



ANNUAL REPORT 2016 FANTSUAM FOUNDATION

INTRODUCTION

The year 2016 is the year when Fantsuam Foundation continued its growth, though slowly. A new opportunity of service opened up for Fantsuam Foundation with the approval of our Computer Based Test (CBT) Centre. The excellent performance of the center in our first attempt has led to the centre being asked to expand the facility to accommodate 250 students for the 2017 examination. The year saw the conclusion of the ESSPIN project and a review of the CIHP project. Our Social Protection services for the Kakas and vulnerable children also has some boost, in particular the establishment of the Older Persons Association, Jema'a Local Government was a landmark achievement.

Our external relationships continue to grow with staff attending more national and international programs. One of the challenges we faced in the CBT, was the incidence of fake connecting cables. Fortunately, our team detected this challenge in good time and were able to make replacements. This led to our partner organization, the Association For Progressive Communications, APC, approving a small grant for us to undertake a feasibility study of the connecting cables market in Nigeria. This year our CEO was given an award at the 2016 Africa's Most Influential Women in Business & Government in Ghana

ADMINISTRATION

A key activity of our administration this year is the capacity building we are receiving from Crystal Associates, the implementing agency of The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the review of our organizational development activities. The mentoring is for a period of 18 months during which period the following objectives are being addressed

- 1i Development of a 5 year strategic plan
- 2i Administrative Operation
- 3i Human Resource Management

This year, the organization had a total of 33 permanent staff, and worked with 149 volunteer. 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 72 visitors and clients daily at FF, with 17,006 total number of visitors for the year 2016. These included students, adults and children accessing care and support in HD and microfinance clients. We recorded 31 external visitors from partner organizations: Society For Family Health (SFH), Centre for Integrated Health Programs (CIHP), Christian Rural, Urban Development Associations, (CRUDAN). We hosted 2,849 students for JAMB and 726 clients for microfinance

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Six staff attended various national and international training programs and conferences in Cameroun, Nairobi, Johannesburg and also Cape Town, South Africa where the CEO attended the Synergo's Senior Fellow's Global meeting, Fantsuam Foundation also attended the Internet Governance Forum in Mexico, where John Dada also attended the APC eBoard meeting. The following capacity building trainings were attended by 74 staff members:

S.No	# of staff	Training
1	8	Community Wireless installations sponsored by Commotion Network
2	10	CIHP, Centre for Integrated Health Program.
3	4	Civil Society Scale-Up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN), State level dissemination and strategy development on the score card and training on identified gaps for Mapped CSOs from Kaduna State
4	1	Africa Regional Meeting, Cameroon, by APC
5	1	Africa Internet Governance Workshop, by APC, Uganda
6	1	Internet Governance Forum, Mexico
7	1	Synergos

8	1	IITA, Ibadan
9	1	Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH),
10	1	CISHAN, Civil Society on HIV and AIDS in Nigeria. To execute the HAF GRANT on FSW brothel based and non brothel based / IDU in Jemaa LGA
11	1	Organic Agriculture business for sustainable National Development by the National Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria NOAN, Abuja
12	3	Capacity Building for Strategic Plan Crystal Associates, Abuja
13	1	Commodity trading and Risk Management by Afex, Abuja
14	11	ESSPIN, Meetings and trainings.
15	3	Sickle Cell conference. Abuja
16	1	Min of Women Affairs, Kaduna
17	1	Summit for Ageing Policy Formulation, Abuja.
18	8	ESSPIN in house training for facilitators Kafanchan.
19	1	Peace Direct, Kano
20	1	Market Place by Coalition of CSOs, ESSPIN, Abuja
21	1	SME conference, By Nigeria /USAID on Financing Non oil export Businesses and Franchises
22	1	Forum for African Women Educationists, Abuja.
23	1	CBD-NGO, Jos
24	1	Sky Digital, Jos, Training in installation and maintenance of Thin Clients and developing a new web site for Fantsuam Foundation
25	1	Teresa Group, Durban SA. Children living with HIV/AIDS.
26	10	SHIPs for MARPs project by CISHAN and SFH

Patience Stephen, who was part-sponsored by the organization for her university education has completed her degree in Computer Science and is undertaking her National Youth Service Corps with the University of Jos.

A staff Yakubu Tugola is being part-sponsored for his NCE studies at the College of Education, Kafanchan, while two others also enrolled this year at the College of education Gidan Waya.

