



#### Message from the Board Chair

Poverty still dehumanizes millions of people all over the world. This is because it has a very devastating influence on its victims. It reduces the social and psychological prestige of its victims. Poverty is a condition of being poor. The scourge of poverty is being felt by the majority of the citizens of the country who do not have access to primary health care, water and food. In Nigeria poverty holds sway, in the midst of plenty. Household unemployment and poverty has remained a dominant feature in Nigeria. Over 66 % of the population of Nigeria are living in poverty as recent studies show. Poverty is very real in Nigeria, over the last ten years; the quality of life of the average Nigerian citizen has progressively nose-dived. It is so endemic that people have started seeing it as

part of their lot in life. Studies generally paint a grim picture of a nation trapped in a vortex of abject and abnormal poverty and declining productivity.

It is so pathetic in the sense that a country that is rich in oil and gas, other natural and agricultural as well as most importantly human resources cannot put foods on the tables of its citizens. The centrality of poverty has made successive Nigerian governments to initiate sustainable development programmes aimed at alleviating or eradicating the scourge of the poverty phenomenon. This has been done through the establishment of Agencies like the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Family Economic Advancement Programme and National Poverty Eradication Programme, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). Yet poverty holds our people in bondage. This is a paradoxical situation in the sense that a country with rich natural and agricultural resources and good poverty reduction programmes has failed to improve the living standards of its citizens.

Many reasons have been advanced as to why in spite of all these laudable programmes, poverty refuses to 'let our people go'. Some of the reasons of course include both not limited to the evil of corruption, vested interests and the lack of moral and ethical commitment of the government, the rich and powerful to these poverty eradication interventions. In this fight, what we often hear from these groups of people are rhetoric's and mere lip service to the cause of ending poverty.

Our effort to eradicate poverty has taken us to virtually all the 158 autonomous communities in Imo State and many other communities in South-eastern Nigeria, and to many other parts of Nigeria; and our experience is the same. Poverty is dehumanizing and killing many of our people especially the most vulnerable members of our communities, women and children, socially and economically marginalized. Most Nigerians have insufficient income, inadequate food intake, lack basic healthcare, lack shelter and safe drinking water, poor environmental cleanliness, lack access to basic education and skills, ignorant of fundamental human rights, and access to information. We believe that the world can end poverty in our time if it really wants to. We believe also that Nigeria has more than enough resources to say goodbye to poverty. This is why we are making our modest contribution to creating a world that is free of poverty, a world where every human being has opportunities to actualize herself or himself.

In this year 2014 annual report and strategic plan, we tried to identify a few areas of priority for SAID. The board in accordance with the framework of annual general meeting focused on Advocacy, Health Education, Social Housing, Micro credit, Food Security and Livelihood development and Capacity Building for the poor. In what follows, you will read how we have worked during 2014. We have to stand up against vested interests in Nigeria that are benefiting from the existence of poverty. As a nation, we have no business to be poor because we have more than enough resources for every Nigerian citizen.

We wish to express our thanks to organizations that have given us grants, companies, individual donors, sponsors, our board, management staff as well as volunteers. Together, you have made our work possible. We cannot appreciate your assistance enough. We count on you always!

Sincerely,

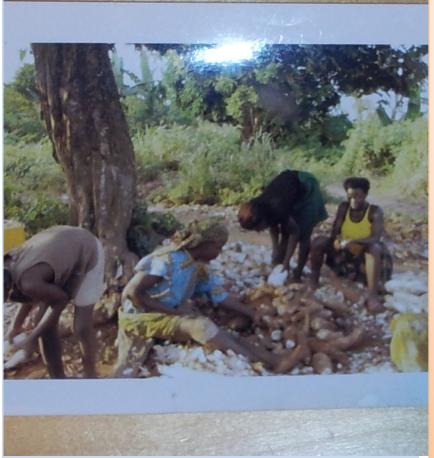
# THE CHALLENGE

We know since 1990 the number of people in the world who live on less than \$1.25 a day has been halved. Nevertheless, 1.2 billion people still live in extreme poverty. (Source: United Nations Millennium Development Goals (www.un.org) Poverty eradication initiatives since independence have yielded very little dividend for the poor. SAID works to assist individuals and communities break the bark of poverty.

