

POLICY BRIEF

IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS OF ABUJA RESIDENTS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF BASIC AMENITIES



1. INTRODUCTION

Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria became the nation's capital after Lagos, upon the enactment of Decree 6, of 1976 by the General Murtala Mohammed led Military Government declaring Abuja the new Federal Capital of Nigeria. By December 12, 1991, the Federal Capital was officially moved from Lagos to Abuja.

The reasons for relocating the nation's Federal Capital City were simple: pressure on infrastructure due to its dual role as Lagos state capital as well as the nation's capital. This dual role understandably heightened the pressure on the infrastructural facilities that existed then. And the pressure was manifested in various economic and social ills among which are: over population, high cost of living, particularly rents, traffic congestion, existence of slums, high mortality rate, delinquency and drug abuse

¹

After 24 years that Abuja has assumed the status of the nation's capital, it has become as populous like Lagos as it receives on a daily basis people migrating from other states to find good living conditions in the nation's Capital City.

Although any visitor to the city center of the nation's capital will be greeted with paved roads, serene environment and accommodations, power and water supply, complaints have continually filtered in among residents on [poor state or lack of basic amenities](#) in some parts of the FCT. These complaints revolve around [educational institutions](#), [primary healthcare facilities](#), [potable water](#), power supply and sanitation amongst others, which are the basic infrastructural needs of the residents.

Many hold the opinion that infrastructural development in the FCT concentrates in the Federal Capital City ignoring the satellites towns across the Area Councils. One of such persons who holds this opinion and thinks development should be extended beyond the Federal Capital City is the past President of Nigeria Institute of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV), ESV Olorogun James Omeru, who had "...appealed to the Federal government to extend infrastructures to Abuja satellite towns saying that it would help in decongesting the already saturated city centre."²

To many, it is surprising that the nation's capital city like Abuja will be in dire lack of basic infrastructure despite different revenue sources at the disposal of the city's administrators to improve living conditions of the residents like property tax, monthly allocations from the federation account, national budgetary allocations and other revenue sources.

¹ The Federal Capital Development Authority. Why Abuja?.

http://fcda.gov.ng/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17&Itemid=144. Accessed 9/30/2016

² ABUJA's Satellite Towns: More Worries Over Dearth Of Infrastructure

<http://www.abujafacts.ng/abujas-satellite-towns-more-worries-over-dearth-of-infrastructure/>

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy brief is to present the situation of basic amenities in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Gwagwalada and Kuje Area Councils for informed decision making on infrastructural development by policy makers, organizations and individuals.

3. SITUATION OF BASIC AMENITIES IN AMAC, GWAGWALADA AND KUJE AREA COUNCILS

The survey carried out by Women Environmental Programme(WEP) in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 157 communities across 32 wards in AMAC, Gwagwalada and Kuje Area Councils on the situation of basic amenities and participation of citizens in budget administration in August, 2016 (Find data and documentation of the survey process at the [WEP Data Collection project link](#) - showed the following results:



Source: NBS and WEP Collaborative Survey, 2016

89%

Of communities surveyed had
NO FULLY TARRED ROADS



Source: NBS and WEP Collaborative Survey, 2016

37%

Of communities surveyed were
**NOT CONNECTED TO
NATIONAL GRID**



Source: NBS and WEP Collaborative Survey, 2016

73%

Of communities surveyed
were **NOT SERVED BY
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY**



