



OXFAM



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
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POWER VOICES PARTNERSHIPS

Project Brief

Fair for All | African Activists for Climate Justice Project

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This brief was developed to deepen public understanding of gender equality challenges in conflict-affected regions, share lessons from the Power of Voices Partnerships Project, and inform inclusive, gender-responsive development programming and policymaking. For further information on the issues raised in this brief, please contact:

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COVER PAGE

A group of cheerful women gathered in a community in Rivers State after their VSLA meeting concluded.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam



**For photo gallery section, T - Top photo; B - Bottom photo*



Foreword

Amplifying Voices, driving Systemic Change

Nigeria stands at a critical juncture where the demand for accountable governance intersects with the urgent reality of the climate crisis. Over the past five years (2021–2025), the Power of Voices Partnership (PVP) has been Oxfam in Nigeria's strategic response to these dual challenges. Through the Fair for All (F4A) and African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) projects, we embarked on a journey not just to deliver strategic support but to shift power.

This report tells the story of that shift. It documents how communities, once sidelined in discussions about the resources beneath their feet, are now negotiating directly with extractive industries and state governments. It chronicles how young people and women in frontline communities have moved from being vulnerable victims of climate change to becoming the architects of their own adaptation plans and the drivers of legislative reform.

The success of the PVP program lies in its name: Partnership. We recognized early on that systemic change cannot be achieved in isolation. It requires a vibrant ecosystem of civil society organizations, fearless investigative journalists, dedicated policymakers, and, most importantly, engaged citizens. The results presented in these pages, from the establishment of Host Community Development Trusts to the historic increases in state-level climate budgets, are true highlights of the strength of this consortium.

We are profoundly grateful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands for their unwavering support and shared vision. Their investment has allowed us to protect civic space when it was most under threat and to amplify voices that had been silenced for too long.

As we reflect on these achievements, we look to the future with renewed resolve. The structures we have built together, the civic clubs, the budget monitoring groups, and the climate coalitions, are not temporary project outputs; they stand as permanent guardians of Nigeria's democratic and environmental future.

John Makina

Country Director, Oxfam in Nigeria

Acronyms & Abbreviations

AACJ – African Activists for Climate Justice

AI – Artificial Intelligence

AYC – African Youth Commission

BO – Beneficial Ownership

BoT – Board of Trustees

CBO – Community Based Organisation

CISLAC – Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre

CODE – Connected Development

CRR – Climate Risk Register

CsDevNet – Climate and Sustainable Development Network

CSO – Civil Society Organisation EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment

EITI – Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

EVA – Education as a Vaccine

F4A – Fiscal Accountability and Inequality Reduction for All

FCT – Federal Capital Territory

FEMNET – African Women's Development and Communication Network

FOIA – Freedom of Information Act

FPIC – Free, Prior and Informed Consent

GAP – Good Agronomical Practices

GIFSEP – Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation

HCDT – Host Community Development Trust

HEDA – HEDA Resource Centre

ICCDI – International Climate Change Development Initiative

ICPC – Independent Corrupt Practices Commission

MDAs – Ministries, Departments and Agencies

MSMEs – Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

NASNECJ – Nasarawa State Network on Environment and Climate Justice

NBS – Nature-Based Solutions

NCCC – National Council on Climate Change

NDCs – Nationally Determined Contributions

NDEBUMOG – Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group

NEITI – Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

NUPRC – Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission

NUJ – Nigeria Union of Journalists

NYSC – National Youth Service Corps

PACJA – Pan African Climate Justice Alliance

PIA – Petroleum Industry Act

PVP – Power of Voices Partnership

PWDs – Persons With Disabilities

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme

VSLA – Village Savings and Loan Association

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Acronyms & Abbreviations

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African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) Nigeria

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Executive Summary

The Power of Voices Partnership (PVP) programme in Nigeria, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, implemented through the Fair for All (F4A) and African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) projects, has played an important role in strengthening accountability systems, expanding civic participation, advancing gender inclusion, and supporting climate justice actions across the country. Both projects used a multi-stakeholder approach that combined community engagement, policy advocacy, media influence, capacity building, and strategic partnerships at state and national levels. This approach created opportunities for citizens, especially women and young people, to participate more confidently in governance and influence decisions that affect their daily lives. This combined report presents the key achievements, lessons, challenges, and sustainability prospects of the F4A (2021–2025) and AACJ (2021–2025) interventions in Nigeria. Over the five-year period, the PVP program significantly expanded civic space by promoting transparency, defending fundamental freedoms, and strengthening networks that protect human rights. The projects supported frontline communities affected by extractive activities and climate impacts by providing practical tools, platforms for engagement, and access to information. Women and youth became more empowered, gaining leadership skills and opportunities to participate directly in accountability processes and public policy discussions.

Across both projects, communities gained a stronger understanding of their rights, improved their ability to monitor public budgets, and became active contributors to oversight of public service delivery. The interventions advanced reforms in extractive governance, fiscal justice, environmental protection, climate adaptation, gender-responsive policymaking, and youth leadership. Milestones such as the establishment and strengthening of Host Community Development Trusts, the expansion of Freedom of Information Coalitions, the passage of state climate change laws, and the adoption of community-led climate risk registers demonstrate tangible and lasting progress.

The PVP program also strengthened the capacity of civil society organizations, journalists, traditional and community leaders, teachers, school clubs, women's groups, and climate activists to promote transparency, environmental justice, and inclusive governance. Engagements with state and federal institutions helped build political commitment, opened new avenues for collaboration, and secured long-term policy and financial commitments, including historic increases in state climate budgets.

Overall, this report highlights how the PVP Partnerships helped establish durable structures, networks, and knowledge systems that continue to support civic participation and accountability. The results demonstrate that sustained community engagement, coordinated civil society action, and inclusive policy advocacy can meaningfully shift governance outcomes. By combining local voices with national and international advocacy, the PVP program has contributed to a stronger foundation for transparent governance, social inclusion, climate resilience, and long-term systemic change in Nigeria.



Caption: A group of women sit around a table with a wooden savings box. A young woman in a yellow and white dress stands behind them, looking on.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

Project Overview

Under F4A, over 1,500 federal projects were reviewed by women-led budget groups, revealing diversion and non-implementation cases, including a ₦200 million solar streetlight project diverted from rural communities to Uyo city. The project also facilitated the establishment of three new Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) and catalyzed a landmark legislative proposal in Akwa Ibom to dedicate 10% of the state's 13% derivation fund to HCDTs, potentially increasing annual community development financing by several billions of naira. F4A's youth civic clubs expanded across multiple states, with students winning state competitions, launching recycling initiatives, and developing Nigeria's first "Civic Anthem and Pledge." Women's inclusion expanded, including the first-ever appointment of two women to a Rivers State HCDT board and the establishment of more than 20 Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) to strengthen financial resilience.

1.1 Project Summary



A lady standing and holding a book in Ketbetkache office in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

The Fair for All (F4A) Project, a five-year initiative implemented under the Power of Voices Partnership, strengthened transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance across Nigeria's extractive sector, civic space, and fiscal systems.

Through advocacy, capacity building, community mobilization, and multi-stakeholder engagement, the project empowered communities with knowledge of their rights, expanded women's participation in decision-making, and improved citizens' ability to influence how public resources are managed.

Over the 2021–2025 period, F4A facilitated key policy reforms, promoted civic participation, strengthened women's inclusion, advanced climate justice initiatives, and contributed to improved resource governance at national and sub-national levels.

Significant progress was recorded: communities gained greater control over extractive governance through the establishment of new Host Community Development Trusts and the submission of a landmark bill in Akwa Ibom proposing a dedicated 10 percent allocation of derivation funds to these trusts. Women entered governance structures previously closed to them, youth-led civic clubs evolved into sustainable platforms for civic education, and women's budget groups strengthened fiscal accountability by reviewing over 1,500 federal projects and exposing cases of diversion and non-implementation.

The project's success was fundamentally rooted in its strategic partnership model, which systematically deployed the complementary expertise of five leading Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): CISLAC, CODE, BudgIT, NDEBUMOG, and Ketbetkache to ensure holistic policy influence and grassroots accountability. This consortium translated complex national legislation, such as the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), into tangible community power, setting durable precedents for fiscal justice and inclusive governance.

Overall, the Fair for All Project has laid a strong foundation for long-term systemic change by empowering citizens, elevating women and youth voices, strengthening accountability systems, and connecting national reforms to tangible community benefits across Nigeria.



