



plsinitiative.org

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**DATA, POWER &
DEVELOPMENT**



FOREWORD

DATA, POWER & DEVELOPMENT

No doubt there are numerous social challenges confronting developing societies like Nigeria today and while development actors continue to scurry for sustainable solutions to these rising problems, they don't seem abated. Poverty, inequality and corruption have very strong link to terrorism and other security challenges plaguing many Nigerian communities currently. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to end extreme poverty by 2030 is unlikely to be met by Nigeria as the country now has over 70% of its people living below the \$2 a day benchmark, a situation that necessitated the country to be branded the poverty capital of the world having overtaken India.

Social justice is critical to altering this trend and now requires urgent attention by the Nigerian government especially as citizens continue to experience widening gap in the distribution of wealth, opportunities and privileges. With the number of out of school children hovering around 13million and with very limited effort to changing the imminent catastrophe, one could remorsefully conclude that Nigeria isn't in any way stern about ensuring a socially just environment.

Data we thought was the game changer for social justice, accountability and improved service delivery but with several fiscally focused data now increasingly and progressively reaching citizens at different levels, we have

since realized data alone will not do the magic of improving the living condition of Nigerians particularly those in rural and underserved communities. What needs to be asked is whether these data are communicated in ways that empower citizens to ask the right questions and whether citizens themselves possess the drive to see through this development agenda.

There seem to be no fair and just relationship between Nigerians and Nigeria as it obviously appears the rich are getting richer while the poor continue to get poorer and many falling prey to poverty when they can't access basic health care or forced to scavenge for survival. While Nigeria is bottled up over addressing security challenges hounding her, perhaps she should focus on making life more bearable for citizens and ensure opportunities and wealth are evenly distributed with focus on education and access to basic amenities.

Public accountability becomes very easy when citizens ask the right question from those entrusted to manage the affairs of state but not so with a society largely dominated by illiteracy. Data requires education to thrive and the opportunities are endless when data meet with education because one of the key ingredients data requires to become information is education. While data has the potential and capacity to spur development, this will not be realized without an empowered and engaged citizenry.

A B O U T

P L S I

Founded in 2016, Paradigm Leadership Support Initiative (PLSI) is a civic organization promoting citizens' participation in Nigerian public audit through its "Value for Money" advocacy project to foster accountability, good governance and development of rural communities. Value for Money monitors audited development projects across communities to improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy of public spending. The initiative employs a variety of technology to increase citizens' interest and active involvement in public audit process and findings through bridging the communication gap between citizens, Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation, Parliament and the Executive for improved service delivery. PLSI is driven by the vision to ensure public accountability necessary for good governance and development of rural communities becomes a norm in Nigeria.

PLSI independently analyzed, summarized and simplified 2014, 2015 and 2016 audit reports of the federation with focus on performance audit as well as audit findings on National Assembly. PLSI through its 2017 Value for Money Index published earlier in 2018 uncovered an estimated sum of N100bn unaccounted for in nine (9) ministries departments and agencies through eighty (80) projects/transactions.

PLSI is linking audit data with that of budget and procurement to enable seamless tracking of budget performance and public spending processes. The organization successfully linked 2016 audit report of the federation to Nigeria's previous budgets including 2008, 2011, 2012 2014 and 2015. PLSI utilized this linked data to track 30 priority projects of federal government in 14 states for which N2.97bn was reported unaccounted for.

PLSI has equally advocated in the last one year for passage of Federal Audit Service Commission Bill 2018 aimed at Strengthening the legal and regulatory framework for increased transparency and accountability in government ministries departments and agencies and to ensure that The Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation is more independent and responsive to citizens.

PLSI simplified 2016 audit data using creative technology tools and disseminated on social media, radio, web and mobile app platforms to increase citizens' interest in and knowledge of public audit. PLSI also built capacity of citizens at the grassroots to utilize audit data to engage public officials and elected representatives with a view to demanding accountability on development projects abandoned, not executed or poorly implemented in their communities thereby improving service delivery.