In Nigeria poverty holds sway, in the midst of plenty. It has been massive, pervasive, and engulfs a large proportion of Nigerians. Household unemployment and poverty has remained a dominant feature in Nigeria. According to the UN, Nigeria is one of the many developing countries that are under a vicious circle of poverty. SpringAid International Development (SAID) is part of the global effort to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030.



#### **FOOD SECURITY**



During the year, we have supported 15 farm cooperatives in south east Nigeria in the area of capacity building, introduction to new farming techniques, high yield products, entrepreneurship development, financial literacy, advancement of interest zero micro credit and Small Enterprise Establishment (SBE) and management as well as gaining skills in market. In 18 communities, we supported small-hold farmers who produce crops to feed their families and to sell to local markets. These farmers increased their yields, gained

#### Vision

Our vision is a world without poverty in which wealth is created for everyone.

#### Mission

To contribute to a just and better world through fighting the root causes of poverty in all its forms

### Our Approach

We adopt an integrated right perspective to all our activities, projects and programs. Recognize that the causes of poverty are varied and interrelated. This is why we believe an integrated intervention to deliver critically needed poverty eradication initiatives for the very poor, socially isolated and marginalized especially women and girls is crucial .We believe in participatory projects. We work with people not work for them.

Therefore our method is to encourage community ownership of the projects we embark on. The primary and overarching objective of our engagement is to eradicate poverty using a sustainable approach.



greater economic stability and improved food security for their families. We have been partnering with LAPACELA FOOD, in the transfer of much needed technical skills especially in food production and processing.

## **EDUCATION**

#### Improving Education for Children

#### Read to Succeed-Improving Quality of Education/Childcare for Vulnerable and at risk children

In Nigeria, millions of children are still out of school. 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. Children who achieved academically during their early years sustain education progress and, ultimately become healthier and more integrally productive over their lifetime. Very simple interventions at early years can make substantial difference.

Many children of primary school age also continue to experience physical and psychological violence both in schools and within the family environment while child labour and trafficking continue to be a real source of concern; depriving many children of opportunities for schooling and development. In addition, poor learning environment does not provide the quality education that would allow students to achieve their full potential. Children living on the streets, orphans and other groups of vulnerable children are also deprived of their right to basic primary education, face stigmatization, encounter violence and are vulnerable to many dangerous situations. Nigeria has been unable to deal with several issues hindering the protection rights of children such as children living on the streets, children affected by communal conflict, drug abuse, human trafficking and the weaknesses of the juvenile justice system amongst others.

This is why SAID has committed to supporting education of children especially girls who suffer a double whammy of being poor and being born girls. With read to succeed initiative, we assist at risk and vulnerable children by given them the opportunity for a good start in life.



#### AFFORDABLE SOCIAL HOUSING



SAID believes and is convinced that safe and descent housing is a human right and government, communities and individuals have a role to play in ensuring its provision. 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 20 years to begin to solve the problem. About 85% of the urban population live in a 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 programmes of the government hardly reach the poor and homeless who are most in need of it.

The Boko Haram jihadists have contributed in displacing thousands and rendering them homeless as they flee northern Nigeria. More than fifteen thousand people have been killed in Boko Haram –related violence, and 1.5 million have been displaced.

Overall, report from Internal Displacement Monitoring (DMC) show that as many as 3.3 million people have been internally displaced in the country by violence. The majority of IDPs are women and children, and they have lost their means of livelihood. The stories of these people are rarely heard.

Since 2012, we have been able to help 68 families with a descent one-room apartment in many communities in Imo State.

