



# **BUILDING RESILIENCE TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**

*Gains from the Community Led Climate Action Project (CLCAP)  
aimed at mitigating the impact of climate change in  
Benue State, North-Central, Nigeria.*

**POWERED BY:**



**Angel Support Foundation,**  
An NGO with United Nations ECOSOC status since 2020  
Observer status to the United Nations  
Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



*June 2021*

## **BUILDING RESILIENCE TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**

*Gains from the community led climate action project (CLCAP) aimed at climate change mitigation and adaptation in Benue State, North-central Nigeria.*

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## **FOREWORD**

**Community Led Climate Action Project (CLCAP)** implemented by Angel Support Foundation in collaboration with DevTrain CEDI with funding and technical support from Aspire Coronation Trust (ACT) Foundation set out to facilitate school children and community members evolve adaptive and innovative initiatives to adapt and mitigate the negative impact of climate change in Makurdi Local Government Area, Benue state, North-central Nigeria.

The project among other things raised awareness on the negative impact of climate change and how it has changed the dynamics of livelihood and resource allocation, planted trees, encouraged Agro forestry, raised climate change ambassadors in secondary schools and communities, ushered in proper waste management strategies while pushing for empowerment initiatives that are environmentally responsible.

The project had the overarching goal of Improving access to knowledge on climate change and environmental protection in Makurdi LGA among twenty-two thousand (22,000) direct beneficiaries (boys, girls, women, men and People Living with Disability (PLWD) by 2021, and had activities such as advocacy, tree planting campaigns, clean up campaigns, community review meetings, hygiene promotion sessions, formation and training of Green Task Force, Formation and training of Environmental health and hygiene clubs in secondary schools, media programs, beat plastic challenge and a host of other activities.

The project through her two years of implementation established

workable partnerships with relevant civil society organizations, government ministries, departments and agencies, communities, community-based associations/organizations and the media.

Generally, the project has achieved her pre-conceived goal of facilitating communities initiate and implement adaptive mitigation strategies to combat climate change and foster a sustainable environment within their domains. As part of the recommendations, there are feasible areas of further implementation and scale-up of this project initiative. Angel Support Foundation therefore welcomes support or collaboration of any kind that will lead to the scale-up of this project initiative to reach more beneficiaries, communities, local government areas in Benue state and other states in Nigeria at large.

We call on all to join hands with us as we continue to walk the journey of mitigating climate change and creating a sustainable and environmentally responsible society.



**Kuma Mary Sewuese**

*Founder/CEO*

## **ABOUT ANGEL SUPPORT FOUNDATION (ASF)**

**Angel Support Foundation (ASF)** is a non-governmental organization with special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC), non-religious, non-partisan and non-racial organization that derives its existence from the need to create a society and people with a purposeful driven attitude towards environmental sustenance, with particular focus on women, Children and the youth, creating an adequately sensitized and mobilized populace to embrace positive environmental and hygienic behaviors that would ultimately support livelihood. The organization also derives the essence of her existence from the burning need for gender equality in communities and the need for peaceful co-existence among inhabitants. This, the organization does by initiating self-reliant projects and advocates aimed at creating awareness on vital environmental activities, promoting gender equality, while building peaceful co-existence among inhabitants and communities in Benue state in particular, and Nigeria in general.

Established in 2012, **Angel Support Foundation** was registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) in 2013 with registration Number; **CAC/IT/65283**, with a mandate to create awareness in the area of environment and all matters connected therewith (paying particular attention to Women, Children and Youth), promote gender equality and implement activities in the area of peace building.

The organization has its head office in Makurdi – Benue State, and branch office in Lafia, Nasarawa State, North-Central Nigeria.

### **VISION**

A sustainably developed, gender inclusive, peaceful, just and environmentally conscious society.

### **MISSION**

To promote and ensure the rights of women, children and youth to social, political and economic development.

## **VALUE STATEMENT:**

**Angel Support Foundation** is an Organization built on Integrity, respect for human life while diligently working as a team towards achieving set goals.

## **ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION**

### **AIMS/OBJECTIVES**

- To support the less privileged in the society (orphans/widows) with sustainable livelihood and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- To contribute to the economic, social and civil empowerment of women and youth (adolescent girls)
- To promote sound ecological community based development solutions
- To strengthen resilience, humanitarian response and recovery of vulnerable people to conflict and disasters.
- To empower women/youths with vocational training and skill acquisition programs.
- To collaborate with agencies and organizations to support the rehabilitation of drug addicts and destitute through entrepreneurial skills and Vocational training.

### **THEMATIC AREAS**

- Environment
- Women and youth empowerment
- Peace and Security
- Governance
- Gender

### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGY**

- a. Networking, Collaboration and Partnering.
- b. Advocacy and Campaigns
- c. Capacity Building
- d. Documentation, Research and Publications
- e. Resource Mobilization
- f. Gender mainstreaming
- g. Promotion of Indigenous values and best practices
- h. Care for widows, orphans and the less privileged

## ACRONYMS

<b>ACT</b>	- Aspire Coronation Trust
<b>ASF</b>	-Angel Support Foundation
<b>BENSESA</b>	- Benue State Environmental Sanitation Agency
<b>BNARDA</b>	- Benue Agricultural and Rural Development Authority
<b>CEO</b>	- Chief Executive Officer
<b>CDS</b>	- Community Development Service
<b>CLCAP</b>	- Community Led Climate Action Project
<b>CONA</b>	-Community Needs Assessment
<b>EHH</b>	- Environmental, Health and Hygiene
<b>FGDs</b>	- Focused Group Discussions
<b>GTF</b>	- Green Task Force
<b>IEC</b>	- Information, Education and Communication
<b>KII</b>	- Key Informant Interview
<b>LGA</b>	-Local Government Area
<b>MEAL</b>	- Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
<b>MDAs</b>	- Ministries, Departments and Agencies
<b>NESREA</b>	- National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency
<b>NYSC</b>	- National Youth Service Corp
<b>NGO</b>	- Non-governmental Organization
<b>PLWD</b>	- People Living with Disability
<b>SDGs</b>	- Sustainable Development Goals
<b>STEi</b>	- Sustainable TransEnviroment International Foundation

## BACKGROUND:

Nigeria like other countries across the globe has experienced varying environmental changes in the past decades. These changes are evident in increased temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, flooding, drought, desertification, land degradation, biodiversity loss and which of course has greatly affected the dynamics of resource allocation around the African continent and the world in general.

