

OUR 2016



BIG STORIES

FROM RURAL COMMUNITIES

FOLLOWTHEMONEYNG.ORG

STORIES

FROM COMMUNITIES

In Nigerian rural communities, over time, billions of dollars have been appropriated for the provision of health facilities, teaching aid, water and clean energy inputs, and have remained only spent "on paper". 80% of such funds do not reach these communities. Many times they are not aware, and at times, they do not have the will/capacity to challenge and ask questions. It's Game Over! There is a new movement that has been empowered and organised to reverse this trend. This is a compilation of what these "citizen monitors" were able to achieve in 2016.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS



MONTHLY MEDIA REACH

1, 210, 000

FACEBOOK

8, 691

TWITTER

13, 200

COMMUNITY PLATFORM


143 IN 36 STATES OF NIGERIA




OUR CHAMPIONS

They take lead on campaigns in their various communities. They engage their local, state and national governments by organizing town hall meetings; sending request for information letters (FOI); engaging communities via their local media, and winning always.

You can become one. What matters is the little thing you can do, but it's impact can be long lasting in your rural communities. Be part of the solution today!

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and be part of the
solution!

REMARKS

"Of course to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we need to Follow The Money"

AMINA MOHAMMED, UNITED NATIONS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

"I am delighted that you were able to amplify the voices of the women and children of Shikira, your team surpassed my expectations of any Nigerian NGO"

ABDULLAHI KATAKO, GALADIMA OF KAGARA EMIRATE COUNCIL

"I am proud that we can still find a generation of young Nigerians that are concerned about ensuring transparency and accountability on money for public goods in rural communities"

PASTOR TUNDE BAKARE

"Follow The Money is a showcase of support for digital participation, it is creating a new type of public space where people's rights, as well as state and government obligations, are discussed"

JAN LUBLINSKI, HEAD OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION AT DW AKADEMIE

"This initiative that uses the internet to protect human right by going to villages to follow up on promises made by politicians, and later publish their findings on their website is one of the greatest innovation we have seen at the Global Media Forum"

THOMAS SILBERHON, PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY TO THE FEDERAL MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC CORPORATION AND DEVELOPMENT, GERMANY

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#WATERJEKE

JIGAWA, NIGERIA

In November 2014, the former President, Goodluck Jonathan announced a presidential intervention worth 80 billion Naira (\$254m) for the Great Green Wall (GGW) project in Nigeria, which has a component of providing green areas and water to 200 beneficiary communities in 11 front-line states. Jeke in Jigawa Northern Nigeria was one of them, Umar Muhammed and Amina Mohammed, members residing in the state informed the team that the forest areas in Jeke were in existence and that the 6,000 inhabitants of Jeke lack water, even after one year the funds were approved.

The data mining team received the budget and project data after a meeting with the National Agency for Great Green Wall. Consequently, Umar and Amina conducted community outreaches in Jeke, held town hall meeting, as well as focused group discussions, We had extensive engagements on Twitter and Facebook, and radio and TV on the plight of Jeke people. In July 2016, Jeke community was provided with a functional 10 - water point facility.



ON MARBLE

"The only source of clean water in this community is from the Millennium Development Goals Water Tank which only pumps out water between 1 and 3 pm. That was why we made our land available for this project to start"

YAHAYA HUSSEINI

Men Leader, Jeke

bit.ly/WaterJeke

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#EQUIPKANTUDU

KANO, NIGERIA

In Kano State, we started tracking the approved 137 million Naira (\$435,266) for the renovation of Primary Health Centers (PHCs) in Filin Mushe, Gwale and Makoda LGAs of the state on September 2, 2016. Kano State is situated in the North Western Region of Nigeria, with a population of 9,401,288 according to the 2006 Population and household census in Nigeria. Kantudu has one of the 30 Primary Healthcare Centers in Makoda Local Government.

Our community champions in Kano led by Ali Isa had written to the state government, held town hall meetings, engaged citizens via Wazobia FM, and Freedom Radio, as the funds are yet to arrive in Kantundu for the provision of drugs and equipment in the health facility. While the government of Kano state promised to equip the health center at the community, following our advocacy, they also provided the summary of the budget of the state for 2017, with the expectation that Follow The Money (FTM) can help in tracking some of the expenses.



ON MARBLE

"We have reached out to the Government of Kano twice on the state of the health center in Kantudu, but there was no response. We hope this campaign with ONE and CODE will make the Government of Kano to look at the plight of our health center, so that our people can start using it"

MALAM ALI

The Medical Head at the PHC.

bit.ly/EquipKantudu

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#SAVESHIKIRA

NIGER, NIGERIA

In April 2015, Global Rights revealed to us that 28 children died in Shikira, Niger State due to lead poisoning and that the community needed an urgent clean up, before hundreds of lead poisoned children in the community would have access to treatment. Although the federal government set up a committee to quickly solve the problem in Shikira, the year was coming to an end, and nothing had happened.