Source: NBS and WEP Collaborative Survey, 2016

33%

of communities
surveyed had **NO HEALTHCARE
FACILITY**

58%

- **NO PRIMARY
HEALTHCARE FACILITY**

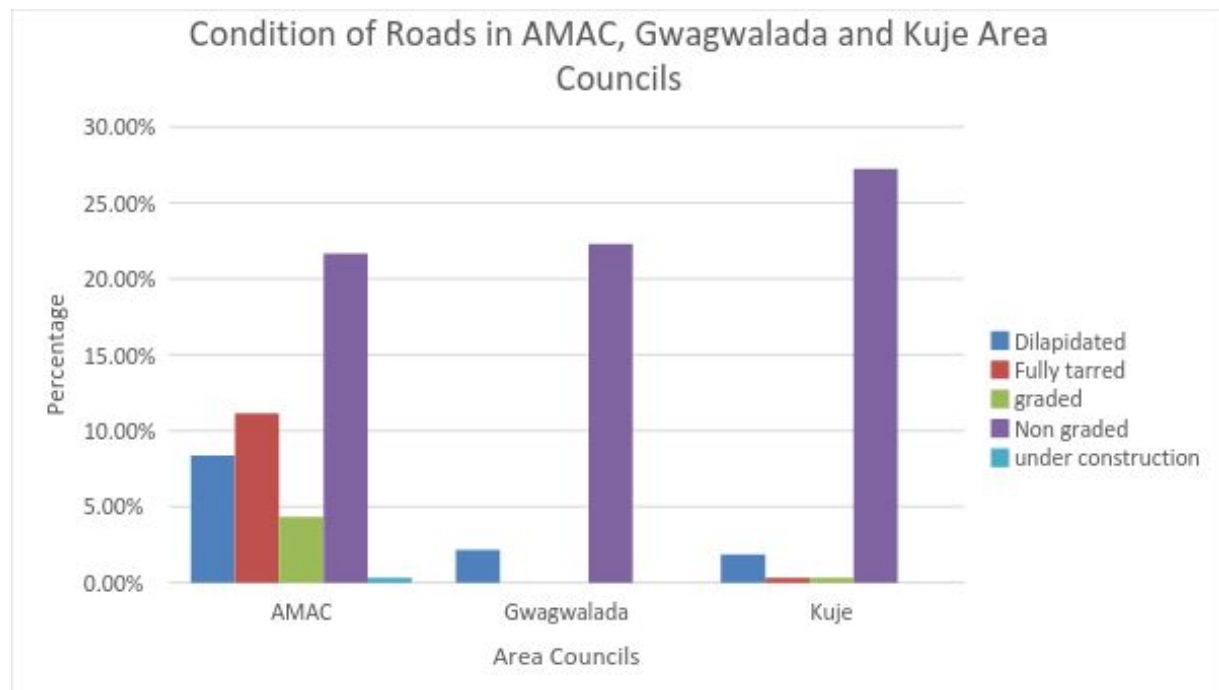


Source: NBS and WEP Collaborative Survey, 2016

