



# SpringAid International

## Investing in People

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014

### In this Issue:

Word from the Director of Operations

General Elections 2015

New projects Starting in January 2015

- Paediatric HIV Prevention
- Affordable Social Housing in Owerri
- Credit Assistance Platform (CAP)
- Read to Succeed for Children at Risk

World AIDS Day 2014

Civil Society Week

Annual General

Meeting (AGM ) 2014

News from SpringAid United Kingdom

Mandela's words to Nigeria

### Word From the Director of Operations

- Teddy Ihens

The principle upon which our work is done is the dignity of the human person who without consideration of ethnicity, social status, sex or ideological persuasions is worthy of respect. This is why the injustice of poverty requires a powerful and concrete response to address both its causes and its impact on peoples' lives. We seek to overcome poverty in all its forms. When people are aware and have the power to claim their basic human rights, they escape poverty. This view underpins our development efforts in the different strategic areas we seek to contribute to change for a better world. We conduct all our projects and programmes from a right perspective and gender justice is a strong anchor for our work with all those we serve. In this intervention, we intensify the fight against corruption by saying no to corruption and misappropriation of public resources at all levels of governance and leadership. This will remain an illusion until we are able to improve access to information and citizens oversight in the management of public affairs and resources. The words of Mahatma Gandhi : Be the good you want to see sums this aptly for us. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

### Elections 2015 : Please don't sell your votes and rights

The General Election fever is heating up all across Nigeria.

The present and the future we have is what we create for ourselves.

Every Nigerian bears some responsibility for the way our elected leaders and civil servants behave in the execution of their duties. Why not make the forthcoming election that of the triumph of justice over the powerful forces that do not want to see change for the common good of all Nigerians. In Imo State, there are three zones, 27 local government areas and 680 communities.

We have started awareness and mobilization of communities in the State to give people the tools they need to shun bribery and corruption, strengthen democratic values, combat poverty and injustice, promote gender equality, human rights and democratic processes. Join the fight.

## Some of the new Projects starting in January 2015

### Project Title: Keeping mothers and their Children Alive in Imo State



The burden of paediatric HIV infection across the globe is 1000/day. There is a global goal to eliminate MTCT of HIV by 2015. We can all be part of this effort.

We have medicines that can eliminate this problem. Over the years in the fight against HIV/AIDS, the world has learnt how this could be done. Nigeria has the second highest number of new infections each year, and about 3.7% of the population living with HIV, i.e., 3.4 million with adult prevalence of 3.1%. HIV burden in the world. Women constitute 60% of the adults living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Nigeria. Many new infections occur from mother to child. It is estimated that 360, 000 children are born with HIV in Nigeria most of whom became infected by their mothers during pregnancy, labour or breastfeeding. This project aims at developing capacity of local community that help to address and bring to an end paediatric HIV, including through PMTCT. Communities can play a significant role in this effort to eradicate MTCT of HIV. This is what this project will try to achieve in 18 communities in Imo State. Nigeria's 3 million HIV positive individuals constitute the second greatest burden of HIV/AIDS care and treatment worldwide. Adding to this burden are 1.2 million children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. Heterosexual transmission accounts for up to 95% of HIV infections. Fewer than five percent of pregnant HIV-positive women are reached by services to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), and more than 73,000 children are born with HIV each year.

### Project Title: AFFORDABLE SOCIAL HOUSING FOR THE POOR

Housing shortfall in Nigeria is estimated at between 16-18 million units and the World Bank notes that Nigeria needs to produce about 720 units annually for the next 20 years to begin to solve the problem. About 85% of the urban population live in rented accommodation, spending 40% of their income on rent. There are many living in inhuman conditions, there are homeless in many cities and people living under bridges and in shacks. Lack of affordable housing is a big challenge in Nigeria. Low cost housing programme of the government in Nigeria hardly reach the poor and homeless. The Boko Haram jihadists have contributed in displacing thousands and rendering them homeless. As they flee from these terrorists in the northeast. SpringAidIntlD affordable housing aims to make a little contribution to easing housing needs for those displaced by insurgents. Do you need a one-bedroom self-contained apartment, please call/e-mail today.

### CREDIT ASSISTANCE PLATFORM (CAP)

SpringAidIntlD advances a micro zero interest loan to women and Girls who run Small Business Enterprise between 10—100 thousand naira per recipient.

Nigerian's highest aspirations can never be realized if we leave behind our youths and women. Because when every member of our society has the opportunity to succeed, our communities are stronger and our nation is stronger. Strengthening civil rights advocacy and civic participation is crucial to advancing social and economic justice in any community. To qualify for credit, the candidate needs to demonstrate proof of a viable business idea. Interested? Please give us a call!

