

First Quarter 2021 Follow The Money Report



FTM Rivers State Lead, Evelyn Williams Empowering Women in Odienmerenyi Community, Ahoada East, Rivers State.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We kick started the year ready to evolve and expand our work across more African countries, reaching more marginalized communities with the message of follow the money. To officially launch the programs and campaigns for the year, we engaged our HQ staff as it is the norm in a 3 days strategic and planning meeting in order to reinforce the organisational goals, build synergy across departments and map out deliverables and engagement strategies for our cohort of volunteers and champions.

Programmatically, within the first quarter, we secured support from new donors including UN Spotlight Initiative under the EU/UN sponsored project and the Canadian Embassy to initiate gender responsive campaigns across selected states in Nigeria. Through these interventions, We advocated for an end to gender-based violence, empowered women to speak up, urged the government to adopt the Child Rights Act, spoke against injustices and promoted social and women inclusion in democratic processes.

Captivatingly, we raised concerns at the increasing rate of child marriages and gender-based violence in Kano. And excitedly, the State Governor, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, displayed commitment by approving the Child Rights Protection Bill, which will protect children, girls especially, from early marriages and domestic violence as well as punish violators of children's rights.

Also with support from UN Women, under the 'Strengthening State Capacities and Women's Participation in COVID 19 Response and Broader Peacebuilding Initiatives', we empowered 40 women in Kaduna State to monitor and track government's response and decisions as regards COVID 19 from a gender perspective. Also, we assembled women voices in order to amplify their roles in leadership and active participation in decision-making processes through a short documentary created for effective cohesion and visibility around women-led efforts in political leadership positions.

To build momentum on our COVID 19 Project, we launched the COVID-19 Transparency & Accountability Project (CTAP) with support from Skoll and Hilton Foundation, in collaboration with Global Integrity and BudgIT. Through this, we provided support to expand the Follow The Money Movement across 6 African countries in mobilizing citizens to track COVID 19 government allocations and spending whilst combatting the pandemic. The Follow the Money team is currently assessing the effectiveness of government's responses, citizens engagement and the management of intervention funds in Cameroon, Kenya and Malawi whilst BudgIT oversees Sierra Leone, Ghana and Liberia.

Also with support from OXFAM Nigeria, We leveraged our virtual platforms to deliver high-virtual contents targeted at the concerned government and citizens as regards COVID 19 donated funds across six(6) states of Nigeria. Our team facilitated a series of high level advocacy to concerned government agencies requesting for data access and public accountability on COVID-19 spendings. Some states obliged and shared relevant information which was amplified to the general public using the traditional media.

In furtherance with our work of social accountability, we set out to evaluate the current situation in the Niger Delta region and match this against the huge revenue generated vis a vis how the benefits are trickled down to the grassroots. With support from Ford Foundation, our trained Community Monitoring Team (CMT) (religious leaders, traditional leaders, women and girls) leading the advocacy, conducted Preliminary visits to 19 projects sites across 10 oil producing grassroots communities in Rivers state and provided on the spot reporting of their findings via Follow The Money Radio Show.

To expand our work in Kaduna State, with support from John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, we initiated a campaign to track N1.1billion(\$3million) worth of 2020 and 2021 constituency projects and increase citizens' interest in government spending across 18 selected communities in 11 LGAs under 3 senatorial zones while advocating for more

awareness on the Open Government Partnership(OGP) at the grassroots communities in the state. The 1st quarter saw 18 Community Monitoring Teams trained and in turn conducted preliminary visits across 23 projects across the 3 senatorial zones of Kaduna state.

With expected push backs from the government, CODE remains undeterred to innovate and re-invent new models and strategies that will make every one's voice count and leave no one behind. Notwithstanding the anticipated setbacks by the government and the increasing threat of shrinking civic space, We are optimistic that 2021 will provide great results in our pursuit of accountability and transparency.

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Activities - Output Matrix

Activities	Outputs	Remarks
UN women project Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Project inception meeting. ❑ Capacity building of stakeholders on COVID- 19 actions, policies, plans and budgets. ❑ Tracking of government response and women participation in covid 19 across 5 locations in kaduna ❑ Advocacy visit to government stakeholders. ❑ Follow the money radio show 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ An inception building meeting was held with 18 participants (10 females and 8 males). Find report here, Pre and post-training analysis find here ❑ Checklist was developed here ❑ Held capacity building for 45 participants(female-33, male-12 and PLWD-1) find report here ❑ Data was collected on tracking. Find data sheet here ❑ 11 stakeholders were visited. Advocacy visit reports here and pledge cards ❑ So far, 6 episodes have been concluded. Find link here 	Details in the appropriate section below
Activities on MacArthur project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Project inception capacity building for project team ❑ Stakeholders inception meeting on DeSPAAC project ❑ Dispatch of Freedom of Information (FOI) letters to concerned implementing agencies to access projects implementation data ❑ Advocacy visits to community leaders and government stakeholders ❑ Training for CMT in each senatorial district. ❑ Preliminary visit to selected beneficiary communities of constituency projects in Kaduna state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 15 participants were trained during the project inception meetings. Find report here and pre/post evaluation analysis here ❑ DeSPAAC project inception stakeholders meeting was held. 80 (14 female and 66 male) participants were in attendance including a representative of the Executive Governor of Kaduna state, the Chief of Staff to Kaduna state Governor, Commissioners/heads of MDAs from Kaduna state and the Federal government, the ICPC Zonal head, 19 LGA chairmen among others. Click here for report. ❑ Radio and tv reports here ❑ 6 FOI request letters dispatched to government MDAs. The Federal Ministry of Finance responded to our FOI making available details of 	Details in the appropriate section below