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

HD

We served 1957 children this year providing them with the following services

Kids Club	787
School Fees	34
Block Grants	134
VC Testing	253
Shelter	10
Vocational	47
Scholastic	57
Nutritional Support	290
Health Support	345

We decided to reactivate the Grains Bank in order to meet the severe nutritional problems of some vulnerable families in our host community of Bayan Loco. A meeting was held with the community leaders where this issue was extensively discussed.

We formed three groups for Voluntary Savings Loans Association groups: The Fantsuam VSLA is for FF staff, in which a monthly contribution is made by each member and members are at liberty to ask for loans from the group. The Bege VSLA group has 16 members(2 males and 14 females) while Alheri VSLA group has 12 members (2 males and 10 females)

We have worked with CIHP to provide the following infrastructural support in schools where we have identified vulnerable children

S/N	PROJECT	NAME OF SCHOOL	MONTH COMPLETED
1	Construction of desks and Benches	Atukan maroa UBE Mnchok	March, 2016
2	Construction of toilet	Zwahu Kazah memorial Primary sch. Manchok	June, 2016
3	Fixing ceiling	Byaphi Shashi Daddu Primary school	August, 2016
4	Construction of doors and windows	Zwahu memorial Primary School, Manchok	September 2016
5	Flooring of classes	Zwahu memorial Primary, School, Manchok	September, 2016.
6	Partitioning of classrooms	Atukan Maroa UBE, Manchok	September 2016

Social Protection

Our work with Older Persons has received some support from HelpAge International, for the annual celebration of the Global Day for Older Persons. In 2015, the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development of Kaduna State was the Guest of Honor and she pledged to make a case with the State Government to ensure that this event is celebrated annually state-wide. She donated N500,000 towards the care of Fantsuam's Kakas program.

For 2016, the Commissioner could not attend the October event, but the Jema'a Local Government Chairman was in attendance and provided logistic support for the event. Following this year's Global Day, Fantsuam convened a meeting of some older persons and suggested establishing a formal Older Persons Association, Jema'a. This idea was accepted and an interim committee has been set up to get the organization up and running

International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

IITA has been our supplier of aflasafe for the past 3years. They offered training to our staffs who in turn trained our farmers on how to use aflasafe and its benefits. Because of the positive report received from farmers, Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation and USAID have decided to take over the funding of the aflasafe in some African countries including Nigeria. The project will be managed by a company called Chemonics. They will look for reliable private organizations that will be issued with license to set up production facilities like the one in IITA, Ibadan to produce aflasafe and ensure its availability. At the moment Chemonics have taken over from IITA. Fantsuam has made contacts with the IITA officer in charge of the Chemonics program.

Peace Building

The pilot of the Nikyob Community Ranch has continued to receive the support of the Nigerian Stability and Reconciliation Program, NSRP. The following activities have been completed or are in various stages of completion

1. Establishment of Dialogue Committee for the management of the NCR
2. Establishment of Stakeholders Forum
3. Infrastructure for the Ranch
 - a. Reconstruction of the Water troughs
 - b. Wire fencing of the Ranch
4. Capacity building for the Nikyob and Fulani women and community members in basic management of the ranch, production and storage of pasture, milk, yoghurt

ZittNet Academy

a. Computer-Based Test Centre, CBT

As a result of the excellent performance of the Fantsuam CBT in the 2015 UTME, we have been asked to increase the capacity of our hall to take 250 candidates. This endorsement was quite a challenge in view of the financial situation of the organization. In 2015 we hosted 2849 students and the cost of setting up the CBT was N6,871,800. We had sourced interest-free and low-interest loans to meet this obligation. Of this sum, we still have an outstanding of N5,271,800 to pay back to our benefactors. The cost of additional Thin Client systems, furniture, cabling, mouse, keyboards to meet the 250 candidate-size as at now is N2,588,170. This money is also being sourced as an interest-free loan. The loans on the CBT is expected to be repaid from income generated from the UTME 2017

b. Certificate and Diploma Training

ZittNet Academy has trained 752 students this year. The high turn up at the beginning of the year was due to rush period for JAMB training. However, the department still faces the challenge of inadequate staff and level of commitment of some of the staff

c. Internet Access

This continues to be a major and expensive challenge. FF is now a member of the Africa organization, A4AI, Access for Affordable Internet. We are actively engaged in exploring the use of Wireless Community Network as an alternative infrastructure for the provision of affordable internet for FF and our host communities

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN 2016

Human resources

The challenge of staff retention still persists. In view of the fairly advanced program content in FF, there is a need to engage staff who have a minimum of tertiary level education. Persons with this background and a passion for rural development work have been scarce. The Director of Operations has resigned her appointment and a suitable replacement has not yet been found. The accountant employed in Microfinance had to be disengaged due to his low performance. Up till now a qualified replacement for Microfinance accountant is yet to be found. Mr. Gandume Gamaliel was absorbed as full time staff of Gaiya Department while a new Program officer, Gankon B.T. was also employed to head the HD Department

Documentation System

FF is a repository of years of primary data but these have been poorly archived and therefore not well used. A Management Information System, MIS, is needed to address this issue. Along with this is the need for a comprehensive microfinance software.

