



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2015 FANTSUAM FOUNDATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The year 2015 may be the year when Fantsuam Foundation resumes its growth, albeit, slowly. The year saw the beginning of some recovery from the losses and trauma of the 2011 presidential elections. The sad experience of the elections that year, was rapidly followed by massive influx of fake financial institutions, called CASH FLOW, that preyed on the traumatized population that had lost most of their assets during the ensuing violence. The situation was made worse by waves of attacks by Boko Haram affiliates, criminal elements and cattle rustlers that attacked our host communities in Moro'a and Sanga chiefdoms. Throughout these trying times, Fantsuam Foundation held on to its

Mission: To eliminate poverty and disadvantage through integrated development programs and

Vision: To be the most effective Model of integrated Rural Development in West Africa.

This annual report provides overview of how Fantsuam Foundation has fared in the year 2015.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

During the year, the Foundation maintained the following departments: ZittNet Academy, Microfinance, GAIYA, HD and Administration, each led by a program manager. The Clinic was merged with the HIV Program, and both is now known as Health Department, HD.

The Board of Directors and Fantsuam Foundation suffered a major loss with the death of its Chairman, Chief Jibba Ladan, on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The Foundation visited the family to condole them and we were represented at the funeral.

This year, the organization had a total of 29 permanent staff, and worked with 146 volunteers. The volunteers were largely involved in the outreach activities of the Society for Family Health and the DFID-Propcom-Maikarfi Household Food Security project that targeted women small holder farmers.

On average, there were 70 visitors and clients daily at FF, with 16,080 total number of visitors for the year 2015. These visitors were composed of students, adults and children accessing care and support in HD and microfinance clients. We recorded 33 national visitors from partner organizations: Society For Family Health (SFH), Centre for Integrated Health Programs (CIHP), Christian Rural, Voluntary Services Overseas, Nigeria (VSON) Christian Urban and Rural Development Association of Nigeria (CRUDAN), JAMB, over 4,000 clients and students and 1 visitor from the UK

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

One of the management staff attended the African International Governance Forum and the Association for Progressive Communications Regional meeting in Addis-Ababa while a second staff missed the Synergos conference in Mexico due to visa difficulties. Several local capacity building trainings were attended by 26 staff members. The trainings were provided by our partners:

- ESSPIN -VSO
- CIHP - SFH
- CiSHAN (ARFH) - HAF (World Bank)
- Maikarfi-Propcom/ Palladium

A staff, Patience Stephen, who was part-sponsored by the organization for her university education has completed her degree in Computer Science and is serving in the organization pending going for her National Youth Service Corps

A second staff, Yakubu Tugola is being part-sponsored for his NCE studies at the College of Education, Kafanchan

Theresa Tafida, the Program Manager at HD successfully completed her MSc program in Global Policy Planning in Geriatrics and Gerontology, with the University of Southampton, UK

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

IN 2015, the organization was able to focus on three main service areas: Social Protection and healthcare especially for vulnerable children and older persons, Household food security and promoting affordable rural ICT4D. The Social Protection for vulnerable older persons was supported by the HelpAge International and the Kaduna State Government while the healthcare services for vulnerable children and sex workers was supported by the Centre for Integrated Health Programs and the Society for Family Health

## KAKAS, OLDER PERSONS SERVICE

As the first affiliate member of HelpAge International, in Nigeria, we have successfully coordinated establishment of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) involved in care for older persons, and our activities in 2015 for the celebration of the Global Day for Older Persons attracted the attention and support of the Kaduna State Government. These efforts to focus more attention to the care of older persons has revealed some policy and operational gaps in available services, and these have been forwarded to the Kaduna State Government.

## WOMEN SMALL HOLDER FARMERS

Women remain the focus of Fantsuam Foundation's food security activities. This service was given a professional boost through Fantsuam's partnership with the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) for the promotion of the use of Aflasafe for prevention of aflatoxin contamination of maize grains. This service has experienced slow uptake due to the lack of financial support to reach out to the women farmers and their low ability to pay upfront for the Aflasafe.

Fantsuam has pursued this goal more vigorously in its partnership with DFID's Procom-Mai Karfi program that is designed to ensure that the profits of the maize value chain is also retained by the small holder women farmers. Fantsuam purchases the women farmers' maize and help to sell it directly to a wholesale buyer, thereby limiting the influence of the middlemen

## PEACE BUILDING

Peaceful coexistence in smallholder farmers' communities is critical for a sustainable household food security. Fantsuam designed a grazing reserve to enhance the subsisting peaceful coexistence between Fulani pastoralists and their host Kaninkon farmers. The Tum Nikyop Grazing Reserve project accessed some support from DFID's NSRP (Nigerian Stability and Reconciliation Program). The program when fully implemented will be self-sustaining producing pasture for the pastoralists at a fee while the host communities will have ready access to manure for their organic farm activities.

## COMPUTER BASED TEST CENTER

Fantsuam decided to address the issue of affordable rural ICT4D by developing a Computer Based Test, CBT, Centre, making it the first of its type in the Kafanchan area. With its 200-seating capacity, the CBT is equipped with Thin Clients and Servers. The Thin Client technology is especially appropriate for the UTME. It meets JAMB stringent standards, its

flat screens help to minimise power consumption and heat generation, its central server system ensures high security and efficient monitoring of students during the examination. Fantsuam's Technical team ably supported by Intersky Digital Ltd worked hard to ensure a hitch-free UTME experience. The plan is that the CBT will be expanded to host 700 students, as well as host other online examinations such as WAEC and NECO if a partnership with Kaduna State Government can be worked out. This new service has been hosted by ZittNet Academy as a new income stream.