FOCUS AREAS



Value for Money

1

PLSI is improving service delivery to rural communities through our VfM project which works to promote efficiency, effectiveness and economy of public spending.

Audit Data Awareness and Participation

2

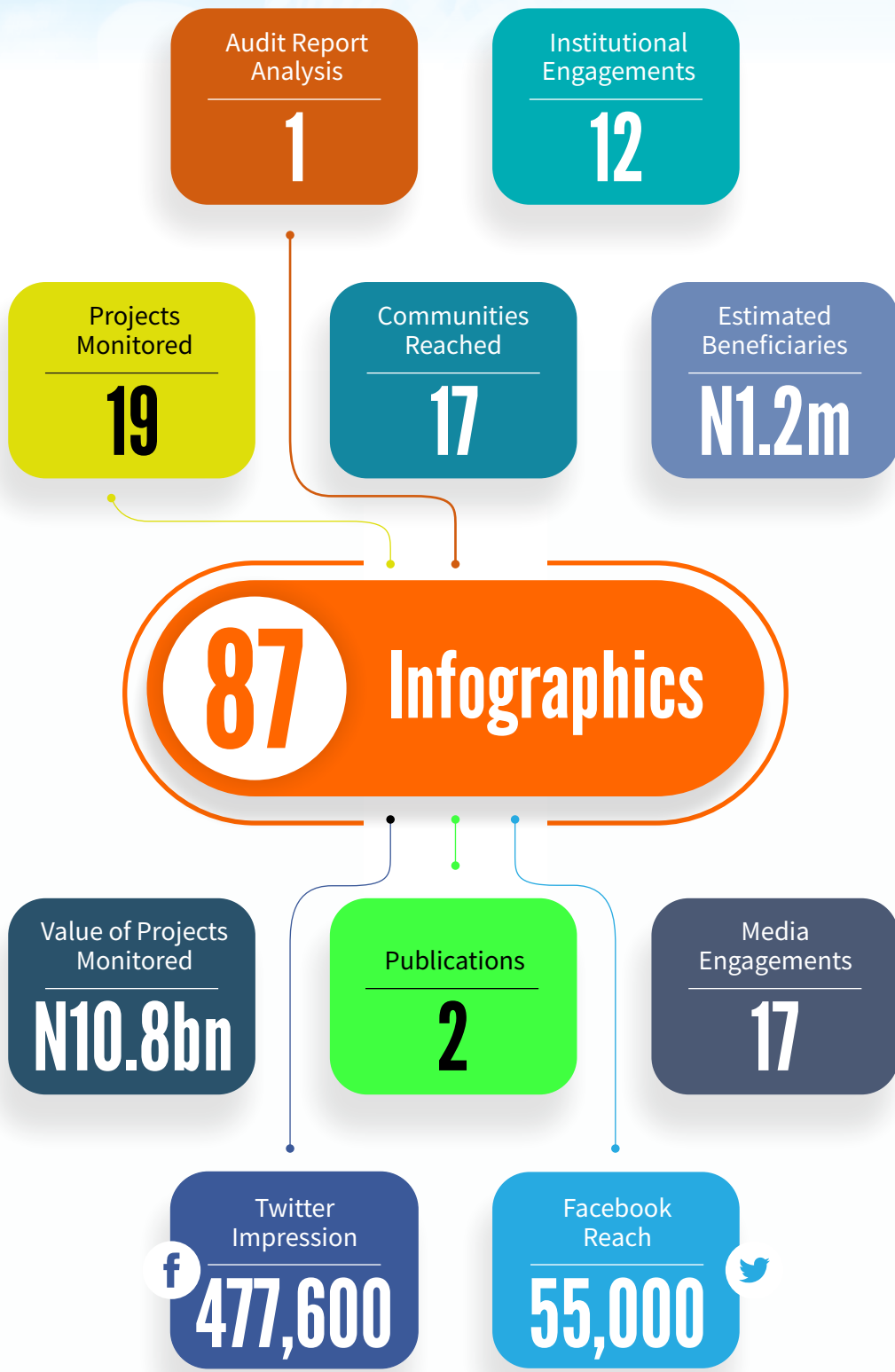
We are also deepening citizens' understanding about public audit findings and working towards ensuring that citizen participatory audit accountability approach is adopted in Nigeria.

