



ANNUAL REPORT 2017 FANTSUAM FOUNDATION

INTRODUCTION

The year 2017 marks the beginning of improved peace situation in our host communities. The peaceful situation has enabled us to host the JAMB examination successfully. This year saw the end of the CIHP project and the beginning of a new project with the same organization. The Older Persons Association, Jama'a which is hosted by Fantsuam Foundation has been duly registered with the Corporate Affairs.

In response to the destruction of homes in Goska and Bakin-Kogi during the attack by herdsmen, Fantsuam Foundation developed a reconstruction and rehabilitation initiative in which we have now completed the construction of new homes, 4 in Goska and 2 Bakin-Kogi for six families. These constructions were supported with donations from Friends of Nigeria, Nexus Fund and some members of the FF Board of Trustees. We plan to also undertake additional construction of 5 homes in Tafan as soon as we are able to raise the necessary funds. We hope these efforts will be recognized by the Kaduna State Government so that the other households who were similarly affected in Bondom will be assisted to rebuild their lives. These reconstruction efforts is the first and only of its kind directed at supporting communities to rebuild their homes after the crisis.

We were contacted by the Federal College of Statistics Manchok to become partners in setting up a campus of the College in Kafanchan. An MOU has been successfully signed with the authorities of the College.

ADMINISTRATION

The capacity building provided by Crystal Associates, the implementing agency of The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was successfully completed. The impact of this training has been seen in the timely preparation of the 2018 workplan and budget. Another outcome of this training was the ongoing efforts to purchase and install a microfinance software. This is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2018

The total number of staff this year was 32 and there were 59 national volunteers. Due to the challenge of remaining solvent and able to pay salaries, two staff were requested to take pay cuts, while three other staff were relieved of their jobs.

There was a total of 9,682 visitors to Fantsuam this year; this is lower than the 17,006 recorded for 2016. This is probably a reflection of the downturn in the local economy which led to lower enrolment in our computer training programs and less attendance in our clinics.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

FF staff attended 34 national and international training programs and conferences including 2 who went to Nairobi and two trips to Johannesburg. There were 46 in-house trainings during the year, these were held to build staff capacity in various program areas.

This year 3 staff and one volunteer are being part-sponsored for their NCE studies at the College of Education, Kafanchan, while one volunteer has just graduated.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Gayya.

The Gaiya team trained over 200 farmers in several communities in and around Kafanchan on Aflasafe including Marsa and Ungwan Jibril.

AgResult (Aflasafe)

The farmers who applied Aflasafe on their farms in 2016, were paid their incentives by March, 2017. The incentives for 2017 are yet to be paid. Activities in respect of maize sampling for the 2017 harvest has already started.

This year, FF was able to link farmers in Kafanchan with a big time aflasafe farmer in Kaduna. Tukunyan Gwari provides inputs of improved maize seeds, fertilizer, herbicides and Aflasafe on the understanding that the farmers will repay him with their harvests.

FF farms

On the whole we recorded poor harvests on our Maize, Yam and soya bean farms. This was largely due to management challenges and theft

Farming of Pulses

We have approached AFEX in order to partner with them on the production of pulses for export to India this year. AFEX is willing to work with us on this and is exploring possibility of land allocation at the Gurara irrigation project of the Federal Government.

Contacts have been made with MIRSAL at the Central Bank for access to low interest loans towards the 2018 farming season.

Tractor

The tractor worked in Marsa, Jagindi, Ungwa Magoro and Kafanchan. No payments have been remitted to Dadamac for the repayment of the loan taken for the purchase of this tractor. A more consistent repayment schedule needs to be established as a sign of gratitude and integrity towards our benefactors.

