REPORT OF THE SHEHU MUSA YARADUA FOUNDATION ASSESSMENT VISIT TO CONSCIENCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION (CHRCR) ON ANTI-CORRUPTION, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT ON MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2020. LOKOJA, KOGI STATE

ATTENDANCE:

YARADUA FOUNDATION TEAM

- SAYO SAMUEL DADA,
- FIRDAUSI ISHAQ

CHRCR TEAM

- Idris Miliki Abdul – Executive Director
- Ajayi Ibukun – Program Officer (IT)
- Esther Komolafe – Finance Officer
- Nana Suleiman – Office Assistant
- Hamza Aliyu – Facilitator Program

Idris Miliki welcoming the Team from Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation during their Assessment Visit

REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director, Idris Miliki Abdul, welcomed the team from YARADUA FOUNDATION. He appreciated the visit and the opportunity for review of the

project including the successes, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned.

SAYO SAMUEL DADA

The Program Officer from Yaradua Foundation stated that the visit is in compliance with the MacArthur Foundation to get field experience from sub grantees and to sought challenges and lessons learnt from project implementation for future programming. She stated that the visit would focus on the tool sent earlier to guide the interaction. She explained that the visit provides an extended platform for discussions'

She began by asking what processes are involved in organizing Stakeholders engagement

Idris Miliki:

The Executive Director stated that these processes include

- Identification of relevant stakeholders for specific issues. The presence of a wide network on good governance provides a good pool for identification of stakeholders. The networks also provides a pool of resources for sustainable engagement
- Another consideration is sustainability of the activities and this also guides the selection of individuals and institutions for the specific activities
- The relevant of stakeholders is also a consideration in the selection

On the content of the capacity building, Yar'Adua Foundation wanted to know what considerations go into content of the Capacity Building activities.

Executive Director responded that each Capacity Building activity is contextualized to speak to specific issues in each environment. This he emphasized necessitated the decentralization of the activities to

the 9 federal constituencies and 3 Senatorial districts. He stated that each constituency has peculiar circumstances

Another consideration for content in Capacity Building is the security of the environment. This is the reason for development of a Security and Climate/Whether Risk Assessment.

Yar'Adua Foundation wanted to know what parameters are included in the Risk Assessment.

IDRIS MILIKI responded that some of the parameters include political alliance/permutations/allegiances, Security situations including communal conflicts, cult activities.

On the successes of the project, IDRIS MILIKI stated that the interaction with government institutions has led to the improvement in the relationship between them and CHRCR. This has led to availability of Budget documents.

Another success is the media engagement especially radio phone-in program. This has provided a platform for the citizens to get information and clarifications on issues around accountability and transparency.

On challenges, the Executive Director stated that the most important challenge was issues of finance. He talked about inflation which has negatively affected the cost of project implementation.

Another challenge is the rate of staff attrition/turnover. This issues he lamented is made worse by the economic situation of the country and limited funds for the project.

He also stated that the tense and sometimes adverse political environment. This he stated sometimes means that stakeholders have an impression that there is political affiliation or there is resources to be made in the project.

CHRCR staffs, Facilitator and Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation Team during their Assessment Visit to CHRCR

Another challenge is the combative attitude of both government and Civil Society organization. This maybe due to the history of the relationship over the years.

The biggest challenge is the attitude of Political parties which has become a stumbling block to addressing the issues of accountability, transparency and Anti-corruption. He lamented that most of the parties do not have a functional office for information accessibility. He suggested that going forward there was need to engage political parties and government agencies. He state that the outcome of the sustenance of this project is the establishment a state Anti-Corruption institution like in Kano State. This must be the logical conclusion of this project.

The CHRCR also spoke on the undemocratic administration of the Local Government councils.

On the spread of participants and representation, CHRCR stated that there has been representation of citizens from all 21 Local Governments. He however stated that CHRCR may not have reached all 239 wards, there was indication that it has reached more than 200 wards.

On collaboration, CHRCR stated that INEC collaboration during the elections was pivotal in reaching voters in all 21 LGAs. It allowed for wide reach of the Voters Education messages. They also spoke on

the information that CHRCR is providing through its publications, e.g The Perspective Monthly Magazine.

They commended the project including Mac-Arthur Foundation and Yar'Adua Foundation for continuing the project after the elections which many other donor organizations are not doing. They lamented that this short term interventions do not achieve much. This a commendable effort for the project that its activities are ongoing even after the elections.

On the reach of the project especially through the established platforms (Radio, Facebook, Twitter, WhatApp), he stated that the conservative numbers are over 1 million. He stated that this was a rewarding experience.

On achievements, CHRCR commended Yar'Adua Foundation and Mac-Arthur Foundation for the opportunity it has given to CHRCR especially for the opportunity to become a national organization through the CAC incorporation. Another achievement for the organization is the institutional capacity building (materials and trainings).

CHRCR also mentioned the establishment of the Network on Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Accountability (NATA). This provides a sustainable platforms for future engagement. He acknowledged that these relationships provides opportunity for resource leveraging and future participants.

A future programming component going forward will be Legislative engagement to ensure that laws passed by the House of Assembly must be people oriented for Accountability in governance. CHRCR also talked on the need for working closely with the Legislature through capacity building, advocacy and target project implementation for the legislature at both State and Local Government.

Yar'Adua Foundation wanted to know what future programming CHRCR was planning looking at the opportunities that has been established from the project.

CHRCR stated that there would be more engagement with Executive Arms of Government.

CHRCR also talked on the effective engagement of the Media.

He recommended that on the establishment of a State based Anti-corruption establishment in the project states. They stated that it could be a central bill that states could adopt/adapt. Yaradua Foundation/MacArthur Foundation could provide support to achieve this.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Idris Miliki the Executive Director, thanked the Team for their visit and the support of their foundations throughout the project. He stated that the project should be sustained to ensure that the objectives are continued despite the end of the project

Meeting ended with Group Photographs

Group Picture, During the Assessment Visit of Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation Team to CHRCR