Resource Benefits

3

Our organization is increasing transparency and raising accountability standard around extractive revenues to promote sustainable development in Nigeria.

ACTIVITY INSIGHT



AUDIT ACCESS

PLSI analyzed and summarized 2016 Audit Report of the Federation to provide citizens with key information to demand accountability from public officials and elected representatives on utilization of public resources in previous budget years. Eighty-seven (87) key issues involving different ministries, departments and agencies including National Assembly were highlighted. This analysis formed the material for our Value for Money project activities in 2018.

VISUALIZATION

A total of eighty-seven (87) infographics was developed in 2018 to simplify analyzed audit data. The infographics were developed to enable citizens understand easily key issues highlighted from the 2016 Audit Report of the Federation. These infographics were published on our web platforms as well as on social media including Twitter and Facebook.

INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

PLSI engaged at least twelve (12) public institutions in 2018 through advocacy letters to either request additional data, provide explanation around highlighted audit cases or demand action on key issues. Some of the institutions engaged include National Assembly, Bureau for Public Procurement (BPP), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Ogun-Osun River Basin Development Authority, Lower Niger River Basin Development Authority, Federal University of Technology Owerri, Federal Ministry of Works, Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Finance, Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation, Office of Accountant-General of the Federation among others.

PUBLIC PROJECTS

MONITORING & BENEFICIARIES

PLSI under its Value for Money advocacy project monitored implementation status of nineteen (19) public projects in seventeen (17) communities across twelve (12) states of the federation in order to ensure evidence-based advocacy and active citizens participation in our work. Some of the projects monitored include education facilities, water and dams, roads, booster station and pipeline work among others. Total beneficiaries of our advocacy activities in 2018 is estimated at 1.2million while value of projects monitored is put at N10.8bn.

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH AND PUBLICATIONS

PLSI reached 55,000 and 477,600 citizens on Facebook and Twitter respectively in the year under review. While we strive to increase our reach leveraging social media, the numbers attained in 2018 showed a significant increase from our work in 2017 when we could only reach a total of 11,000 on both social media platforms, we are active on. PLSI also produced two publications tagged "Value for Money Handbook (Issue 1)" to simplify and summarize key findings from 2016 audit report of the federation and another publication titled "Independent Findings" which captured our activities on public projects monitored