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Follow The Money Radio Show and social media advocacy 	<p>releases on the 2020 constituency projects in Kaduna state. The details of the responses can be found here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 7 key stakeholders were visited at the state level. Find report here ❑ 1-day training for CMTs from each of the senatorial zones in the state. Find report here ❑ The CMTs whose capacities have been built conducted Preliminary visits across selected 14 beneficiary communities of constituency projects in Kaduna state. See report here ❑ 4 Episodes of FTM Radio held. Find the FTM radio register here 	
<p>Activities on Canadian High Commission project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Capacity building for 30 women (SGBV survivors) on SGBV and VAPP Act in Kano State ❑ Advocacy visit to concerned stakeholders ❑ GBV consortium ❑ Radio advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 30 women/girls and men(Female-27, Male-3 and PLWD-2) were trained on gender advocacy and policy influencing the VAPP Act. Find full report here ❑ Find links to advocacy visits reports here and brief here. ❑ Held a Consortium on ending GBV in Kano with 50(37 female and 13 Male) participants. Find a report here and Communique here. ❑ We had 12(English-6 and Hausa-6) episodes of the radio program. Find link to radio schedule and recordings here 	<p>Details in the appropriate section below</p>
<p>Activities on Ford Foundation project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Visit to communities for gatekeepers buy-in and public project validation ❑ Capacity building for Community Monitoring Team's (CMT's) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Conducted a preliminary visit in 10 communities of River State. Find copies of the filled PV report template here. ❑ 19 projects identified in those 10 communities. Empirical data on project implementation here ❑ We held 5 episodes of the radio 	<p>Details in the appropriate section below</p>

	<p>program. Find link to data register here</p>	
<p>Oxfam project activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Judicious tracking and monitoring of COVID 19 funds ❑ Online advocacy evidence gathering and High level advocacy to MDA's ❑ Follow The Money Radio Show 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Comprehensive report of findings. Find report here ❑ 12 advocacy visits conducted. Find a link to the advocacy visit reports here. Policy brief here ❑ 38 episodes of Follow The Money Radio shows commissioned and completed. Find links to radio program recordings here 	<p>Details in the appropriate section below</p>
<p>Malala Girl Child Education Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Town hall meeting with 50 participants in 2 LGA's on budget tracking processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 50 participants across two LGA's. Communique was developed. Find here ❑ Held 6 radio episodes within this quarter Find link to all radio episodes. Here 	<p>Details in the appropriate section below</p>

<p>UN-Spotlight Initiative project activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Project conceptualization and strategy ❑ Capacity building for women, girls and women led organisation ❑ State/federal advocacy visits ❑ Follow The Money radio show 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ We had 15 participants (Female-9 and Male-6) at the project inception meeting report here ❑ Summary report for capacity building workshop for 150 participants across 6 project states.find report, including pre/post evaluation analysis here ❑ Budget analysis report for 6 project states, state/national action plan. find here. ❑ Link to radio schedule here 	<p>Details in the appropriate section below</p>
<p>CTAP project activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Data curation and desk research ❑ Design and launch of PAN-African Covid 19 fund accountability website ❑ Work visit to 3 African Countries(Malawi, Kenya and Cameroon) ❑ Covid 19 analysis and review of government response ❑ Tracking of Covid-19 find 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Dataset for Covid-19 funding. ❑ Visited 3 African Countries. Find report here ❑ Tracking capacity of PHC to receive, preserve and disseminate vaccines. Find dataset here 	

STRENGTHENING STATE CAPACITY AND WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN COVID 19 RESPONSE AND BROADER PEACE BUILDING INITIATIVE IN KADUNA STATE



The CODE team with the Commissioner of Education Dr. Shehu Usman Muhammad during the advocacy visit in Kaduna State

Connected Development in partnership with UN Women began the implementation of a project on 'Strengthening State Capacities and Women's Participation in COVID Response and Broader Peacebuilding Initiatives'. The project seeks to advance women's meaningful participation in the COVID-19 response and beyond in Kaduna state.

The two and half month project kick started with an inception meeting on the 26th and 27th January 2021, where an Improved Knowledge of the project by team members with clear understanding of roles, strategy and work plan and Streamlined stakeholders that will be contributive and beneficial to project implementation are identified.

As part of the deliverables of the project, we conducted a capacity building for the identified stakeholders on COVID 19 actions, policies, plans and budget during which 45 women and girls and men were able to develop and adopt a checklist to advance women participation in COVID-19 response in Kaduna state.

Interestingly, we were able to establish positive campaign buy-ins from stakeholders through our advocacy visits in Kaduna State. We met with 11 stakeholders including The Deputy Chief of Staff to the Kaduna State Government Saude Amina Atoyebi and The Special Adviser to the governor on Creative Arts and Development Halima Idris. We gathered information on the e-learning program from the Ministry of Education stating the numbers of beneficiaries desegregated by gender. We also received information from a number of MDA's on COVID-19 actions, policies and plans especially during the lockdown.

