Defending Civic Spaces
Under a Global Pandemic

2020 Annual Report
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Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA) was founded on January 22, 2020 to advance human rights, challenge corporate abuse of our natural resources and build community power for inclusive development and participatory governance.

CAPPA is passionately devoted to working with African communities and building partnerships with them towards taking collective social action for the promotion and defence of the rights of peoples. It challenges the abuse of natural resources, the environment and people through corporate and state policies and practices.

Working through our team of dedicated staff, community volunteers, coalitions and leveraging networks, we are committed to policies and actions that would help redress the inequality crises on the African continent and enable a socially just and equitable human civilization.

We work with communities and place emphasis on the organising and mobilizing capacities of citizens and relevant social groups – including unions of workers in public service, in agriculture, in the extractives industries and other relevant sectors.

We believe that when we leverage proactive support for communities and citizens organisations to challenge inhumane corporate and state practices, we can gain the momentum and traction to cause positive change to happen and ensure that the human rights of citizens and residents are observed, protected, and guaranteed by the state.

CAPPA operates two offices: Lagos (Headquarters) and Abuja, and currently has 15 full-time staff and hundreds of volunteers.

CAPPA programme areas:
- Social Justice and Public Services
- Public Health Advocacy
- Climate Change
- Extractive and Environment
Acknowledgment

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to our partners, supporters and volunteers who made 2020 a fruitful campaign year for us. Special appreciation goes to US-based Corporate Accountability (CA) for the strategic institutional support.

We acknowledge the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK) and the African Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA) for supporting our tobacco control works; and the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) for our #TransfatfreeNigeria Campaign.

Our deep thanks go to Strengthening Accountability in the Global Economy Fund (SAGE) and the FORGE Fund, Public Services International (PSI), Wallace Global Foundation, Conservation, Food and Health, Transnational Institute, Solidare Network and the Women Donor Network.

We are also appreciative of our collaboration with the Amalgamated Union of Public Corporations Civil Service Technical and Recreational Services Employees (AUPCTRE) on our water campaigns, and the Network for Health Equity and Development (NHED) on our Transfat-free Nigeria campaigns.
The year 2020 was a great milestone for us at CAPPA. It is our year of greater beginnings. CAPPA was officially born on January 22, 2020. Despite the shutdowns imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization hit the ground running, engaging our allies in the local and international civil society space, policy makers and the media on how to reposition our communities and our world immediately and post-COVID.

Our guiding principle was to look beyond the challenges that the pandemic created and exploit the moment and opportunity to immediately document and present to the Lagos State Government, the parlous situation of water infrastructure in local communities and bring to the fore the linkage between access to water, the response to COVID-19 and public health.

We spoke with community leaders, women, the youth, staff of the Lagos State Water Corporation (LWC) and documented our findings and ensured it got to the right people who have the powers to go beyond talk, to building the right infrastructure to guarantee access to water.

At the national level, our resolve to checkmate the promoters of water privatization was put to test when in the second quarter of the year we learnt that the obnoxious National
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Water Bill, laced with privatization clauses had scaled Second Reading at the National Assembly and speedily heading towards passage. We put our positive energies to work, reached out to our labour allies, and mustered national outrage against the Bill. Thankfully, we were victorious in ensuring that the House of Representatives does not accede to its passage.

Even with our back-to-back advocacy work in Lagos and the national space, the Our Water Our Right Campaign continued to draw the attention of the global water justice community. The travel and face to face meeting restrictions notwithstanding, we exploited the virtual and social media space to share experience and deliver our messages to allies and prospective partners.

On climate, we also etched our name in the global climate justice federation by linking with other groups within and outside Africa to demand that the polluting industry solely responsible for climate change are held accountable for the harms of their activities. We spearheaded the Africa launch of the “Make Big Polluters Pay” campaign and mobilized civil society groups in eight other African countries to simultaneously do same.

To provide frontline communities and governments on the continent with the vital resources to hold the polluting industries liable for the climate damage they knowingly cause, on September 15, 2020, CAPPA was also at the forefront of the Africa launch of the Liability Roadmap - a first-of-its-kind tool outlining how local to global decision makers, including government officials, can explore legal options in this regard. The number of civil society groups subscribing to the call continues to grow by the day.