For instance, from 1906 to 2005, the average global temperature rose by  $0.74^{\circ}\text{C}$  with most of that warming occurring since 1970. By 2015, the global temperature had warmed by over  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$  since pre-industrial times. Sixteen of the 17 warmest years on record have been in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, although, this warming isn't the same everywhere majorly the changes have been felt worldwide.

Meanwhile, around the 18<sup>th</sup> century the average temperature in Nigeria was around 26.74 Celsius. However, the temperatures reached an all-time high of 31.83 Celsius in April of 2010.

To say the least, the incessant clashes between cattle herders and crop farmers in sub Saharan Africa are not disconnected from desertification, a major consequence of climate change which has resulted to the mass movement of cattle herders down south. Drought and unpredictable rainfalls have combined to threaten food security with unquantifiable negative impact on livelihood sources across Africa and the globe generally.

Benue state, north central Nigeria has also witnessed these changes and received her fair share of the negative impact of climate change. From her appellation of the food basket of the nation, to almost an "empty

basket” the state has witnessed a sharp decline in agricultural activities arising from incessant clashes between farmers and herders which have displaced a good number of farming communities and reduced food production in the state. According to vanguard of 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, “Benue state is contending with one million and seven (1,000,007) Internally displaced persons sent parking from their ancestral homes by suspected armed herdsman”. Other major changes evident in the state include increased temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, flooding, land degradation, biodiversity loss among others.

Interesting in all of these is the fact that human activities have been a major contributor to the effects witnessed today in our world and local communities. Tree felling for domestic cooking and commercial purposes have depleted our forests in no small measure, excessive grazing and inconsistent agricultural practices have all contributed to climate change, not forgetting what we buy, how we buy, eat and dispose of our waste in addition to increased use of fossil fuel.

There is no gain saying that since human beings play a major part in contributing to our changing climate, they can also through deliberate efforts contribute to mitigating same. With awareness and massive education, communities can unlearn such negative behaviours that have contributed to climate change and relearn positive behaviours that can transform the environment and mitigate the excruciating impact of climate change.

#### **PROJECT CONCEPTION:**

It is in furtherance of Angel Support Foundation's mandate, which aims at creating a friendly environmental society where women, children and

youth have access to sustainable livelihoods development and wellbeing, that the community led climate action project (CLCAP) was conceived.

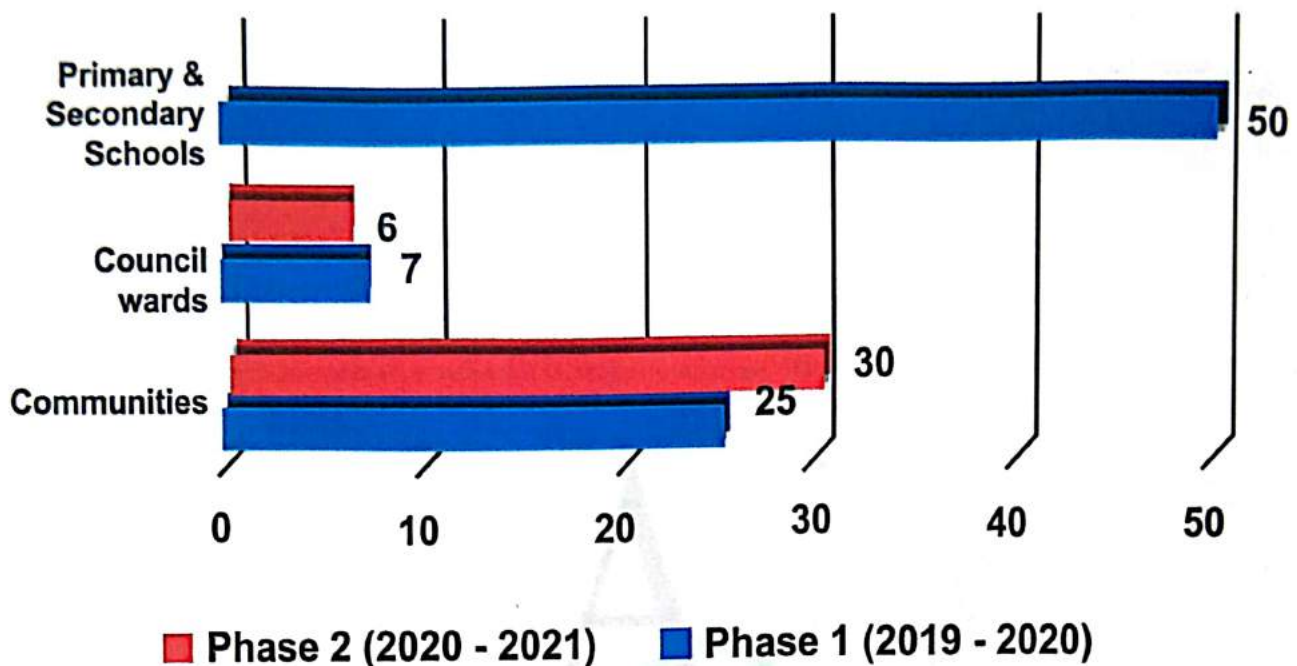
CLCAP had a major goal of promoting awareness on mitigation and adaptation strategies among community members and school children and also facilitated sustainable climate action at the grassroots level.

