring - Assessing the implementation status of a budget and ensuring fiscal responsibility.
- Advocacy: The different strategies and approaches to effective budget advocacy.

Training Activities Delta

Training programmes of the grassroots on Budget processes were organized in Delta State, by Afro Centre for Development, Peace and Justice, (AFRODEP) and Poverty Alleviation for the Poor Initiative, (PAFPI), both NGO members of ICPC's National Anti-Corruption Coalition, (NACC).

The trainings covered Delta North, Delta South and Delta Central Senatorial Districts.

While AFRODEP piloted the trainings in the Northern Senatorial District, PAFPI conducted the trainings in Delta South and Delta Central Senatorial Districts, with participants drawn from selected local government areas in the state. They included councilors, community leaders, trade unionists, women society groups and community members.

Delta State training programme of the grassroots on Budget Processes organized by AFRODEP and PAFPI





Training Activites Niger

In November 2009, the Anti-Corruption Youth Movement, Nigeria, (ACYMN) organized a two-day training workshop on budget processes in Niger State with participants drawn from all the 25 local government areas of the State. The training sessions held at Minna, Bida and Kontagora.

The training workshop was educative and interactive thereby creating an opportunity for the participants to air their views on issues relating to budget processes.

Participants at the workshop included youth groups, community pressure groups, members of the traditional institutions, trade associations, academia and members of the communities. Also in attendance were officials of the ICPC.





Posters and banners were produced as part of the IEC materials that were distributed to the participants for onward dissemination of the Anti-Corruption and Accountability Campaign.



◀ A cross-section of participants at the two-day training workshop on budget processes in Niger State organized by ACYMN

Training Activities Sokoto

The Sokoto training sessions were conducted by Democratic Action Group (DAG). According to the Executive Director and training coordinator, Alhaji Mustapha Mohammed,

“Key stakeholders were identified to participate in the ICPC/UNDP training. His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto was represented by the Sarkin Gagi Alhaji Sani Umar, a senior member of the Standing Council. Through him, we were able to identify village and ward heads from the 3 senatorial zones that would be part of the training”.

“We also identified other NGOs, faith-based organizations, community organizations, even ethnic nationalities based in Sokoto, like the Yorubas and their leaders, through Sarkin Yorubawa, who personally attended the programme with some of his members”.





“We identified women groups, youth groups and members of the National Union of Local Government Employees.

Those working in the Budget department and the Treasury were also part of the programme as both resource persons and participants”.

◀ A cross-section of participants at one of the two-day training workshops conducted in Sokoto by Democratic Action Group, (DAG)

As part of the training, posters were produced and distributed to participants carrying messages crafted in the local language, Hausa.

At the end of the programme participants received certificates which were in recognition of their active participation. The 3 sessions of the Sokoto training programme were held in December, 2009.

Participant receiving a training manual at the opening of the training ►





DEMOCRATIC ACTION GROUP

IN COLLABORATION WITH

Organized A Two Day Campaign Building
Commitments in Budget Preparation Planning
In The Three Sessions District