Alhaji Umar with other Niger community reporters organized community outreaches, town hall meetings in Minna and Kagara. There were Twitter and Facebook campaigns; with radio interviews on Voice of Nigeria, Minna Studio, Wazobia FM; TV engagements on AIT, Channels TV and PTV; as well as several press releases to amplify the voices of Shikirans.

In January 2016, the Ministry of Environment included 256 million Naira (\$839m) on its budget to clean up Shikira. We kept the campaign ongoing, and by the end of June 2016, funds were released for the clean up of the lead community, while in August 2016, the treatment of children had started.



ON MARBLE

"The sum of N300 million has been included in the 2016 budget for the cleanup of the contaminated site, but the truth is that time is running out as the rainy season has just begun and would disrupt the exercise and spread the contaminants to other neighbouring communities if remediation do not commence immediately"

AMINA MOHAMMED
Nigerian Minister of
Environment

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bit.ly/SaveShikira

#REVAMPSEKONA

OSUN, NIGERIA

In Osun State, South West Nigeria, we tracked the proposed 474 million Naira (\$1.5m) released by the World Bank's Saving One Million Lives (SOML) project with the Federal Ministry of Health to the Osun State Government, in 2016, while advocating for the refurbishment of the PHC located in Sekona, Ede East LGA of Osun State. The facility serves a target population of 12,498 with 498 less than 1-year children population and expected monthly target of 42.

After Barakat Bidemi, our community champion in the state organized the community members, held focused group discussions at the PHC, we wrote several Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) backed letters, and used frequent Twitter and Facebook campaigns to raise concerns over the state of the PHC. Consequently, the government of Osun attended our town hall meeting, visited the dilapidated PHC and informed us that they had not received the \$1.5 million. They also revealed that the local government chairman had received disbursement for the renovation of the PHC.

During an engagement facilitated at our town hall meeting between the government representative and community members, the government of Osun decided to make it a priority to make the PHC at Sekona work better, as it offers services to a larger population.



ON MARBLE

"We never knew this PHC serves 11 villages, as such we will put it as a plan to upgrade it to a General hospital but in the meantime, ask the local council chairman to renovate the PHC as he must have some funds for this"

GBENGA OYEBODE

Director, Health Planning, Research and Statistics

bit.ly/RevampSekona

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WE WORK WHERE

There is no Mobile & Internet Connectivity



#REFURBISHLANTENWA

YOBE, NIGERIA

In Yobe State, North Eastern Nigeria, we tracked the 474 million Naira (\$1.5m) released by the World Bank's Saving One Million Lives project with the Federal Ministry of Health, in May 2016 to the Yobe State Government, while advocating for the refurbishment of the PHC located in Lantewa, Tarmuwa LGA in Yobe State.

Owing to our FOI Requests, twitter campaigns, and Facebook advocacy on #RefurbishLantewa, the government informed us during a town hall meeting (organized by our community champion Muazu Alhaji Modu) in Yobe, that it has awarded the contract to refurbish the health center at Lantewa for the 7,000 citizens who use the facility. Likewise they sent their costed work plan on improving the healthcare system in Yobe State and mentioned that they had not received any funds from the \$1.5 million World Bank loan.



ON MARBLE

"We have no medical equipment, and receive 10-15 patients daily, and 70-105 weekly. I have reported the issue to the local government authority several times but no response, as such I will call on other tiers of government to please renovate and restructure the dispensary, provide toilet facilities, provide water supplies, medical equipment and bed, and medicine"

MUSA ALHAJI UMARU
Head of the Dispensary

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bit.ly/RefurbishLantewa

#WATERBACHAKA

KEBBI, NIGERIA

In November 2014, former President Goodluck Jonathan launched the GGW project in Bachaka, Kebbi State. As part of our commitment to track the implementation of funds meant for the GGW, our community reporter from Kebbi informed us on the progress of the project in the community and the need to facilitate government response to the ailing project. A year after the project commenced, dry crop farmers that depended on the water provision to grow their crops could not have access to the water supply, as it had broken down four months after it was installed.

Since November 2015, the team had visited the community occasionally to document how progress is being made. The team also engaged the National Agency on GGW (NAGGW) on radio and TV, and via Twitter and Facebook campaigns. Since February 2016, the NAGGW had promised the citizens of Bachaka and the FTM team that the water source will be restored in the community. In August 2016, after an illustration on the state of the GGW Funds, the head of the agency called and said the contractor of the project has been instructed to go on the site. Consequently, our community reporter confirmed to us that there is now a 5-water point in Bachaka.

bit.ly/WaterBachaka



ON MARBLE

"The other water source provided for nurseries and for dry crop farmers to use as an irrigation mechanism spoilt just 4 months after it was installed. The windmill powered source lasted for 2 months before it was replaced by a solar powered panel which eventually was carted away. Since then plants in the nurseries and other dry crops are getting dried up."

