

## ON NIGERIA: EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

### INTRODUCTION

The goal of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's On Nigeria program is to reduce corruption by supporting Nigerian-led efforts to promote an atmosphere of accountability, transparency, and good governance in the country. A thriving Nigeria—with its rich natural resources, young and growing population, and continental leadership—is one of the most important goals for the world today. Yet corruption, impunity, and lack of accountability have posed major governance challenges in the country, with far-reaching impacts on development and Nigerians' well-being.

Through targeted support, we aim to bolster the momentum around Nigerian-led efforts to strengthen accountability and reduce corruption. Our multifaceted strategy has the following complementary areas of focus:

- Reducing corruption in two sectors, education and electricity, to demonstrate tangible results that citizens can see when accountability and transparency are strengthened;
- Strengthening the criminal justice system through nationwide implementation and enforcement of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act and complementary laws and policies; and
- Supporting media and journalism to expose corruption and share information about anti-corruption efforts and success stories.



MacArthur has been making grants in Nigeria since 1989 and opened an office in Ibadan in 1994 before moving to Abuja in 2000, which is staffed by Nigerians and serves as the hub for the Foundation's work in the country.

### EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

According to a 2015 GeoPoll survey, nearly half of Nigerians say they regularly experience bribery in the education sector, and 13 percent see it as the most corrupt public service. Funding for education in Nigeria is disbursed through bureaucratic networks—from the federal government, to states, to local government areas, and from there to schools, ultimately impacting parents and students—making it difficult to adequately manage and track the funds.

Part of our On Nigeria strategy aims to reduce corruption in the education sector by promoting effective and efficient use of public resources. Our work focuses on two education programs: the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) matching grant fund and the Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) program. We believe that a more reliable and transparent flow of funds in these programs, accompanied by efforts to improve accountability throughout the process, will reduce corruption in the education sector.



On Nigeria supports a wide range of civil society organizations, government agencies, and media to understand, monitor, and report on funding processes related to these programs. Our goals seek to shed light on how UBEC and HGSF funds are managed, disbursed, and spent; to support the journalists and media covering the sector; to engage and encourage collaboration among communities, parents, administrators, teachers, and students to monitor spending and demand accountability; and to assess and address new corruption risks in the HGSF program. We seek to generate momentum and build coalitions and alliances that will lead to systems change and have an impact on citizens' lives by improving government effectiveness and the delivery of key services blocked by corruption.

### REPRESENTATIVE GRANTS

- **Universal Basic Education Commission** (Abuja): Improving transparency and accountability in basic education funding.
- **Resource Centre for Human Rights & Civic Education** (Kano): Training community members to track and report on matching grant funding.
- **Connecting Gender for Development** (Kaduna): Demanding accountability in the administration of the Home Grown School Feeding Program in Kaduna State.

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.macfound.org/onnigeria](http://www.macfound.org/onnigeria)

### CONTACT US

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### ABOUT THE JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. MacArthur is placing a few big bets that truly significant progress is possible on some of the world's most pressing social challenges, including over-incarceration, global climate change, nuclear risk, corruption in Nigeria, and significantly increasing financial capital for the social sector. In addition to the MacArthur Fellows Program, the Foundation continues its historic commitments to the role of journalism in a responsible and responsive democracy, as well as the strength and vitality of our headquarters city, Chicago. Organizations supported by the Foundation work in about 50 countries. In addition to Chicago, MacArthur has offices in India, Mexico, and Nigeria.

In the United States, private foundations are charitable organizations that provide grants to organizations or individuals, helping those in need or working to solve societal problems. Private foundations act independently of any private business and of the United States government; they receive no government support.

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