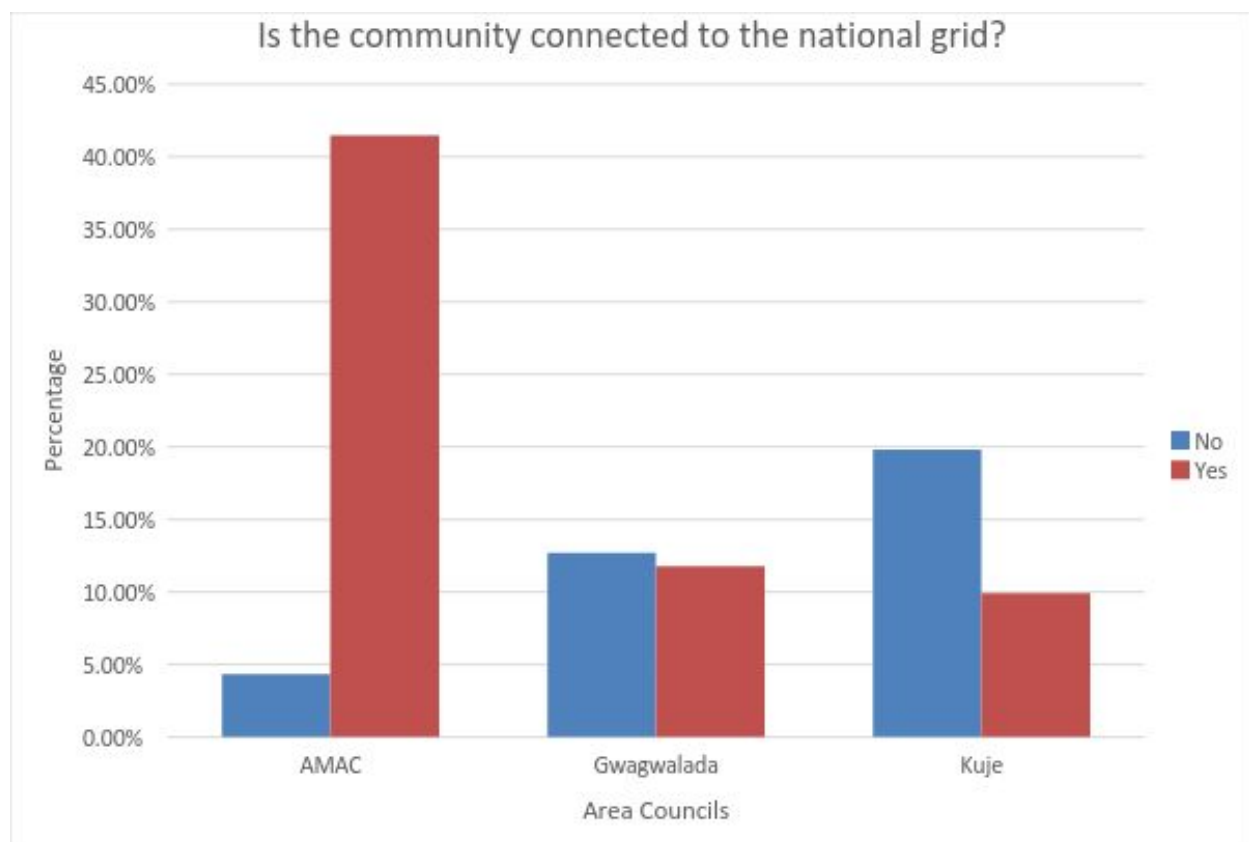
75%

of communities surveyed
had **NO WASTE
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

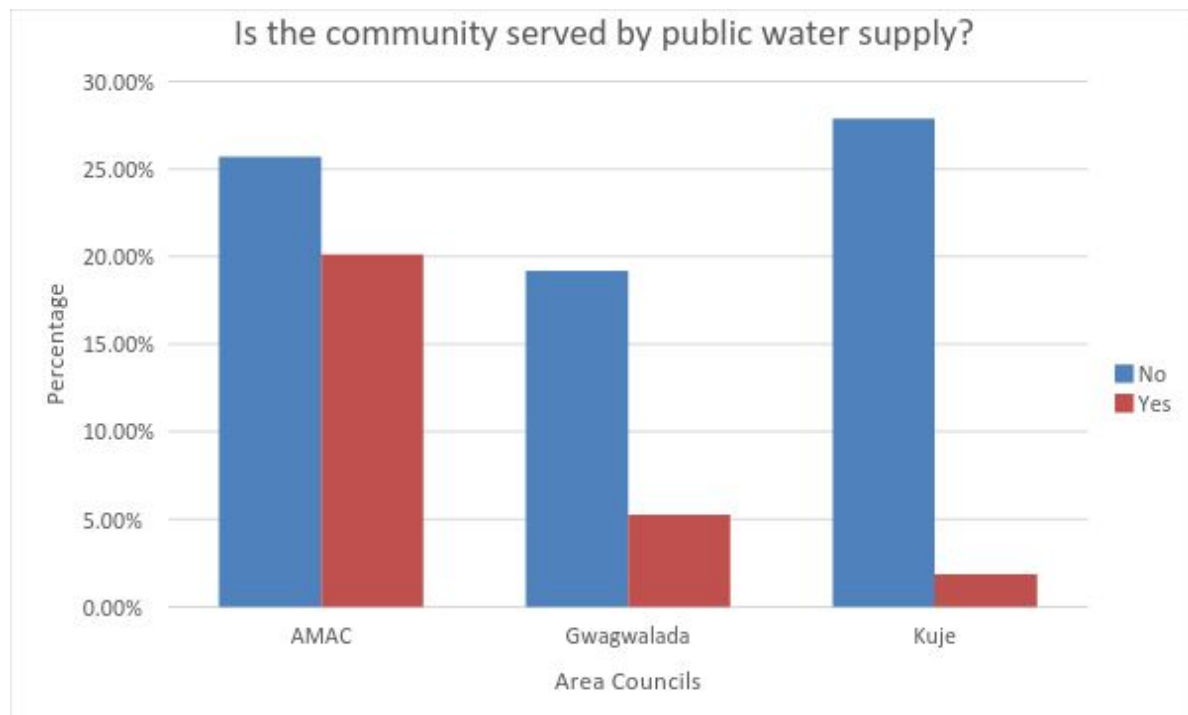
Comparison of Infrastructural Situation Among the Area Councils