Abubakar
Community Member

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#REHABILITATEAFIANSIT

AKWA IBOM, NIGERIA

In Akwa Ibom State, we tracked the NGN 10.5 million appropriated in the 2016 budget by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) for the rehabilitation of the PHC at Afia Nsit Urua Nko in Nsit Ibom LGA of Akwa Ibom State, South South Nigeria.

We wrote FOI letters to the NPHCDA, the State Ministry of Health, and mentioned the plights of the community on radio, Twitter and Facebook, and held town hall meetings in Afia Nsit. NPHCDA responded that the project is in its contracting phase, and that they will let us know immediately when work starts at the PHC.

The agency has refused to provide us with their costed work plan claiming that the contract is yet to be awarded. Albeit, the contracting process should have been concluded by now.



ON MARBLE

"I was not aware that there were provisions for this healthcare facility on the 2016 Budget. And even at that, this is October and there is no sort of implementation"

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Afia Nsit Urua Nko
Primary Healthcare
Centre

bit.ly/RehabilitateAfiaNsit2

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#UPGRADEAKAMA

ENUGU, NIGERIA

In Enugu State, SouthEast Nigeria, we have a campaign hashtagged #UpgradeAkama through which we are tracking the 474 million Niara (\$1.5m) released by the World Bank's SOML project with the Federal Ministry of Health to the Enugu State Government, while advocating for the refurbishment of the PHC located in Akama, Enugwu-Ngwo, in Enugu North LGA of the State. The PHC serves about 40 patients per day (1,200 per month) especially under 5 and nursing mothers from around 3 villages.

The Government of Enugu did not respond to our FOI requests and boycotted our town hall meeting as it regards this campaign. However, our community champion in Enugu, Nebo Collins has been following up on several FOI requests that have been sent to concerned government agencies.



ON MARBLE

"This PHC is basically empty. We have no water, electricity, security, toilets, emergency transport, quarters for staffers, as well as limited number of basic drugs and beds"

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Akama Primary
Healthcare Center

bit.ly/UpgradeAkama

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#DEVELOPOKENGWE

KOGI, NIGERIA

In Kogi State, North Central Nigeria, we have a campaign hashtagged #DevelopOkengwe through which we are also tracking the 474 million Niara (\$1.5m) released by the World Bank's SOML project with the Federal Ministry of Health to the Kogi State Government, while advocating for the refurbishment of the PHC located in Okengwe, Okene LGA of Kogi State. The facility serves more than 300 patients in a month and has a Community Health Extension Worker, a Midwife and one health assistant, and does not have a skilled birth attendant and source of clean water supply.

We were able to mobilize the community in a town hall meeting to air their views on a local radio, while campaigns on social media were undertaken. 2 weeks after the town hall meeting and media engagements, the government of Kogi called the team for a meeting on information sharing, while also stating that they are interested in the work we do. Ultimately, they emphasized commitment to prioritize the PHC in the implementation of the World Bank Fund as requested by the community.

bit.ly/DevelopOkengwe



ON MARBLE

"I have reported the situations here to the Local Government for more than 3 times and yet they did not take any actions. I cannot leave this place because I am the only hope of the people. I would be glad if Follow The Money team can help us amplify our voices to the government, for the latter to and renovate the health our facility."

CHIEF MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Okengwe PHC

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LESSONS LEARNT

It is not enough to create dashboards and websites containing data on government expenditure or budget, more emphasis should be on mobilizing communities to use such data, through community engagement and capacity building.

Availability of expenditure data and procurement data is very important for our Follow The Money work and there is a dearth of such data at the state and local government levels. Thus reducing the impact of our work at the sub-national level.

Citizens are still afraid of being harassed by government officials, when they ask questions on the expenditure of the latter, as such providing platforms for them to express their grievances works better than leaving them to face the government alone.

Citizens become engaged and interested in campaigns when stories are focused on pertinent issues about their communities especially on social amenities such as health, education, water and sanitation.

A good way for government to show commitment to citizens is through sharing timely information on how public funds are being used. When government respond to the request of information by citizens on time (and by default), ensuring accountability on governmental expenditure becomes easier.

Based on the inadequacies of closed WhatsApp group in engaging our community champions and for systematic updates on our campaigns, we migrated to an open source platform, www.ifollowthemoney.org, so that other stakeholders can view reports, pictures and videos in real time.

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Many Thanks to



We can reach more rural communities

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