We cannot spotlight year 2020 exhaustively without mentioning one of the biggest battles we had to take on: the #ENDSARS protest and its aftermath. It was a year we were confronted with the sordid reality that under our supposed democratic government, the civic space had considerably shrunk, and still shrinking. The depth we had sunk dawned on us when on October 20, 2020, peaceful #EndSARS protesters who had converged on Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos, demanding end to the unending police brutality across the country, were gunned down by the Nigerian military and police.
We did not allow the anger and general outcry that this atrocity prompted across the country to simmer like similar past incidents. We took to the international space to guard and reinforce the right of citizens to protest without molestation as a civic duty guaranteed by the Nigerian constitution.

We dragged the Nigerian government before the International Criminal Court (ICC) to demand an international probe of the Lekki incident and other incidences of human rights abuse by the Nigerian authorities. An epic moment in this cause was a press conference we organised on November 20, 2020, exactly one month after the Lekki #EndSARS killings, to announce the total number of signatures we had collected in our quest for justice for the victims.

We sincerely thank all those who trusted and encouraged us to take on those challenges and campaigns towards birthing the communities and the world of our dreams. We thank our partners and funders without whom, the achievements we have made would have been mere wishes. My sincere thanks go to every member of the CAPPA team who has worked so passionately and relentlessly to make CAPPA’s first year a monumental success.

We move!

Akinbode Oluwafemi
COVID-19 and Democratic Control of Water

Despite the dark clouds that hung over the nation throughout year 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were determined more than ever to ramp up our advocacy work to ensure that at community, state, and national levels the right to water remains at the fore of government interventions in the water sector.

We exerted positive energies in four major fronts:

- Exploring prospects that the COVID-19 pandemic offered in improving access to water, especially communities’ participation in decision-making in the water sector;
- Broadening grassroots mobilization through our community water parliaments;
- Sustained pressure on the National Assembly to jettison the National Water Resources Bill, which is fraught with pro-privatisation provisions, and;
- Kick-start of regional campaign on water privatisation.

COVID-19 and Water

On February 27, 2020, when the first COVID-19 case was recorded in Lagos - a city of 21 million people, the knee-jerk response of the state government showed that it did not grasp the enormity of the crisis unfolding. The intervention of the Lagos State government was largely anchored around public health messages on radio and television, urging residents to stay at home and maintain a high sense of hygiene by regular washing of hands with water and soap.

Ideal as that message was, CAPPA knew that there was a bigger problem: Most Lagos communities do not have access to potable water for drinking not to talk of washing of hands. We knew also that Lagos would be the reflection of what would obtain in the rest of the Country. CAPPA embarked on a fact-finding exercise which started in March and continued till June 2020. The exercise entailed visiting 11 local government areas of Lagos to find out the status of their waterworks and other critical water infrastructure, level of access to water by residents, and what was missing. Sites visited included the waterworks in Alimosho, Badagry, Bariga, Epe, Eti-Osa, Ifako-Ijaiye, Ikeja, Kosofe, Ojo, Surulere, and...
Shomolu. What we unearthed was not pleasant but not unexpected. The waterworks in most of the communities lacked chemicals for purification and treatment of water, there was irregular power supply, faulty electricity generating sets, bad production panels, shortage of staff, which cumulatively exposed why there was epileptic or no supply of water in the local communities.

The findings were published in a report, “How Acute Water Shortage May Jeopardize COVID-19 Response in Lagos” with clear recommendations to the Lagos State government to declare a state of emergency in the water sector, reject all forms of water privatisation and commodification, and for it to fully uphold the human right to water as an obligation.

The document was unveiled to the media at a well-attended press conference organised by CAPPA on July 14, 2020 in Lagos, after which copies were also delivered to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, key ministries and departments of Lagos State.

The document has also been largely distributed in communities where we organised water parlaments to enlighten the locals on safe practices in the COVID-19 regime, the dangers of water privatisation, and how important it is for their voices to be heard by their elected representatives and the governor.
Broadening grassroots mobilization
The restriction of movement in Lagos occasioned by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic did not stop us from mobilizing more communities in Lagos in recognition that the strength of the “Our Water Our Right” Campaign comes from the grassroots communities where the largest population of those who are deprived access to water live. Some of the communities we visited in the year are Oworo, Gbagada, Shomolu and Ijede in Ikorodu. Our message remained focused on letting them know and understand why they do not have water, chiefly among which is government’s lack of investment in the water sector to pave way to handing the few existing water infrastructure to privatisers.

