

# PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE CHRISTIAN AID NIGERIA

POVERTY

Strategy 2012–17



christian  
**aid**

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives.

Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty – and we believe that vision can become a reality. We urge you to join us.

[christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk)

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Christian Aid is a member of the

**actalliance**

Front-cover photo: A family in Gaube village, Federal Capital Territory, who receive community health support from Christian Aid's partner, Kubwa Diocesan Development and Welfare Services (KDDWS)

Christian Aid/Jane East

## WHO WE ARE

Christian Aid is an international organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

We work globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. We are part of a wider movement for social justice.

We have an integrated approach to poverty eradication, working worldwide on humanitarian relief, long-term development, specific advocacy issues and campaigns to expose the scandal of poverty by challenging and changing systems and institutions that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

Christian Aid is one of the UK's leading non-governmental relief and development agencies. Supported by individuals, churches, governments, trusts and foundations, Christian Aid today is the official international development agency of 41 church denominations in Britain and Ireland.

Our total income for 2011/12 was £95.5m (€124 billion), up by £0.5m (0.5 per cent) on the previous year. This income figure includes an increase in funding from governments and other institutions which was £36.7m (€49.2 billion), or 38 per cent of our total income.

## WHAT WE DO

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, Christian Aid works in some of the world's poorest communities. We support projects on the basis of need, not religion, ethnicity or nationality.

All our work is built on mutually accountable relationships. We work with, and through, partners in developing countries – organisations rooted in communities and who understand what is required to lift women, men and children out of poverty. In 2011/12, Christian Aid gave grants to 578 partner organisations across Africa, Asia and the Middle East and Latin America and the Caribbean.

We work with others as part of a global movement committed to ending poverty and social injustice. This includes local civil society organisations, research institutions, churches, faith groups and social movements, as well as governments, the private sector, NGOs and others who can influence development and help improve the lives of poor people.

Our membership of ACT – an alliance of more than 130 churches and related organisations that work together in humanitarian assistance, advocacy and development – gives us the ability to respond quickly and easily to emergencies the world over.



Christian Aid/Rachel Stevens

**All our work** is built on mutually accountable relationships

## OUR NEW GLOBAL STRATEGY

At Christian Aid, we believe that human action is responsible for the underlying causes of poverty, that we – the wealthiest generations in human history – have the greatest opportunity to overcome this, and that when people work together, the world can be changed.

This thinking has framed our new corporate strategy, *Partnership for Change*.

We believe that at the root of poverty is a lack of power – the power to have your say and be heard, or to know your rights and demand them. It is clear to us that poverty can only be eradicated through helping people secure power to help themselves.

To achieve essential shifts in power, Christian Aid has identified five areas on which to focus our work:

### 1. Power to change institutions

We want to see all people having the power to influence institutions – so that the decisions affecting their lives are made responsibly and fairly.

### 2. The right to essential services

We want to see all people able to fulfil their right to access the services essential for a healthy, secure life.

### 3. Fair shares in a constrained world

We want to see all people have a fair and sustainable share of the world's resources.

### 4. Equality for all

We want to see a more inclusive world where identity – gender, ethnicity, caste, religion, class, sexual orientation – is no longer a barrier to equal treatment.

### 5. Tackling violence and building peace

We want to see vulnerable people protected from violence and living in peace.

The development of Christian Aid's Nigeria country strategy follows the launch of *Partnership for Change* in 2012 and is rooted in our organisational belief that poverty can be eradicated through the empowerment of individuals and communities.



Christian Aid/Rachel Stevens

## A COUNTRY OF DIVERSITY AND PARADOX

Nigeria is a large and diverse country, with considerable political weight in the region and across Africa. It is also a paradox, with widespread and intractable poverty alongside vast natural resources. Most of Nigeria's wealth is held by a tiny economic and political elite, while power lies within both formal institutions and the informal structures of familial and ethno-religious patronage.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria has 36 states and a Federal Capital Territory. Since 1999, there have been three peaceful transitions of power, and the most recent elections in 2011 were considered by many to be among the freest and fairest in Nigeria's history. However, it is a 'challenged democracy', marked by patronage politics, ineffective opposition and low voter turnout. The misuse of oil revenue, widespread corruption and other questionable practices have stifled development in Nigeria, which was in the bottom quarter of Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index in 2012.