Peace Building

- Fantsuam continues its work of raising awareness about hate speeches to teachers. This program will be extended to youths on social media as soon funds are available
- Fantsuam became the first institution to support families whose homes were destroyed in the last sectarian crises, to start rebuilding their homes. So far, we have built two homes in Bakin Kogi and four homes in Goska. It is important to raise the profile of this peace building efforts to the Kaduna State Government in order to encourage its replication. There are still over 300 homes yet to be rebuilt across various southern Kaduna communities

Older persons Association, JOPA

The Executive Committee has managed the affairs of the JOPA so far with a few teething problems especially with regards to financial accountability. As soon as the financial issues have been sorted, the present Exco will be requested to step down for a new body.

In the meantime, Fantsuam Foundation has facilitated the CAC registration of the JOPA, at the cost of ₦200,000, through a donation from John Dada. There was need to nominate some of the JOPA members for the CAC registration and the following names were forwarded as members of the Board of Trustees for JOPA: John Dada, Chief Akpu, Alhaji Salusu Tanko, Kazanka Comfort, Samuel Dowyaro, Jummai Pukat and Mrs Naomi Elias.

BayanLoco Grains bank

Efforts to get community and churches support for establishing Bayan Loco grains bank has not been successful. Only the local CAN chairman has been consistent in attending while none of the other pastors have shown any interest. On its own Fantsuam Foundation has collected donation of grains from its staff and volunteers and have been distributing these to needy families in the community.

Peace Building

Support for Internally Displaced Persons

The organization was able to raise some funds to buy 3 bags of maize, 4.5 bags of rice and 3 bags of beans. For distribution to IDPs in the following communities: Zangan, Ungwa Masara, BayanLoco, Migi, Antrung, Zilan, and Takau Primary School. Some affected staff of FF were also supported from these supplies.

Other peace-building activities provided in 2017 include

- Working with Christian women MARRIED in Muslim communities,
- Sport for Peace: A cricket team for children where youths of all ethnic background are trained to play cricket

- FF with the support of Friends of Nigeria and Nexus built 6 (3 rooms apartment) in some crisis affected communities, namely Goska Bakin Kogi and Tafan

Social protection

- FF has been providing nutritional support for a family of three children who were severely malnourished. Another family whose father died after a prolonged illness is also receiving nutritional and educational support. Fantsuam is mobilizing support to help them build 3 rooms after their mud house collapsed.
- Three of the 5 children who were accused of witchcraft and adopted by FF, are doing well and are now attending St Thaddeus Science Academy, Madakiya. One of them who has epilepsy and sickle cell disease was registered for beads-making and has now graduated, while a fifth one is in a girls' boarding school in Jos.

ZittNet Academy

Marie Lowe CBT(Computer Based Test Center)

For the 2017, JAMB approved an increase in the number of students to be hosted to 250. This required additional thin clients, furniture, cabling, mouse and keyboards purchased. The cost of additional items purchased was ₦3,785,620, bringing the total debt of the CBT to ₦8666420. Unfortunately, the total number of students that were hosted for the 2017 UTME was reduced to 2194 (as compared to the 2,849 candidates in 2016). This has affected our income and reduced our ability to make any substantial repayment of the outstanding loan. The amount repaid in 2017 was ₦1,370,650 leaving a balance of ₦7,295,770.

Certificate and Diploma Training

Attendance for certificate was 152, while for Diploma, it was 39. This was also a significant reduction from 2016 when we had 218 students in certificate and 92 for Diploma.

Internet access

This issue is yet to be resolved. We are exploring partnership with the NCC and the Internet Society, ISOC, for affordable access. The NCC has not been responsive while the ISOC response has been encouraging

Health Department, HD

One of our partners supported us to get some of our orphans and vulnerable children to train in various skills such baking, hair dressing, and fashion design. 15 of them were provided with sewing machines, barbers received 2 sets of clippers, 2 hand dryers and

generators, the cobblers received 5 shoe filers, hair dressers were given 15 hair dryers and rollers, while the bakers received 17 ovens.

The performance of the HD team was rated as excellent and this has led to the offer of a new project for the next 5 years. The project called PEARL is Partnering Effectively to end Aids through Result and Learning).