The visits also afforded us the opportunity to find out first-hand, from communities, government’s intervention, if any, to stem the spread of the pandemic. In virtually all the communities visited, the findings were very disturbing. No form of government intervention was observed. This discovery informed CAPPA’s decision to provide some of the communities with hand sanitizers and some handwashing aids. To elicit government response, we also ensured the media reported the true situation on ground as observed by the CAPPA team. Few weeks after our visit to Oworo and Gbagada, the Lagos State government opened lines of communication with them with the aim of addressing their water challenges.

Following the impact of the community visits, CAPPA was nominated into the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) COVID-19 Response Task Force set up by the union to monitor government intervention and workers’ compliance to COVID-19 prevention guidelines. Membership of the task force has helped us identify more areas that require intervention by government. Thus far, places visited include hospitals, large markets, transport facilities, waterworks, among other workplaces. We used the opportunity to educate and create awareness on the centrality of water to addressing the pandemic.

The Obnoxious National Water Bill
A major feat of the CAPPA team in the last quarter of the year under review is the speed with which we were able to mobilize our labour communities', and civil society partners
to challenge the boobytraps that would have made the National Water Resources Bill, a nationwide template for privatisation. In August 2020 when we learnt that the National Water Bill, which seeks among others, to privatize the nation's water resources and transfer the control of water resources from states to the Federal Government, had scaled Second Reading with an unusual speed we knew there was something fishy going on. The same Bill had failed to secure concurrent passage by the House of Representatives and Senate in the Eighth National Assembly in 2018. But in the Ninth Assembly, it was illegally reintroduced in the House of Representatives.

To ensure a thorough analysis of the proposed law, CAPPA got a copy of the draft Bill and commissioned legal experts to carry out clause by clause analysis to extract sections that advanced privatisation and posed threats to the attainment of the human right to water. Armed with legal analysis, on September 3, 2020, CAPPA and our labour partners – Amalgamated Union of Public Corporations Civil Service Technical and Recreational Services Employees (AUPCTRE) wrote to President Muhammadu Buhari detailing the many disturbing and draconian provisions of the Bill and how it would impose a privatization agenda on Nigerians. We also organised a press conference in Lagos on September 5, 2020 and used the opportunity to call for more voices in support of jettisoning of the Bill.

The response was swift. On the roll call of those that urged the Parliament to throw out the Bill were Nobel laureate and playwright, Professor Wole Soyinka, and Spokesperson of the Afenifere Pan-Yoruba Cultural Group, Dr. Yinka Odumakin. Various groups also joined the call. They included the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), the Ijaw Youth Council, Ohaneze Ndigbo, Middle Belt Forum and Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF), among others.

CAPPA also triggered other means of engaging government to express disapproval of the Bill going forward, including meeting with the Minister of Water Resources, Adamu Suleiman, the chief promoter of the Bill, to restate opposition to its passage. Our mobilization efforts paid off bounteously when on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, the House of Representatives after a tumultuous session presided over by Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila bowed to reason and ordered that the bill should be reworked.
and then represented for consideration afresh. Though the Bill in its toxic form has been thrown out, it is not yet uhuru going by feelers that the Minister of Water Resources, Adamu Suleiman is still hellbent on foisting the same Bill on Nigerians and has begun mobilization to get support from members of the House. We are not going to bed with our eyes closed.

We look forward to 2021 determined more than ever to mobilize more voices to support the initiation of a transparent and inclusive process in the re-presentation of the Bill before Parliament. Aluta Continua!

**Kickstart of regional campaign on water privatisation**

In the year under review, we found it expedient to replicate the successes of the “Our Water Our Right” Campaign to other cities across Africa under threat of water privatization.

To ensure that we have the right partners to work with in confronting the water privatization threats in Africa, we scheduled interactive sessions with prospective civil society and labour partners in ten identified countries.

The engagements were in partnership with Corporate Accountability and the Public Services International (PSI).