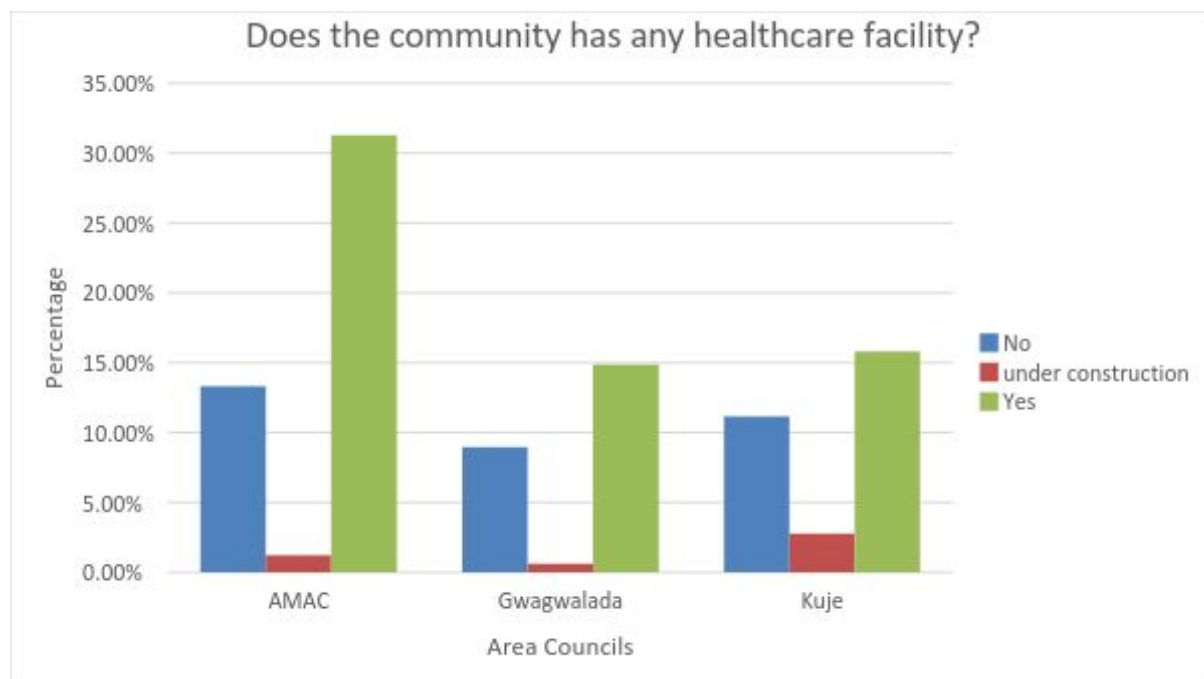
Source: NBS and WEP Collaborative Survey, 2016