The project majorly facilitated and advocated for complementing strategies to deal with climate change issues at the community level by supporting and creating awareness on the imminent dangers of climate change to crop production, freshwater availability, loss of animal species, rainfall patterns, and food security in general.

CLCAP had an empowerment initiative that focused on strengthening communities to evolve community driven and adaptable initiatives to protect their environment, plant trees as a way of climate change mitigation and climate smart investments. The project also included behaviour change communication; community members were to be triggered and community led actions attained.

The community led climate action project was implemented in two phases. Phase I spanned from 2019-2020, while phase II was implemented from 2020-2021. The project was implemented across the eleven (11) council wards of Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue state.

### CLCA Project scope



### PROJECT PARTNERSHIP:

This project was implemented with funding and technical support from Aspire Coronation Trust (ACT) Foundation by Angel Support Foundation in collaboration with DevTrain CEDI. The project also engaged critical stakeholders such as Benue state environmental sanitation agency (BENSESA), National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), National Youth Service Corp (NYSC), Radio Benue, Traditional rulers, Women and women leaders, youth and youth leaders.

### SCALABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY LED CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT

A key aspect of the CLCAP Project scalability was fostering local ownership and skills through partnership with the indigenous community groups, associations and structures operational within the communities of intervention. The following sustainability and scalability

structures were put in place:

The project set up of green task force in communities who are part of the implementation process and continue the project idea beyond its lifespan.

Also, the project established strategic partnership with relevant Government ministries, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the media and deployed the use of technology to facilitate the on boarding of these stakeholders to allow for replication of the project initiative to other communities, local government areas and states in Nigeria.

Furthermore, sustained capacity building and training, have empowered communities and critical stakeholders to a point of participation and ownership and which will empower them to exert the needed impetus for a sustainable environment in communities and country at large.

Angel support foundation has integrated local NGOs for collaboration to further sensitize community members on the importance of clean environment, climate change mitigation and adaption through international days like World Environment Day, World Clean-Up Day and Global Hand washing Day in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## PROJECT GOAL & OBJECTIVES:

### Goal:

Improved access to knowledge on climate change and environmental protection in Makurdi LGA among twenty two thousand (22,000) direct beneficiaries (boys, girls, women, men and People Living with Disability (PLWD) by 2021

### Objectives

1. Facilitate school and community action through integrated approaches to combat climate change	2. Raise climate change ambassadors in schools and communities who are leading initiatives to mitigate climate change impact and promote environmental sustainability within their domains.	3. Increase adoption of climate change mitigation strategies and health habits for combating covid-19 by 2021	4. Incorporate proper waste and plastic management approaches in communities to instil community adaptable waste management practices sustainably.
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## TEAM COMPOSITION

The project management consisted of the Founder/CEO of Angel Support Foundation as the project director and was in charge of all approvals regarding the project, supported by two quality assurance officers. Six project officers managed the direct implementation of the project at council wards and community levels, whereas a monitoring, evaluation and learning officer managed outcomes and results as per project design, while the project account officer managed the disbursement and retirement of funds according to project approved budgets. Volunteers were recruited and assigned to project officers as support staff, while also giving them a platform to shore up their project management skills.

## CORE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

To achieve the goal of the project in each phase, the following project activities were carried out:

### 1. Orientation Training

The project started with a one-day orientation training of the project team comprising of Project Officers, Volunteers and other project team members from ASF and DevTrain C E D I . The orientation training centred on the overview of the project, project methodology, strategies of implementation, expected results



Project Team Orientation  
Photo Credit: ASF Media Team

and milestone as well as the anticipated risks and mitigation strategies. The training also intimated the project team on the project activities and stakeholders to be engaged at every implementation phase of the project.

## 2. Mapping and Advocacy

The project started with the mapping and scoping of fifty (50) schools in fifty-five (55) communities that were mapped for implementation.

After mapping, advocacies were conducted to the schools, communities, government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as well as private organizations and media houses. The advocacies engaged critical stakeholders on the project such as traditional, religious and community leaders, school managements, youth and youth groups, women and women groups, community-based organizations as well as people living with disability. A good percentage of the engaged stakeholders would later metamorphose into the sustainability structure for the project. On the part of government ministries, departments and agencies, Benue state environmental sanitation agency (BENSESA) were engaged and supported community clean ups throughout the project while NESREA and NYSC provided technical support during trainings.

These engagements were critical collaborations and facilitated a smooth community entry to enhancing the impact of the project in the communities.



**Project team on advocacy to communities**  
Photo credit: ASF media team

### 3. Community needs assessment (CONA)

A community needs assessment was carried out by the project team using both quantitative and qualitative tools deployed on kobo collect toolbox, Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with Women, Traditional and youth leaders as well as key informant interviews (KII) were used for qualitative data gathering. Community representatives supported this process as translators and community guides.



**Baseline survey**

*Photo Credit: ASF Media Team*

### 4. Formation and training of Green Task Force in Communities

In order to carry community members along, instil ownership and ensure sustainability of the project, an enforcement arm known as the Green task force was established and trained in the communities of intervention comprising of not less than five(5) members in a community. The training also incorporated other livelihood knowledge that can be cascaded down to community members. This initiative was a voluntary service by community members who saw the need to support the project combat the negative impact of climate change and were to support their communities generate interest in environmental management and protection issues, with the view to stimulating action.