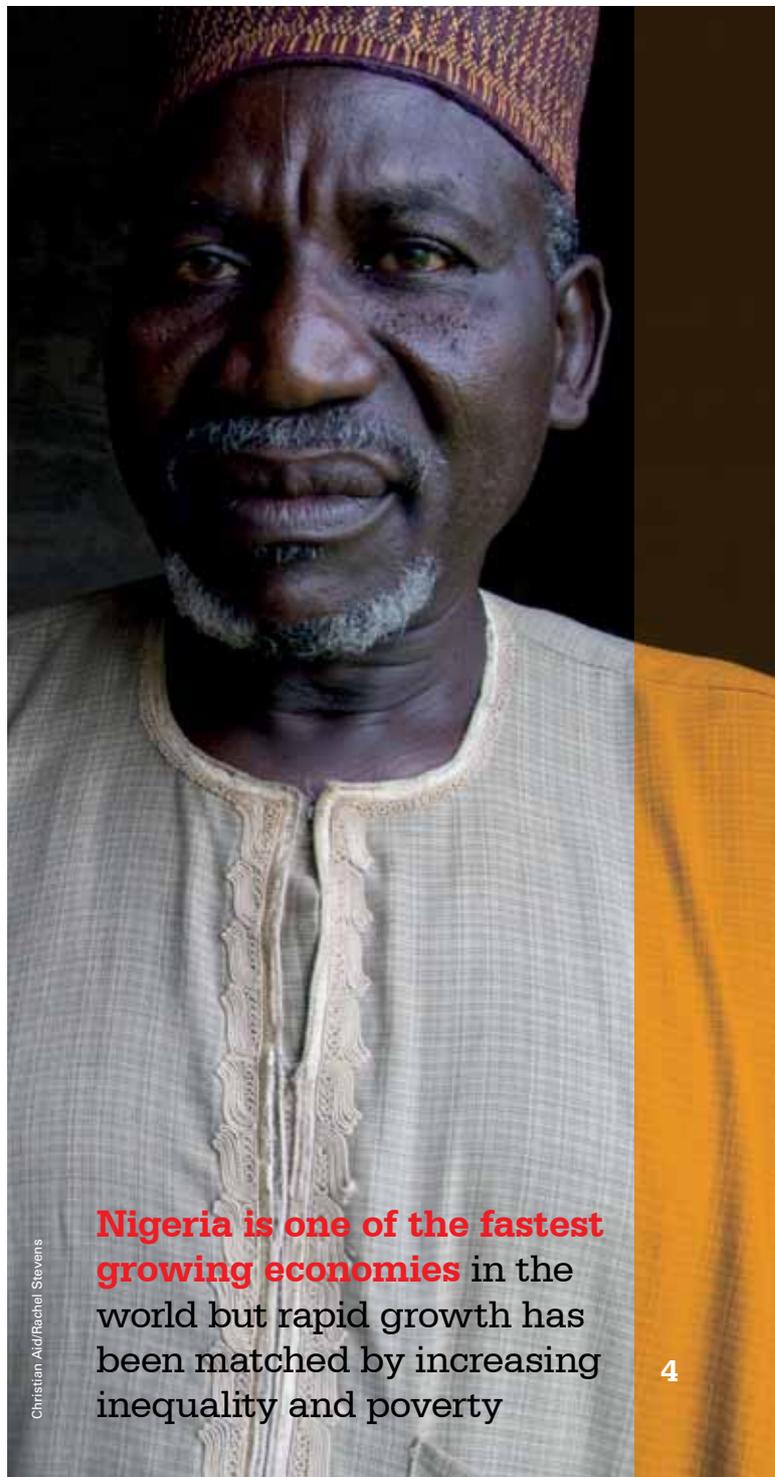
Nigeria has a hugely diverse population with over 250 distinct ethnic groups. Religious observance is almost universal in a country evenly divided between Christians and Muslims. But with a religious 'fault line' there have been repeated outbreaks of ethno-religious conflict in the contested Middle Belt region and increasing insecurity as Islamist militant group Boko Haram carries out violent acts.