MEDIA

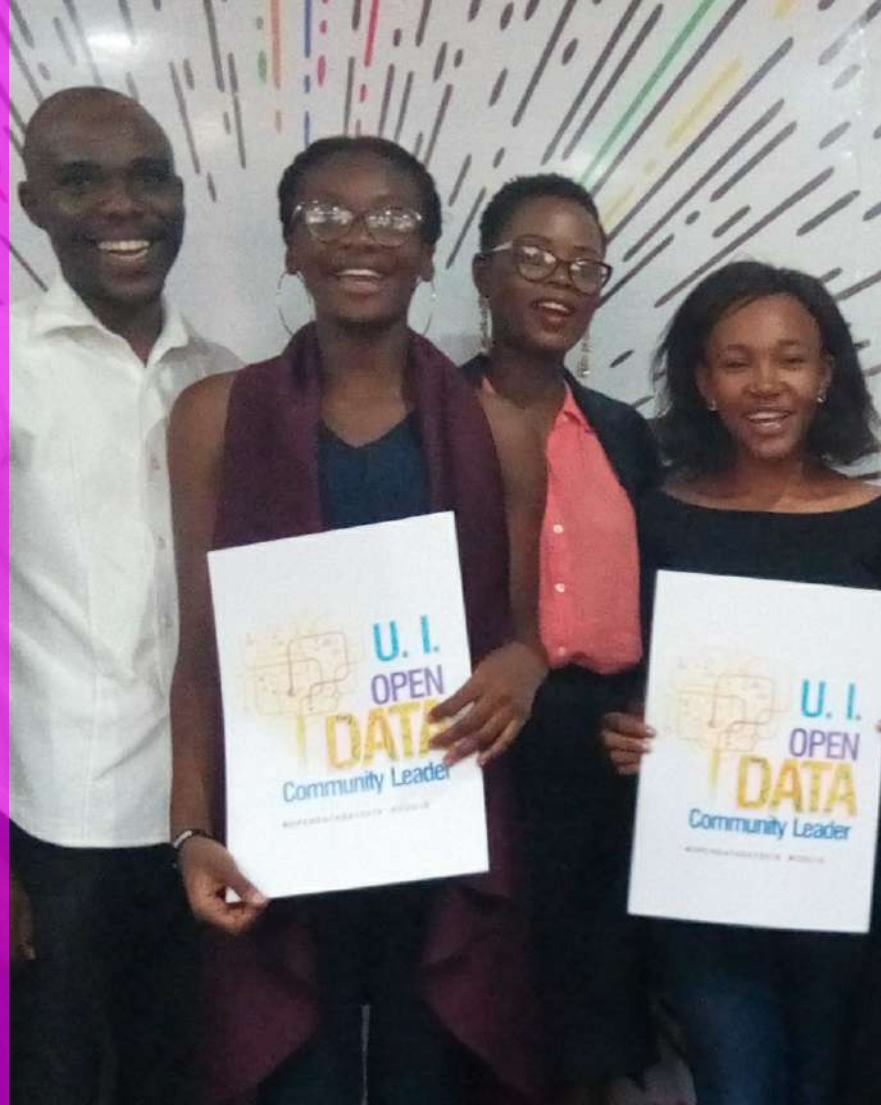
ENGAGEMENT

As part of our advocacy and communications strategy, PLSI engaged seventeen (17) mainstream media outlets in 2018 in order to amplify our work and draw attention of relevant state actors to the sufferings of focused communities. Some of the media platforms engaged include Channels TV, TV Continental, AIT, NTA, Guardian Newspaper, Leadership Newspaper, The Nation Newspaper, Splash 105.5FM, R29.9FM among others.

OPEN DATA DAY 2018

PLSI hosted a local event in Nigeria to celebrate Open Data Day 2018. Participants gathered at LPI_Hub located inside University of Ibadan - Nigeria's Premier University. The event focused on use of Open Data in tracking audited funds for development project in Nigeria communities to foster public accountability and improved service delivery.

PLSI assembled various stakeholders in the Open Data community including data analysts, developers, creative artists, University students, Corps members and other lovers of data. 26 participants attended the event with 56% being males and 44% females.



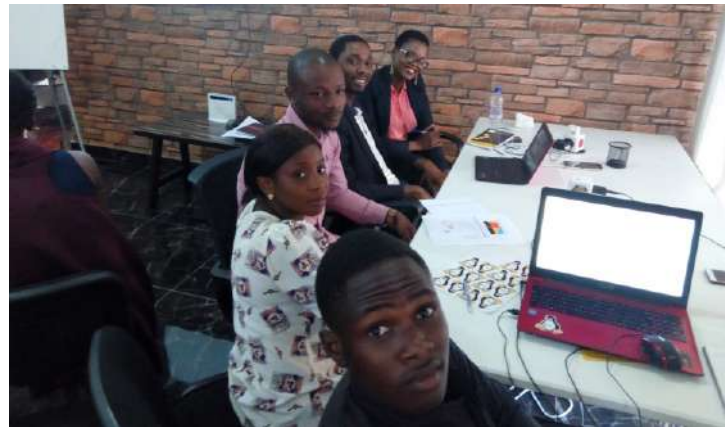


OPEN DATA DAY 2018



BREAKOUT SESSION

PLSI organized a datathon exercise for participants to relate directly with audit data of the Federal Government of Nigeria. Three groups worked to analyze and mine raw data as contained in 2013, 2014 and 2015 audit reports. The groups selected three thematic areas to include water, education and health. All three groups went on to visualize their data using creative tools and subsequently presented their findings to the larger audience.