**Green task force capacity building training**

**Photo Credit: ASF Media Team**

## **5. Monthly Clean-up Exercise**

The monthly clean up exercise was one of the major activities of the project and was aimed at facilitating the communities of intervention inculcate the habit of regular environmental sanitation and waste management. With the full participation of GTF and community members, open unauthorized dumpsites were evacuated to designated/ government approved dumpsites with further open dumping highly prohibited and monitored by the community going forward. Monthly clean ups were supported by Benue state environmental sanitation agency (BENSESA) by providing vehicles for conveying refuse to designated dumpsites.



**Clean-up exercise across communities**

**Photo Credit: ASF Media Team**

## 6. Tree Planting Campaign:

Tree planting campaigns were also a vital activity on CLCAP. The aim of this activity was to create awareness regarding the importance of trees in sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, providing a cooler and cleaner environment. By demonstrating tree planting in schools and communities, young students and community members were expected to learn and become ambassadors of tree planting for a healthier environment. This will help regenerate our forests, conserve wildlife and make available forest resources for community

Over five thousand (5,000) improved varieties of tree seedlings were procured and distributed to beneficiaries (heads of households) across the fifty-five (55) communities of implementation. Community heads and Green Task Force members assisted in the distribution of the seedlings. Improved species of palm trees, mangoes, oranges and mahogany were procured and distributed, with over Fifty (50) seedlings of *Parkia biglobosa* donated by STEi Foundation (one of the support partners on the project) as the organization's contribution to the project initiative.



**Tree planting across schools and communities**  
Photo Credit: ASF Media Team

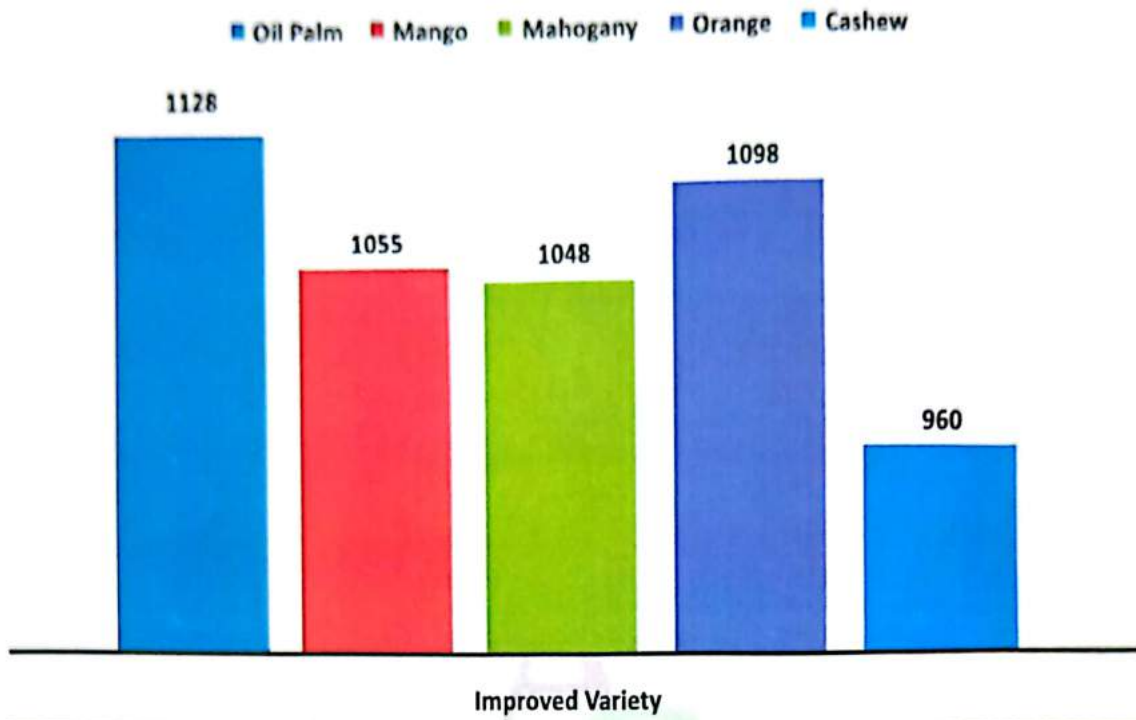


Figure 1: variety of trees planted on CLCAP

Source: M&E computations

## 7. Design And Printing Of Information Education And Communication (IEC) Materials:

Information Education and Communication materials such as posters, stickers were designed and produced on the project with messages on how to beat plastic, proper waste management and hand washing at critical times, the importance of tree planting as well as conservation of our world highlighted. The IEC materials were disseminated and placed at strategic locations in the communities and schools, with some distributed to be placed at homes, offices and other locations. The project also designed and produced climate change manuals, distributed to schools and students to support further cascade of climate change knowledge to students and community members in formal and informal gatherings.

## 8. Movie Screening:

There were over fifty movie screenings across secondary schools to increase the knowledge and awareness on the negative impact of

climate change and how to mitigate same and create a more sustainable environment. Movies like "Nowhere to Run" and "Swallow" were screened alongside (4) four short clips. At the end of each screening session, students were tasked to evolve possible innovations to help protect the environment.



**Movie screening sessions across secondary schools**  
Photo Credit: ASF Media Team

## 9. Community Review Meetings:

Community review meetings were held monthly in communities with the Green Task Force and other key members of the community together with the project team. The meetings were held to strengthen coordination, monitor project implementation progress and facilitate community solutions to challenges encountered during project implementation with a view to improving overall participation by encouraging community input to programs to combat climate change, promote personal hygiene and proper waste management and further enhance the impact of the project.