It is the second largest economy in Africa and one of the fastest growing economies in the world. However, rapid growth over the past decade has been matched by increasing inequality and poverty. The number of people living below the poverty line increased between 1980 and 2010 to stand at 69 per cent of the population – 112 million people. A monoculture economy, the oil and gas industry accounts for 95 per cent of budgetary revenues, while non-oil tax revenues make up just 0.3 per cent of gross domestic product.

Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa. Its growth from 71 million in 1980 to 163 million in 2011 has been described as 'explosive' by the UN who predicts a Nigerian population of 730 million by 2100. Health expenditure was 5.8 per cent of the national budget in 2010 (up from 5.3 per cent in 2007) but far short of the commitment made by the Nigerian government in signing the 2001 Abuja Declaration to allocate at least 15 per cent of the annual budget to the health sector. Gender discrimination is deep-rooted and pervasive in cultural norms and practices, and in women's representation in both formal and informal structures.



Christian Aid/Rachel Stevens



Christian Aid/Rachel Stevens

**Nigeria is one of the fastest growing economies** in the world but rapid growth has been matched by increasing inequality and poverty



Christian Aid/Jane East

**Our vision** is for a just, equitable and peaceful Nigerian society, in which poverty has been eradicated and every person is empowered to live life in all its fullness

## CHRISTIAN AID IN NIGERIA

Since Christian Aid began work in Nigeria in 2003, our focus has been on community health and HIV, accountable governance and conflict reduction, climate change and pro-poor energy. Working largely through church partners, the programme has had a strong emphasis on service delivery.

But in the last two years, we have moved towards a more structural approach, incorporating governance and advocacy into all of our work, and seeking to integrate our programmatic areas.

Our achievements include:

- The ongoing Department for International Development-funded **Strengthening Community Health and HIV** programme, which through community-based volunteers reaches a million people with integrated health education interventions.
- The ongoing **Nets for Life** programme, which since 2008 has provided education on malaria prevention and distributed 930,000 bed nets to more than 475,000 households.
- The ongoing **Power to the People** project in Anambra State, part of DFID's Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) work, which alongside interfaith governance work in Kaduna State has built the capacity of marginalised communities to claim their rights and hold government accountable.

- The USAID-funded **Community Care in Nigeria** orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) project (2007-2010), which provided a comprehensive support package to more than 15,000 OVCs and caregivers.
- The Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded **Copenhagen and Beyond** project (2009-2011), which supported the formulation of Nigeria's position on climate change, including development of the first African Climate Change Commission Bill.

Christian Aid has a reputation in Nigeria as an organisation which respects its local partners, delivers quality and cost-effective programmes, and is willing to learn from, and share its learning with, others.

### Building a movement for change

Christian Aid Nigeria believes society changes through people's increased knowledge and capacity to make choices which influence their beliefs and behaviours, alongside collective action which challenges the systems and structures that perpetuate poverty and inequality.

We believe our new strategy will contribute to:

- poor and marginalised people making informed and empowered decisions about their lives and engaging meaningfully in their own development
- civil society acting as an effective counterweight to government and the private sector
- greater accountability and responsiveness of government and greater inclusion of women and marginalised groups in traditional decision making structures

- greater gender equity and respect for human rights
- equitable use of resources and a fairer distribution of wealth – closing the gap between rich and poor
- improved health for poor and marginalised people, particularly women, children and people with compromised immunity.

By empowering and mobilising poor and marginalised communities, strengthening solidarity within civil society, and supporting advocacy at all levels, we put pressure on government to be responsive to its citizens, to put in place pro-poor policies and allocate more money to essential services. Increased citizen oversight at community and state levels can also help reduce corruption.

We believe more responsive and accountable government will lead to greater respect for human rights and a more equitable distribution of resources. In turn, we believe allaying the grievances of citizens will contribute to a more peaceful society.

We will ensure our programming is gender-sensitive and will focus on the participation and representation of women and adolescent girls at every level.

We will adopt a conflict-sensitive ‘do no harm’ approach and design programmes with an interfaith identity; working for common goals to build cohesion and encourage people to live peacefully side by side.

## Working with others

Christian Aid’s work in Nigeria is targeted at poor, marginalised and voiceless people, and at duty bearers, including government, the private sector, community leaders and household heads.