# **CLIMATE CHANGE**



The unbridled use of natural resources has led to a large scale destruction of forest and environment globally. Population growth coupled with increase in consumerism is putting excessive pressure on natural resources to meet our needs. Current environmental problems in Nigeria include among others flooding, gully erosion, air pollution, natural resource depletion, high emission of greenhouse gases, lack of effective waste disposal system, poor sewage and drainages, deforestation, reckless garbage dumping. Heavy and torrential rain falls are common in southeast Nigeria leading to flooding of roads, markets, schools and homes. Flood and gully erosion impact on individuals, communities and environment and have both economic and environmental consequences. The health of our environment is largely dependent on the way present generation takes care of it. Studies have shown that when environmental education and outdoor learning – hands on capacity building involved communities; they adopt eco-friendly activities that make them environmentally responsible.

This is why SAID has embarked in awareness and capacity building in many communities and schools about environmental challenges and ways to protect and conserve natural resources. We think that investment in greer education especially for the young is a crucial aspect if we are to address the problem of climate change.

# **Gender Equality**

Women and girls face a lot of challenges both at home and in society. Studies show that on a daily basis, Nigerian women and girls are beaten, abused, raped and sometimes murdered by members of their families for supposed transgressions, which can range from not having meals ready on time for the husband to visiting family members without their husband's permission.

Between half and two thirds of Nigerian women are subject to violence in their homes. Inspite of all the laws and instruments, resources and initiatives that presently exist to address violence against women and girls, communities and families in Nigeria are yet to significantly reduce or stamp out violence against women.

By building the capacity, skill and knowledge of women and girls in communities where we serve, we support them to be aware of their rights and to demand that their rights should be respected.

Despite the challenges, opportunities for gender equality exist because of the present democratic climate in Nigeria and the willingness and determination of the present government to fight corruption, lack of accountability and to support the equality of men and women in accordance with constitutional provisions.

The commitment is demonstrated by the signing of the National Policy on Women in July 2000. This policy provides opportunities for present and future initiatives to address the barriers that limit the full participation of Nigerian women in various aspects of social life.

SAID seeks in collaboration with other vibrant NGOs, coalition and networks to address the needs of women and girl child. Experience in Nigeria and other developing countries has demonstrated that increasing the empowerment and resources available to women is an effective strategy for improving social outcomes not only

for women but also for their families and their communities.

aspirations can never be realized if we leave behind our women and girls.
When every member of our society has an opportunity to succeed in life, our communities are stronger and our nation stronger. Therefore strengthening civil rights advocacy and civic participation is crucial to advancing social and economic justice in any community



# Micro Finance - Credit Assistance Platform (CAP)

Through this platform, we provide support to rural unskilled women and youth in skill development, advancement of a zero percent interest micro credit and capacity to establish livelihood enterprise. The only condition is that the client demonstrates determination to escape from the shackles of poverty. In this way, we address the menace of absolute poverty that has left many hopeless.

Through CAP, SAID implements sustainable poverty eradication programme. We are looking at modifying this strategy next year into a poverty graduation model to run in form of a school where the poor having participated in the programme will have a high probability rate of breaking the bark of poverty in their lives, and their families and communities. This

Absolute poverty amongst
women and youth in the
communities we serve is a
result of unemployment which is
in turn is caused by lack of
skills, poor education and
knowledge to initiate, manage or
sustain income generation
ventures.

"Strategies, aimed at implementing a culture of care and an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature." –Pope Francis

programme will be renamed: Local Entrepreneur Access Program (LEAP) or SpringAid Entrepreneurs' Access for Life (SEAL). Available studies demonstrate that poverty graduation model is an efficient way of helping the poor, socially isolated, and economically marginalized to break the bark of poverty both in their lives and that of their families. We are in the process of negotiation with a few organizations for the building of a structure to house this centre for poverty graduation

#### **COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLBEING**



In collaboration with many other nonprofits, government, health facilities and other stakeholders, we are actively involved in health promotion in south eastern Nigeria. We believe that every Nigerian has the right to at least the basic health standard as defined by the World Health organization (WHO).