It was gathered that the COVID-19 task force in Kaduna is chaired by the Deputy Governor and has a representation of female commissioners in the State. During the visit to the

commissioner housing and urban development, She highlighted that some of the key roles being played by the ministry under her stewardship were around improving infrastructure in hospitals, isolation centers to contend those with COVID-19. She stated that the Ministry also facilitated the construction of an infectious Disease control center, as a permanent isolation center and polished all the isolation centers in good shape for usage.

Interestingly, the Commissioner of Education during the courtesy visit mentioned that the e-learning program which was introduced through radio, television and other google platforms was organized and led by a woman, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Education Mrs. Fibiari Nsukai. He mentioned that women were adequately involved in the planning and implementation of the e-learning program in the education sector which is also spearheaded by the Director General quality assurance which happens to be a woman also. 11 of these stakeholders signed pledge cards committing to advocate and amplify women's leadership and active participation in the decision-making response through effective coalition building and collaboration between women organizations and women in political leadership positions. Find signed pledge cards [here](#)

Furthermore, CODE leveraged its capacity to dialogue with top government officials to bring women holding political and leadership positions to chart a way forward on the promotion of women's participation in the implementation of COVID-19 response strategy through documenting the voices of these stakeholders. (8) Eight women/ heads of Ministries Department and Agencies were captured on the documentary and cross-promoted on different platforms to amplify and duplicate learnings for other states whilst promoting mentorship guidelines for women and girls in kaduna and Nigeria at large. Through our campaign hashtag: **#GenderResponsiveness**, Our online advocacy reached over 75 mentions, which got 1,400 interactions, 371.2k reach, 1,000 shares and 424 likes. Find link [here](#)

FollowTheMoney Commences Tracking of N1.1billion Worth of Constituency projects in Kaduna State



Cross section of participants during the capacity building of stakeholders on DeSPAAC 11th Feb, 2021

Following its successful completion of tracking the implementation of N569 million Naira Universal Basic Education fund in Kaduna State over the course of three years, Follow The Money has, again, been supported by the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to strengthen grassroots communities' ability to demand improved public services and hold their elected representatives to account.

FTM is educating citizens and enhancing their interests in governance, government spending so that they can combat possible corruption and illicit financial flows in public funds management. The three-year project will also leverage FTM's expertise in community empowerment and engagement to strengthen community governance structures such as the community monitoring teams (CMTs) and Follow The Money Champions to identify and effectively provide oversight on social and constituency projects. Within this quarter, on the 26th and 27th January 2021 we held a 2-days inception meeting for the Kaduna Project Team. This was to build teams knowledge on project goals and deliverables. Team members were equipped with understanding of budget monitoring and tracking of capital expenditure, FTM model for stakeholder's engagement, and effective public oversight.

Additionally, On the 11th day of February 2021, we conducted a project inception stakeholder meeting with the aim to discuss key components of the project which is targeted at tracking the implementation of Federal government's Constituency Projects in Kaduna state; collaborate with ICPC on corrupt practices in these project implementation; and build the

capacity of local community governance structure to enhance the participation of marginalized voices, build community accountability practices, and contribute to a reduction in corruption. Through an advocacy visit in Kaduna State, we met with the Deputy Commissioner of police in person of Effiong Dominic who committed to providing security for MacArthur/FTM activities around the state. In furtherance, we visited the Commissioner of Planning and Budget Commission to present the MacArthur 2.0 project and the Impact Assessment Report on the UBEC spending as well as seek partnership with the Commission in the project DeSPAAC especially with regards to tracking Constituency Projects using the Kaduna Citizens (Eyes and Ears) App which the Commissioner P&BC committed to adding to the App. This was aimed at shedding more light on the work that CODE, with support from MacArthur has been doing for the past three years in Kaduna State.

We met with the Kaduna State local government councils with an essence of promoting collaboration and getting the local council's buy-in as well as to enhance cohesiveness in accessing data on construction of schools, primary healthcare centres and other essential infrastructure in the communities.

We also trained community agencies on advocating gender-responsive constituency projects, increasing awareness of the principles of Open Government Partnership, and the process of tracking constituency projects for effective implementation. The enabling community agencies consisted of community governance structures (SBMCs, PTAs, youth leaders, women leaders, FTM Champions) with equitable representation of women and men in the state.

GALVANIZING MASS ACTION AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN KANO



A group picture of 30 Trained Gender Advocates with other Stakeholders at the consortium to end GBV

Connected Development (CODE), in partnership with the Canadian High Commission in Nigeria, is seeking to galvanize mass action against GBV in Kano state and demand an end to gender-based violence towards girls and women through the adoption and implementation of the VAPP Act in Kano state. The campaign seeks to promote and protect women's inalienable rights through the increase in awareness of the provisions of the VAPP Act in Kano state; engagement of relevant stakeholders, robust offline and online sensitization, and training of women, girls, victims/survivors, men, civil society organizations, the media, government, religious and traditional representatives as gender advocates in gender sensitivity mainstreaming; empowering other women/girls and expanding the advocacy for the enactment and implementation of the VAPP Law towards ending violence against women in Kano state.