We will seek to collaborate with others, participate in coalitions and networks, and broker partnerships between different actors. Part of our essential purpose in Nigeria is to build the capacity of local organisations to deliver development to their people in the long-term.

We recognise our relationship with government will be nuanced, supporting partners to hold them to account, whilst seeking to build capacity where there is a genuine desire to change and improve.

The private sector is part of the solution to poverty in Nigeria, and Christian Aid will actively seek partners who share our commitment to pro-poor development. We will press for a stronger regulatory framework to ensure businesses uphold high standards, particularly in the health sector.

We will also seek partnerships with faith leaders and faith-based organisations – churches of all denominations, Islamic networks, and the diaspora – to inspire religious institutions to engage in rights-based development, and promote interfaith understanding and acceptance. We will work with research and academic institutions, the media, and donor agencies.



**We will collaborate** with others, participate in coalitions and networks, and broker partnerships

# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

## STRATEGIES



## NECESSARY CONDITIONS



## DESIRED CHANGE



## OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO CHANGE

Christian Aid will work to overcome the obstacles and risks to our theory of change.

- 1. A lack of transparency in government and limited access to information** – we will use the Freedom of Information Act and build the capacity of civil society and target communities to demand information.
- 2. A lack of political will to engage with citizens** – we will seek effective channels of influence over elected representatives and public servants and build pressure through civil society coalitions and media.
- 3. Insecurity and instability** – we will work with partners with strong community presence and acceptance, promote community ownership of all programmes and adopt appropriate safety measures for our partners and ourselves.

- 4. Misappropriation and misuse of public resources set aside for essential services** – we will build community oversight structures, such as ward health committees and community-based governance monitors, and use media to highlight corruption.
- 5. Civil society is divided and fails to deliver clear, strong messages to government** – we will build and invest in the capacity of effective civil society coalitions.
- 6. Civil society is not seen by poor and marginalised people as representing their interests** – we will identify partners with longstanding community linkages, with strong downward accountability.

## OUR NEW STRATEGY FOR NIGERIA

Our strategy integrates work in governance, community health and gender and responds to every one of Christian Aid’s global strategic objectives (as outlined on page 3).

Our governance work aims to empower people and communities to change institutions. Our work on tax justice also sets out to achieve fair shares in a constrained

world, while our conflict-sensitive programming helps to tackle violence and build peace. Our community health interventions champion people’s rights to essential services, but are also shaped by Christian Aid’s power to change institutions objective. Our gender work and our commitment to interfaith working are geared towards achieving equality for all.

### Objective 1 – Governance

We will improve government accountability and responsiveness to the needs of poor and marginalised people. We believe this is fundamental to bringing change in Nigeria and builds on Christian Aid’s successful demand-side governance work.

We will support:	We hope to achieve:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• power analysis</li> <li>• civic education and election monitoring</li> <li>• budget tracking and monitoring</li> <li>• public policy analysis, monitoring and influencing</li> <li>• public campaigning, including advocacy and communications</li> <li>• mentoring and leadership training for women and adolescent girls</li> <li>• advocacy to traditional decision making structures</li> <li>• facilitation of citizen-state interface</li> <li>• tax justice work at national and regional (ECOWAS) level</li> <li>• integration of conflict sensitivity and ‘do no harm’ approaches as a cross-cutting component.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more responsive and accountable government</li> <li>• increased commitment by government to make laws, and by informal traditional institutions to enforce new practices, which discourage patronage politics and impunity in favour of policies that protect and favour poor and marginalised people</li> <li>• increased voter turnout in our target states</li> <li>• an effective, fair and progressive tax system in place which increases government revenues</li> <li>• increased resources allocated to essential services</li> <li>• greater respect by government for human rights and the rule of law</li> <li>• poor and marginalised individuals know, understand and effectively claim their rights</li> <li>• poor and marginalised people have built effective networks to represent their interests and to provide community oversight of government policies and programmes.</li> </ul>

## Objective 2 – Community health

We will improve the health of poor and marginalised people, particularly women, children and people with compromised immunity, by building on our track record in integrated community-based health promotion and health governance.