We provided health promotion in the areas of HIV/AIDS bearing in mind that Nigeria is where the second highest infections are occurring after South Africa. We also conduct malaria prevention through rapid testing and the distribution of long lasting insecticide mosquito nets, awareness raising about Diabetics, hepatitis and heart problems. We help build the capacity of community health workers in remote areas. Access to new knowledge has helped to save lives and improve health, particularly for women and children.

Our experience shows that it has never been more obvious that new solutions to community health delivery are desperately needed. Increasing and strengthening the capacity of community health workers has the potential to close health care gaps in access, quality, progress and capacity and therefore impact millions of lives especially of women and children.

Failure to achieve health and development goals in these communities has led to not only to low life expectancies but also productivity and unfulfilled promise of economic development. Using evidenced based strategies, we are able to save lives especially for economically distressed, orphaned, abandoned, socially isolated, politically disenfranchised, under-employed and unemployed persons

# Water, Agriculture, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH)



#### **ADVOCACIES**

The United Nations international Days are the framework with which we engage in our many advocacy activities every year since our inception.

#### **International Women's Day March 8**

SAID Organized a panel discussion on March 8 to observe the international Day for women and highlight the plight women face in many parts of the world and especially how African women and girls are struggling for equality or to make their voice heard within family and society. The panel discussion comprised of six persons and a moderator and centred on the future of equality of women and girls with men and the challenges of equal access to opportunities and resources.

#### International Day of Remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade 25 March.

SAID always marks 25th March annually reject all forms of slavery including in its modern forms. It is very sympathetic, for over 400 years, millions of women, men and children were the victims of tragic transatlantic slave trade, probably the darkest chapter in human history, the annual observation of 25th march serves as favourable occasion to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system, and to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today. Never again would African people be made slaves and tools for other people's benefit. Unfortunately, the present global political and economic systems are doing just that.

#### **Democracy Day September 17th**

SAID covered an event at its Owerri Office on 17th September to mark the international day of democracy brought together civil society, human right, advocates, women groups and youths within Owerri, Port Harcourt, Umuahia, Aba, Onitsha, areas of east. The discussion focused on method and strategies for promotion of democratic goals and training equipment of agents of democracy in Nigeria.

We believe that all change, even very large powerful change, begins when a few people start talking with one another on something they care about. While democracies share common features there is no single model of democracy. The group agreed on the need to understand democracy which cannot be forced from outside, that democracy means far more than holding elections and that issues of legitimacy, security and accountability are fundamental to the scope for democratization. Civic education and awareness raising in the area of human rights was underscored as vital to building a democratic culture. Democracy is a universal value based on freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, cultural and social system and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. Democracy is the responsibility of the people not just of the government. True citizenship requires active informed participation.

#### World Diabetes Day November 14th

Diabetes is one of a serious health challenge to our people. This motivated us to mount campaign against it. In 2003, the international diabetes federation estimated that approximately 194 million people around the world had diabetes; by 2025 this figure is expected to rise to 333 million, amounting to 6.3% of world's population living with diabetes. The African continent counts approximately 13.6 million people with diabetes. The WHO suggests that Nigeria has the highest number of people living with diabetes in Africa, with an estimated burden of about 1.7 million which will increase to 4.8 million by 2030.

The economic burden of diabetes is enormous in terms of the direct cost of intensive monitoring the control of blood glucose and managing cardiovascular, renal, and neurological consequences. This is why SAID is calling on all Nigerians to take this pandemic seriously and develop platforms and strategies for preventing and handling this threat to the nation's health.