A close-up shot of a person's hand using a key to unlock a metal savings box, highlighting the secure nature of the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

1.2 Strategic Context & Leveraging Reforms

The Oxfam in Nigeria's Fair for All (F4A) project, which runs from 2021 to 2025, aims to enhance civil society's role in ensuring a transparent, accountable, and equitable distribution of wealth derived from the extractive industry. Targeting marginalized groups, including women, youth, ethnic minorities, and informal workers, the project empowers these populations to advocate for improved regulatory frameworks, combat tax evasion, and promote respect for human rights and environmental protections in business operations. Funded primarily by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Power of Voices subsidy framework, the initiative is led by Oxfam Novib within a consortium framework.

Nigeria faces significant economic and governance challenges, exacerbated by high food prices, inflation, and mismanagement of public resources. A staggering 63% of Nigerians are classified as multidimensionally poor, reflecting the dire circumstances wherein poor households expend a large percentage of their income on escalating food costs. Concurrently, widespread corruption undermines public service delivery, with Nigeria scoring just 26 on Transparency International's 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index, ranking it 140th out of 180 countries. This pervasive corruption has diminished trust in government and left many citizens unable to benefit from the nation's natural wealth.

The environmental risks associated with the extractive industry, particularly in the oil-rich Niger Delta, compound these socio-economic problems. Continuous oil spills and gas flaring have caused severe environmental damage, harming the livelihoods of farming and fishing communities. Recent flooding events have intensified local demands for land rights and support for adaptation measures to counter climate risks.

Simultaneously, civic space in Nigeria is under threat from restrictive laws and regulatory changes that hinder media freedom and expression. Amendments to the broadcasting act and the suspension of platforms such as Twitter reflect an aggressive clampdown on critical voices. Growing intolerance towards dissent following the 2023 elections has resulted in harassment of journalists and curtailment of citizens' rights to protest.

In response to these challenges, the F4A project works closely with oil-producing states to leverage recent policy reforms, fostering citizen engagement in governance. The initiative promotes a more inclusive and accountable political framework by forging connections among women to empower economic independence and mobilizing community voices in policymaking processes.

Since its inception, F4A has successfully established advocacy networks and budget-monitoring groups that link grassroots leaders with federal revenue discussions. Training programs for civil society organizations on policy analysis and social accountability, especially regarding the new Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), have been crucial in enabling these groups to demand greater oversight of tax and oil revenues. By integrating gender and climate considerations into governance frameworks, F4A aims to translate national reforms into tangible local benefits.



A group of cheerful women gathered in a community in Rivers State after their VSLA meeting concluded.
Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

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1.2.1 Leveraging Nigeria's Reforms

The project advanced reforms across Nigeria's extractive, fiscal, climate, and gender-justice landscapes. The project is actively strengthening community rights under the Petroleum Industry Act, expanding fiscal transparency, pushing fair and equitable tax reforms, and reinforcing gender-responsive climate action.

Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) Implementation:

Supported understanding and enforcement of the 2021 PIA, especially Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs). Trained communities across six states on how HCDTs function and used the FollowTheMoney radio series to demand full implementation. Worked with legislators and companies, including backing advocacy in Akwa Ibom, where the Ekid Trust proposed a bill for 10% monthly derivation funds for HCDTs, turning PIA commitments into actionable policies.

Fiscal Transparency & Beneficial Ownership (BO):

Promoted the use of Nigeria's public BO registry to reveal the true owners of extractive companies. Worked with partners like Publish What You Pay to curb illicit practices, trained activists to file Freedom of Information requests, and pushed for oil contract disclosure. Compared Nigeria's reforms with global models through exchanges with Ghana and organizations like Oxfam and Global Witness.

National Tax Reform Advocacy:

Engaged Nigeria's 2024–25 tax reforms, co-organizing a national tax summit with the Presidential Tax Reform Committee. Presented memos urging fair taxation, wealth redistribution, and better revenue management. Advocacy influenced four draft tax-reform bills and highlighted burdens on poor Nigerians, including ending illegal double taxation on small traders and reducing impacts on women in the informal sector.

Gender-Responsive Climate Policy:

Applied Nigeria's 2020 National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change by training officials and communities to use it in budgeting and project design. Convened women leaders, such as the African Women Climate Assembly, with 150 delegates from 14 countries, to push the government to prioritize women's needs and channel climate finance to women's groups.

Climate Accountability & Community Justice:

Connected extractive reform to climate justice by scrutinising policies like Nigeria's adoption of natural gas as a transition fuel. Through a Climate Accountability and Finance study, emphasized aligning such policies with net-zero goals and community restoration. Highlighted grassroots climate actions such as the Niger Delta Women's Day of Action to demand pollution cleanup and investment in resilience.

1.3 Implementing Partners & Stakeholders



BudgIT Foundation is a Nigerian civic-tech organization that promotes fiscal transparency by utilizing technology and data analysis to simplify complex government budgets and public spending. Through its accessible tools, BudgIT enables citizens to track public projects and hold the government accountable, fostering participatory governance and institutional reform.

BudgIT Foundation



Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) serves as a vital bridge between civil society and the legislature. CISLAC is dedicated to strengthening governance by conducting policy research, building capacity for both civil society groups and policymakers, and actively advocating for transparency, anti-corruption measures, and strong governance practices.

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)



Connected Development (CODE) is a key grassroots partner known for its "FollowTheMoney" initiative. This organization empowers marginalized communities to demand accountability by tracking public funds allocated to community-level projects. CODE uses citizen reporting, data, and direct advocacy to drive improved outcomes in areas like education, gender equity, and the environment.

Connected Development (CODE)



Kebetskache Women Development & Resource Centre is a community-based women's rights organization operating in the Niger Delta. Kebetskache centers its work on gender equality and environmental justice, mobilizing rural women through research, advocacy, and capacity building on peace, security, and good governance.

Kebetskache Women Development & Resource Centre



Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group (NDEBUMOG) specializes in fiscal justice and budget tracking, with a specific focus on the Niger Delta region. NDEBUMOG builds economic literacy in local communities, conducts shadow budgeting, monitors illicit financial flows, and campaigns vigorously for participatory budgeting and accountable spending in the extractive sector.

Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group (NDEBUMOG)

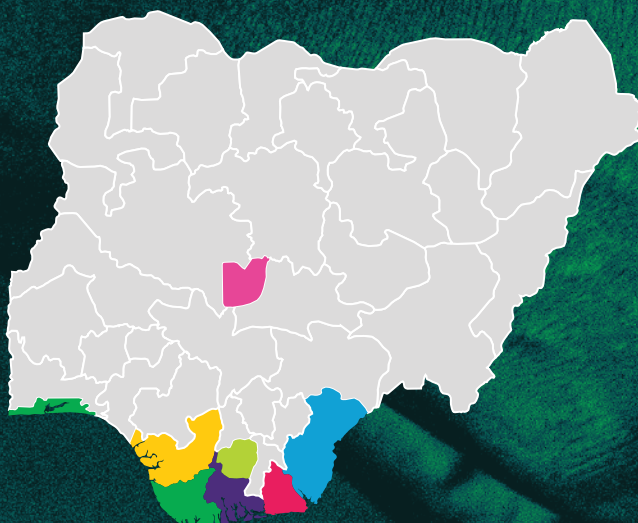


1.3.1 Primary stakeholders , rightsholders & Institutional stakeholders :

- | | |
|---|--|
| I. Host communities in Rivers, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Imo, FCT, and Cross River | I. Federal Ministry of Environment |
| II. Tax Justice and Governance Platform (TJGP) across 19 states in Nigeria | II. Nigeria Human Rights Commission |
| III. Women and youth groups, especially those in extractive communities | III. National Assembly and state houses of assembly |
| IV. Civic clubs (students, teachers, patrons/matrons) | IV. Local government authorities |
| V. Local CSOs, CBOs, media practitioners, and investigative journalists | V. National Union of Journalists |
| VI. Women Shadow Budget Groups | VI. Dutch Embassy, Publish What You Pay, Centre-LSD, EITI network partners, Ghana EITI, others |
| VII. FOIA Coalitions | |
| VIII. HCDT members and community leaders | |
| IX. MSMEs and informal economy actors | |
| X. Village Savings and Loan Association Group | |

2.0 Geographic Scope of Implementation

The fair for all project was implemented across these states:



Nigeria map with highlighted states representing project implementation zones.

Some cross-border activities engaged African partners from 14 countries during regional convenings.



An official Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) member passbook, with group names and member numbers visible on the cover.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

3.0 Key Activities Implemented

“F4A’s strategies are generating tangible progress toward a more inclusive and accountable Nigeria.”