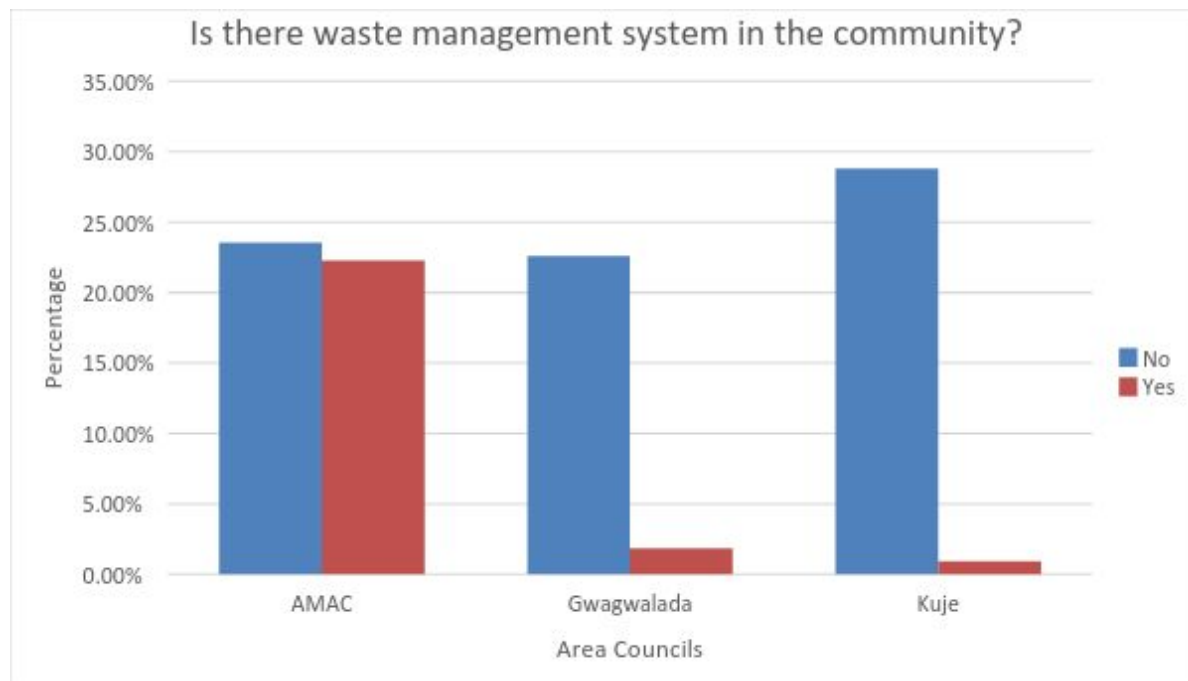
Source: NBS and WEP Collaborative Survey, 2016



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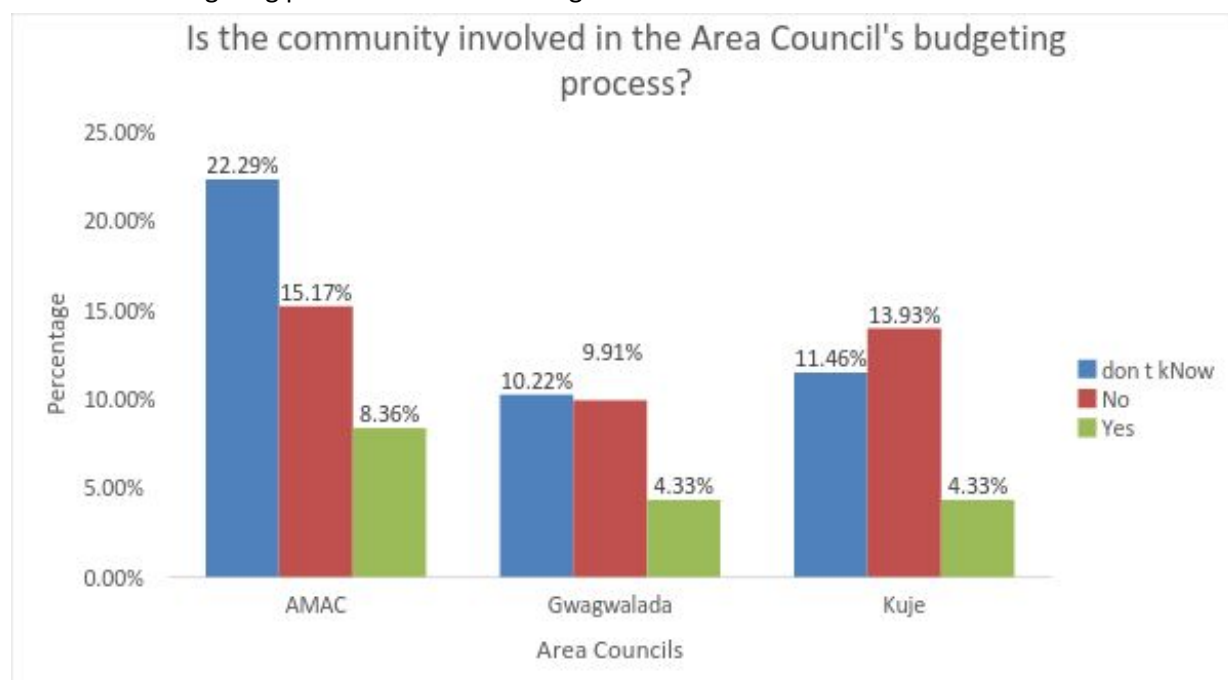
Source: NBS and WEP Collaborative Survey, 2016