#### World AIDS Day 1st December

SpringAid International Development and partners in Owerri, Imo State marked this day with a rally in three communities. Some few mean that globally the Aids epidemic has been halted and reversed. This is truly a cause to celebrate and greet all the Hero's that made this success possible. Nevertheless, this epidemic is increasing in some

population groups especially most at risk groups, mother to child transmission, and among young people in and out of school. Yes, a lot of hurdles still remain to be past in our vision for an HIV free culture and generation. Do you know that 85% of the people with HIV lack access to treatment because they are not aware of living with the virus? In 2013, the number of people living with HIV in Nigeria was estimated at 3, 6 million. Adults aged 15 and up living with HIV estimated at 3,2 million; children aged 0-14 living with HIV was 450 000, Orphans due to AIDS aged 0-17 estimated at 2, 3 million; Adults aged 15 -49 prevalence rate 3.5, women aged 15 and up living with HIV estimated at 1,8 million and deaths due to AIDS 240 000 (UNAIDS).

Many people are still suffering the tragedy of AIDS epidemic, orphans, widows, dreams shattered and the scourge of poverty brought about by HIV/AIDS.

#### **Network Building**

In the year 2014, SAID has broaden its network with both government and private sectors more especially with other non profits within the country and outside. We are aware that for organizations to be sustainable they have to be effectively networked. Presently, we network with many nonprofits in Imo state. Today, we are one of the leading voices among non profits in the southeast. Our goal is to make SAID visible on the internet through social media such as Twitter, Pinterest, Facebook, You-Tube and regular updating of our website. SAID networking is also aimed at building a mass of critical organization and individuals capable of demanding change and achieving rights, providing alternations for Human Centred Development.

#### **Appreciation**

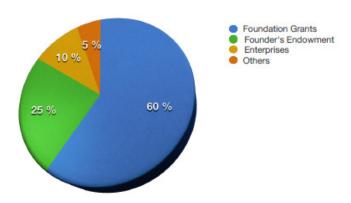
The Board and management of SAID wish to thank all our members, volunteers and staff that have laboured freely to keep the spirit and vision of SpringAid International development. Worthy to mention include our staff, Teddy Ihens, Rev. Onyeka Bede Nwoko and Volunteers, Eugene Maduka, Nze Noel Agulana, Chinonso Julius, Chiamaka Ekwueme, Victory Ashamole, Anthony Onyebuchi, Esther Ehidionye, ThankGod Onyebuchi, Christian Okeke, Ikem Ekwueme, Dr Fidelis Chikwem and so many others. Our sincere gratitude goes also to organizations that have provided funding and supported our projects especially SpringAid Sweden for the interest they have shown in SAID, Respektlivet Sweden, Computer Aid. We will not fail to mention and appreciate our strategic partners and networks, CIVICUS, CISHAN, ACOMIN, Society For Family Health, CENGO NNAGO, WANGO, End Water Poverty, Clean Stove Alliance, Geodora Samaritans, Imo State Poverty Alleviation Bureau and the various government institutions we have collaborated with during the year 2014. (Photo Nonprofits in Owerri)



SAID Sources of Revenue 2014

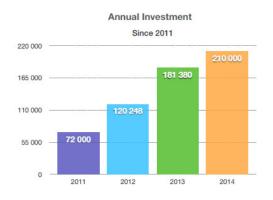
SOURCES	PERCENTAGE (%)
Foundation Grants	60
Founder's Endowment	25
Enterprises	10
Others	5

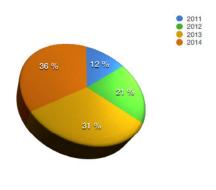
SAID Sources of Revenue 2014



Annual Investment Since 2011

YEAR	AMOUNT (\$)
2011	72 000
2012	120 248
2013	181 380
2014	210 000





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SprinAid International Development (SAID) is a non profit charity
dedicated to fighting and ending poverty in all its forms. It was established
in 2009 and officially registered as a charity with the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja in 2012

