



Stella Odiase

Gender & Social Inclusion Lead

Stella.odiase@niafng.org

From Infrastructure Delivery to Inclusive Growth: connecting the dots

Executive Summary

- Generally, Nigeria's policy context recognises the need to improve infrastructure supply in order to stimulate the economy and also ensure inclusive growth.
- The 2014 National Integrated Infrastructure Management Plan (NIMP) commits to addressing the current infrastructure deficit over a 29 year period and raising the national stock from 25% to 70% of GDP¹.
- The NIMP has also been adopted by the current administration. Subsequently, Infrastructure provision has been identified as one of the 3 focus areas, which are expected to stimulate the economy in the 2016/2017 fiscal year².
- Infrastructure provision is likely to improve the *pace* of growth. However, infrastructure delivery alone will not guarantee a growth *pattern* that delivers long term benefits to as many citizens as possible, including those who have limited opportunities and resources due to one social constraint or another.
- Economic growth that is both rapid and equitable needs to be based on a planning process that seeks to identify as well as addresses the issues which cause limited access and opportunities for some citizens.
- For instance, road networks may be extended and improved with an intent to benefit as many Nigerians as possible, including men, women, youth



Planning for infrastructure jobs in Kaduna state

¹ Presentation by Budget and Planning Minister, Senator Udoma Udoma to the The Infrastructure Bank (TIB) 9th March, 2016.

² 2016 Budget speech presented to the National Assembly by President Muhammadu Buhari.

and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

- However, the provision of lighting and security on such roads is likely to expand access for more women in particular, because of their higher vulnerability to gender based violence. Mass transit buses with designated sitting areas and ramps for PWDs will encourage a cluster who may not ordinarily do so, to utilize these facilities for economic, social and other purposes.
- Bearing in mind the above context, NIAF has been working with key infrastructure sectors to integrate gender and social inclusion considerations during infrastructure planning and implementation.

The Challenges

- Policy actions that target social inclusion are more typically found in the social sectors (especially health, education and women’s political participation), mainly because the relevance of the ‘social’ in other more technical sectors are not well understood.
- Social issues are often discussed as ‘stand - alone’ concerns and the link between social cohesion and economic growth is often missing in policy discussions.
- There is a lack of clarity in terms of how to action the aspirations of the National Gender Policy within the context of infrastructure provision.
- Traditional donor support around gender and social inclusion has also focused mainly on issues such as maternal health, female political participation and girl child education.
- There is a lack of sufficient data to guide planning within the infrastructure sectors especially gender - disaggregated data.

The NIAF Approach

NIAF’s support has involved:

- Linking the ‘social’ to the ‘economic’ by providing benchmarks for social impact targeting in capital budgets prioritisation.
- Providing support for the collation of gender - disaggregated data in the power sector. In order to do this, NIAF worked with the regulator – Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to develop and administer a low income electricity consumer survey.
- Working with NERC to develop the power sector’s first consumer enumeration guidelines, which include guidance for taking inventory of low income consumers per coverage area.
- Working with the Kaduna state government to generate a ‘skills for infrastructure jobs’ baseline’. This is expected to assist the Government with planning to actualize their infrastructure jobs creation policy commitments.



Collating feedback from low income electricity user.

The Outcomes

- Indicators for social impact targeting are now part of the federal capital budget prioritization template.
- Framework for collating feedback from low income electricity users adopted by the National Electricity Regulatory Commission.
- Gender - disaggregated data on electricity use and access available for planning in the power sector.
- Baseline data for matching emerging infrastructure jobs with available skills now available for planning in Kaduna state.

'The NIAF low income electricity survey will...assist the Commission in defining the Life-line customers and come up with framework for properly classifying them within the tariff structure...and also assist the Commission in advising the Minister in coming up with policy directives as regards to underprivileged customers.'

Mallam I. Talba.
**DGM, Governance and Consumer Affairs, National Electricity
Regulatory Commission (NERC).**