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF SGBV SURVIVORS AS CRUCIAL PROPONENTS OF ADVANCING THE FRONTIER ON ENDING GBV IN KANO



Adaora Lynda Okoye, Communication Associate-CODE taking participants through a training session on strategic approach toward ending SGBV

On the 2nd and 3rd of February, 2021, the capacity of 30 gender advocates (Female - 27; Male - 3; PLWD - 2) on diverse strategic gender advocacy skills and tools such as; law and policy of women's rights, advocacy and policy influencing, advocacy and social media, government engagement, GBV prevention, reporting, etc; gender and development, gender equality and community mobilization. Find full report [here](#)

THE TRAINED GENDER ADVOCATES PAID ADVOCACY VISITS TO KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN KANO STATE



Some of the trained Gender Advocate with the Attorney-General of Kano State

From the 11th of February, 2021 to the 2nd of March, 2021, the trained gender advocates paid 5 high level advocacy visits to key government offices in Kano state - all of which gave commitments to the realization of the project goal through the adoption of the VAPP Law and Child Protection Bill. The following offices were visited: the Attorney-General of Kano state, National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Women Affairs, Legal Aid Council, and the Speaker of House of Assembly. Currently, significant legislative advances have been made in both legal instruments that promote women's rights and curb GBV. Find their respective reports [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Find the Project advocacy/policy brief [here](#)

A CONSORTIUM ON ENDING GBV IN KANO



A cross section of participants at the consortium on ending GBV in Kano

A one-day Consortium to end GBV in Kano State was held on the 16th of March, 2021 at Bristol Palace Hotel, Kano State which brought together delegates of the Canadian High Commission in Nigeria, Connected Development, representatives of concerned civil society organizations including but not limited to UNICEF, RoLAC, FIDA, NBA, BCAI, WARDC, WRAPA, Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative, and so forth; Government representatives including but not limited to the Attorney-General of Kano state, Director of Research and Planning of the Ministry of Women Affairs, Hisbah, Legal Aid Council, NAPTIP, National Human Rights Commission; religious and traditional leaders, the 30 trained gender advocates, the media and other relevant stakeholders - to educate them on the provisions and imperative of the VAPP law, and for all stakeholders to state their positions, ideas, possible solutions and precise commitments towards ending gender-based Violence in Kano State. These positions and commitments were developed and embodied in a Communique adopted by all participants at the end of the Consortium - to be used as a roadmap and an advocacy and policy influencing tool on the subject-matter.

Find the Communique [here](#)

Find a full report [here](#).

ENGAGE, EDUCATE AND INFORM - FACEBOOK LIVE(S)



Join



Hafsat Zeenat Buhari
Legal Practitioner, Child Protection
Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative



Adaora Lynda Okoye
Communications Associate,
Connected Development (CODE)



2:00 pm | Tuesday, 9th March, 2021.

<https://www.facebook.com/followthemoneyng/>

As part of CODE's project strategic plan on public sensitization and advocacy on women's rights, issues and gender mainstreaming using digital tools, Facebook Live sessions were organized once (1) FB per month with guests involved and championing women's rights and activism in Kano state to share valuable insights on issues and contexts surrounding and mitigating the promotion of women's rights in Kano state; analyzing bills, laws and policies, socio-cultural and religious practises, and proffering sustainable solutions - as a means of educating the populace, curbing GBV and entrenching gender sensitivity and equality. The FB Live(s) garnered 805, 41 and 273 views, respectively.

Find links to the January, February and March FB Live(s) [here, here](#) , and [here](#); and their reports [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

INFLUENCING SOCIO-CULTURAL AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE THROUGH RADIO ADVOCACY AND SENSITIZATION



One of the Gender Advocate on-air sensitizing large audiences against GBV in Kano State.

With similar expected outcome as in the Facebook Live; and in a bid to reach a broader audience and positively influence socio-cultural cum behavioral change towards women, the project team and trained gender advocates commenced the 12 radio advocacy and sensitization programme of 30 mins each on Saturday, February 20th, 2021, and it lasted until Monday, March 29th, 2021. The radio programmes are being held twice a week (Mondays and Saturdays), in Cool FM 96.9 (English) - which has an approximate reach of 9 Million people, and Arewa Radio 93.1 (Hausa) - which has an approximate reach of 9.5 Million people, respectively.

Find the radio schedule [here](#) and the voice recordings, topics and other details contained therein.

EMPOWERING OIL RICH COMMUNITIES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY



Students of Community Secondary School Ekpena receiving lessons sitting on the floor

CODE with support from Ford foundation started the implementation of the project ‘Empowering Oil Rich Communities for Improved Service Delivery’. The aim of the project is to support and foster development in 10 oil rich communities in River State that suffer various degrees of oil spillage yet, deprived of essential public services that ought to improve living standard. In continuation with the project implementation, the team went for a preliminary visit to get buy-in of gatekeepers and prove the authenticity of the public project data harvested during the capacity building meeting of the 10 communities representatives. The team visited 10 communities and was able to identify and confirm 19 projects of urgent need of which some are completely unavailable while some are present but in dilapidated and equipped conditions.