Source: NBS and WEP Collaborative Survey, 2016

Communities' Participation in the Budgeting Process

Since infrastructural development in the communities depend on a large extent on the national, state and local government budgets, we asked communities how they have been involved in the budgeting process ensuring their infrastructural needs are addressed. Unfortunately, very few communities were involved in the budgeting process as a greater percentage did not involve in this process or were not aware of the budgeting process as seen in the figure below:



Source: NBS and WEP Collaborative Survey, 2016

Revenue Allocation to the Area Councils by the Federation Account Allocation Committee in 2016

Apart from other income sources, another source of revenue which could be used for infrastructural development by the Area Councils is the monthly allocation from the Federation Account. In 2016, the amount that accrued to the three Area Councils from March to December were N3,699,762,116.75; N2,543,335,652.49; and N2, 442, 410, 143.62 for AMAC, Gwagwalada and Kuje Area Councils respectively.

Monthly Allocations in 2016 (March-December)	AMAC	Gwagwalada	Kuje
March	N 321,955,670.48	N 232,969,026.90	N 227,372,199.58
April	N 305,137,813.24	N 219,659,860.22	N 214,202,916.47
May	N 299,791,538.37	N 208,458,502.51	N 202,732,524.57
June	N 483,398,486.26	N 322,556,405.52	N 313,546,166.14
July	N 378,770,815.24	N 237,580,178.94	N 229,493,187.39
August	N 429,299,119.87	N 283,375,483.01	N 274,864,582.18
September	N 346,129,417.23	N 255,231,553.79	N 218,150,058.35
October	N 372,621,006.20	N 251,949,737.51	N 244,757,142.65
November	N 342,383,334.79	N 228,719,772.39	N 221,717,751.35
December	N 420,274,915.07	N 302,835,131.70	N 295,573,614.94
Total Allocation	N 3,699,762,116.75	N 2,543,335,652.49	N 2,442,410,143.62

Source: Office of the Accountant General of the Federation <http://oagf.gov.ng/>

4. CONCLUSION

This survey has provided a valuable information about the status of basic amenities in AMAC, Gwagwalada and Kuje Area Councils that would inform development decisions by the Area Councils' executives, Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), and Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA).

It is important however to state that this survey is in no way taken to be representative of the entire population of these Area Councils, but to give insights into some of the issues that may exist. We encourage a further study to explore some of these findings deeper by relevant research institutions.

The survey has revealed a seeming neglect to development in some wards of the three Area Councils and overall poor access to critical amenities by the residents which could spur economic development and guarantee good health. The conditions of roads within and across the Area Councils do not allow for easy movement of goods and services within and across the Area Councils. Although AMAC may have relatively good roads network, roads in Gwagwalada and Kuje Area Councils are in pitiable conditions with many communities cut off from the Area Councils and the rest of the Federal Capital Territory during rainy season.

Knowing that 37% of communities in AMAC, Gwagwalada and Kuje are not connected to the national grid, 73% are not served by public water supply, 58% have no primary health care facilities, and 75% have no waste management systems calls to question as to at what pace the Federal Capital Territory

will move to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On the other hand one is compelled to conclude that there is a community apathy towards development issues. This is because, responses gathered from the communities revealed that communities rarely demand for services or infrastructure from the local authorities. But it is also worrisome that the Area Councils or the FCTA seldom consult or involve communities in development discourses. No wonder 39% of communities said they have not participated in the Area Councils' budgeting process while 44% of communities don't even know if there exist a budgeting process in the Area Councils. Similarly, 56% of communities said there has never been a consultation/briefing with the communities by the Area Councils executives.