3.1 Institutionalizing Extractive Governance

The first critical pillar of F4A's success focused on democratizing the extractive sector, a complex effort championed primarily by partners with regional depth: Connected Development (CODE), Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group (NDEBUMOG), and Kebetkache Women Development & Resource Centre. These organizations were instrumental in translating the abstract provisions of the PIA into operational, accountable governance structures at the Host Community Development Trust (HCDT) level. CODE, leveraging its grassroots mobilization structure, led the capacity development component, ensuring HCDT members across four states gained a comprehensive understanding of development plans and needs assessments by 2025. This specialized training (Pathway 3) was pivotal in shifting HCDT's focus from passive fund reception to proactive social investment planning.

Complementing this, NDEBUMOG achieved a profound victory for local financial autonomy: its regional advocacy contributed to the BoT Chairman of the Ekid HCDT submitting a bill to the Akwa Ibom State Assembly in 2024 to guarantee a 10% monthly allocation of the state's 13% derivation fund to all HCDTs. This action represents a successful attempt to institutionalize local funding beyond the mandated 3% settlor contribution, significantly enhancing the sustainability of local development (Pathway 4). Furthermore, the long-term advocacy by partners like Kebetkache, focused on gender justice, resulted in the pivotal appointment of two women to a Rivers State Host Community Trust board in 2024, successfully breaching a traditionally male-dominated domain and ensuring that women's priorities are integrated into community decision-making. These outcomes collectively demonstrate the partners' ability to secure high-level regulatory amendments, such as the NUPRC amendment in 2024, achieved by CODE's advocacy while simultaneously driving grassroots structural inclusion.

3.2 Driving National Fiscal Reforms

The second strategic pillar involved advancing fiscal transparency and reforming Nigeria's regressive tax system. Pathway 4 was led by the specialized expertise of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and BudgIT Foundation, supported by citizen-led oversight from NDEBUMOG. Operating at the national policy level, CISLAC steered the advocacy that contributed to the inclusion of new provisions in draft tax laws by 2025, specifically designed to combat illegal multiple taxation on small traders. This achievement directly addresses the economic hardship faced by vulnerable groups and validates the project's assumption that fiscal reforms enable more productive economies. accountable for resource management.

CISLAC's engagement prompted the Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC) to act on transparency in fiscal and extractive resource governance in 2021, demonstrating successful influence over national accountability structures. At the sub-national level, BudgIT played a key role by helping 45 communities in Delta State prepare 5-year Community Development Plans in 2024. This effort ensured that community spending was based on long-term planning. Additionally, Women Shadow Budget Groups supported by NDEBUMOG exposed the non-implementation of a streetlight project in Akwa Ibom, demonstrating the effectiveness of empowering citizens in oversight roles to hold government agencies

3.3 Cultivating Civic Space Resilience

The third indispensable component of the F4A project focused on safeguarding and expanding civic space under Pathway 3, a collaborative effort essential in a declining democratic climate. CODE took the lead in cultivating future civic leaders through the establishment of "Civic Clubs" in secondary schools. These student groups became "Civic Champions" actively engaged in environmental and civic issues, resulting in a Delta State Legislator committing to sponsoring a radio program for them in 2024, thereby institutionalizing a platform for youth voice.

The consortium collaborated to establish the Nigeria Civic Space Protection Alliance (NCSPA), which issued a statement in 2023 calling on elected officials to safeguard the country's civic space.

This collective action served as a crucial national watchdog and validated the project's core Theory of Change assumption that collaboration between diverse civil society groups, using a mix of insider and outsider strategies, is effective in mitigating risks within restricted civic spaces.

The partners also collectively championed the multi-state FOI Coalition in states like Imo, Akwa Ibom, and Cross River, ensuring that the legal tools for transparency are continuously pushed for domestication and effective utilization by journalists and citizens.

3.4 Building Accountability & Inclusion

F4A's strategies are generating tangible progress toward a more inclusive and accountable Nigeria. By late 2024, the project recorded concrete wins: two women were appointed to the board of a Rivers State Host Community Trust, breaking longstanding male dominance, and CSOs supported by F4A drafted a legislative proposal in Akwa Ibom to dedicate a fixed 10% of derivation funds to local trusts. These interventions are institutionalizing community oversight.

In civic education, student civic clubs are actively taking ownership of advocacy, while women's budget groups are interrogating government spending with growing confidence. In the extractives sector, F4A's influence is evident in the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act and in ongoing monitoring of its implementation.

F4A also integrates gender and climate justice into all outcomes. Women are now actively participating in governance tables, from trust boards to budget councils, and are trained to demand cleanup of oil spills, flood-relief support, and agricultural programming that reflects their needs. Workshops and national dialogues ensure that Nigeria's climate commitments, such as gender-sensitive NDCs and action plans, are anchored in local realities.



In sum, F4A has become a catalyst linking national reform with grassroots power. Through civic clubs, media campaigns like FollowTheMoney, FOI tools, and strategic alliances, ordinary Nigerians are navigating and influencing complex policies, from the PIA to tax laws to climate plans. Momentum is visible in new bills and programs, strengthened community networks, and a growing culture of accountability, illustrating how informed public engagement can turn legal reforms into tangible benefits for communities.



Group of women seated on chairs during a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) meeting.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

Gallery



Participants at the 2023 FAIR4ALL media colloquium.

Photo: Jide Ojediran/Oxfam



Participants at the 2023 FAIR4ALL media colloquium.

Photo: Jide Ojediran/Oxfam



Representative of Dutch Embassy, speaking at the 2023 FAIR4ALL media colloquium.

Photo: Jide Ojediran/Oxfam



F4A Team with the former Swedish Ambassador to Nigeria, at the Nigeria-Sweden friends parliament meeting 2025.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam



Chairperson, Presidential Committee on Tax and Fiscal Reforms, Taiwo Oyedele speaking at the 2024 National Tax Conference in Abuja.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam



F4A Team Lead presenting Taiwo Oyedele the 2024 Fair Tax Monitor report: Taxing The Rich.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam



FAIR FOR ALL PROJECT

A lady with a green and black dotted scarf smiling. She is the leader of digitally inclined Village Savings and Loan Association in Akwa Ibom State.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

4.0 Implementation Methods

The Fair for All (F4A) project utilized a multi-pronged approach based on Civic Engagement, Transparency Mechanisms, and Capacity Building to translate policy reforms into tangible local action

4.1 Participatory Civic Engagement

F4A grounded its implementation in grassroots participation and mobilization, targeting both formal and informal groups.

- **Youth Mobilization:** The project established dozens of civic clubs in secondary schools across the Niger Delta and Abuja, run by teachers and NYSC members. These clubs fostered citizenship through practical initiatives like recycling drives, clean-ups, and radio advocacy programs, successfully inspiring student-led campaigns on climate and gender issues in states like Cross River.
- **Accountability Tracking:** F4A mobilized citizen groups, especially women and youth, to conduct budget monitoring via “shadow budget” teams. By early 2025, women’s budget groups had identified nearly 1,500 federal community projects for monitoring, significantly promoting local ownership of accountability
- **Public Dialogue:** The project created essential platforms for direct engagement, organizing town-hall meetings in oil-host communities to facilitate direct conversations between citizens, government officials, and companies on service delivery and PIA implementation
- **Media Amplification:** F4A’s media strategy, including the popular FollowTheMoney series on radio and TV, reached an estimated 10 million Nigerians, raising awareness of governance issues. Specialized youth-trained media teams accessed conflict-prone and hard-to-reach communities.



A lady opening a metal Village Savings and Loan Association Box.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

4.2 Strengthening Transparency Mechanisms

Transparency tools and policy adoption were central to F4A’s efforts to open up the extractive sector.

- **Freedom of Information (FOI) Act Utilization:** F4A trained activists, journalists, and community groups to leverage the FOI Act for requesting data on contracts, budgets, and public projects. This led to the creation of a multi-state FOI Coalition across Imo, Akwa Ibom, and Cross River to aggressively push for the domestication of FOI laws at the state level.
- **Extractive Sector Disclosure:** F4A actively strengthened transparency by collaborating with the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) and engaging in knowledge-sharing with regional partners (like civil society groups in Ghana) on best practices for beneficial ownership (BO) and human rights standards in business.



4.3 Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships

F4A's third pillar focused on strengthening grassroots actors' skills and leveraging alliances to amplify community voices.

Targeted Training: Extensive training sessions were conducted for civil society, community groups, and public officials on key skills, including social accountability, data analysis, climate policy, and budget advocacy. For example, BudgIT's workshops generated impactful reports on gas flaring payments, while CISLAC's training sparked dialogues on fiscal policy and interstate trade barriers. These efforts enhanced the ability of grassroots actors, particularly women and youth, to understand complex budgets and tax rules.