**Community review meeting across communities**  
Photo Credit: ASF MEDIA TEAM

## 10. Environmental, Health and Hygiene Clubs

CLCAP has set up fifty (50) functional Environmental, health and hygiene (EHH) clubs in secondary schools where the project intervened and Teachers as well as corps members were trained in the management of the clubs. The clubs have provided a veritable platform for secondary school students to interact and share knowledge among themselves on health, environment and waste management issues. This has built them into climate change ambassadors and positioned them to impact their immediate environment and society at large. Teachers and NYSC corps were assigned to each EHH club for effective management of the clubs for maximum impact.

## 11. Climate Talk

The climate talk activity project aimed at increasing the knowledge of students in schools and community members on climate change, its effects as well as mitigation and adaptation strategies with the view to instigating action and causing change. This was also directed at triggering the young ones regarding their role in environmental protection and the importance of safe guarding the environment for the future generation. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Community Development Service (CDS) of the National youth service corps was engaged, and supported this activity.



Climate talk across schools  
Photo Credit: ASF Media Team

## 12. Beat Plastic Pollution Challenge

The beat plastic challenge activity was majorly to stimulate innovative ways of reducing plastic pollution among secondary school students. The challenge facilitated them to create innovative items through recycling and up cycling of plastic obtained from the environment to allow them create items, thereby reducing the yoke of plastic within the environment. Five schools (Holy Infant Academy, Royal Ambassadors College, Erdoo Memorial College, Ecwa Secondary School and Makurdi Academy Centre for Excellence) were identified, and corps members trained to facilitate the challenge in the five schools; the students were given a period of two weeks to come up with their innovations and the three bests (Makurdi Academy for Excellence, Holy Infant Academy and Erdoo Memorial college) were awarded the star prizes.



**Beat Plastic Pollution**  
Photo Credit: ASF Media Team

## 13. Hygiene Promotion Campaigns

This activity was one of the major 'learning' from the phase I, of the project given the unhygienic nature of the communities of intervention on the phase. The activity was geared towards addressing key hygiene and sanitation issues for sustainable development and well-being. Project team members facilitated hygiene promotion campaigns in thirty

(30) communities across six council wards through awareness and sensitization which is the community led total sanitation approach, complimented by IEC materials. Behavioural change communication messages were designed following one-on-one interactions and group discussions held with women and youth groups in communities. Children were not left out in the campaign so as to inculcate in them, the habit of proper hygiene.



Hygiene promotion/sensitization in communities  
Photo Credit: ASF Media Team

#### 14. Media Programs

Media programs were a crucial part of this project, as media platforms were used to create extensive awareness and sensitization on climate change. They also created a platform for seasoned professionals in the fields of climate change, agro forestry, waste management and sanitation to sensitize the public on key sundry topics, regarding the areas above. Live participatory phone-in programmes were held, while radio jingles were produced and aired on climate change, waste management and covid-19 and translated into Tiv, Idoma and Iggede- the major local dialects in the state, to raise awareness and facilitate action.



Climate change awareness programme at Radio Benue  
Photo Credit: ASF Media Team

### 15. Monitoring Evaluation And Learning (MEAL):

Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEAL) was conducted in both phases of the project and learnings shared with project team, communities and stakeholders. A checklist was developed for data collection, which was administered to community heads, Green Task Force, and community members. The checklist provided information on number of dead and surviving seedlings, behavioural change with respect to hygiene, waste management and climate change mitigation practices.

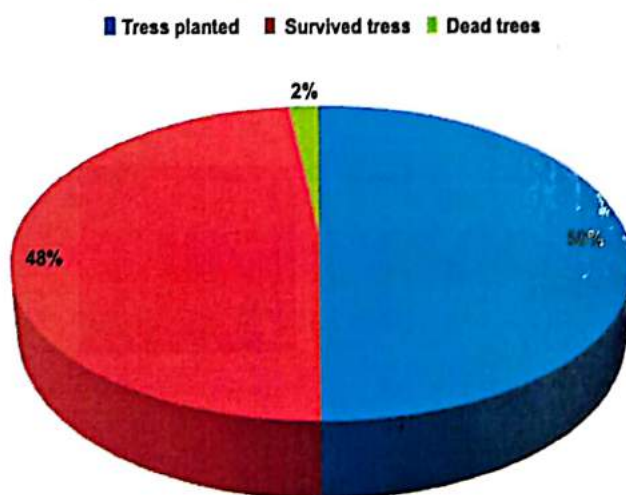


Figure 2: Number of Trees  
Source: M&E computations

### 16. Close-out Meeting and Capacity Building Conference:

This was organized for both major and minor key stakeholders who have been part of the project in different capacities. Communities and schools

of interventions were also represented alongside MDAs, CSOs and the media. Also, in attendance were representatives from the Benue state ministry of Environment and Water resources, NYSC (SDG CDS), Office of the special adviser to the Executive Governor of Benue state on Sustainable Development Goals, NESREA and Non-Governmental organizations who had environment management and protection as their core mandate.

In the second phase, a Capacity Building Training was organized for Community Green Task Force and NYSC members to improve their knowledge on waste management, Budding and Grafting skills. This was to encourage the culture of tree planting and derive source of livelihood through climate smart entrepreneurship ventures. The Training was facilitated by representatives from National Environmental Standards Regulations and Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and Benue Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (BNARDA) who were partners on the project.