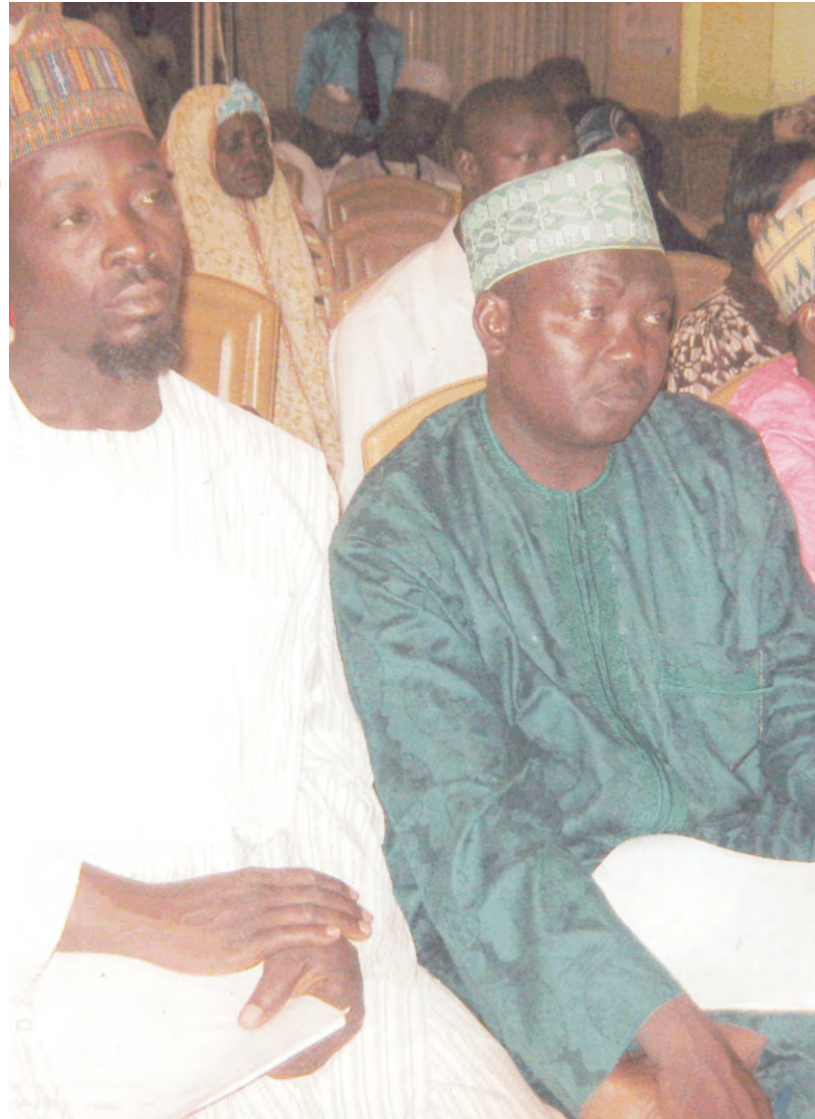
TIME
LGA

Follow - up work-shop

A two-day follow-up meeting was held at the Sokoto Guest Inn, Sokoto State in October 2010 with a cross section of the trained participants in attendance. The objective was to assess the impact of the training programme in the three States. The meeting created a forum for participants to share their experiences and objectively appraise the efficacy of the programme.

Present at the meeting were representatives of the ICPC led by the Director Education, Mrs. Rasheedat Okoduwa, the NGOs, participants from the three States and representatives of the Media.

Cross-section of participants
at the ICPC follow-up
meeting organized in Sokoto







▲
Director Education ICPC,
Mrs. Okoduwa making a remark

In her remarks, Mrs. Okoduwa stated,

"This follow-up is primarily to assess the impact of the training on grassroots engagement with budget processes in the LGAs selected and profile lessons learnt to serve as input into scheduled training on budget processes in other states of the federation".

▶
Participants at the 2-Day Follow-up
Workshop in Sokoto State





◀ Alh. Muhammad Y. Mustapha, CEO DAG, making his inputs at the 2-Day Follow-up Workshop in Sokoto State

Both implementers and participants presented challenges that existed in the relationship between local people and their leaders. They also made recommendations for sustaining the programme.

Participants, while acknowledging a few challenges in their efforts at mobilizing members of their communities on their right to participate in the budget processes and influence budget implementation, all agreed that the training had indeed increased their capacity to not only make inputs but also participate in monitoring the budget implementation processes.





Some of the challenges mentioned by the participants bordered mainly on the ignorance on the part of the local people on budget processes. Others were lack of political will on the part of the Local Government officials, ignorance of LG officials on the objectives of budget advocacy, non-residence of councillors in the community they represent as well as communication gap between the LG officials and the people.

◀ Participants making inputs at the 2-Day Follow-up Workshop in Sokoto State

Impact of the Programme

The implementers and participants shared their experiences and gave credence to the impact of the training on them as individuals and their communities in general.

The impact has been spectacular and shows that lapses in the budgeting process can be actually reduced when people at the grassroots take a keen interest and become involved in budget processes. The impacts are spread across the different senatorial districts of Delta, Niger and Sokoto States.

The participants in particular were proud to be associated with the tangible projects that resulted from their influence on the budget implementation processes in their various communities.





◀ A cross section of participants involved in the ICPC/UNDP Project

Delta

Impact of the Programme

In Delta North, Central and South, testimonials were given by the people and physical projects are clearly visible, giving proof and credibility to the programme that has ultimately improved the quality of lives of the people and raised the people's confidence in their elected representatives.

According to [Hon. Tony Anuci Anuku](#), a participant and Councilor representing Ward 10 in Aniocha South Local Government Area,

"because of the training, I was able to retrain others in my community and now





- ◀ 3-block class rooms completed and another 3-block under construction in Abah-Unor Secondary school, Abah-Unor Aniocha South, Delta State.

they can organize them selves and discuss critically about the most pressing needs of the community, and appeal to the local government through me, the councilor representing them, and have their requests included in the local government budget for the community".

Mrs Ilonah Augustina



Mrs Ilonah Augustina, a participant from Umusadege Community shares her experience,

“Before the training I had no knowledge of budget processes, but as a result of the ICPC training, I was exposed to budgeting process, planning and execution.

After the training I was able to transfer the knowledge to my community on a one-on-one basis and even groups. I told them it is their duty and right to know and participate in budget processes.

Due to the training my people now know how to advocate for their rights and influence positive changes in the community. The training workshop has helped the community achieve a lot, for instance:





At the Owessei Primary School in Utagba-Ogbe, Kwale in Delta State, three additional blocks of classrooms were constructed after the former ones were blown off by storm and damaged.

Also the market square in Kwale was developed as 14 blocks have been constructed and completed in the market square for the use of the market women. 13 more blocks are still under construction. This development was as a result of the Kwale market women exercising their rights and following due process through the councilor to the local government".



◀ Owessei Primary School in Utagba-Ogbe, Kwale in Delta State,

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Project Conceived and Executed by ICPC with Support from UNDP



ISBN: 978-978-923-296-3