We will support:	We hope to achieve:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>engagement with government to contribute to healthcare planning and provision, and to press for increased healthcare financing and effective regulation of healthcare provision (with particular focus at the state level)</li> <li>strengthening of community-based health systems and structures, such as ward and village health committees to ensure community oversight of primary healthcare provision</li> <li>integrated family-centred health education through community-based volunteers in a range of issues, such as HIV, malaria, family planning, environmental sanitation, maternal and child health, and including promotion of the uptake of bed nets, rapid malaria diagnostic testing, and ACT, clean cookstoves and support services for people living with HIV</li> <li>engagement with private sector health providers, with a particular focus on patent medicine vendors, to promote safe and high quality community healthcare provision</li> <li>promotion of the SAVE model and anti-discriminatory policies and practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increased resources allocated to and spent by government on healthcare</li> <li>improved community-based healthcare services that are accessible and affordable to poor and marginalised people</li> <li>vulnerable groups and poor and marginalised communities increase their health knowledge, leading to the adoption of practices that promote good health. Increased use of bed nets and resultant reduction in the prevalence of malaria in target communities</li> <li>increased adoption of clean cookstoves and a reduction in respiratory infection</li> <li>improved well-being and rights of people living with HIV</li> <li>progress on the passing of the HIV/AIDS Anti-Stigma Bill and a reduction in stigma towards people living with HIV</li> <li>reduced rate of new HIV infections in target communities</li> <li>better regulation of non-government healthcare services, particularly of private sector providers</li> <li>greater responsiveness of private sector health providers to the needs of poor and marginalised people.</li> </ul>

## Objective 3 – Gender

We will improve gender equity and the participation of women and girls in development activities. Women and girls in Nigeria suffer systematic disadvantage and discrimination, and genuine development can only be delivered with their meaningful involvement.

We will support:	We hope to achieve:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mentoring programmes for adolescent girls</li> <li>training of men and boys in models of masculinity</li> <li>gender model families</li> <li>engagement with community decision-making structures to challenge gender discriminatory cultural norms and practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>greater representation by women and girls in formal and informal decision-making structures</li> <li>changes in patriarchal traditional structures and cultural norms and practices which reduce gender discrimination</li> <li>increased confidence and self-esteem expressed by poor and marginalised women and adolescent girls in target communities</li> <li>increased gender awareness and challenge and change gender discriminatory cultural norms and practices demonstrated by men and boys in target communities.</li> </ul>

We will seek to increase integration across our three programmatic areas. All of our gender work will feed into our governance and health programming. Demand-side governance work, including effective communications, will underpin all that we do to promote government accountability and responsiveness. We will adopt a horizontal health programming approach, with a strong focus on HIV, malaria, maternal and child health, and reproductive health.

We are challenged to ensure our actions are as radical as our vision. For Christian Aid Nigeria, this means being outspoken, courageous and undivided; standing with the poor, even at risk of being seen as antagonists by duty bearers. It means we will scrutinise our projects and programmes until we are convinced that they are challenging systems and structures, and have the potential to bring big, deep and lasting change.

## WHERE WE WORK

Our geographical focus in Nigeria is guided by levels of poverty and need, our strong existing partnerships, where we can operate safely and effectively as a Christian organisation, and where there are opportunities to secure donor funding.

We will work in four states – Kaduna, Plateau, Benue and Anambra – and the Federal Capital Territory; areas with a combined population of 18 million people. While not proactively looking to extend our reach further, we are open to working elsewhere if funding opportunities arise and we have clear entry points into the community. We hope to see a ripple effect, with successful projects replicated and scaled-up by our partners or other organisations in neighbouring states.

Christian Aid Nigeria is based in Abuja. Our team of 12 includes six staff with significant programmatic experience. We can also draw on the expertise of colleagues at our UK headquarters, other Christian Aid teams across Africa and the world, and civil society networks in Nigeria.