- **CSO and Institutional Alliances:** F4A strategically convened diverse CSOs, including women's groups (like Kebetkache), anti-corruption coalitions, and technical NGOs, into joint campaigns. It also forged national alliances with institutions like the Federal Ministry of Environment and international bodies (e.g., EITI, UNEP, UNDP).
- **Elevating Community Concerns:** These partnerships successfully elevated local issues to high-level platforms. F4A facilitated a delegation of community leaders to raise gas flaring issues at the NEITI Council, and the project gained commitments from public officials, such as a Delta State lawmaker sponsoring a civic radio program.



Outcomes & Impacts

The reporting period recorded measurable progress across all seven thematic areas of the Power of Voices Partnership. Evidence from more than twelve states shows stronger youth leadership, improved community governance of extractive resources, expanded civic space, and increased women's participation in accountability and public decision-making. The section below highlights outcome-level changes backed by data from the project's implementation footprint.

5.1 Youth Civic Engagement & Leadership

Improved Knowledge, Leadership, and Recognition of Civic Champions

Across Akwa Ibom, FCT, Rivers, Delta, and Cross River, civic champions demonstrated increased capacity and ownership following CODE trainings:

Government Secondary School, Afaha Eket (Akwa Ibom)

Students received specialized AI training that prepared them for a three-part competition Hackathon, a Debate, and Quiz, where the Civic Club emerged as the overall winner among five participating schools in an event organized by Women Tech Makers Eket. After the win, students began leading peer conversations on environmental sustainability and civic responsibility, showing increased confidence and ownership of civic knowledge.

Model Girls Secondary School, Mbodo Aluu (Rivers)

Civic champions won first place in a state-wide debate competition on November 18, 2024, earning cash prizes, a trophy, and certificates. This achievement demonstrates strengthened critical thinking, research abilities, and public-speaking skills among students actively engaged in civic training.

National Civic Club Competition – Abuja (March 13, 2025)

The competition at Novare Mall featured participation from six schools across all implementing states and significantly elevated the visibility of civic clubs. The ICPC Chairman used the platform to publicly commit to a national partnership with civic clubs, donated

50,000 to the winning team, and later sent a formal proposal to CODE to establish Integrity Clubs nationwide, marking a major step toward national institutionalization of youth-led civic initiatives.

New Civic Clubs Formed

A patron trained by CODE, Mrs Macaulay Awele, established a new civic club at Osadennis Mixed School upon transferring schools. She utilized CODE's official documentation to secure principal approval, demonstrating the sustainability of the train-the-trainer model.

Youth-Led Community Actions

Environmental Stewardship: Civic champions at Big Quo Town, Calabar, executed a tree planting and environmental cleanup project.

Recycling Initiative (FCT): The Civic Club at GSS Tudun Wada launched a recycling program to collect and sell bottles to a verified recycler, promoting waste management and entrepreneurship.

Strengthened Teachers' Capacity

Following a 2-day teachers' retreat for 18 patrons and matrons, teachers co-developed a comprehensive 1-year Action Plan. This document now serves as the standard roadmap for activities, timelines, and monitoring across the clubs.

Youth Leadership Innovation

Civic champions at JSS Kubwa 1 developed the first-ever Civic Anthem and Pledge, which was publicly presented at the state-level competition in Abuja, symbolizing a deepened sense of civic identity.

5.2 Extractive Governance & HCDTs

The programme strengthened the community's ability to operationalize the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) and establish Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs). As a result of project-supported awareness sessions and dialogues:

- Three new HCDTs were established in Abana, Mbo, and Effiat communities.
- At least 70 percent of trained HCDT members demonstrated improved capacity to conduct needs assessments, development planning, and stakeholder communication.

A major governance milestone was achieved when the Ekid HCDT Board of Trustees Chair submitted a bill proposing that 10 percent of Akwa Ibom's 13 percent derivation funds be allocated to HCDTs, a reform that could increase predictable community funding by several billions annually.

These gains reflect a shift from limited PIA awareness in 2021 to active community-led governance structures capable of holding oil companies and state institutions accountable.

5.3 Civic Space Protection

Civil society actors strengthened their collective influence on civic space through coordinated action led by the Nigerian Civic Space Protection Alliance. With support from NDEBUMOG's training, the Alliance conducted advocacy engagements with state police commands in Akwa Ibom and in Rivers states. These visits resulted in formal commitments from Police Public Relations Officers to support civic space protection and to reduce harassment of activists and journalists.

In the last quarter of 2024, the Alliance released a widely publicised national civic space statement that condemned the ongoing restriction of civic freedoms and encouraged citizens to demand accountability. Media coverage amplified the statement to an estimated audience of more than 500,000 people, keeping human rights concerns in the public discourse.

These combined efforts contributed to a more enabling environment for civic actors and reduced risks faced by frontline advocates, particularly in states that have historically been difficult for civil society engagement.

5.4 Fiscal Accountability & Women-Led Oversight

Data-Driven Budget Monitoring

- Women Shadow Budget Groups in Rivers and Akwa Ibom extracted and reviewed over 1,500 projects from the 2024 federal budget using templates provided by NDEBUMOG.

Uncovering Project Irregularities

Monitoring efforts revealed significant discrepancies:

- Diversion: A 200 million solar street light project meant for rural communities was traced to urban areas (Uyo city).
- Abandonment: Road construction projects in Abak LGA and Ikot Nkwo were confirmed as unimplemented despite budget allocations.

Increased Women's Participation

Women previously excluded from fiscal governance processes are now actively extracting projects, identifying discrepancies, tracking implementation, and engaging MDAs to demand explanations.

5.5 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Domestication

Multi-State FOI Strategy

- The FOI Coalition across Delta, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Cross River, and Imo states developed a unified Strategic Action Plan. The plan targets full domestication of the FOI Act in three states and effective implementation in the two states where it is already law.

CSO–Media Collaboration

- In Cross River, the FOI Coalition partnered with the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) to host a state-level engagement, resulting in a drafted policy brief for lawmakers to accelerate FOIA domestication.

Across all themes, communities, civil society actors, and young people demonstrated greater agency, improved knowledge, and stronger participation in governance processes. The Fair for All Project has contributed to shifting power toward citizens—particularly women and youth by equipping them with the skills, platforms, and alliances necessary to influence public decisions and demand accountability.

5.6 Trade Facilitation & Community Rights (FPIC & MSMEs)

The programme supported improved rights protection and better trade conditions for MSMEs. Advocacy led by CISLAC-trained partners resulted in:

- A formal communiqué to the Cross River Port Authority recommending practical steps to reduce regulatory bottlenecks affecting MSMEs.
- FPIC engagement with Esuk Mbak traditional leadership, resulting in an agreement to adopt structured consultation mechanisms before approving land or resource-related projects.

These achievements reduce economic barriers for local businesses and strengthen community protection against exploitative land/resource decisions.



6.0 Challenges & Lessons Learned

A stack of official Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) member passbooks, with group names and member numbers visible on the covers.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

Challenges

The project operated within a shrinking civic space where restrictive legislation, bureaucratic bottlenecks, and growing intolerance for dissent often slowed or limited advocacy efforts. This restricted environment made it harder for civil society and communities to push for accountability and engage government actors effectively. Economic pressures also posed a major challenge. Rising inflation, food insecurity, and general hardship reduced community participation, as many people were preoccupied with meeting basic needs rather than joining governance or advocacy activities.

Although the Freedom of Information Act was domesticated in some states, its actual implementation remained weak. Many government institutions either failed to respond to requests or provided incomplete information, limiting transparency progress. Another significant challenge was corporate divestment without proper environmental remediation. As oil companies exited onshore operations, they often left behind pollution and unresolved community grievances, creating new accountability gaps. Political instability and tensions surrounding election cycles disrupted timelines and required frequent adaptation of planned activities. Finally, sustaining community initiatives proved difficult, as many structures risk losing momentum without continued support and follow-up.

Lessons Learned

The project confirmed that FOIA domestication alone is not enough; effective transparency requires ongoing advocacy to ensure full enforcement and routine use of the law by citizens, journalists, and CSOs. It also became clear that many communities are unaware of alternative funding sources available to Host Community Development Trusts under the Petroleum Industry Act, highlighting the need for continuous education on PIA provisions. Another key lesson is that empowered civic clubs can evolve into long-lasting, community-driven platforms for civic action and leadership. The project showed that corporate accountability is strongest when communities are organized, informed, and equipped with negotiation skills rather than relying solely on activism. Finally, amplifying the voices of women and indigenous groups significantly improves policy influence and leads to more equitable governance outcomes, demonstrating the importance of intentional inclusion in all advocacy and decision-making processes.