LESSONS AND CHALLENGES

Despite the rapid growth of Open Data concept in Nigeria, several individuals including key stakeholders in the Open Data space learnt about use of open data and its impact on community development for the first time at the event. This goes to show the need to continually grow the open data community in Nigeria. PLSI had firsthand view of how unfamiliar participants felt to the Open Data space. Even though 15% were conversant with open data concept, 85% had no clue whatsoever on the importance and use of Open Data or audit data to track public spending and demand accountability. Many were amazed in the end at how simple the subject is to understand and how critical Open Data is to improving service delivery in Nigeria.



SUBNATIONAL

OGP

PLSI is leading advocacy to getting Oyo State government to sign on to the Open Government Partnership (OGP) as part of effort to promoting transparency, citizens engagement and accountability for improved service delivery. PLSI with support from Open Alliance National Secretariat coordinated the first CSO engagement on OGP process in Oyo State which saw 37 CSOs attend. PLSI also coordinated a follow up strategy session to develop a CSOs-led draft state action plan.

Although Oyo State government is yet to sign up to OGP, PLSI continues to lead engagement with state actors in this regard.



AUDIT DATA AWARENESS

PLSI reviewed and analyzed 2016 Audit Report of the Federation with respect to audit of capital spending particularly development projects. We developed and shared simplified infographics on 50 projects while we advocated for 30 priority projects for which N2.97bn is unaccounted for. PLSI monitored 19 projects in 12 states of the federation and now engaging anti-corruption agencies including Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) on the infractions highlighted.



ADVOCACY FOR NEW AUDIT LAW

PLSI continues its advocacy for a new audit law in Nigeria to enable the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation function more efficiently and effectively in curbing public sector corruption and fostering accountability. In respect of this, PLSI delivered a message to members of the National Assembly at the first Open NASS Week held in Abuja between 16th and 19th July 2018. Our Executive Director, Olusegun Elemo used the opportunity to highlight the poor funding provision for Nigeria's foremost accountability institution and called for the speedy passage of the Federal Audit Service Commission Bill which is now with President Muhammadu Buhari for assent. While PLSI co-signed alongside other CSOs a letter to principal officers to engage the National Assembly, this coalition has also continued to engage President Buhari to secure his assent to the Bill.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

PLSI continues to deploy technology in support of its interventions. The organization in 2018 developed a new platform which allows citizens to interact with audit data, report abandoned projects in their communities and collaborate with other citizens in taking civic actions to improve service delivery. The platform provides citizens with one stop view of relevant data from key actors in the public audit action cycle namely: Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation, National Assembly Public Accounts Committees and Executive agencies. The platform equally provides progress report on focused projects. A mobile app "Value for Money" now available for download via the android play store was also built to provide on-the-go accessibility to same data for citizens.

Also, PLSI developed to deepen accountability in Nigeria's extractive sector and promote civic activities in using payment to government data and other related data to demand accountability on how natural resources revenues are utilized in Nigeria.

CHALLENGES & SCALING PLANS

Our organization experienced few challenges regarding our activities in 2018 among which funding, lack of institutional commitment to advancing accountability using audit data as well as limited capacity on the part of civil society and media to engage effectively with audit findings of the federation.

These challenges have been noted and will inform our work in 2019. PLSI will continue its fund-raising drive while gradually effecting sustainability measures. Our organization will also step-up engagement with relevant state actors identified in our project implementation model as public institutions responsible for dealing with audit findings at the federal level. PLSI will equally implement training and workshop activities for citizens, CSOs and journalists to promote informed engagement using audit data.