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Happy New Month!

More than ever before, there's a need to focus on strategic sensitization and enlightenment of the public on many pressing issues. Over the past few weeks, we have seen the devastating effect of the floods across over ten states in the federation. Beyond creating awareness, there's an urgency to directly interface with people more often through a behavior-centered approach to teach them what to do.

To have a functional society, people must realize that they have a role to play in the smooth running of the state. SSDO understands this needs and interfaced more with people, looking to elicit positive change on a deeper level.

Interventions like the Latter-Day Saints Charity Project and the Orphaned and Vulnerable Children's Project help shine the spotlight on our endeavors to ensure that the health and educational needs of beneficiaries and their communities are met.

Over the past quarter, SSDO has also focused on women's advocacy and empowerment, WASH infrastructure provision, capacity building, and needs assessment to improve service delivery on existing projects. Here's a highlight of how SSDO has been contributing to nation-building.



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ActionAid, SSDO Organizes a Sensitization Rally on PVC Collection



The Nigerian general election comes up in the next five months. Voter registration is over, and citizens must pick up their permanent voter's cards and exercise their franchises. Over time, data has shown that only a handful of registered voters come

Understanding this, ActionAid Nigeria, in partnership with South Saharan Social Development Organization, organized a civic awareness and sensitization rally on PVC collection. The message for the rally was simple: “Your votes decide the future. Your PVC is your voice. Your vote is your power; use it wisely.”

PVCs registered from June 2021 to January 15, 2022, are ready for collection. PVCs registered from January 16th to June 30th, 2022, will be ready for collection in October. The PVCs registered from July 2022 will be ready for collection in November. [Read on.](#)

NCF, SSDO Organizes a Sensitization Rally on Vulture Conservation



The Nigeria Conservation Foundation (NCF) and South Saharan Social Development Organisation (SSDO) have carried out a walk and sensitization of residents of Enugu State on the need to conserve vultures. The walk, which is meant to commemorate International Vulture Day 2022, titled: “A Mile for Egyptian Vulture”, witnessed sensitization within major roads in Enugu metropolis for several hours on Thursday.

The rally aims to create awareness of the importance of vultures to the ecosystem and why they need to be protected, especially the Egyptian Vultures. Vultures are scavengers and natural cleaning agents. By feasting on carcasses, they remove pathogens and toxins from the dead animals that would have infected the

However, research has shown that the vulture population is on a steady decline, and some species are fast going extinct. A healthy vulture population has also been discovered in Enugu state. These vultures' existence is threatened by illegal killing and trading of vultures. [Read on.](#)

SSDO, Caritas Nigeria Reaches Out to Schools Through Block Grant



South Saharan Social Development Organization (SSDO) in partnership with Caritas Nigeria, CCFN, provided 30 desks each for Community Primary Schools in Ozalla and Umueze in Nkanu West LGA. The provision is part of a block grant in the Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program that will see 150 children benefit from the intervention.

In a ceremony in the school premises on Wednesday, 23rd of September 2022, the headteacher of Community Primary School Umueze expressed her gratitude by thanking the organizations for their effort. “We appreciate SSDO and CARITAS for this work. As we start the new academic session, the classrooms will be more conducive for the teachers and students alike.”

The project aims to improve access to education for indigent and vulnerable children, which will also reduce the risk of violence and abuse. Also, ensuring that they are enrolled and remain in school.



Beyond health, we understand that all other facets of the beneficiary's life matter in attaining wholeness. And as such, we do not just focus on their health but also their economic stability.

One way we cater to the needs of beneficiaries is through vocational training. Beneficiaries of the project are enrolled in training programs where participants learn vocational skills and become self-employed.

South Saharan Social Development Organization (SSDO), in partnership with Caritas Nigeria through the 4GATES Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Project, is providing support to beneficiaries to enroll in vocational training. After the training, beneficiaries are provided with start-up kits to help get them on their journey to financial independence.