7.0 Sustainability & Recommendations

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the project's impact, it is crucial to continue supporting the domestication and implementation of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) across all states. This effort ensures that transparency mechanisms remain legally binding. Simultaneously, the capacity of Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) must be strengthened, particularly regarding diversified funding, budgeting, and needs assessments. This will allow them to function effectively independent of external support. This governance framework should be further reinforced by strengthening the Nigerian Civic Space Protection Alliance (NCSPA) so that it remains a robust and self-sustaining mechanism for defending civic rights well beyond the project's lifespan.

At the community level, the project recommends upscaling Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) to enhance women's financial resilience and support climate adaptation. This economic focus should run parallel to investing in MSME facilitation engagements that remove regulatory barriers and improve the ease of doing business. Furthermore, civic engagement initiatives must evolve. Civic club programming should expand to include practical livelihood and climate adaptation projects, while community-led monitoring platforms such as FollowTheMoney and budget tracking groups should be institutionalized as permanent local structures to maintain accountability.

Finally, strategic continuity relies on maintaining strong partnerships with the Dutch Embassy and other international collaborators to secure ongoing influence and resources. These alliances will support deepened research into complex and forward-looking areas like climate finance, the energy transition, and beneficial ownership. Concurrently, the project should focus on supporting local governments in adopting localized Gender and Climate Change Action Plans to ensure that the intersection of environmental policy and social inclusion remains a central priority in Nigerian governance.

The background of the page is a photograph of lush green foliage. In the lower right corner, a person wearing a blue headwrap and a blue patterned dress is partially visible, sitting on a blue plastic chair. The text is overlaid on a light blue rounded rectangle.

FAIR FOR ALL PROJECT

8.0 Conclusion and Project Legacy

The Fair for All Project recorded significant, measurable progress across its core pillars of civic participation, fiscal justice, gender inclusion, climate and environmental advocacy, and extractive sector accountability. Through coordinated interventions across multiple states, the project strengthened transparency systems, deepened citizen engagement, and empowered women, youth, and community structures to actively shape governance outcomes. Civic clubs evolved into vibrant platforms for youth leadership, with students demonstrating improved civic literacy, innovation, and environmental responsibility. Women's Budget Groups advanced fiscal accountability by reviewing over 1,500 federal projects and uncovering cases of diversion and non-implementation, reinforcing the critical role of women in public finance oversight.

In resource-rich communities, increased awareness of the Petroleum Industry Act and the establishment of new Host Community Development Trusts expanded opportunities for equitable development and gender-inclusive governance. The project also contributed to policy momentum, including the introduction of a landmark bill proposing a 10 percent allocation from Akwa Ibom's derivation fund to HCDTs. At the national level, civic space protection efforts strengthened CSO coordination and opened new channels of engagement with security agencies. FOIA coalitions likewise developed strategic pathways to advance domestication and implementation across targeted states, ensuring stronger public access to information.

These achievements were realized despite ongoing economic instability, high inflation, shrinking civic space, governance gaps, and persistent gender inequalities. Adaptive programming, strong local partnerships, and continuous capacity building enabled sustained progress even within complex contexts. The project's emphasis on community-led development, data-driven advocacy, and multi-stakeholder collaboration created resilient structures that will outlive the project cycle. Overall, the F4A Project has laid a solid foundation for long-term, systemic change. By empowering communities with knowledge, amplifying citizen voices, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and fostering inclusive governance, the project is generating momentum that can continue to shift power, influence policy, and advance social justice. The continued commitment to institutional partnerships, sustainability planning, and grassroots leadership positions the project and its stakeholders to drive deeper reforms and deliver lasting impact in the years ahead.



AFRICAN ACTIVISTS *for* **CLIMATE JUSTICE**

CLIMATE JUSTICE YOUTH

WBAI RADIO

CLIMATE JUSTICE YOUTH
WBAI RADIO
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1.0 Project Overview

AACJ recorded historic climate governance wins, influencing and lobbying for the passage of Climate change Act of 2021 by the president, pushed for domestication of the climate change act at state level by supporting Climate Change Bills in Adamawa and Nasarawa States to be passed by both houses of Assembly, with that of Bauchi State being validated and awaiting executive action by the Governor. AACJ deepened climate lobbying by building capacities of 1,314 persons, adaptation by enabling 107 communities to adopt Climate Risk Registers, cultivating 13,500 seedlings through local nurseries to help communities diversify their livelihood and check the menace of deforestation and training 256 volunteers, including PWDs, on briquette charcoal production to check energy poverty in communities and build PWDs resilience at producing their own food in the confines of their immediate environment, thus contributing to food security and inclusivity.

The project built networks of young persons through her movement building pathway that will serve as a sustainability platform of the project for continuous engagements and deepening of climate justice narratives and actions locally and linking to the global stage. Joint global campaigns of the African Climate Caravan and Rich Polluters Must Pay were fully localised and carried out across the country with multifaceted stakeholders by the project for 3 consecutive years, allowing Nigerians and vulnerable communities to lend their voices to issues, like fair climate finance, just and fair transition, adaptation finance is climate justice e.t.c proving that local people have solutions too. Media platforms were formed by the project to engage the project, such as the #ClimateWednesday, engagement also surged, reaching millions through radio dramas, investigative reporting, and the newly formed Media for Climate Justice Network and Climate Justice Youth Ambassadors aims to put media practitioners and the youths at the centre of climate action, proper climate story gathering and amplifying as key stakeholders.

1.1 Project Summary & Rationale

The African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) project in Nigeria, implemented over five years (2021-2025) under the Power of Voices Partnerships Program, successfully achieved its dual objective: mobilizing a robust, youth- and women-led movement while simultaneously driving systemic policy and financial change at the sub-national level.

This comprehensive initiative, led by Oxfam in Nigeria and its consortium partners – Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Oxfam Novib, Natural Justice, African Youth Commission (AYC), and The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands – went beyond traditional advocacy to establish deep institutional and community engagement. AACJ has generated measurable political will, enhanced the adaptive capacity of climate frontline communities, and successfully institutionalized climate action within state government structures.

Key successes demonstrate the project's high impact and efficacy in the Nigerian context:

Legislative Wins: National lobby engagement got a climate champion in Sen. Mohammed Hassan Gusau (senate committee chairman on ecology and climate change), committed to liaise with the executive arm of government to get the President to speedily sign the climate change bill, this contributed to the build up of the president signing the bill on the 18 November 2021, this set a great precedence for our advocacy and influencing which helped the project move to push for the domestication of this newly signed bill at the state level.

The project Provided technical support leading to the passage of foundational Climate Change Bills in Nasarawa and Adamawa State Houses of Assembly, with a validated document also by the Bauchi State government, and commitments by the Governor to present it as an executive bill to the state assembly for accent as law by December 2025

Community Adaptation: Secured the adoption of Climate Risk Registers (CRR) by 107 communities in three states, fundamentally shifting resilience planning to be proactive and locally led.

Inclusivity in Food Security: remarkable strides have been made in empowering vulnerable community members particularly the PWDs to embrace Nature Based Solutions as a pathway to resilience and sustainable growth.

Recognizing the urgent challenges these communities face, particularly in food production, we delivered carefully tailored training designed to address their most pressing needs of food security. Farmers were introduced to innovative practices such as sack farming and compost making; techniques that not only enhance productivity but also restore dignity and hope by proving that solutions can be indigenous.

Community Adaptative capacities were strengthened: 9 communities in 5 local governments of Nasarawa state established community nurseries, with 13,500 improved oil palm seedlings procured from Nigeria Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) with the raising of 13,500 seedlings through community nurseries to address livelihood losses due to climate impact and safeguard the environment with the projection of having resilient communities that will be self sufficient in the production of Oil palm to check adulterated palm oil which impacts their health negatively, these local communities will be economically empowered to contribute their own quota to climate change adaptation and resilience in the face of dwindling crop yield y-o-y.

Linkages: Local vulnerable communities capacities have been built and linkages to relevant institutions, network and markets were made possible by the project they include, NiMet, NiFOR, NCCCS, National and State Assemblies etc. Also communities were linked with global campaigns like the African Climate caravan where their challenges and voices were amplified for 3 consecutive years across 5 states of Nigeria.