## SpringAidIntID marks WORLD AIDS DAY 2014

Hi everyone! On 1 December, SpringAidIntID joined other network members of CisHan in Imo State to mark the World AIDS Day through HIV counseling and testing activities in Owerri. Much progress has been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS epidemic. One interesting thing is that the world has passed the tipping point where the number of those receiving anti retroviral drugs out number the number of new infections in many countries. Another area is that many countries in Africa now domestically contribute about half of the funds used to fight the epidemic in Africa. Yet, much still needs to be done. There remains a lot of ignorance about HIV, a lot of stigma and prejudice. People are still dying of AIDS because of lack of information. Knowing your HIV status will help you spare your unborn child the danger of contracting the virus from you.

**CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK & 14th NNNGO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014**  
SpringAidIntLD was present at the recently concluded Civil Society Week, organized by World Alliance for Citizen Participation( CIVICUS) in Johannesburg, 21 -24 November 2014, South Africa. As a member of NNNGO, we were also present through our representatives in the Conference of Nigerian Network for Non Governmental Organizations 3 December in Lagos. The: theme was: "CSO Legitimacy, Transparency and Accountability: The role of Government and Civil Society". We are convinced that a strong civil society participation is crucial to a sustainable and effective democracy in any society. Help to create an educated and informed citizen in local communities in Nigeria. This is the most responsive and accountable way to building a Culture of democracy and democratic institutions and processes in Nigeria.

### **Project Title: READ TO SUCCEED-! ImprovingQuality of Education/Childcare For Children at Risk**

Access to quality pre-primary and early primary education is critical in an individual's life, in integral development terms. But, only 17% of Nigerian children are enrolled in pre-primary education. As a result, primary education is failing to develop basic skills. A staggering 11 million children are out of school in Nigeria (62% of them girls), including 4.7 million elementary school age. It is estimated that 15 million children in Nigeria are working in agriculture as domestic servants, hawkers, beggars or trafficked through sex industry. Many of them are out of school and without access to basic social protection services. The highest gains in a child's life come from investing in early years of education. Very simple interventions at early years can make substantial difference. This is why this project aims at supporting vulnerable children in three local governments in Imo state.

#### **Founder**

**Chikezie Onuoha**  
MSP  
Year 2009

#### **Vision:**

Our vision is a world without poverty, where human dignity is respected and wealth created for all people.

#### **Mission:**

Our mission is to fight poverty in all its forms through awareness and mobilizing local communities.

#### **Core Values:**

Democracy, Respect for individual dignity., teamwork, transparency, accountability, and integrity.

#### **Strategic Priority:**

- Democracy/Human Rights
- Advocacy
- Gender Equality
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Health Promotion
- Social Housing Hub
- ICT
- Climate Change

#### **Networks**

NNNGO  
CiSHAN  
CENGO  
CIVICUS  
WANGO

## Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2014

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of SpringAidIntLD has been postponed from 29 December to 14 January 2015. We are hoping that all our books for the year 2014 and our auditors report would have been ready by then. We are also delighted that our Founder, Dr Chikezie Onuoha MSP will be present. We regret any inconveniences. You are welcome!

## SpringAid UK

SpringAid UK has been in operation for the past two years. Its board took a decision at its meeting in June to register with the Charity Commission United Kingdom as a charity. This is a welcomed news as this will create more opportunities for it in the achievement of SpringAids vision and goals. The application has already been made.

## Mandela's Words to Nigeria



On 5 December 2014, the world marked the anniversary of Nelson Mandela's passing on, remembering his legacy, as Nigerians, what he said about us should lead every Nigerian especially those in leadership positions to sober thoughts as we approach the 2015 General elections. Here are Mandela's words to Nigerians: "YOU know I am not very happy with Nigeria. I have made that very clear on many occasions. Yes, Nigeria stood by us more than any other nation, but let yourselves down, and Africa and the black race very badly. Your leaders have no respect for their people. They believe that their interests are the interests of the people. They take people's resources and turn it into personal wealth. There is a level of poverty in Nigeria that should be unacceptable. I cannot understand why Nigerians are not more angry than they are."

## SpringAid International Dev Org

was founded by Chikezie Onuoha MSP on 29 August 2009 and registered as charity with the Cooperate Affairs Commission, Abuja in 2012 and a US EIN. This organization exists as autonomous charities in a few other countries such as the UK and Sweden

### Board Members:

#### 1st Board Chair Freddie Ihens

Engr Dr Charles Nwoko, Chairperson  
Lady Christy Aku Orduh  
Freddie Iheanaetu  
Aloysius Nnaji  
Barrister Francis Igirogu  
Ganiyu Babatunde Wahab  
Alan Ebong Messumbe  
Dr Ikechukwu Okogbue  
Dr Chikezie Onuoha MSP (Consultant)

### Office/Representatives

#### Owerri

Teddy Ihens, Director of Operations  
Revd Onyeka Nwoko, Adm/Finance  
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### About this Newsletter

This newsletter is a platform to enhance information sharing and participation in our activities, projects and programmes. It brings you news of completed, ongoing and future plans of SpringAidIntLD. It is circulated to those in our network

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