We have activated campaigns across the 10 project communities identified in Rivers state and paid advocacy visits to the Hon. Commissioner of Energy and Natural Resources and Hon. Commissioner of Environment in River to solicit for the implementation of the environmental components of the 19 identified projects. The FTM Radio Rivers state is up and running. The radio program is engaging a large number of audiences, creating awareness, and amplifying the voices of the masses for government and relevant stakeholders intervention on the subject matter.

PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE UTILIZATION OF COVID 19 INTERVENTION FUNDS BY THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT



Oxfam/CODE team on an advocacy visit to the Commissioner, Ministry of Information and Strategy, Akwa-Ibom State

CODE is still advocating for firmer accountability measures in the utilization of COVID19 resources to reduce the impact of the pandemic on States and ensure governments are held to transparency standards.

The team paid courtesy calls to Ministries of Finance and key government agencies in 6 States to assess responsiveness in combating the pandemic and the management of intervention funds. In Kwara State, it met with the Deputy-Governor, H.E Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq who detailed how funds are used to purchase medical resources and support citizens. In Lagos state, the advocacy visits coincided with the roll out period for vaccines in Lagos state where the commissioners were busy with vaccine related activities. The team met with the team at the Ministry of Information and had a very robust discussion on the fiscal transparency in COVID-19 activities.

It was also gathered that The Secretary to the State Government agreed to ensure that specific details of the COVID-19 expenditure and donations are uploaded in the state portal

(website. Particularly, The Speaker, house of assembly accepted to ensure passage of the ***Freedom of Information law*** with a suggestion of the bill coming in as a private bill through any member of the house

In furtherance, during this quarter, procurements were made for radio slots in the six(6) states of Lagos, Akwa Ibom, Kwara, Ondo, Nasarawa and Kwara. The CODE team held a strategic meeting with all the states project leads focused on finding ways to engage top government officials responsible for the administration of the COVID-19 funds and CSOs with contents on COVID-19 to make the radio program richer and more impactful.

ENGAGING A WIDER AUDIENCE THROUGH RADIO PROGRAMME IN 6 STATES



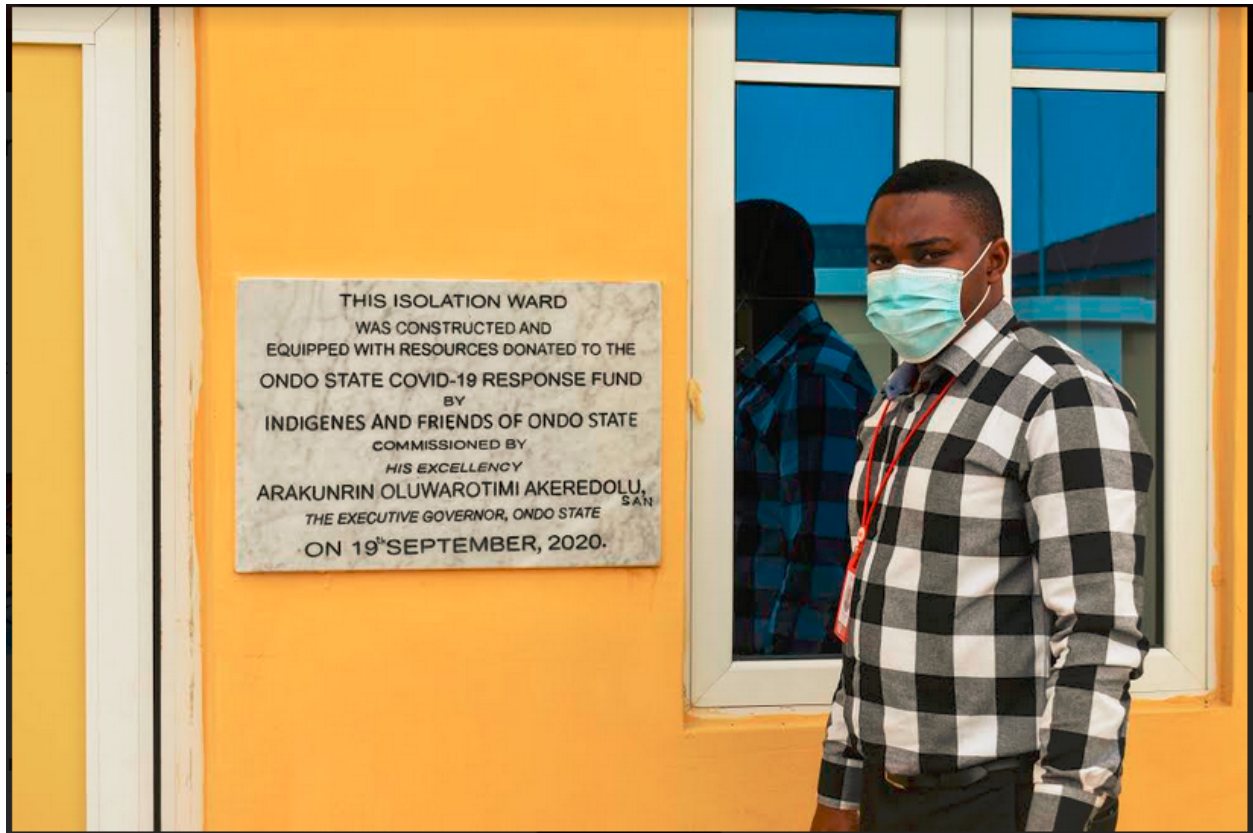
Radio programme on Follow COVID-19 Money took place in all the 6 project states with high impact of commitments from state actors across Enugu, Akwa Ibom, Niger, Kwara, Lagos and Ondo.