Energy Poverty Addressed: capacities of women were built to meet energy needs through briquette production using domestic and farm waste, thereby addressing, energy needs, reducing deforestation, improving women cardio vascular health by cutting down amount of smoke inhaled with household cooking, this has been adopted as a source of income by many community women, with a potential average income of N300,000 monthly income per person as demonstrated by our champion case study.

Mobilising and Movement building: Established a collection of youth platforms across the states with a central body in Abuja, where coordination of climate action across the country will be linked, these platforms have been involved in addressing climate

issues, proffering solutions through national discourse, debates and competitions, including international engagements with other youths of other climes, they have been positioned to champion the sustainability of the AACJ projects, over 1000 youths and media practitioners have been engaged physically and more over social media and other virtual spaces.

Accountability in Climate Finance: The project built capacities of stakeholders at states to demand for accountability for climate related funds, like the Ecological funds, communiques were developed and advocacies demanding for improved funding and accountability were carried out to the duty bearers, notably these efforts influenced directly or indirectly the Taraba State Government to commit NGN 15.5 billion to green initiatives for its 2024 appropriation bill about 1500% increase YoY.

Deepening Climate knowledge and information: Over 500 communities have improved their adaptation capacities through climate information translated into 10 different local languages including Production of CC Adaptation Planning knowledge materials in local languages including Mada, Eggon, Migili, Alago, Rindre, Gbagi, Hausa, Tiv, Fulani, Gwandara in this included NiMet Seasonal Prediction for farmers and flood prone communities and adoption has been very high, shaping mindsets and mythical beliefs there by saving lives and finances and farmers are able to plan better with the available information.

These outcomes confirm that AACJ's strategy of integrating grassroots empowerment with strategic, evidence-based advocacy, engagements, and awareness campaigns is a powerful model for translating global climate justice goals into local, tangible, and sustainable results.

1.2 Theory of Change: The 5 Pathways

Pathway 1

Strengthening climate movements that are driven by women and youth and connected with global movements.

Pathway 2

Developing and spreading African climate justice narratives.

Pathway 3

Empowering communities and individuals to claim and defend their social and environmental rights.

Pathway 4

Scoping and scaling community-based practices that strengthen the adaptive capacities of climate frontline communities.

Pathway 5

Increasing the political will of decision-makers to support policies that advance climate justice.

The AACJ Project in Nigeria aimed to strengthen a nationwide movement that empowers citizens, communities, companies, and government actors to drive climate justice. It focused on enabling a citizen-led response to climate impacts, especially on marginalized groups including women, youth, and Persons With Disabilities. The consortium advanced the project's Theory of Change through five interconnected pathways that collectively support accountability, resilience, and inclusive climate action.



Members of AACJ consortium in a group photo.

Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

1.3 Implementing Partners & Stakeholders



**INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE
CHANGE DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE**
...Building a Climate Smart Generation in Africa.



**African Activists for
Climate Justice**



CSIA-Net



**NATURAL
JUSTICE**



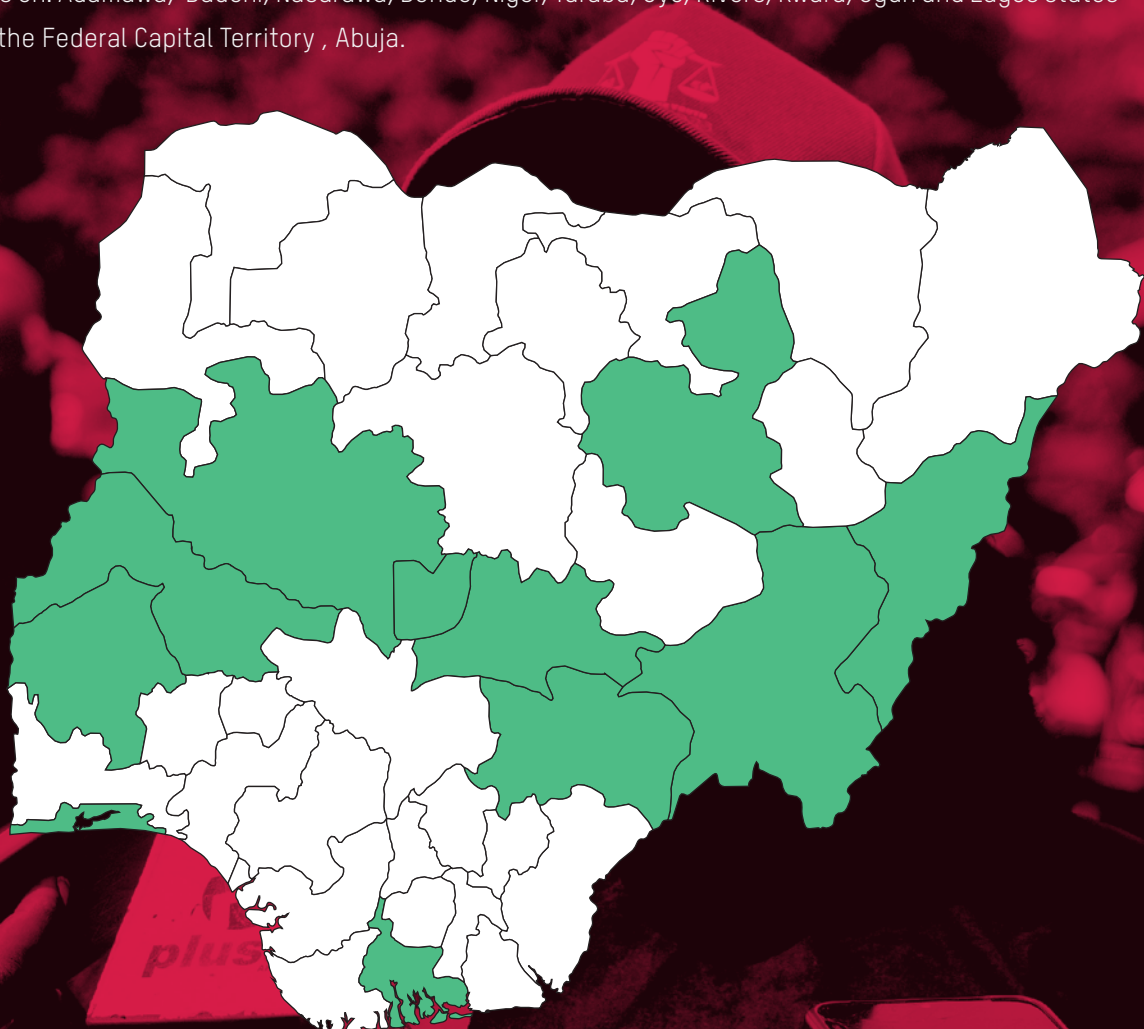
Education as a Vaccine



**The African Women's
Development and
Communication Network**

2.0 Geographic Scope of Implementation

The project's activities were implemented across multiple states, with intensive outcome delivery and focus on: Adamawa, Bauchi, Nasarawa, Benue, Niger, Taraba, Oyo, Rivers, Kwara, Ogun and Lagos states and the Federal Capital Territory , Abuja.



Nigeria map with highlighted states representing project implementation zones.

Some cross-border activities engaged African partners from 14 countries during regional convenings.



AFRICAN ACTIVISTS for CLIMATE JUSTICE

Members of Climate Justice Youth Ambassadors (CJYA) during a road work to commemorate the 2024 World Environment Day.

Photo: CJYA

3.0 Outcomes & Impact

“the project provided technical support leading to the passage of 2 foundational Climate Change Bills by the State Houses of Assembly in Nasarawa and Adamawa.

3.1 Policy & Financial Breakthroughs

The AACJ project has actively contributed to policy development and legislative reforms at the state and national levels, strengthening climate governance and advancing climate justice in Nigeria. Furthermore, the project provided technical support leading to the passage of 2 foundational Climate Change Bills by the State Houses of Assembly in Nasarawa and Adamawa. Institutional capacity was strengthened by equipping 60 LGAs' Officials and CSOs to mainstream gender and youth into climate interventions, while 21 LGAs in Adamawa State established dedicated Climate Change Desk Offices, localizing climate governance. The project drove unprecedented political and financial commitments at the state level. Most notably, advocacy efforts influenced the Taraba State Government to commit NGN 15.5 billion to green initiatives in its 2024 budget, representing a dramatic 1500% increase in allocation for climate action.

3.1.1 National Level:

The project successfully convened Government Negotiators, the newly inaugurated National Council on Climate Change (NCCC), the National Assembly, and various CSOs to foster collaboration and build alliances. This collective effort led to the development of a well-known National Common Position for COP28, backed by a press conference, marking a significant milestone in unified national participation at international fora.