For development to be inclusive, and for the slogan of 'leave no one behind' (which is the slogan and principle of the SDGs which Nigeria adopted) to come by, deliberate consultations and inclusion of communities in development processes and discourses becomes a necessity.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

For improvement in the status of basic amenities and service delivery to the residents of these Area Councils – AMAC, Gwagwalada and Kuje-we hereby make the following recommendations:

1. The Federal Capital Territory Administration should make deliberate efforts to include development priorities of rural communities in the national budget, as for several years, capital projects captured in the national budget under FCTA revolve around the City Center of the Federal Capital Territory. This is still the case with the 2017 budget proposal. Compared to the rural communities in the Area Councils, the City Center of the FCT has had enough development and so development needs to be taken beyond the City Center to other deserving wards in FCT.
2. The National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) should as a matter of urgency identify and work towards providing primary healthcare facilities to communities identified in this survey as not having primary healthcare centers. Priority should be placed on those communities that have no proximity to primary healthcare facilities or other health facilities in other communities.
3. Area Councils should draw up a concrete infrastructural development plan and channel a particular percentage of the monthly allocation they receive from the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) for development of critical infrastructure in their communities.
4. Area Councils should endeavor to hold consultations with communities to determine their development concerns for purpose of addressing the ones they have capacity, or for incorporation in the national budget.
5. To the communities we recommend that they organize and always approach the local authorities with their development needs for appropriate actions.
6. We call on all relevant authorities and well-meaning organizations and individuals to intervene in any way possible to improve the situation of infrastructure in the communities that are in dire lack of these facilities across these three Area Councils.
7. There is a need to develop and implement a sensitization/awareness creation programme that

will raise awareness of the community members on their roles in budgeting process and encourage them to take an active interest in the process.

8. The legislative arm should facilitate the passage of the bill on establishment of a Satellite Town Development Agency that will be responsible for infrastructural development of the areas councils that is before the National Assembly. The civil society desk should be situated in the agency to monitor and ensure the mandate of community development is achieved.

ABOUT WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

Women Environmental Programme (WEP) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political, non-religious and voluntary organization formed in April 1997 by a group of women in Kaduna State and registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria on 22nd October, 2003. The organization emerged in response to the environmental pollution by industries in Kaduna State particularly and Nigeria in general, but its founders have always viewed the Nigerian environmental crisis only as an entry point for the deepening of engagement with the various stakeholders and enlightenment of Nigerians on other socio-economic and political issues within and internationally. To facilitate this process, the organization creates and sustains interest in socio-economic and political issues especially among women and youth in the country and across the globe.

WEP has United Nations ECOSOC special status, Observer Status to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). WEP is one of the Organizing Partners (OPs) of Women's Major Groups and serves as the National Coordinator for Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) in Nigeria. WEP is the Focal Point for Global Environment Facility (GEF) CSOs in West and Central Africa.

Vision

To create a society where the environmental, economic, social and political rights of women and youths are protected.

Mission

To empower women and youths to address the environmental, economic, social and political issues that affect them.

Strategic Objectives

- To sensitize and raise awareness of the general public on the impacts of climate change particularly on gender, its strategies of mitigation and adaptation;
- To stimulate the management of natural resources within the framework of national and international policies/convention for sustainable development of the environment;
- To advocate for the rights of the rural and urban dwellers to land, housing settlement and basic social infrastructure within the framework of The International Covenant on *Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR);
- To build capacity of the relevant stakeholders on the management of the environment, conflicts, renewable energy, water and sanitation, dry lands, desert and desertification and organic pollutants;
- To educate women and youths on their civic rights and responsibilities, and on democratic governance.

Organizational Structure

WEP is currently structured along 2 main organs, namely: the Board of Directors and Management.

WEP's Board of Directors comprises 9 members of which 4 are females and 5 males. The Board is the

decision making body of the organization and meets annually to review performance of the organization, approve programmes and budget for the organization. The Management is saddled with the responsibility of day-to-day running of the organization and implementation of programmes and it is headed by the Executive Director. It is also made up of the Project Implementation Body and the support Staff.

Programmes

The organization works in two thematic areas viz; Environment and Governance.

Environment

- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- Renewable Energy
- Environment, Peace & Security
- Climate Change

Governance

- Women and Youth Empowerment
- Budget Tracking and Monitoring
- Peace and Conflict Transformation

Board of Trustees

Mr. Yakubu Aliyu	-	Chairman
Ms. Priscilla M. Achakpa	-	Executive Director
Prof. Kabiru Isyaku	-	Member
Mr. Charles Lubem Abaagu	-	Member
Prof. David I. Ker	-	Member
Ms. Anne Marie Abaagu	-	Member
Mrs. Anne Vandefan	-	Member

Advisory Board

Mrs. Sarah Jibril
Mrs. Veronica Garba
Mrs. Erddoo Ibi

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