Having secured their consent and willingness to partner in confronting water privatisation, an Africa Strategy Meeting on Water Privatisation is now planned for the incoming year.
The Africa Women Water Sanitation and Hygiene Network (AWWASHNet) was full of steam in the year. While it continued its mission of exposing the challenges faced by women on access to water, it also escalated engagement towards building power to resist water privatization. AWWASHNet also played an enviable role in the mobilization of women to resist the obnoxious National Water Bill.

In commemoration of the International Women's Day (March 8), AWWASHNet visited several communities in Lagos to document their water challenges and sensitize them on threats they are likely to face if water is privatized. The visits were also opportunity to gauge the COVID-19 measures put in place by the Lagos State government, and how the women and community people have been coping. Some of the communities visited by the network included Adepeju in Bariga Local Government Area, Gbagada, Oworonshoki and Oko Oba, one of the most neglected communities in Lagos in terms of access to water.

The plans by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to foist the pro-privatisation National Water Bill on Nigerians caught the attention of AWWASHNet and informed its decision to hold a major women forum in Lagos to allow them lend their voices to the strong opposition to the Bill. The convening, tagged, Women Roundtable on the National Water Bill and other Urgent National Matters, held on September 9, 2020. It addressed the likely fallouts of the passage of the Bill on women and the vulnerable in the society.

The convening was attended by a cross section of women activists, grassroots women leaders, women in the labour unions including members of the AUPCTRE and women in the media.
The robust and very engaging meeting came up with concrete recommendations to government at the state and federal level.

They include:
- Outright withdrawal of the National Water Resources Bill;
- Prioritization of the welfare of the citizens in all government agenda;
- Lagos State must reject privatisation now and in the future;
- Water should be made available, accessible, and affordable.
- The National Gender Policy should be reflected in every legislation of government.

Others include: Reversal on price hike on fuel, electricity tariff imposed by the national government, and rehabilitation of the nation's refineries. The convening was also an opportunity to draw more women into the membership of AWWASHNet. It is anticipated that in 2021 the engagements will expand nationally.
Make Big Polluters Pay Campaign Gets Major Boost in Africa

At the UN General Assembly held in New York in 2019, activists from around the globe called on world leaders to act to hold to account industries and corporations that have knowingly fueled and continued to worsen the climate crisis. Since then, more than 220 organizations and 199,000 people from nearly 70 countries- including many across Africa have echoed this call with the catch phrase, "Make Big Polluters Pay".

CAPPA joined this campaign with the conviction that Africa carries the biggest burdens of climate change impacts and must therefore be at the forefront of demands for the polluting corporations to be brought to justice.

CAPPA's position is reinforced by impacts of oil extraction in Nigeria's Niger Delta such as the increasing incidence of dead fish littering the coastlines of frontline communities. Similar situations are recorded in South Africa where tribal lands have been poisoned by coal mining, and an unprecedented drought resulted from diminished rainfall. Mozambique was hit by Cyclone Idai - the worst tropical storm to visit Africa in 2018 leaving a trail of destruction which also affected neighboring Madagascar, Malawi and Zimbabwe killing at least 1,303 people and affected more than three million others.

The magnitude of that disaster bewildered people of the continent and is seen as a foreshadow of what is to come. In the same time frame, apocalyptic-like locust invaded farmlands in Kenya and Uganda threatening food security in East Africa. For CAPPA, these hitherto strange happenings on the continent requires urgent action, especially the galvanizing of an army of equipped activists and campaigners to work in partnership towards Climate Justice and making big polluters pay. To make this vision a reality, on June 3, 2020, CAPPA hosted the first continental partners' meeting to amplify the Make Big Polluters Pay demand via a webinar session, with participation from nine African countries, including Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Togo, and Zimbabwe.
The session also marked the introductory regional engagement of partners on the initiative. The mobilization efforts culminated in a regional week of social media action, which kicked off on September 18, trending the hashtags #MakethemPay, #PollutersPay and #MakeBigPollutersPay across all social media platforms and press briefings across the continent, all with a sole message of calling on respective governments on the continent to hold Big Polluters liable for the age-long damage caused by their actions.