- The project also contributed to ongoing national efforts to review the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act.

- A technical working group has been convened, and a National Stakeholders Dialogue was organized to ensure the Act is updated to better reflect environmental protection, sustainable development, and climate justice priorities.

3.1.2 State Level:

The AACJ project conducted essential training sessions for officials from Adamawa, Bauchi, Nasarawa, and Taraba states, focusing on the impacts of climate change, adaptation strategies, mitigation tools, and, crucially, Climate Funds accountability and budgeting. These engagements resulted in the drafting of communiqués and subsequent advocacy visits to key decision-makers, setting the stage for major policy and financial successes.



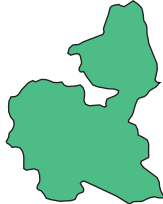
Adamawa State:

- The Adamawa State House of Assembly became one of the first in Nigeria to domesticate the Climate Change Act, originally signed into law in 2021 by former President Muhammadu Buhari.
- The Adamawa Climate Change Bill was jointly presented by Hon. Yohanna Sahabo Jauro and Hon. Kate Raymond Mamuno in May 2024 and has been passed by the House, awaiting the Executive Governor's assent.
- The bill aims to reduce carbon emissions, promote sustainable practices, and protect natural resources.
- Additionally, the Ministry of Environment in Adamawa established climate change desk offices in all 21 local government areas in November 2023 to strengthen local implementation and oversight.



Nasarawa State:

- As a state rich in solid minerals, Nasarawa is highly vulnerable to environmental degradation due to illegal and uncoordinated mining activities. Recognizing this, the AACJ project engaged the Nasarawa State Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in 2022 to draft a climate change policy.
- Through a series of advocacy and engagement meetings with state legislators, a draft bill was presented to the Chairman of the State House Committee on Environment and Housing, Hon. Omadefu A. Mohammed, in August 2024.
- Following validation and the third reading, the bill was passed by the House and is now awaiting the Governor's assent.



Bauchi State:

- The AACJ project supported the development of a Climate Change Policy for Bauchi State through collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Environment and the Honourable Commissioner, Rt. Hon. Danlami Kaule.
- Stakeholder dialogues engaged government officials, NGOs, academia, private sector actors, and other relevant stakeholders to validate the policy.
- The validated policy was presented to the State Government through the Executive Governor, Senator Bala Mohammed, who committed to submitting it to the State House of Assembly for legislative consideration.



3.1.3 State-Level Regulatory and Financial Breakthroughs

The strategic advocacy and training directly contributed to several major, measurable outcomes at the state and national levels:

- **Financial Commitment (Taraba State):** Advocacy efforts influenced the Taraba State Government to commit NGN 15.5 billion to environment and green initiatives in its 2024 appropriation bill. This represents a historic 1500% increase in allocation compared to 2021, demonstrating a profound shift in political will toward climate financing.
- **Environmental Regulation (Adamawa State):** The Adamawa State Government implemented a ban on indiscriminate tree felling and illegal charcoal production and sale, directly addressing key drivers of deforestation and environmental degradation.
- **Clean Energy and Health (Bauchi State):** The Bauchi State Government launched 3,500 energy-saving stoves for vulnerable households, mitigating the health impact of dangerous gases on women and households while supporting climate change mitigation.

3.2 Community Adaptation (Climate Risk Registers)

The AACJ Project delivered two critical, high-level results that demonstrate a successful shift in both policy and community-level adaptation, institutionalizing climate justice across the region. Community adaptive capacity was significantly enhanced through the scaling of localized tools and closing critical information gaps. The Climate Risk Register (CRR) methodology was adopted by 107 communities across Adamawa, Benue, and Nasarawa states, shifting resilience planning to be proactive and indigenous-knowledge-driven.

To ensure inclusivity and address information poverty, climate adaptation knowledge was translated into 10 different local languages in Nasarawa State, directly empowering 741 community members (320 Male and 421 Female) to utilize weather information for informed agricultural decisions. Nature-based solutions were scaled through the cultivation of 13,500 seedlings across 9 community nurseries, and capacity was built for 256 volunteers (including PWDs) on sustainable Briquette Charcoal production.

Institutionalizing Climate Governance

The most significant policy outcome was the passage of the Nasarawa State Climate Change Bill into law in October 2025. This legislative victory, driven by GIFSEP's sustained advocacy (2022-2023) and continuous citizen engagement by the NASNECJ, effectively institutionalized climate action. This bill mandates fairness, equity, and accountability in state governance, reinforcing citizen participation as a key driver of a sustainable Nasarawa State. The legislature is now demonstrably acting as a champion of climate justice.

Scaling Local Adaptation

Between September 2022 and November 2024, the project successfully facilitated the adoption of the Climate Risk Register (CRR) in 107 frontline communities across Adamawa, Benue, and Nasarawa States. This marked a major shift in community adaptive capacity. Instead of responding to climate threats only after they occur, trained community members now use the CRR tool to document and prioritise high-impact climate risks such as floods and prolonged dry spells. The process is locally led and draws on indigenous knowledge, resulting in data-driven decision-making that strengthens collective planning and significantly reduces vulnerability.

The project also contributed to critical policy breakthroughs. In 2025, sustained advocacy led to the passage of the Nasarawa State Climate Change Bill by the State House of Assembly. This important legislation institutionalises climate governance in the state by embedding fairness, equity, and accountability within climate-related decision-making. It also reinforces citizen participation and positions the Assembly as a champion for climate justice.

By 2024, the adoption of the Climate Risk Register across three states had become one of the most important outcomes of the project's work on adaptive capacities. Communities now actively identify and prioritise hazards based on local knowledge, using the CRR to guide coordinated adaptation efforts and long-term resilience planning.

3.3 Nature-Based Solutions & Sustainable Agriculture

The AACJ project successfully enhanced community adaptive capacities by introducing and promoting the adoption of scalable Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and inclusive sustainable agricultural techniques across targeted states.

3.3.1 Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

The project focused on building local capacity for sustainable resource management and afforestation, creating both environmental and economic benefits.

Briquette Charcoal Production

Capacity building to promote Nature-Based Solutions was delivered across Abuja, Nasarawa, and Adamawa States. We enhanced the adaptive capacities of 256 community climate change volunteers (155 Male, 91 Female, and 10 PWDs) from five Local Government Areas (LGAs) on the production of Briquette Charcoal. This sustainable alternative directly combats indiscriminate tree felling for traditional charcoal production. For long-term sustainability, community volunteers conducted five step-down training courses in their respective LGAs, ensuring knowledge transfer at the grassroots level.

Community Nursery Establishment

The project established a total of 9 community nurseries across 5 LGAs of Nasarawa State. This initiative was rolled out in two phases:
Phase One: Five communities (Ntsakpe, Garaku, Musha, Agunji, and B. A. D. Community) each received 1,500 seedlings.



Photo of the lady with trees poster.

Photo: Taiwo Aina/Oxfam

Phase Two: Four additional communities (Kpomo village, Gidan/Mai-Akuya, Ungubi, and Gidigidi) each received an additional 1,500 seedlings. This resulted in a cumulative population of 13,500 seedlings cultivated, significantly boosting local afforestation efforts and providing a supply chain for community-led tree planting initiatives.

3.3.2 Sustainable Agricultural Practices for Inclusivity

Our focus on sustainable agriculture was designed to enhance food security, particularly for the most vulnerable populations.

The Food for All Initiative

- Sustainable agriculture initiatives, such as the Food for All Initiative, provided essential skills to communities and vulnerable groups to cultivate food right at home. This program is especially beneficial for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) who often face challenges accessing and working on traditional farmland. By promoting homegrown nourishment and decentralized food cultivation, the project ensured that everyone, regardless of land access or physical mobility, could participate in food security and enjoy the benefits of resilient agricultural practices.

AFRICAN ACTIVISTS for CLIMATE JUSTICE

Campaigner and the Demand Climate Justice banner.

Photo: Taiwo Aina/Oxfam

DEMAND
CLIMATE
JUSTICE
TODAY

4.0 Movement Building & Engagement

As a result, youth participation reached 48%, nearly double the 25% target, and young people are now equipped to craft advocacy messages, influence climate action in their communities, and participate more effectively in decision-making processes.

4.1 Youth Engagement & Leadership

Across Niger, Benue, and Nasarawa States, adolescent girls built confidence, leadership, and climate knowledge through newly established school-based climate justice clubs, which provided safe and inclusive spaces for them to learn, lead, and amplify their voices. Through peer-to-peer learning, school engagements, and structured advocacy activities, these clubs transformed girls into active contributors to climate discussions and decision-making at both school and community levels. The AACJ project strengthened broader youth engagement by involving young people in mobilization efforts, training, and workshops while also leveraging digital platforms, social media, interactive content, and online forums to deepen participation.

