**PROMOTING TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE IN THE SOUTH EAST NIGERIA STATES (ABIA, ANAMBRA, EBONYI, ENUGU, IMO) THROUGH ENHANCED NON-STATE ACTORS/CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATION.**

**BACKGROUND**

In a bid to strengthen Nigeria’s anti-corruption framework, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in July 2016 as the 70th member country.

The OGP is an international multi-stakeholder initiative which was launched on 20th September 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers to make their governments more open, accountable and responsive to citizens.

The partnership is governed by four key principles namely:

* Transparency: Information on government activities and decisions is open, comprehensive, timely and freely available to the public, and meets basic open data standards.
* Accountability: Rules, regulations, and mechanisms are in place that call upon government actors to justify their actions, act upon criticisms or requirements made of them and accept responsibility for failure to perform.
* Citizen Participation: Governments seek to mobilize citizens to engage in public debate, provide input, and make contributions that lead to more responsive and effective governance.
* Technology and Innovation: Governments embrace the importance of new technologies in driving innovation, providing citizens with open access to technology, and increasing their capacity to use technology.

The OGP process allows for sub-national engagement under which some states in the Southeast including Anambra, Ebonyi and Enugu have indicated interest to join and whilst advocacy is required to get the two states of Imo and Abia to also commit to open and transparent governance and to implement key principles of the OGP in their respective states.

A key component of the OGP process is the involvement of Non State Actors/Civil Society Organizations as equal partners with the government in the creation, implementation and Monitoring of the Action Plans and commitments.

**PROJECT RATIONALE**

The above three states in the South East of Nigeria having applied to join the OGP will be required to develop (along with the Non-State Actors/Civil Society Organizations) a State Action Plan, Commitments and Activities for implementation in close collaboration with the National OGP Secretariat for the first two years.

As such, we have identified an urgent need to:

1. Develop the capacity of the relevant Non-State Actors/Civil Society Organisations to enable them effectively participate in the identification, creation, implementation and monitoring of the various State Action Plans and to hold their state governments accountable for the use (or misuse) of public resources.
2. Secure the future and community ownership of the OGP process in the states by training and mainstreaming youth organisations into the OGP process.

**GOALS**

**The goal of the Project is to promote transparent, accountable and citizen centric governance in the relevant states through the involvement of trained and better equipped Non-State Actors/Civil Society Organisations in designing and implementing the Open Government Partnership State Action Plans and commitments.**

**OBJECTIVES**

1. **To organize and strengthen the capacity of non-state actors in each of the states**
2. **Provide Capacity Enhancement training on the OGP Process in each of the states (as well as invite participants from neighbouring states to advocate for the need for their state governors to sign the OGP commitments).**
3. **Develop Standards and documentation to guide the non-state actors on key issues like fiscal responsibility, access to information, citizens engagement etc.**
4. **To support the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the action plans.**
5. **Improve coordination between the Non-State Actors and the public sector implementers of the OGP Action plan.**
6. **To provide specialized training for officials that will be responsible for the implementation of the OGP principles in the states**
7. **To assist the states in articulating their state action plans in consultation with non-state actors.**

**KEY ACTIVITIES**

1. **Organize Training and Capacity Building workshop in each of the states (2 days per state)**
2. **Advocacy visit with state officials, improve the platform for consultation on the development of state action plans and support advocates from non-OGP states within the Southeast.**
3. **Develop Media/IEC material and radio programs in local languages to broaden and deepen the discussion on transparency and accountability among citizens**
4. **Organize states’ workshop for the development of state actions plans**
5. **Review existing laws and policy framework that may impact on the implementation of the OGP State Action Plan and recommend new policy/legal frameworks.**
6. **Establish Youth Accountability Working Groups to mainstream youths into the OGP Process.**
7. **Establish an online platform to enable the trained youth participate in community engagement, interact, track OGP implementation and report on monitoring activities.**
8. **Train 2 young persons (gender balance) to manage the platform and provide stipends for them for an initial period of 6 months.**

PROJECT TIME LINE

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| S/N | ACTIVITY | START DATE | END DATE |
| 1 | Review of Laws and Regulatory Framework | 14th December 2017 | 12th January 2018 |
| 2 | First Capacity Enhancement Training (Anambra, Enugu and Ebonyi States) jointly to be held in Enugu | Tuesday 30th- January 2018 | Wednesday 31st January 2018 |
| 3 | Establishment of Youth Working Groups for Anambra, Enugu and Ebonyi States | - | Wednesday 31st January 2018 |
| 4 | Second Capacity Enhancement Training (Imo and Abia States) jointly to be held in Owerri | Thursday 22nd February 2018 | Friday 23rd February 2018 |
| 5 | Establishment of Youth Working Groups Imo and Abia States | - | Friday 23rd February 2018 |
| 6 | Development and deployment of  Online platform for Youth Accountability program and training of 2 platform managers. | January 2018 | February 2018 |

**PROJECT IMPLENTERS**

**LEAD IMPLEMENTER:**

**The Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC) Nigeria**is an independent, non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation established in 1996 for the protection and promotion of human rights and women’s human rights and the strengthening of civil society. CIRDDOC is also committed to the institutionalization of good governance, gender equality and the rule of law in Nigeria. CIRDDOC is registered under Part C of Companies and Allied Matters Act laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990. (RC 10,928).

**CO-IMPLEMENTERS**

**The Ethics & Corporate Compliance Institute of Nigeria (The Institute)** is an independent, non-partisan, not-for-profit, Non-Governmental Organization incorporated in 2006 in Nigeria.

The institute operates from locations in Lagos, Abuja, Enugu and Port Harcourt.

The Institute was set up to meet the challenge of stemming corruption and moral decadence in the Nigeria public and private sectors- themselves a fall out of decades of corrupt military dictatorship which spread massive corruption and poverty to all facets of the Nigerian Society leading to the collapse of moral and societal values in Nigeria.

Nigeria has paid and continues to pay a colossal price in reputational capital for corrupt practices, both real and imagined. The Institute empowers private and public sector organizations to improve their governance standards; facilitates inter-sector collaboration to bolster corporate responsibility, public accountability, transparency, the rule of law and access to justice. In addition, the Institute serves as a resource centre, conducts training, workshops and research.

**JCI Hope Project ( Youth Accountability and Governance Initiative Program )**

JCI Hope Project is an independent, non-governmental and non-profit and charity organization registered under the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is also a philanthropic organization that seeks to consistently deliver hope and change in the lives of indigent people in the society. It plays active roles in developing the capacity of youths and women from different walks of life on divergent areas such as good and open governance, leadership, democracy, civil participation, peace building, health and socio economic development. JCI Hope Project had supported well over 1,000 women in interest free micro credit, and more than 500 youths had equally benefitted from numerous leadership training. The initiatives and programmes of the organization are developed from a gender lens with a view to improving the standard of living of both boys and girls especially.

Project Costs/Budget is hereto attached.