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## **FIRST COMMUNITY INTERVENTION REPORT ON JOGA VILLAGE**

**Abstract:** The struggle to ensure adequate citizens' participation to enhance better public services delivery related to education, health, water and more remains a biggest challenge especially in marginalized grassroots communities in Nigeria. In 2018, the Kaduna state joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) to features more commitment rated to public service delivery, anti-corruption and inclusion. However, to ensure effective and equitable services delivery in grassroots local communities, there's still need for organizations to promote community participation and ownership in all the processes.

So that's YAPD4Africa initiated the "Community Action-Led Initiative (CAL Project) to educate and empower citizens in neglected communities to promote their participation and build trust in governance through which basic public services are delivered in an accountable and responsible manners across grassroots local level.

This report explains the current community interventions, we carried out with our volunteers in Kaduna state and slept for over 3 days in Joga engaging different neighborhood communities. During the interventions, all the funds and resources spent were self-funded by YAPD4Africa.

## **BODY OF THE REPORT**

**Description of the target community:** Joga is a much underserved marginalized rural community with about 10 neighborhood communities named Joga Tudu, Kadage, Sabon Gari Joga, Garin Baki, Bango, Madatai, Kabawa e.t.c. They have over 7000 population rate, located under Gwaraji ward, Igabi Local Government Area in Kaduna State.

## **EXPERIENCED AND CHALLENGES**

Some basic challenges were encountered as follows:

1. **Education:** In a rural settings like these communities under Gwaraji ward, the ability to read and write can aids social and economic advantages in significant ways. But it was very unfortunate in all these communities, there's lack of infrastructure, no basic teaching facilities for the students, inadequate teachers and other necessary equipment. The community battled with lack of both junior and senior secondary schools, they have to combine students in the same classrooms.
2. **Health:** There is critical healthcare gaps, despite just one community have healthcare centre with facilities but it lacks medical doctors, leaving residents without essential services. Pregnant women and sick individuals must travel to the state city Primary Healthcare Center (PHC), often facing delays and complications. In dire situations, untrained men are forced to assist with childbirth, highlighting the urgent need for trained healthcare professionals. Neighboring communities lack basic healthcare infrastructure, worsening the crisis. Immediate attention is required to deploy doctors and health workers. Furthermore, the government need to establish functional healthcare facilities in surrounding the communities.
3. **Water:** With key focus on Joga, the residents rely on contaminated surface water or distant water sources, which increase the risk of water-borne diseases. Many of the water borehole requires reconstruction due to its current state of disrepair, rendering it non-functional for a long time now. This has led severe water scarcity crisis, affecting the daily lives of residents, particularly women and children. Reconstructing the water borehole is crucial to alleviate the suffering of women and children across the ward. Ensure access to clean water, improved health and enhanced overall community well-being.

4. **Road:** Currently, the road from Kujama is dilapidated, while the alternative route is equally poor and also necessitates a cumbersome canoe trip from Bango to Joga and neighboring villages. This hinders farmers from transporting their abundant produce including food staples and other goods to market. Constructing a reliable road network would boost agricultural productivity, increase market access and stimulate local economic development. Furthermore, improved roads would enhance health delivery especially for pregnant women, education and social service that benefit over 7000 residents. The state would also benefit from increased revenue generation through agricultural exports, job creation and stimulated economic activity, ultimately contributing to Kaduna state's food security and socioeconomic prosperity.

### **INTERVENTION OVERVIEW**

Our community engagement interventions aimed to improve education, healthcare and water access. With key objectives included increasing school enrollment especially for girls, enhance healthcare access, addressing maternal healthcare gaps and doctors shortage, and reducing water-borne diseases.

### **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Residents identified inadequate education infrastructure, lack of healthcare, lack of healthcare professionals, contaminated water sources and poor road networks as priority concerns. Community residents specifically in Joga expressed the needs of education because no child has completed primary school in 9 years due to inadequate infrastructure and teacher shortages, exacerbated by remote location and lengthy commute over 20 kilometers.

### **INTERVENTION STRATEGIES**

To address Joga pressing needs, our organization decided to take the following strategies:

1. Engaging government agencies with evidence-based advocacy.
2. Reaching out to potential partners for immediate support.
3. Establishing a Community Development Builders (CDB) committee for ownership and sustainability through our "Community Action-Led Initiative."
4. Providing training on first aid skills to community women, enhancing their capacity to respond to emergencies.

These strategies aim to bridge gaps in education, healthcare and water access. Furthermore, promote active participation by empowering these communities to thrive.

### **CONCLUSION**

Initially, our intervention started in Joga community, we decided to expand to neighboring communities, ultimately to cover the entirety Gwaraji Ward. To ensure inclusivity, we want to conduct real-time challenges surveys across all ward communities, informing a comprehensive approach to address unique needs and promote equitable development for all. Furthermore, for sustainability scalability purpose, we want to expand our collaboration with more local stakeholders, organizations, government agencies and resource mobilization.