This multi-channel approach fostered strong youth ownership of project activities and encouraged meaningful contributions during learning and advocacy sessions. As a result, youth participation reached 48%, nearly double the 25% target, and young people are now equipped to craft advocacy messages, influence climate action in their communities, and participate more effectively in decision-making processes.

4.1.1 Key Youth-Centered Initiatives:

Small Grants for Youth-Led Action

- Youths across Nigeria received small grants to mark World Earth Day, enabling them to engage over 20 communities, multiple tertiary institutions, and over 100 youth organizations, reaching a network of 3,000 youths.
- Key networks engaged include the Nasarawa State Network on Environment and Climate Justice (NASNECJ) and Adamawa Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ), as well as Young Lawyers for Climate Justice.

#OxfamGreenChallenge

- Two editions of the #OxfamGreenChallenge supported over 200 Nigerian youths in showcasing innovations and solutions to climate change.
- Participants were brought together under the Climate Justice Youth Ambassadors platform, which harnessed their energy to sustain the AACJ project's achievements over the five-year period.
- The platform was officially inaugurated by the Hon. Minister of Environment, Hon. Balarabe Abbas Lawal, alongside the Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Ishaq Salako.

Annual School Quiz Competition (Minister's Cup)

- Launched to coincide with World Environment Day, the competition has already held two editions (2024 and 2025).
- The initiative is in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, which will eventually lead the program to ensure sustainability and integrate youth platforms for future World Youth Day engagements.

Broad Youth Participation and Climate Education

- Over 10,000 youths across Nigeria engaged in various activities, including student debates, arts works competition, quiz competitions on climate change, climate change drama groups, tree nursery establishment and planting, and social media campaigns.
- Environment clubs in schools were revived to raise climate-conscious young citizens, equipping them with knowledge and advocacy skills to engage their communities effectively.

School-Based Climate Justice Clubs for Adolescent Girls

- Established across nine secondary schools in Benue, Niger, and Nasarawa States, these clubs provided safe, inclusive spaces for girls to gain knowledge, lead peer learning, and engage with stakeholders on climate justice issues.
- Structured club activities and inter-school events increased awareness of the gendered impacts of climate change and strengthened girls' confidence in proposing local climate solutions.

4.2 Media Engagement & Narrative Influencing

Climate disinformation and information gaps continue to undermine climate action efforts, resulting in serious setbacks for vulnerable communities. In response, the AACJ project strengthened community-led climate advocacy by building the capacity of both media practitioners and local climate volunteers across project states.

The project trained about 500 media practitioners to support communities in developing climate change stories, short documentaries, success spotlights, and commentaries that can be used for public awareness and advocacy. As part of this effort, trained journalists visited beneficiary communities to gather stories, document climate realities, and contribute to evidence-based messaging.

To recognize and encourage consistent media engagement on climate issues, the AACJ project launched the Media for Climate Justice Awards, with two editions held so far. This initiative led to the formation of the Media for Climate Justice Network, which is currently undergoing registration as a legal entity to ensure long-term sustainability.

Movement Building and Outreach

AACJ established lasting youth and media networks, amplifying climate justice narratives across a wide geographic scope. Mass mobilization efforts, like the "Amplifying the Voices of Climate Frontline Communities" outreach (Oct-Nov 2023), empowered 864 community residents across 38 communities in 16 states, strengthening grassroots advocacy, including direct engagement at COP28.

The project fostered youth leadership by establishing and strengthening 9 climate justice school clubs for adolescent girls across three states. Furthermore, the narrative influence was secured by training approximately 500 media practitioners and airing a 24-episode radio drama on climate-smart agriculture in Adamawa and Oyo states to encourage the adoption of Good Agronomical Practices (GAP)

Community Networks and Volunteer Strengthening

The project supported the creation of community-level structures and networks responsible for tracking project progress, reporting outcomes, and sustaining climate advocacy efforts. Community members received training in advocacy, negotiation, and organizing, enabling them to participate meaningfully in climate action and engage government actors.

These networks are being positioned to strengthen:

Community-led research and documentation

Evidence-based engagements with duty bearers
Strategic litigation and awareness campaigns
Cross-community collaboration and knowledge sharing

Long-term resilience and adaptive capacity

Use of African Narratives and Contextual Messaging

A key best practice from the AACJ project was the deliberate use of African-centred narratives that resonate with local values and lived experiences. Storytelling focused on human impact and real community experiences, delivered through diverse channels including traditional media, social media, town hall meetings, and public mobilization efforts.

The project also prioritized partnerships with influential messengers such as grassroots activists, religious leaders, and community heads, ensuring deeper reach and stronger community ownership of climate advocacy. Information was translated into over 10 local languages, increasing accessibility and relevance.

Mass Campaigns and Regulatory Wins

The project's public campaigns achieved significant regulatory changes, validating the power of grassroots mobilization.

#BeatPlasticPollution Campaign: The World Environment Day 2023 #BeatPlasticPollution campaign in Lagos successfully influenced the Lagos State Government's ban on Styrofoam and single-use plastic. This landmark decision was subsequently mirrored at the Federal level, which followed suit by banning single-use plastics in all government MDAs and parastatals.

Community Outreach Project: The "Amplifying the Voices of Climate Frontline Communities" project successfully engaged with 864 community residents across 38 communities in 16 states in Nigeria. This mass outreach strengthened grassroots advocacy and resulted in formal letters being written to political leaders seeking intervention on local climate challenges.

Gallery



The Honorable Minister of Environment in a group photo with Climate Justice Youth Ambassadors during the official inauguration event.

Photo: CJYA



Oxfam Green Challenge Top Awardees at the 2024 International Youth Day.

Photo: AREAi



Secondary school students making a presentation at the 2024 Art for Climate School competition.

Photo: GIFSEP



AACJ Team presenting the Oxfam Green Challenge winner with an award.

Photo: AREAi



AACJ team lead presenting an award to the 2nd runner up at the maiden edition of the Climate Media Awards, 2024.

Photo: GIFSEP

AFRICAN ACTIVISTS *for* CLIMATE JUSTICE

5.0 Conclusion and Project Legacy

The African Activists for Climate Justice (AACJ) Project in Nigeria has concluded its five-year mandate (2021–2025) with resounding success, establishing a powerful new paradigm for climate action in the country. The project not only met but exceeded its core objective: successfully mobilizing a diverse, robust movement while simultaneously achieving measurable, institutional change at the sub-national level.

The AACJ model proved that empowering local communities and strategic advocacy are inseparable drivers of change. The project's impact is defined by three key legacies:

Financial and Legislative Breakthroughs: Securing landmark legislative wins, including the passage of foundational Climate Change Bills in Nasarawa and Adamawa States, and driving a 1500% budget increase for green initiatives in Taraba State (NGN 15.5 billion committed). These successes cement a new era of state accountability and political will toward climate financing.

Deepened Community Resilience: By scaling solutions like the Climate Risk Registers (CRR) across 107 frontline communities, AACJ fundamentally shifted adaptation from reactive coping to proactive, locally-led planning that integrates indigenous knowledge. This resilience is supported by over 13,500 cultivated seedlings and capacity building for 256 volunteers on Nature-Based Solutions.

Sustainable Movement Building: The project's legacy is secured through institutionalizing youth and media engagement. Platforms like the Media for Climate Justice Network and the Climate Justice Youth Ambassadors (inaugurated by the Hon. Minister of Environment) ensure that the momentum, expertise, and networks built over five years will continue to drive advocacy well beyond the project's timeline.

The collective results, from establishing climate justice clubs for adolescent girls to securing a ban on single-use plastics, confirm AACJ's efficacy as a comprehensive, scalable model. The foundations laid have created an enduring, multi-generational force for climate justice in Nigeria, ensuring that the voices of the most vulnerable are now structurally embedded in the nation's pathway to a sustainable future.

Lead Persons per Implementing Partner

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BudgIT

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- HH Dr. George Hill Anthony, Styvn Obodoekwe, Sabena Igweani

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Our work in Nigeria is hinged on three pillars: (i) Accountable Governance (ii) Gender Justice (iii) Just Economies. Oxfam in Nigeria strives to fight poverty and inequality by empowering civil society organizations and advocating for change in Accountable Governance, Economic and Food Systems, and Gender Justice. Our aim is to create a transparent, inclusive, and just society in Nigeria through collective action and empowerment. The Future is Equal!



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