

Project summary

1. GENERAL INFORMATION	
Name of the project: Improving engagement and communication amongst NNNGO and its members	
National platform(s): Nigeria Network of NGOs	
Acronym(s): NNNGO	Number of members: 2710
Intervention country/ies: Nigeria	
Start and end dates: November 2018 to December 2019	Project duration: 14 months
Total amount of the project in euro: 20,878 €	Total amount of the project funded by Forus: 17,020 €
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT	
<p>Presentation of the project:</p> <p>The project aimed to improve engagement between Nigeria Network of NGOs and its members across Nigeria by enhancing a two-way communication between the NNNGO secretariat and its members; strengthen capacity of civil society organisations in the country on identified gaps through a capacity assessment tool; and strengthen accountability and transparency of civil society organisations in line with the Istanbul Principles through the adoption of a standard operational manual.</p>	
<p>Main achievements during the project:</p> <p>Through the communication tool assessment activity of the project, the Network is better informed of its members communication preferences and is now able to use this in improving communication with the 2,710 organisations within its membership. Sensitized the nonprofit community on the Istanbul principles and its benefits. Developed a nonprofit assessment tool (NOPSAT) that led to the development and publication of the first ever sector-wide capacity needs assessment report. Using findings from this report, an operational manual was developed to help nonprofits address these gaps. The manual was used in delivering workshops on governance, strategy, project management, sustainability and human resources across the country.</p>	
<p>Who are the stakeholders targeted by the project and which were the mechanisms for their participation?</p> <p>The project stakeholders are civil society organisations within the NNNGO membership, nonprofits following our social media pages and by extension those with affiliation to our members. They participated through online consultations, survey, workshops, evaluations and information sharing through newsletters and our social media pages.</p>	
3. IMPACT OF THE PROJECT	
<p>Please describe the impact of the project in terms of capacity building</p> <p>The project successfully identified nonprofit capacity gaps and organised 3 workshops in 3 geopolitical zones to build capacity of member-organisations based on these identified gaps. Capacities of 300 organisations from across the 6 geopolitical zones of the country were built on nonprofit governance, strategy and structure; human resources and administration; programme management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; financial management and sustainability. More focus was placed on organizational sustainability through grant proposal writing training whilst linking other capacity areas as criteria for assessing grants. It re-affirmed the need for organizational transparency and having the right governance model to attract the right resources.</p>	
<p>Did the project have a concrete impact on public policies?</p> <p>The project impacts on government policies relating to nonprofit regulation. Nonprofits participating throughout the project activities are better informed on existing regulations and how they affect their operations, including systems and processes they need to put in place to ensure sustainability and improve</p>	

organisational transparency. It further helps to improve regulatory compliance and to ensure that the civic space remains open and enabling.

What are the potential long-term impacts of the project? What continuity will be given to the project?

The capacity needs assessment tool and report produced by the project will serve as baseline for a sector-wide capacity assessment that will be updated and published every 5 years. The operational manual developed based on findings from the capacity assessment is developed as a living document that will continue to be relevant to the sector and will only be updated with new information and strategies as they become available and relevant for our time.

4. RELATION WITH FORUS

To what extent has the project contributed to strengthening the Forus' network?

The project helps to strengthen the activities of NNNGO- a member of the Forus Network thereby making the Forus Network stronger and relevant. The project helps in meeting the vision and mission of Forus and in helping its members secure resources that they would not have been able to attract on their own. Lessons from the project implementation will be useful to the Forus Network and can be adapted by its members.

What was the added value of Forus' support to this project?

The funding support by Forus was instrumental to the milestones achieved. The support for the identification and payment of an online accounting software to capture project spending and financial management is an important value add, that has now led to the development of an online app by the Network's ICT team making use of the Excel accounting software.

Have you produced a deliverable that could be useful for other Forus members?

Our nonprofit assessment tool and operational manual are useful tools that can be adapted by Forus members.

What are your recommendations for platforms wishing to implement a similar project in the future?

A regularly updated membership database is important to the success of a project such as this. Sufficient staff capacity in the areas of research, project management, planning and delivery of workshops including ICTs is an imperative. Investments in mailings lists to track click, bounce and open rates, Bulk SMS and telephone communications, all help in aiding effective project communications and feedback among beneficiaries. Ensure workshops are delivered in different parts of the country using a transparent selection procedure verifiable online.