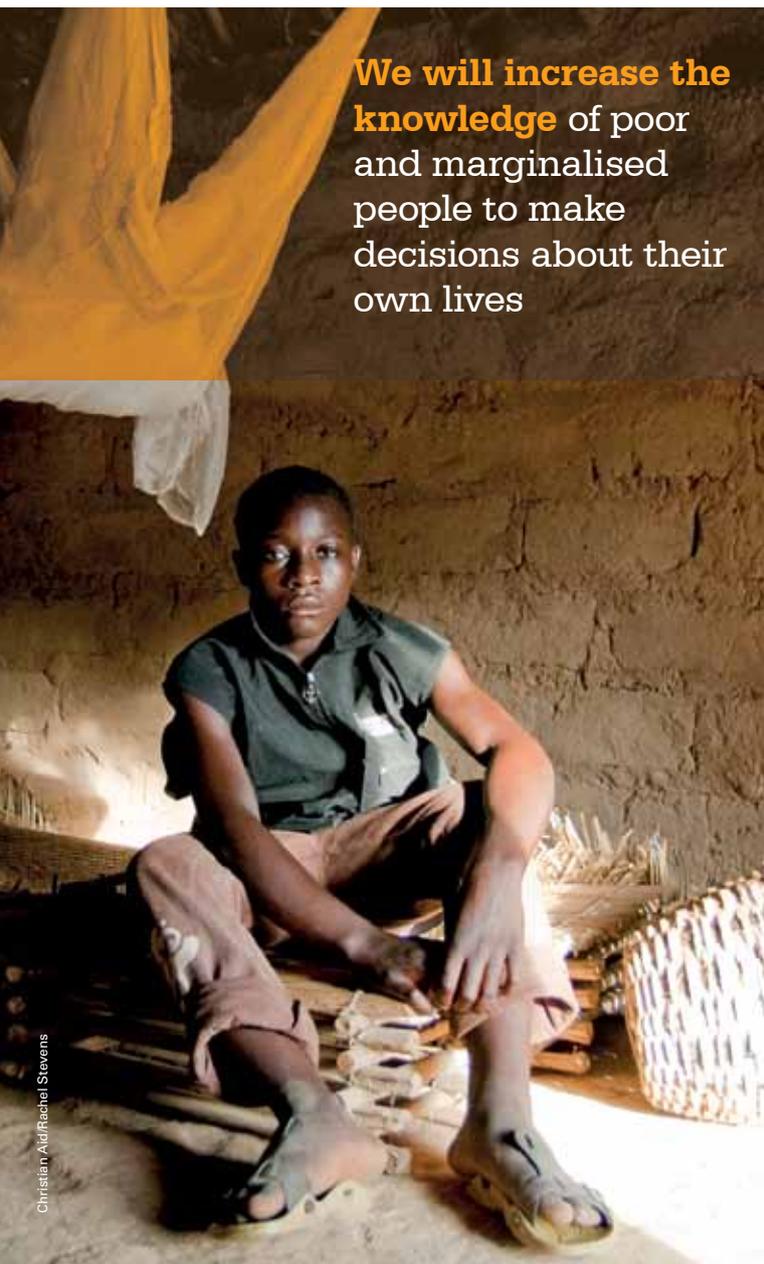


**We will increase the knowledge of poor and marginalised people to make decisions about their own lives**

## SUSTAINABILITY

Working wholly through a partnership model, Christian Aid promotes local ownership and relevant, sustainable development interventions. We will:

- invest in building the capacity of civil society, including the capability of local organisations to raise funds either from external donors or local sources
- envision faith-based organisations to be involved in development work and capitalise on their resources, including the commitment of community-based volunteers
- increase the knowledge of poor and marginalised people to make decisions about their own lives, particularly in respect of their human rights and health and well-being
- build and/or strengthen coalitions and networks to help ensure structures are in place for purposeful collective action
- create and institutionalise models for community and government interface
- facilitate changes in law, policy and practices which outlast project interventions, with a specific focus on cultural norms and practices which discriminate against women and girls.



## OUR PARTNERS IN NIGERIA

Aguata Diocesan Community Human Services (ADCHUS), Anambra State

Anglican Diocesan Development Society, Makurdi (ADDS), Benue State

Anglican Diocese of Nnewi Health and Community Development Centre (ADONHACDC), Anambra State

Association of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (ASWHAN), FCT

Centre for Gospel Health and Development (CeGHaD), Plateau State

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), FCT

Interfaith Mediation Centre (IMC), Kaduna State

International Centre for Energy, Environment and Development (ICEED), FCT

Kubwa Diocesan Development and Welfare Services (KDDWS), FCT

Justice Development and Peace Commission, Onitsha (JDPC), Anambra State

NINERELA+, Nigerian Association of Religious Leaders Living with HIV and AIDS, FCT

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