Completion of Water and Toilet Facilities in Igbo-Eze LGA



In Nigeria, more than 60 million people do not have access to basic water supply. Over 12 million people lack access to toilet facilities. 29 percent of children do not have water to meet their daily needs. Thus affecting their ability to attend school and wash their hands properly to fight off diseases. In Enugu, half of the state's residents lack access to basic water services. The lack of access to water increases open defecation in communities. This pollutes the environment, contaminates water sources, and exposes the community to diseases like cholera, diarrhea, and dysentery.

Understanding this problem, WaterAid Nigeria, in partnership with South Saharan Social Development Organization and the State Ministry of Water Resources, is working tirelessly to improve access to water in Enugu state through the Latter Day Saints Charity Project. We have installed a 40,000-liter motorized borehole at Umuogili Amufie community, Igbo-Eze North LGA.

The project also commissioned two blocks of VIP model latrines at Gariki and Akwata markets, Enugu South LGA. As part of the ongoing Strengthening Water and Sanitation project in Nigeria. The project looks to provide water to 40,000 people, safely manage sanitation to 3,000, and hygiene to 16,000 people in Enugu and Bauchi.

International Youth Day Symposium



The stereotype, prejudice, and discrimination people have towards others based on age continues to present a significant yet not sufficiently discussed challenge to fostering collaboration and solidarity across age groups. Cases of ageism have been reported in political participation, employment, health, and justice. If not properly addressed, ageism causes poor physical and mental health, social isolation, loneliness, and decreased quality of life.

Understanding these challenges, ActionAid Nigeria, in partnership with South Saharan Social Development Organization, is implementing the Strategic Partnership Agreement II project, funded by the Danish International Development Agency. The project aims to improve the realization of human rights, sustainable livelihoods, and the protection of youths and women living in marginalized communities in Nigeria.

The project commemorated International Youth Day 2022, tagged “Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for all Ages,” which provided a unique opportunity to bridge the gap of anti-youth ageism in political participation through a symposium. Participants included youth leaders, communities and organizations, media, and representatives from government ministries. [Continue Reading](#).

SSDO Commemorates August Meeting in Ihenyi and Obinagu Communities, Enugu



The mother's congress, popularly known as August Meeting in Igbo land, is a time where Igbo women from the cities and diaspora return to lend helping hands to their communities. They embark on projects to improve healthcare, peacebuilding and educate the community.

To show solidarity in projecting and supporting the roles women play in family and community development, South Saharan Social Development Organization, through her Sister Guardian Initiative project, visited two communities to commemorate this year's August meeting with them. They include; Obinagu in Enugu East LGA and Ihenyi in Isiuo LGA both in Enugu state.

SSDO Gender and Protection Programme Lead built the capacity of the women on causes and effects of domestic violence against women and girls, how to report it, where to report it and how to follow it up. The event aims to create and intensify awareness of women's rights and the law. Other pressing issues discussed during the capacity-building event include economic empowerment, political inclusion, violence against women, female genital mutilation, and advocacy.

Capacity Building for Women at the Community Level

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One of the reasons why the rate of gender-based violence is higher in communities is because most rural communities in Nigeria do not have structures to support women facing domestic violence. The little support that exists – pro bono legal services and safe houses, can only be accessed in the state capitals.

Understanding these concerns and needs, South Saharan Social Development Organization, SSDO, is implementing the Sister Guardian Initiative to reduce violence at the community level. The program is currently being implemented in 19 Enugu and Anambra state communities. The initiative provides psychosocial support to women and makes referrals to other relevant agencies where necessary.

Over the past quarter, SSDO's Gender Officer visited sixteen communities. These visits helped monitor the initiative's progress, build the capacity of the Sister Guardians, and conduct a need assessment evaluation to strengthen the initiative in the target communities. The executive memberships of the chapters were also restructured to include influential women such as traditional rulers' wives, political women leaders, community women leaders, health workers, and teachers. This will help improve the adjudication of disputes and reach quicker resolutions.



For more real-time updates on our projects and activities, visit our website, southsaharan.org.

Our projects are specifically tailored to aid growth at the community level. Help us achieve more.

Sincerely,

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