Sequel to our advocacy visit, the commissioner for Information in Enugu state was present at Dream FM for our radio programme. The team of OXFAM and CODE at Kwara state joined the

radio programme with the Permanent Secretary of the ministry of health to discuss the COVID-19 and Nigeria's under-funded Health System.

Due to the impact of our radio program, we have received free extra episodes from Akwa Ibom, Kwara and Niger. Prior to now, Enugu's Dream Fm had given us an extension of time from 30 minutes to 1 hour for our radio programs on Friday.

FACILITY TOUR VOX POP ACROSS 6 STATES



Dr Onyekachi Chibueze Onuoha , Program and Research Associate-CODE on a tour at one of the isolation centers in Ondo state.

The team went on video and photo coverage of all the newly built facilities for curtailing the spread of COVID-19 in the 6 project states including the state multipurpose labs, the treatment centre among others. The team also captured the cross session of participants at the training in preparation for the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines. More importantly, random people in the streets were interviewed on COVID-19 related issues.

MALALA FUND INCREASING GIRL-CHILD ENROLMENT IN NORTH-EAST SCHOOLS



Elizabeth Yargawa, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs speaking at the Town Hall Meeting

In furtherance of the 3-Year Girls' Education campaign in the North-East in partnership with the Malala Fund, CODE conducted a town hall meeting in Adamawa on the 18th and 19th of March, 2021 with the composition of 50 key stakeholders from Government agencies, Members of the community from Yola South and Fufere LGA, school principals, religious leaders, SMT's and girls.

The town hall meeting aimed at analyzing the state budget and assessing government policies and programmes in education to produce a strategic advocacy and communication action

plan. Most importantly, for effective public oversight on secondary education budgeting, the town hall meeting was to ensure citizens and the government adopts a joint approach to education budget tracking. In a robust conversation, a communique was developed and adopted.

DEVELOPING STRATEGIC FOCUS TOWARDS ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE UN-SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE



Participants during the Capacity Building at Ebonyi State

Connected Development with support from the joint EU-UN Spotlight Initiative is developing Women's strategic focus towards Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in 6 focal States namely Lagos, Sokoto, FCT, Ebonyi, Adamawa and Cross River States.

To kick start the project, CODE facilitated an internal inception meeting and conducted a landscape assessment of the key players and stakeholders, including Parliamentarians, Ministry Department and Agencies, the media and women led organizations as well as analyze the gender components of the respective states budgetary allocations for 2020 fiscal year.

CODE then strengthened the capacity of 125 women's and girls' rights advocates, media stakeholders, government official, women's rights defenders etc. to advocate for budget

allocation for National Action Plan (NAP) on Gender Based Violence (GBV) /End Violence Against Women (EVAW) /Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) SGBV/HP and develop Monitoring & Evaluation M&E frameworks to monitor the implementation of the plan at the federal and state level across the six states: FCT, Adamawa, Sokoto, Lagos, Ebonyi, and Cross River. CODE also strengthened the capacity of 40 CSOs, women leaders and other relevant stakeholders with a representation of 34 females and 6 males were trained (90% females and 10% males) on basic elements of advocacy and policy influencing, gender-responsive budgeting, strategic communications, social accountability, monitoring, and evaluation to address EVAW/SGBV/HP women's and girls' access to SRHR to support and advocate for the drafting and costing of action plans. The two day training which started on the 7th of February 2021 and ended 25th February 2021 across the six States had 155 participants with a gender disaggregation of 75% females and 25% males. Participants across the states developed the State and National Action Plan on eliminating Violence against Women and girls VAWG, SGBV, HP, and ensuring gender-responsive budgeting.

In order to secure the buy-ins of key stakeholders to adopt and implement the National Action Plan and address issues raised in the policy/ advocacy briefs, there were a series of joint review meetings and advocacy visits to the ministries of Women Affairs and the Ministry of Budget and Planning in 5 States. Permanent secretaries and commissioners made commitments to review the State Action Plan and also to attach their budget component to the plan. Also within this quarter, on the 26th of March 2021, we held a virtual mentorship session with 100 persons in attendance (85 females and 15 males) in a bid to provide professional guidance, leadership role models, identify and resolve potential obstacles and assist trained gender advocates to develop professionally.

COVID-19 TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT



Cross-session of on-ground and virtual participants During CTAP Coalition meeting Conference

Connected Development, Budgit and country partners with support from Global Integrity and Skoll initiated the Covid-19 Transparency and Accountability project with the aim to promote transparency in the utilization of the funds each country received in the seven(7) Africa countries ; Nigeria, Ghana, Camaron, Kenya, Malawi and Sierra-Leone. Both organisations started tracking the intervention funds leveraging their social accountability network Follow The Money and Trackers to activate a PAN-African tracking system. The data team started data curation and desk research to collate data on Covid-19 funds which will be published on the Pan-African Covid-19 Fund Accountability website targeted at strengthening transparency and accessibility to evidence on covid-19 resources use.