Capacity building training  
Photo Credit: ASF Media Team

The Stakeholders and Closeout Meeting drew an appraisal and learning of the CLCAP, intimating Project stakeholders of the progress and gains throughout the project cycle. To also give room for contributions, lessons learnt and recommendations for future implementation and strengthen commitment in promoting better environment in our communities



Close out meeting with stakeholders  
Photo Credit: ASF Media Team

## 17. Climate Strike Walk

This activity was carried out in collaboration with (6) six organizations who had commitment to climate action and felt the need to increase awareness on climate change



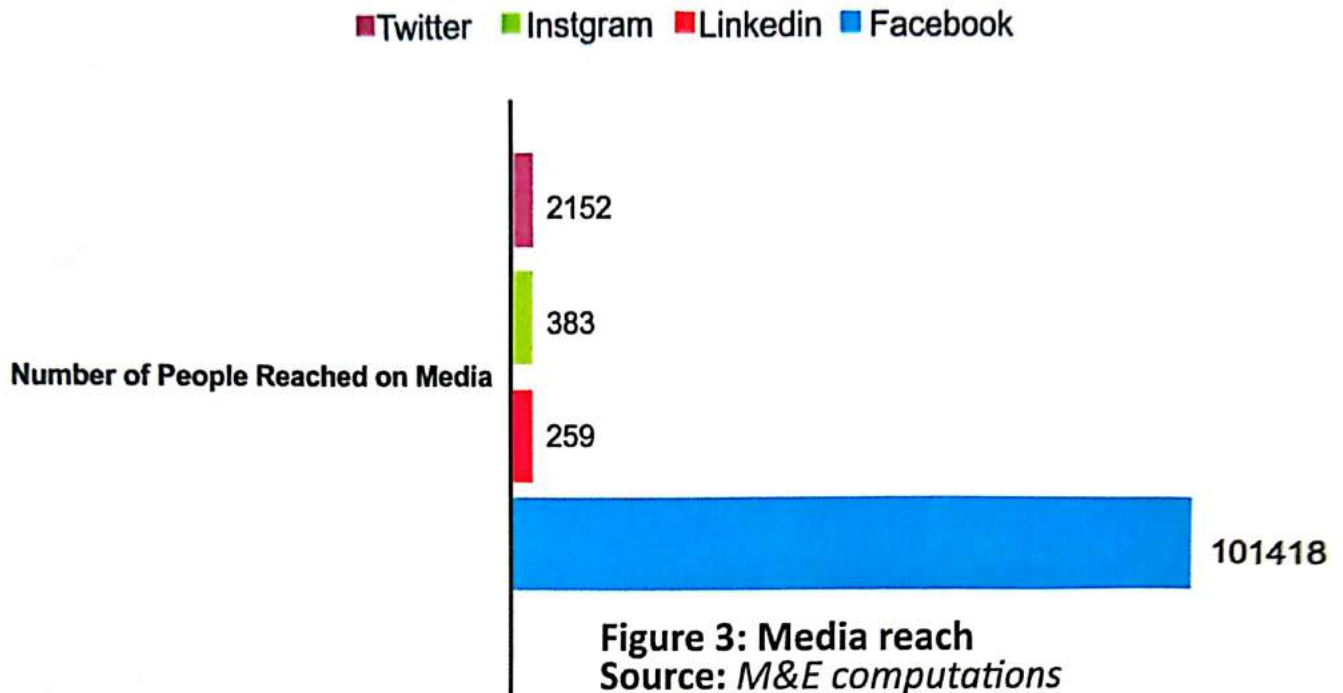
Climate Strike  
Photo Credit: ASF Media Team

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### MEDIA REACH

The project reached over 100,000 direct beneficiaries with media programmes (according to the audience reach profile of the respective radio houses the project used). Through IEC materials and social media campaigns to disseminate messages on climate change amelioration, the project reached one hundred and four thousand, two hundred and twelve (104,212) persons on twitter, Facebook and Instagram for phases I and II.

## Chart Title



### TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGNS

Over five thousand (5,000) trees of various improved species such as Mangoes, Oranges, Mahogany, Oil Palm, Locust Beans and Cashew were distributed and planted during tree planting campaigns across 55 communities and 50 schools reaching over 3000 households in communities across Makurdi local government area.

### CLEAN UP CAMPAIGNS

The clean-up campaigns of the project reached a total of 458 (343 males and 115 females) across (Bauchi, Madikpo, Ventinary, Jibata, CAC, NUJ, Agwangodo and Tyo-Demekpe, wadata 1, General Hospital) communities.

### HYGIENE PROMOTION CAMPAIGNS

The project engaged over 1,313 direct beneficiaries disaggregated into 733 males and 580 females in Participatory hygiene promotion campaigns conducted in 30 communities (Tyo-Demekpe, NUJ, Wadata 1,

Wadata 2, Demekpe, Tse-lortim, Anter, Tse-Ugah, Zongo, Tatyough, Bauchi, Sokoto, Tiv, Itobe, Madikpo, Mba-gune, Tse-kwenyi, Mba-kyior, Abagena, Tse-Agabe, Market clerk, Ruwa, CAC, Central Mosque, Jibata, General Hospital, Ventinary, Ochunu, Orshio and Angwangodo) of the six (6) council wards of project implementation using IEC materials.

### **IEC MATERIALS**

The project printed and distributed 4919 IEC materials across the six council wards in 30 communities of project implementation, while over 2,000 climate change manuals were printed and distributed to 50 secondary schools for sustained awareness to students on climate change and mitigation strategies.

### **GREEN TASK FORCE/STAKEHOLDERS' TRAINING**

One hundred (100) stakeholders (77 males and 23 female) were trained in waste management and best environmental practices as well as budding and grafting.

### **REVIEW MEETING**

18 project review meetings were conducted with Community leaders, community Green Task Force and youth leaders in attendance.

### **SOAP MAKING TRAINING:**

Over 228 (161 female and 67 male) from age 15 and above, of Mbalagh and Agan council wards were trained in soap making, to boost their skill base for economic sustainability beyond the project.



Soap making

Photo Credit: ASF Media Team

## THE STORY OF CHANGE

Below is a picture of a dumpsite at Tsough community in Wailomayo ward where clean up campaigns were held on the project. as a sign of acceptance, the community has concertedly transformed the dumpsite into a vegetable garden for the benefit of the entire community.

