FOLLOW THE MONEY REPORT (QUARTER 1, 2017)

FOLLOWTHEMONEYNG.ORG
EXECUTIVE

SUMMARY
Since 2012, through Follow The Money Initiative, we have been across Nigerian states tracking and monitoring the implementation of capital funds intended for rural communities in the thematic areas of education, environment and health. Through our work, we have built the capacity of rural community members, engaged governmental implementing agencies, organized town hall meetings, ensured open financial government, carried out budget advocacy and analysis, and created far-reaching awareness on the new and old media. This report presents our campaigns in the first quarter of 2017 in several rural communities across Abia, Anambra, Benue, Edo, Gombe, Imo, Kaduna, Kebbi and Plateau States.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

QUARTERLY MEDIA REACH
2,100,000

FACEBOOK
100,000

TWITTER
2,000,000

COMMUNITY PLATFORM
400 IN 36 STATES OF NIGERIA

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#BUILDUZEBU

EDO STATE, NIGERIA

In January 2017, we kicked off the #BuildUzehbu Campaign after examining the 2016 Federal Ministry of Health’s Appropriation and realized that NGN 24.5 million ($80,328) was budgeted for the Construction of Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) at Uzehbu community in Oredo LGA of Edo State with the implementation agency being the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA).

We visited the community and found out that there was no sort of implementation of the fund at the community. This prompted us to send out Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to the implementing agencies, the NPHCDA and Edo State Primary Health Care Agency (SPHCDA) demanding answers to why there is no ongoing implementation. Our requests were not replied.

Our community cluster lead in Edo, John Eromosele, co-organized a town hall meeting with the Ezomo 11 of Uzehbu, with governmental stakeholders in attendance. A major outcome was the formation of a six-man committee that will follow up on the fund/project and make sure the project is actualized and done according to specifications.

bit.ly/BuildUzehbu

ON MARBLE

"The construction of a government PHC is welcomed. Uzehbu is a community with over 20,000 residents and I believe this project would enable community members access health care and jobs"

EZOMO 11 OF UZEBU

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In Kebbi, we started tracking the NGN 20 million ($65,574) earmarked by the NPHCDA on the 2016 budget for the construction of a PHC at Birnin Tudu, Augie LGA. Our aim was to ensure that the PHC is built for the rural community members in order to provide adequate healthcare services to them.

Our community cluster in Kebbi, led by Kabiru Garba visited the community (Birnin Tudu) and found out that there was an already abandoned PHC facility construction that was appropriated on the 2014 budget. Hence no new construction was taking place. This prompted us to send out FOI requests to the implementing agencies, NPHCDA and the Kebbi SPHCDA to know the status of the project. None of them got back.

Our findings during the town hall meeting showed that no one from NPHCDA or even a contractor has come to the community since June 2016 till date. To that effect, a committee with the mandate to meet with relevant stakeholders on the project from the state up to the national office of the NPHCDA was set up.

**ON MARBLE**

“A site was given to the government for the construction of a PHC since 2014 and it has been abandoned, while in June 2016 people from the SPHCDA visited the site. We are yet to hear from them and also not aware of the NGN 20 million appropriated for the construction of a new one”

**ALH. MUHAMMED SANI**
Village Head


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#ERECTLAMBA

PLATEAU, NIGERIA

A campaign in Plateau State through which we tracked NGN 14.2 million budgeted for the construction of a PHC at Lamba District of Wase LGA, Plateau State with the implementation agency being the NPHCDA.

Our community cluster in Plateau, led by Preston Obadan visited the community to find out if the implementation of the project has started and to our utmost surprise, we found out that there was no ongoing construction nor a site approved for constructing the PHC. The Hakimi of the Village also highlighted that he gave out a piece of land for the construction of a 2 bedroom quarters for staff of the only referral healthcare centre in the district which is 20 minutes away from the closest village, three years ago. The updates prompted us to send FOI requests to the implementing agencies, NPHCDA and the Plateau SPHCCA demanding answers over the delay in the implementation of the NGN 14.2 million. They did not get back.

A town hall meeting was organized to provide a forum to address questions and the reason why the PHC facility hasn’t been constructed in the community. A major outcome of the meeting was the State Ministry of Health’s offer to collaborate with the community and Follow The Money to locate the whereabouts of the funds and ensure the project implementation.

ON MARBLE

"The Local Government has the poorest health support and its leaders aren’t of much help as time and over again we have reached out to the Chairman and Perm.
Sec State Ministry of Health but have been stood up on the set date of such meetings. We are open to sharing data with Follow The Money.”

Mr. MUSA
Representative of WHO

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IMO, NIGERIA

In November 2016, the FollowTheMoney Team examined the 2016 Federal Ministry of Water Resources’ Appropriation. It was disclosed that NGN 10 million ($30,000) was budgeted for the construction of a motorized borehole at Umuduru Anyanwu Dim Na Nume Isu, Nwangele LGA in Imo State, with the implementation agency being the Anambra Imo River Basin Development Authority (AIRBDA).

