

ON NIGERIA PROGRAM OVERVIEW



OUR GOAL

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's On Nigeria program seeks to reduce corruption by supporting Nigerian-led efforts to promote an atmosphere of accountability, transparency, and good governance in the country.

WHY WE SUPPORT THIS WORK

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.

The 2015 general elections opened a window of opportunity for the Foundation to support Nigerian-led anti-corruption efforts. In collaboration with representatives from civil society, government, and academia, we developed a strategy to support Nigerian-led efforts to reduce corruption, demand accountability, and improve quality of life for Nigerians.

OUR APPROACH AND FUNDING PRIORITIES

The On Nigeria strategy comprises four areas of focus, which work in parallel and complement each other to achieve our



overarching goal of reducing corruption in Nigeria. We support efforts to reduce corruption in areas that greatly impact the day-to-day lives of Nigerians and to strengthen systems that deter corruption on a grand scale by contributing to an atmosphere of accountability, transparency, and good governance throughout the country.



Each facet of our strategy is supported by a variety of primarily Nigerian organizations working on a range of cross-cutting activities, including civil society groups focused on anti-corruption work, organizations piloting norm- and behavior-change tactics as a means of reducing corruption, and groups mobilizing marginalized voices and new anti-corruption champions. All organizations supported by On Nigeria work together in cohorts to set and achieve their shared goals and objectives.

Driving Change in Two Important Sectors:

Corruption exists in all societies as a byproduct of economic and political life, and it often self-perpetuates as individuals make choices consistent with the incentives of a corrupt system. Corruption can hobble democratic institutions, weaken the rule of law, and slow economic growth. Ordinary citizens experience corruption directly in the form of bribes, extortion, and withholding of services they should be receiving.

Although corruption occurs in many sectors of Nigerian society, education and electricity touch a wide range of people, and Nigerian citizens see them as critical services. On Nigeria seeks to reduce corruption in these two domains of daily life, generating tangible results that meaningfully impact people's lives and contribute to a broader anti-corruption movement.

In the **education sector**, we seek to reduce corruption by promoting the transparent, effective, and efficient use of public resources. Our early efforts employ a variety of approaches intended to lay the foundation for achieving this goal, from making contracting and procurement practices more transpar-

ent, to mobilizing communities, to monitoring and tracking education funds. Our work focuses on two programs: the Universal Basic Education Commission's matching grant fund and the Home Grown School Feeding program, both of which entail frequent financial transactions and transfer of resources from the federal government to states, local government areas, schools, parents, and ultimately students.

In the **electricity sector**, we are bringing together regulators, professional associations, civil society actors, and the media to raise consumers' awareness about their rights in the newly privatized sector, to test new mechanisms for consumer redress, and to pilot new approaches to improve accountability. We are working with electricity distribution companies to help them educate the public and policymakers about their rights, services, and important health and safety considerations within the newly privatized sector as well as to strengthen their systems to reduce opportunities for corruption.

Strengthening the Criminal Justice System:

The sectoral work is complemented by support for efforts to strengthen the criminal justice system to help combat corruption at all levels, from day-to-day exchanges to acts of grand corruption. This work aims to improve government effectiveness by supporting civil society organizations that strengthen the legal environment through the implementation of the 2015 Administration of Criminal Justice Act nationally and in select states. As the law is more consistently and widely implemented, it will become easier to prosecute those who commit acts of corruption.





Furthermore, through the Anti-Corruption and Criminal Justice Reform Fund, established in collaboration with the Open Society and Ford Foundations, we directly support the government in its effort to fight corruption and institute criminal justice reforms. The Fund seeks to contribute to accountability and probity in public service in Nigeria by ensuring that those who abuse the public trust are reliably brought to justice.

Empowering Independent Voices:

The media and journalism component of our work seeks to strengthen investigative and data-driven journalism in Nigeria and to reinforce the role of independent media and citizens in revealing and documenting corruption. This approach is an important part of reaching and galvanizing people and communities across the country in the fight against corruption and generating widespread demand for transparency and accountability.

We also support media and entertainment organizations to raise awareness of corruption through their programming. Our program supports efforts by religious leaders and interfaith organizations to serve as anti-corruption champions and to

encourage dialogue at the intersection of corruption and personal responsibility, accountability, and religion in Nigerian society.

REPRESENTATIVE GRANTS

On Nigeria supports more than 90 predominantly Nigerian civil society organizations, government agencies, media organizations, and universities. Examples of our grants include:

- **Moving Image (Kano):** Raising awareness among Hausa-speaking Nigerians about corruption and galvanizing them to support an environment of accountability.
- **Nextier Capital Limited (Abuja):** Educating the Nigerian public, media, and policymakers on the power sector and fostering problem-solving related to the sector.
- **Nigerian Bar Association (Abuja):** Improving the administration of justice by promoting and supporting widespread implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act.
- **Social Development Integrated Centre (Port Harcourt):** Enabling community action on corruption by mobilizing citizens to demand accountability from officials and institutions.

- **Universal Basic Education Commission (Abuja):** Improving transparency and accountability in basic education funding.
- **Lux Terra Leadership Foundation (Abuja):** Mobilizing faith-based groups to promote ethics and accountability.

MACARTHUR'S HISTORY IN NIGERIA

The Foundation has worked in Nigeria for nearly 30 years in a variety of fields, including population and reproductive health, secondary and higher education, criminal justice, and human rights. The Foundation 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 grantmaking in the country.



MORE INFORMATION

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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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