These issues are being addressed in the capacity building being provided for FF by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, BMGF, through Crystal Associates.

Power and Connectivity

The use of the Fantsuam diesel generator is clearly not sustainable due to its high maintenance cost. In addition, the maintenance of the solar installation also lacks in-house technical expertise leading to avoidable expenses. There is need to upgrade the inverters and purchase additional deep-sealed batteries to ensure optimal performance.

Funding

Detailed income and expenditure report as provided by the external auditor is provided in a separate report. Given the nation-wide slow-down of the economy, Fantsuam Foundation continues to operate a deficit budget with very little slack for new initiatives. It has been extremely difficult to reactivate the reserve fund which was depleted as a result of the 2011 crisis. Unfortunately, none of our current donors has agreed to support core funding of FF activities. This is an area that FF will continue to explore because core funding for infrastructural development, maintenance, utilities, salaries of key staff are critical expenditures that need to be secured in order to support the sustainability of the organization

Microfinance

Our client base is now 726 clients. Our main product, adashe, has also not recorded any significant growth in addition to the constant danger to which our staff is exposed. There is therefore a need to diversify the income generating base for Microfinance. Initial investments have been made into Agricultural input supplies to women under the Palladium – Propcom/Maikarfi project. As well as collaboration in the Federal Government off-takers project. Our efforts to get involved in the establishment of orchard has met several challenges and lack of clarity from the facilitator of the activity.

HD

Although HD provides most of the social protection services of Fantsuam Foundation, its funding comes exclusively from small grants provided by funders thus making it the most vulnerable department in terms of funding. The challenge of how to sustain these services 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 has wound up this year. The program was 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 84 schools allocated to it to retrain the Women's Committees and the Children Committees in order to enhance the functionalities of the SBMCs. We also participated in a Market Place exhibition of the coalition of NGOs that were involved in the ESSPIN program. Fantsuam Foundation has contacted the Kaduna State Ministry of Education with a proposal on provision of ongoing support to the SMBCs and their teachers through a Continuing Professional Development program. No response has been received as yet

Dadamac – UK

There is a transition in the leadership of Dadamac-UK with Pam handing over the management to Nikki Fishman who has been a volunteer with Dadamac for some years now. Nikki is undertaken a review of the Dadamac web site to make it more responsive to receiving donations while Pam will move on to become the Dadamac Ambassador.

Internally Displaced Persons in Kafanchan

As a result of the destruction of villages in Ninte, GidanWaya, Godogodo, etc, many IDPs are now sheltering with friends, families, schools and churches in Kafanchan. There is now an acute shortage of accommodation as fleeing families look for alternative places to relocate. Fantsuam Foundation has provided support to IDPs who are sheltering in Takau. We are also looking at how to support many young girls who have dropped out of school and are in rather vulnerable situations in Kafanchan. Some of them have been subject to sexual exploitation.

The issue of internally displaced teachers has also been followed up by Fantsuam Foundation and several proposals have been sent to the Kaduna State Government to support our intervention in this area. In the meantime, Fantsuam is partnering with a UK-based organization, UKAPES, to provide Continuing Professional Development updates for internally displaced teachers. We believe that such intervention is critical if internally displaced southern Kaduna children are to be given adequate teaching in this critical period

CONCLUSION

The financial challenges in Fantsuam Foundation should be appreciated within the context of ongoing economic slowdown nation-wide. Briefly for the month of September, staff agreed to accept 50% salary cut because FF was not in position to pay the full salary. Some efforts is being made to diversity the revenue base of the organization: these include the supply of inputs to farmers, closer working relationship with AFEX, exploring distribution of improved Cock stock through Iliya Duniya of PROPCOM, value chain of grains production. The orchard production program of the World Bank and the Ginger offtaker services of the NGO collation in Jema'a are yet to fully take-off. Progress report on all these efforts are being compiled by the Gaiya Department

With diligent follow up of these efforts, we hope that 2017 will be an even more satisfactory year for Fantsuam Foundation.

Jummai Pukat,
Director of Administration