This is against the condition of the dumpsite and community at large before the project was implemented where there was indiscriminately dumping of waste in the community.



Climate Action

Photo Credit: ASF Media Team

## PROJECT APPRAISAL MEETING

One hundred (100) stakeholders participated in training and project appraisal.

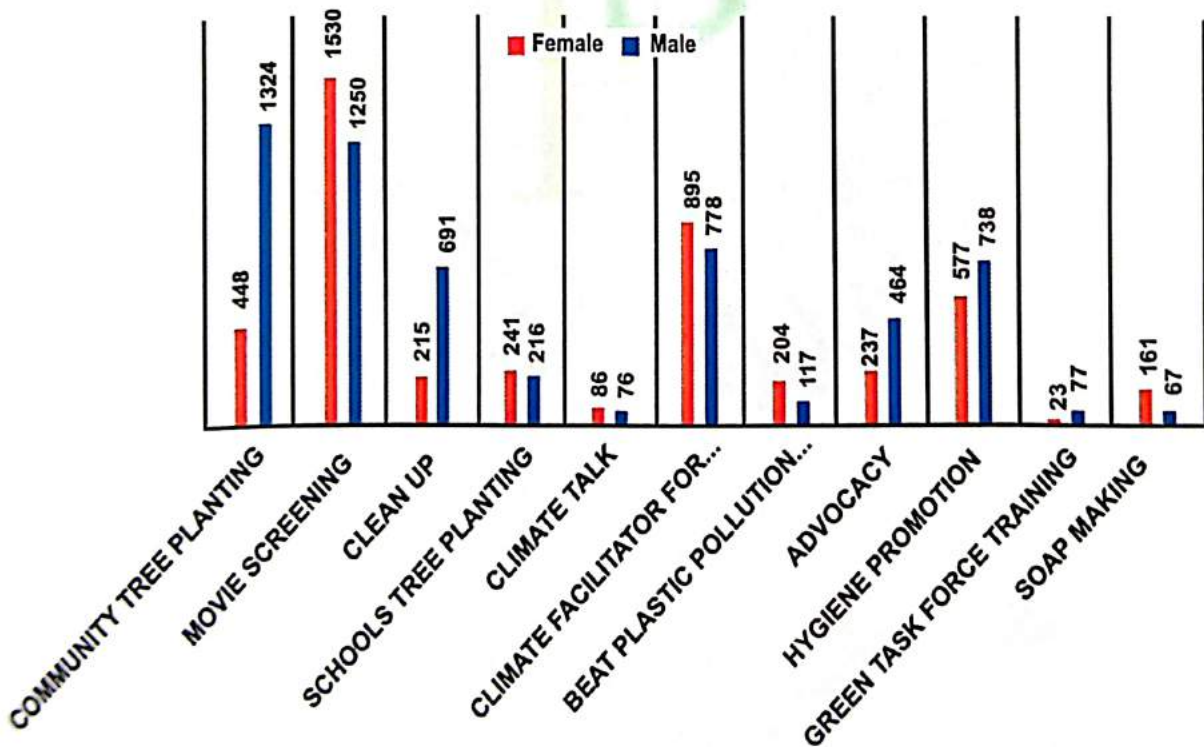


Figure 4: Target beneficiaries reached, per activity, disaggregated by gender

Source: M&E computations

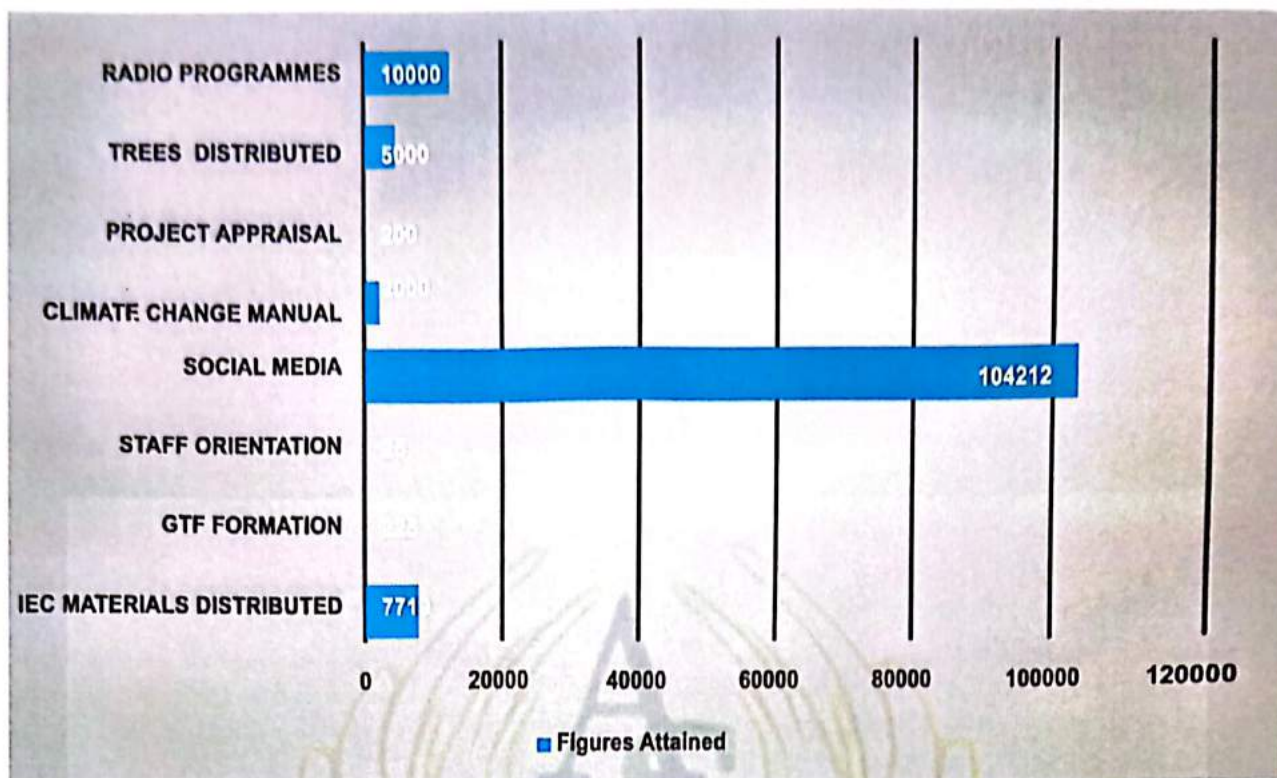


Figure 5: Other project activities

Source: M&E computations



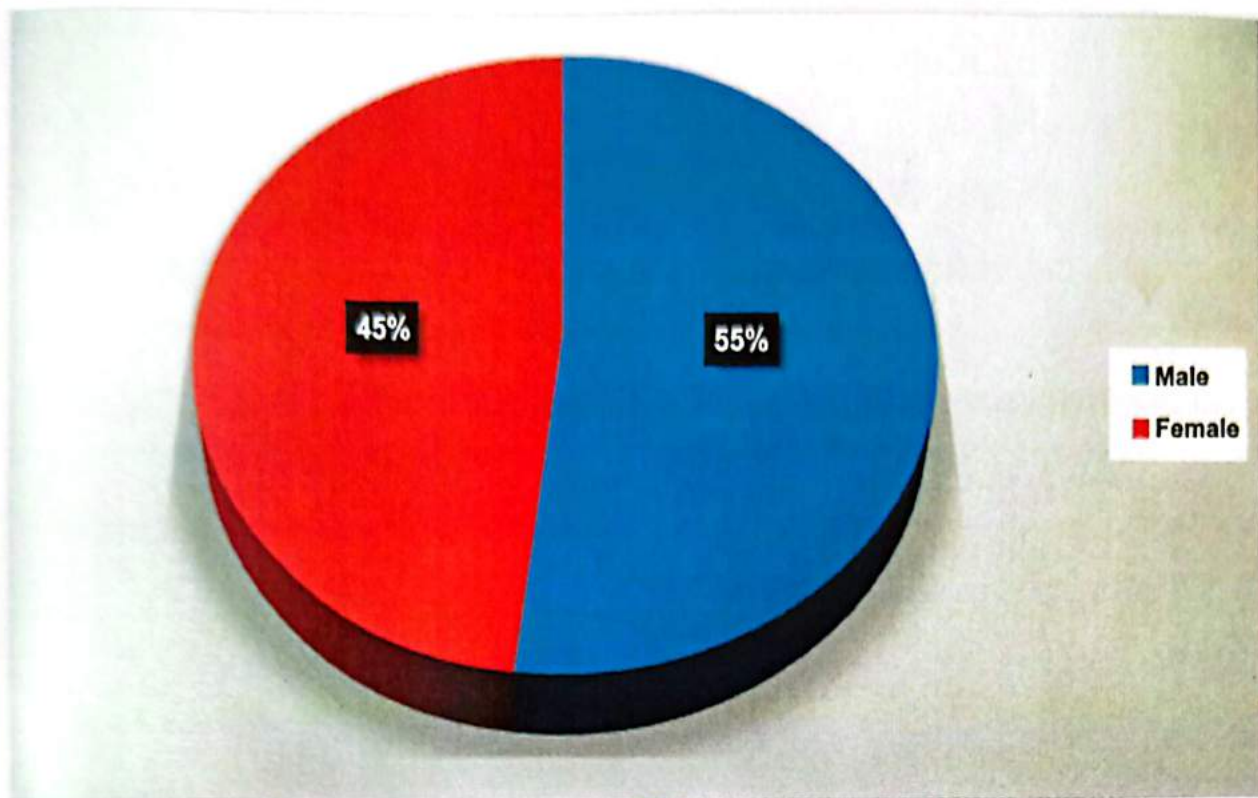
Female- 10,170



Male- 12,533

**Total Number of Beneficiaries Reached on Project Disaggregated by Sex**

Source: M&E computations



**Figure 6: Beneficiaries reached in percentages**

Source: M&E Computations

### LESSONS LEARNT:

1. Majority of community members are not aware of climate change but are familiar with the challenges that come with a change in climate. There is need to increase sensitization and awareness creation in other communities.
2. Women, students and youths are key drivers of climate change mitigation initiatives as they relate directly to the issues and are always handy to provide community adaptable solutions.
3. Distribution of trees seedlings is key to facilitating community members to plant trees, without which the efficacy of such campaigns are downplayed.
4. The news media is pivotal in disseminating climate change messages especially among the young population who always interact with these media platforms.

5. School students are enthusiastic about climate solutions and are interested in cascading same to their fellow students and communities at large, especially if such solutions are laced with creative innovations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER INTERVENTION

1. Awareness on climate change mitigation and adaptation cannot be enough, so long as its negative effects are still felt in the environment. Based on this, there is room for further awareness and capacity building on climate change mitigation and adaptation, given that the concept is yet to be understood in our local communities.
2. As enumerated above, human activities such as tree felling are means of livelihood upon which community members depend on. Providing cogent alternative means of livelihood such as skills acquisition and business initiatives can be workable alternatives and be a mitigation strategy to be considered for further intervention.
3. This project was implemented in Makurdi local government only, meaning that it can be up scaled to the other 22 local government areas of Benue state and Nigeria at large.
4. Also, as a workable alternative, further interventions can target the replacement of domestic cooking energy sources such as firewood currently obtainable in our communities with cleaner sources such as clean cook stoves.



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