The following services were provided in the HD in the year ending December 2017

- Kids Club for 349 children
- School Block Grant for 4 Schools to serve 158 students
- Home based care for 1,499
- Vulnerable children served = 1,798
- PABA not targeted actual - was 586 (236M & 350F)
- Persons Living with HIV n Aids - 280 (65M & 215F)
- Voluntary Counselling and Testing for – 776 individuals (339F & 437M)
- Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission for 83 clients
- Village Savings and Loans Association for care givers: 9 Group with 220 members

Clinic

The clinic provided Antenatal care to 21 women, Sickle cell services to 54, epilepsy treatment to 54, Family Planning to 18 persons. The revenue from the clinic continues to be insufficient to pay its staff. It has been decided that the clinic should focus on its area of strength which is treatment and care for sickle cell and epilepsy patients. There are no viable alternative treatments for these conditions in Kafanchan at the present moment and since FF can be sure of bringing high quality drugs from the UK, this can be our unique selling point. A new nurse has been employed and given this new mandate to improve on the fortunes of the clinic.

Microfinance

For 2017, the department had four staff including an accountant and two field officers. Total inflow in 2017 was ₦1,520,763.97 while total expenses was ₦1,312,267.71, with net profit of ₦208,496.26. Total loan portfolio is ₦5,746,000 and out of this, N3,880,456.47 is expected to be recovered through the court. Total of fixed deposit mobilized was 500,000.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN 2017

Human resources

In order to cope with the monthly salary bill, some staff restructuring was undertaken. A domestic and a finance staff were asked to withdraw their services while two staff were requested to accept pay cuts and a reduction in their working hours.

Documentation System

Up till now a working management information system is yet to be put in place. A software meant for the microfinance has been commissioned but it is yet to be installed in our systems. The CEO is following up on this.

Infrastructure maintenance

There is need to undertake facelift of the Main office buildings. The offices have a need for refurbishment and staff furniture are in various states of disrepair. This activity needs to be looked at in the context of other capital expenses within FF such as the repayment of the loan of the CBT and the need for an organizational vehicle. The Board may wish to consider giving instructions on resource mobilization for these needs within the organization.

Microfinance

The director of finance has continued to device strategies to improve the MF services. However, the national economic downturn remains a challenge. Several loopholes of staff fraud has been successfully challenge through the termination of one staff and issue of last warning to another staff. The department has innovated by encouraging long term depositors with attractive interest rates and being very selective of clients who are given loans to ensure their capability to repay.

Peace building in Kafanchan

There has been an improved peace within Kafanchan communities. However the impact of lack of peace in neighbouring communities can have an impact on us. It is therefore important that efforts at peace building and community integration should be continued. Up till now there are still evidences of suspicion based on ethnicity and religions. Fantsuam will continue to uphold its political non-partisanship and non-religious affiliations in order to maintain its ability to freely serve all persons irrespective of their religions and ethnicity. The Kafanchan communities have suffered significant trauma from the past crises, and still some new internal crisis which indicate the lack of respect for human lives continues to occur.

The loss of earnings and clients loans during the 2011 crisis that led to a court case with the funder, ADF, is still pending. We had pleaded force majeure, but the court in Kafanchan ruled against us in 2017. We felt our legal team did not understand the case fully and was unable to provide convincing arguments in the court. We have changed the legal team and have filed an appeal. The new legal team has been able to collect the court proceedings and successfully filed an appeal which is coming for hearing in Kaduna in March 2018.

CONCLUSION

Usually when there is economic recession, it is the people at the bottom of the pyramid that feels the harsh effects more than any other. As a grassroots organization, Fantsuam Foundation had its share of economic crunch in 2017. However, the relative peace enjoyed in 2017 is beginning to lead to slow economic improvements. It is hoped that we will be able to build on the successes of 2017 and engage profitably in meeting the old and new challenges that will be encountered in 2018.

Jummai Pukat,
Director of Administration