The challenge of affordable internet access still looms large, and FF staff have to rely on the expensive access provided by telephone companies. FF is now a member of the Africa organization, A4AI, Access for affordable Internet and will continue to follow up advocacy efforts to make this a reality for rural Nigeria.

## **CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN 2015**

### **Human resources**

Highly qualified and motivated staff members are still in short supply in FF. One of the hurdles is the remuneration package provided by the various grants received by FF. The Director of Administration, Mr TY Shinggu, resigned his post in order to join his family in Zaria.

This is one of the issues to be examined by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, BMGF, capacity building partnership. The BMGF partnership is led by Crystal Associates that has undertaken a preliminary assessment of FF activities and management culture

### **Power and Connectivity**

Grid supply to BayanLoco does not meet the community demands and we have to continue to rely on our diesel generator. The continuous increase of the price of diesel means that the cost of power is always on the high side. Efforts are made reactivate the use of our solar power. There is need to upgrade the inverters and purchase additional deep-sealed batteries to ensure optimal performance.

Connectivity in 2015 was entirely by use of modems connecting to the Nigerian Telcos. This remains an unsustainable option. FF obtained a small grant to develop a Community Wireless network, but this does not include the backhaul for connecting to optic fibre. The cost of connecting through the Nigerian Network operators has not been affordable for FF; it is even more expensive to connect to the MTN backbone that has a terminal at the Kafanchan general post office.

## Funding

Detailed income and expenditure report is provided by the external auditor in a separate report. As the internally generated revenue in FF slowly improves we have tried to re-strategize regarding the survival of some key departments such as the HD and Microfinance.

## Microfinance

Our client base for the microfinance has not maintained a steady growth and has not recovered from the damages of the 2011 elections, and we recognize that the microfinance scene in Kafanchan has changed in significant ways. Our main product at the moment is the adashe collection but its operations are not safe for our staff who does the rounds. There is therefore a need to diversify the income-generating base for MF. Initial investments have been made into Agricultural input supplies to women under the Palladium – Propcom/Maikarfi project. FF plans to engage in commercial ginger production under the FANTARI cooperative consortium.

## HD

The year 2015 was full of activities for the Health Department. It had various scale up programmes on HIV testing and Counseling and Ward level PMTCT (Preventing mother to child transmission). This year HD worked closely with four funding agencies Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH), Centre for Integrated Health Programmes (CIHP), Health Alive Foundation and CISHAN and was able to extend its services to Sanga Local government area. Staff of the department also had access to both in-house and external trainings to build their skills and enhance their performance.

HD funding comes exclusively from grants provided by funders. These are all short-term grants whose tenure is uncertain and whose priorities are not always the same as FF's. The sole dependence of HD on such funding is clearly not sustainable. The department is yet to work out a viable alternative for its source of funding.

HD has been working on provision of vocational skills training for some vulnerable children and formation of the village savings and loans schemes (VSLA). During the year, 70 OVCs received training in various skills like catering, decorations, tailoring, video and photography while 20 of the caregivers formed a VSLA group through which they received cash grant from CIHP to help them engage in income generating ventures.

### Education Sector Support Programme In Nigeria (ESSPIN).

This DFID programme is expected to wind up in 2016. The programs were extended for one year in order to consolidate the gains of the various key services that were handed over to the Kaduna State Government under the School Based Management Committee, SBMC. FF has therefore been engaged in visiting the 85 schools allocated to it to re-train the Women's Committees and the Children Committees in order to enhance the functionalities of the SBMCs.

### Dadamac – UK

It is important to place on record the significant support and friendship that FF has continued to enjoy in its relationship with Dadamac-UK. This relationship that is sustained through a weekly online Skype meeting has been a beacon of hope for FF in our difficult moments. The DMC team have been prompt in supporting FF requests for information or clarification. In one instance, DMC prevented FF from being defrauded of about £3,000 by a fake UK-charitable organization. Such support in these hard times is invaluable. DMC also continues to look out for resource mobilization and professional networking opportunities for FF, raising Fantsuam's profile in several of its own networks.

## **CONCLUSION**

The year 2015 marked a time of slow recovery for Fantsuam Foundation although it had its security challenges. It was the year when new opportunities for the growth of the organization were beginning to be explored: the Grazing Reserve is an example of a project which predates the current efforts of the Nigerian Government to establish these all over the country. The Grazing Reserve is still in its gestation stage and will require steady funding and technical support in order to make it a viable self-sustaining venture.

The challenges in the operations of the Microfinance department has created new opportunities for it to explore the provision of agricultural inputs such as improved seeds and fertilizer working closely with other like – minded cooperatives to engage in the Central Bank commercial ginger farming business. With Attachab as one of the sites for the expanded farm work, it is hoped that this new endeavor will improve the finances of the MF department and Attachab as well. The proposed ginger farming also holds the promise of our engagement in the use of environmentally-friendly organic fertilizer as a way of creating a brand of safe agricultural produce.

We have every reason to be optimistic that 2016 will record even greater opportunities for Growth and Service at Fantsuam Foundation

Jummai Pukat  
Director of Administration  
Signed  
May, 2016