Our community cluster in Imo, led by Clinton Ezeigwe embarked on an on-site visitation to Umuduru Anyanwu to know if the implementation of the NGN 10 million water project has started. It was found out that the borehole contractor arrived the community sometime in mid-December, 2016 with some representatives from AIRBDA, and a site was shown to them.

A Freedom of Information request was sent out to the implementing agency and a town hall meeting was equally held where it was confirmed that the NGN 10 million has not been released to the AIRBDA and that the contractor mobilized himself and started, and when he found out funds were not coming, he pulled off. The representative of AIRBDA promised to prioritize the project once funds have been released to them.

ON MARBLE

“We have to resort to a pit dug hole which stores water from the flood, allowed to settled, fetched and put alum (a tablet chemical used for purifying water) for use”

COMMUNITY MEMBER

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bit.ly/WaterUmuduruAnyanwu
In Gombe State, we tracked the NGN 20 million ($65,574) which was earmarked on the 2016 budget by the Ministry of Education for the building and furnishing of 2 blocks of classrooms in Tongo 2 Primary School, Tongo, Funakaye Local Government.

On 11 February 2017, our community cluster in the state, led by Alhaji Muazu were at Tongo to investigate whether the construction of the classrooms has started. It was found that while construction had not started, the school of 200 students has no toilet and source of water supply. The number of functioning classrooms were only 2.

A town hall meeting was organized where in attendance were government personnel who stated that they were not aware of the appropriation, including the representative of the Universal Basic Education Commission. After extensive advocacy on the new and traditional media and FOI requests to the State Ministry of Education, on 26 April 2017, Tongo 2 Primary school headmaster called our community champion to inform him that work started on the site. By May 2017, the construction of the 2 school blocks which has 4 classrooms was completed.

bit.ly/FurnishTongo

ON MARBLE

"I’m in this community for a very long time, I know all your personal and political differences, please put them aside. From my point of view and details given, as well as evidence presented by the project assistant, this organization has no political motive toward this and this is developmental and a welcomed idea."

Representative of the Nigeria Police Force

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#EDUCATEIKPAYONGO

BENUE, NIGERIA

The Roman Catholic Mission Primary School Ikpayongo is a primary school located in Gwer East Local Government of Benue State. The school has a total population of 456 students studying in 9 classrooms with 6 teachers. The primary school has a student to class ratio of 50 to 1 which surpasses the UNESCO recommended 40 to 1.

Also, a ground truthing investigation by our community cluster lead in the state revealed to us that some students were seen studying without chairs and tables under deteriorated classrooms condition. We then started advocating for the provision of a serene learning environment and furnishing of the school as part of our quarterly education campaign.

We sent advocacy letters to the major stakeholders to advocate for the rehabilitation of the school and during a townhall meeting which was held at Ikpayongo to discuss the state of the school and likely government intervention. we learnt that that the State Government intends to return all RCM schools back to their owners, and concentrate on repairing its own schools. Its believed the school will be fixed once this is done.

ON MARBLE

"I am not happy to watch the pupils as they sit on the floor to study"

ZAKI POWER I KYOIVE
The Ortar of Mbasombor

bit.ly/EducateIkpayongo

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Lessons learnt

Within the quarter, we became concerned about the security of our community reporters who often go to rural communities with several security risks. During the town hall meeting on #FurnishTongo, our community reporter was threatened by the Madaki of the community and warned to make the town hall meeting its first and the last as the leader claimed we gathered their elders for baseless information gathering.

This was over the politicization of the town hall meeting following the attendance of several politicians and our community reporter was misinterpreted as a partisan fellow. It took the explanations of our community reporter and the intervention of the representative police officer to calm the situation. The latter commented, "I’m in this community for a very long time. I know all your personal and political differences please put your personal and political differences aside. From my point of view and details explanation and evidence presented by the project assistant of this organization has no political motive toward this and this is developmental and a welcome idea."

We have seen the need of inviting policemen during our town hall meetings to ensure adequate security and de-incentivize the politicization of such important gathering.
RESOURCES

Nigeria Info FM programme on injustice in the health sector, as well as our health campaigns in various rural communities. The recording can be found here.

Newspoint Newspaper, a domestic daily in Imo State reported our #WaterUmuduruAnyanwu town hall meeting. Find the story here.

Nigeria Info FM programme in partnership with Procurement Monitor discussing about community engagement with respect to the expectations of rural community members from primary healthcare facilities and using the platform to highlight our health campaigns in various rural communities. The recording can be found here.

Nigeria Info FM programme, in partnership with the Centre for Democracy and Development examining the performance of the Buhari led government on the health sector. Our healthcare campaigns in rural communities were also discussed during the show. Find the recording here.

Ahmed Bello, the Representative of Tongo 2 Primary School giving an opening remark on the town hall meeting in Tongo. Find here.

Follow the Money community reporter in Tongo organized a town hall meeting for the #FurnishTongo campaign which featured the major stakeholders in the community and a Special Assistant to Hon Yaya Bauchi, find here.

Interviewing of Mrs. Apeher Lucy on the #EducateLkpayongo Campaign in Benue State, find here.

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