In-view of this initiative, the team of CODE lead by CEO-CODE Mr Hamzal Lawal in company of the Director-CODE Community Engagement and the Program Officer, Mr Busayo Morakinyo and Hyledzira Mshelia respectively, went for a work visit to Cameroon, Malawi and Kenya to assess government response, citizens engagement and the management of the intervention funds.

This visit also featured the official launch of the CTAP project in these countries. The team visited the Slums Information Development and Resource Centres (SIDAREC) located in an urban slum community in the Capital City Of Kenya, Nairobi, known as Mukuru Kwa Njenga. At the center, the team met with school students from Topline high school who are passionate about social issues and shared the need to hold elected leaders accountable. This motivated the students thus, a Follow The Money Club was created.

Celebrating Earth Hour 2021

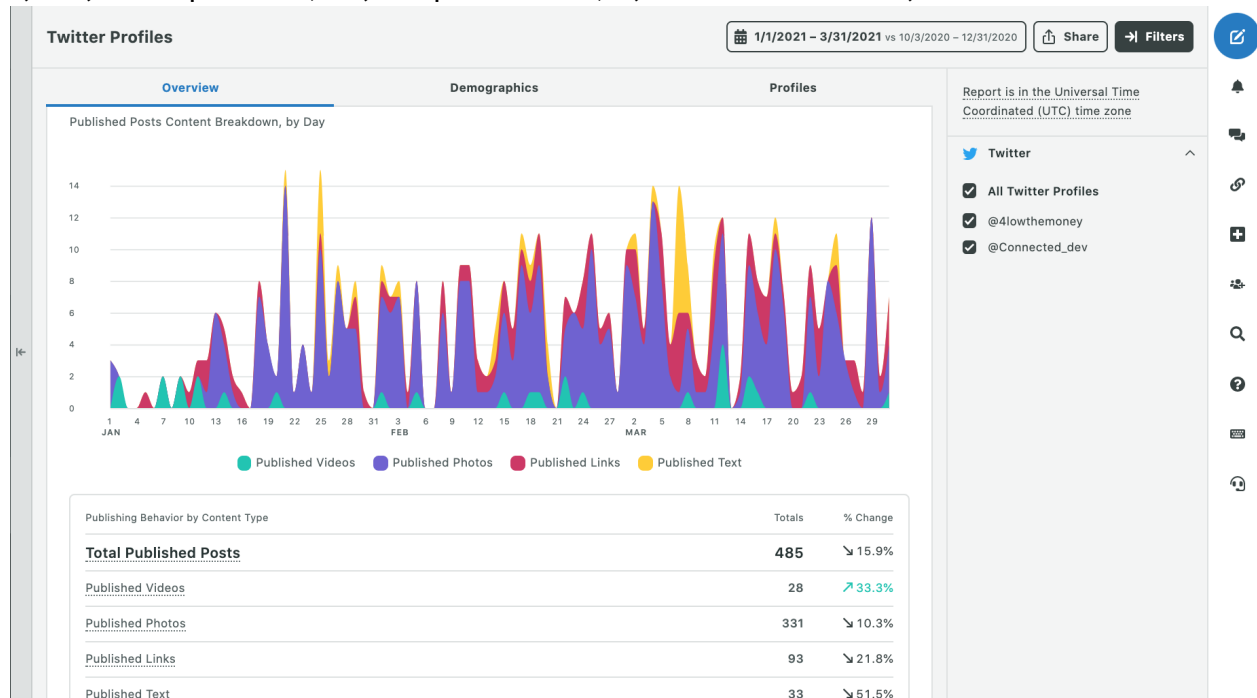


CODE in collaboration with Transcorp Hilton and Abuja Global Shapers, joined millions of people around the world to observe the 2021 Earth Hour, in order to raise awareness and educate the citizens on the need to make personal commitments that will galvanize the needed action to ensure that post-COVID-19, climate change will be taken very seriously.

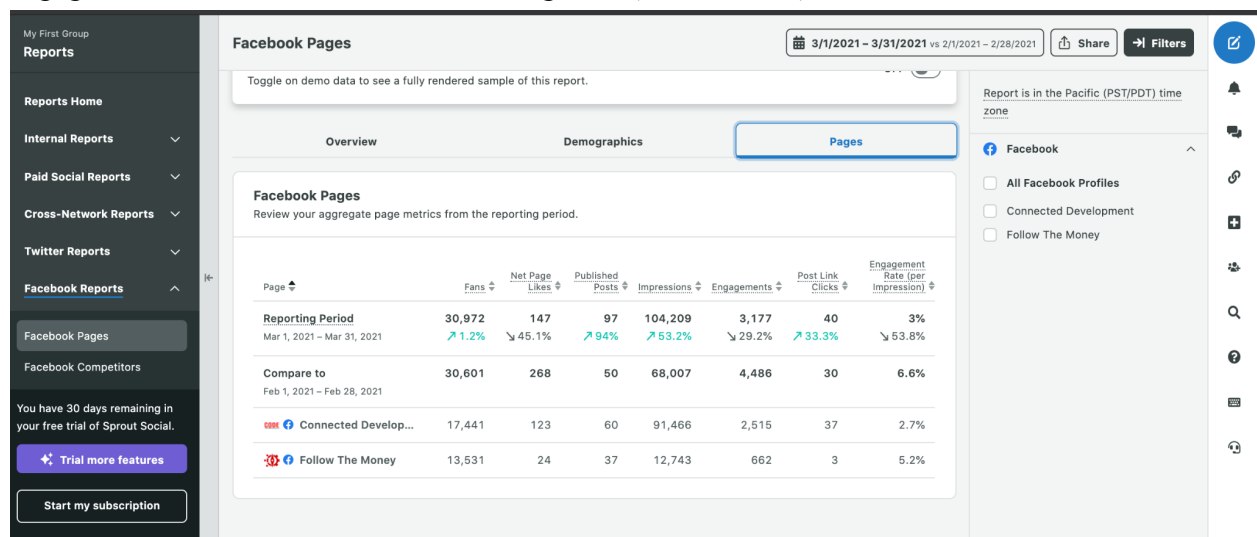
The event took place on Saturday in Transcorp Hilton Abuja, where participants committed to safeguarding the environment by improving consciousness on the need to preserve the environment, creating awareness and enlightening others.

ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS

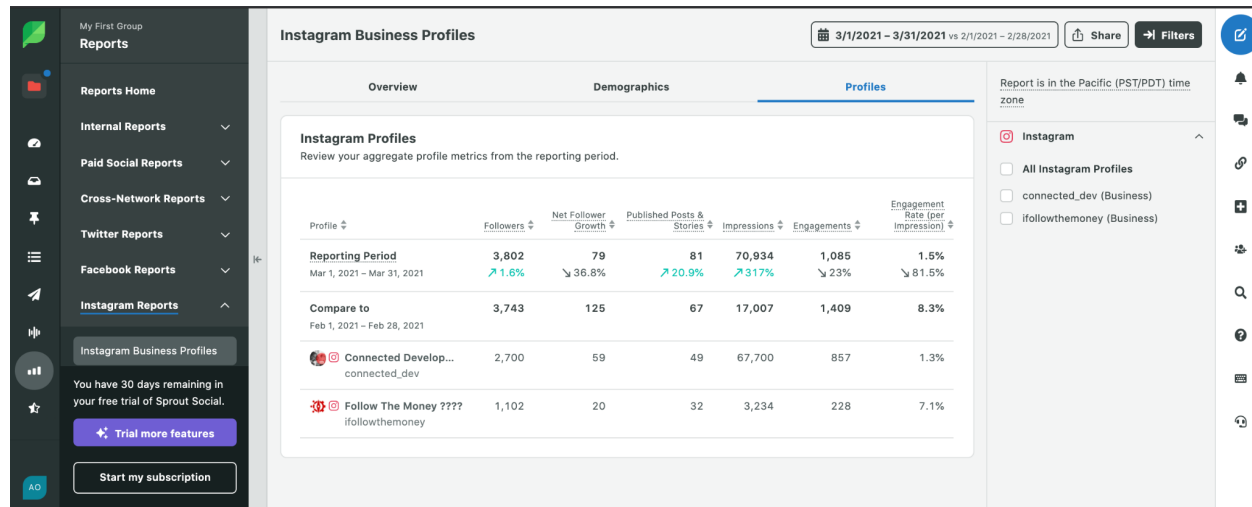
On Twitter, in the first quarter of 2021, our tweet activity comprised **478** tweets, which got **1,020,000** impressions, **56,766** profile visits, **1,672** mentions and **1,672** new followers



On Facebook, in the first quarter, our posts generated **240,412** impressions, having **11,519** engagements, with total views amounting to **20,879** and **30,972** fans.



On Instagram, our posts generated **101,720** impressions, and **3,495** Content interactions, **266** profile actions, and **3,802** followers.



FOLLOW THE MONEY RADIO

We are reaching citizens across Nigeria through the Follow The Money radio shows to inform them about government projects in their communities and how they can track it.



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

- ❑ The development of the new Ifollowthemoney platform is on-going hence, we could not get data on membership gained.

NEXT STEPS

- ❑ Official website launch CTAP
- ❑ Official launch of new Follow the Money website and App
- ❑ Hold coalition meetings with key stakeholders on the CTAP project
- ❑ Kick start outreaches in the oil rich communities of River State, Ford Foundation
- ❑ Zonal convening of Follow the Money network will begin in earnest
- ❑ Discussion with the Canadian High Commission for possible extension of the GMAA-K project

APPENDICES

- ❑ Find media mention and publications on GMAA-K [here](#), facebook live [here](#)
- ❑ Link to communique on GBV in Kano [here](#)
- ❑ Find link to fact sheet for gender responsive budgeting_ UN Spotlight [here](#)
- ❑ Comprehensive report for training workshop across 6 UN-Spotlight project state [here](#)
- ❑ State/National action plan on ending GBV in Nigeria [here](#)
- ❑ Find links to Malala advocacy brief [here](#) and radio [here](#)
- ❑ Links to UN-Women courtesy visit media report [here](#)
- ❑ Links to media publication on DeSPAAC project [here](#)
- ❑ Website publications can be found [here](#)
- ❑ March Newsletter [here](#)
- ❑ International Women's Day [here](#)

- ❑ February Newsletter [here](#)
- ❑ January Newsletter [here](#)
- ❑ CTAP visitation report [here](#)