As a follow-up towards ensuring effective and apt government action, CAPPA along with other international organisations launched the Liability Roadmap on September 15, 2020, as an official tool to serve as guideline for respective governments in determining climate liability and taking appropriate remedial actions.

Thousands of activists also signed on to a letter which detailed the fact that transnational corporations have for decades misled the world about the consequences of their products and business practices, exploited local communities, seized our lands and resources, and taken control of our food systems—all for their own benefit. It narrated further that the Big Polluters have left Africa exposed and ill-equipped for any crisis hence the need to hold them responsible, criminally, financially, and civilly. Alongside the regional campaign, CAPPA mobilized at the national level in Nigeria, kicking off with a national webinar on August 4, 2020. The engagement pulled a wide participation of climate justice activists and organizations within Nigeria.

It is no gainsaying that there is a climate emergency and urgent actions are required to help communities across the region to thrive. For CAPPA, the regionalization of the Make Big Polluters Pay campaign and launch of the Liability Roadmap were only first steps towards getting decision makers to hold the Big polluting industries accountable for their damaging actions. CAPPA alongside partner activists across the region have taken up this task and will continue to channel energy into ensuring that African countries make big polluters pay.
Our tobacco control campaign was in acceleration mode in 2020, all thanks to the victory the public health community scored when the Nigerian government finally gazetted the National Tobacco Control Regulations at the close of 2019.

But from the onset of the year, the CAPPA team concluded that despite that feat, the real and conclusive victory was still far-flung since there was no indication that implementation of the National Tobacco Act 2015 and the Regulations were yet to begin. Added to this was the unsettling realization that the ever-innovative tobacco industry was already shifting gear and exploring other fronts that the government may currently be overlooking to continue underhand marketing of their deadly wares and further jeopardize public health. With this background, we decided to re-strategize and beam our searchlight on tobacco industry engagements with the entertainment industry, especially the depiction of tobacco use in films and its influence on young people.

We relied on strong evidence and global studies that shows that onscreen smoking promotes initiation amongst adolescents, while drawing inspiration from Guidelines for implementation of Article 13 of the WHO-Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) which includes a statement that the depiction of tobacco use in films is a form of promotion that influences tobacco use, particularly by young people.

We also reached out to the global public health community for a proper understanding of what it took for countries like the US, India, and Canada to have put in place policies to check the influence of the tobacco industry in movies and music. The conclusion was the need to engage entertainment stakeholders to play active roles in the introduction of curbs to Tobacco Advertisement Promotion and Sponsorships (TAPS) in movies and music videos if the younger generation is to be discouraged from taking up smoking habit and be protected from tobacco harms.

This singular objective informed CAPPA’s flag off, of the #smokefreenollywood campaign on November 21, 2020. The elaborate event which held in Lagos drew participants from the public health community, non-governmental organisations, stakeholders from different film, music industry and media organisations. The #smokefreenollywood flag
off also served as opportunity to screen a collage of very disturbing smoking scenes in recent Nigerian movies. At the event, CAPPA also unveiled key recommendations for the #smokefreenollywood campaign.

They include:

- **Adult Rating For Films With Smoking Scenes**: The WHO says the most effective way of protecting children and adolescents from becoming addicted to tobacco is to give an adult rating to movies that contain smoking. One such intervention would be the assignment of an R rating to any movie with smoking or other tobacco-use imagery (unless the portrayal is of actual historical figures who smoked, a documentary, or if the portrayal includes the negative effects of tobacco use).

- **Strong Anti-Smoking Adverts**: A requirement on strong anti-smoking advertisements shown before the start of films, TV or online programs containing tobacco products.

- **Anti-Smoking Health Warnings**: Smoking scenes should be required to carry a rolling banner of text health warning.

- **Certify No Pay Offs**: Certification that no payments have been received by studios or producers for depicting tobacco use in the movies and ending the onscreen depiction of actual tobacco brands.

- **Stopping Identification of Tobacco Brands**: There should neither be tobacco brand identification or the presence of tobacco brand imagery (such as billboards, umbrellas, cars etc.) in the background of any movie scene.
• **Total Ban on Tobacco Products Placement:** The WHO-FCTC obligates Parties to implement comprehensive ban on tobacco advertising sponsorships and promotion.

The recommendations are in tandem with provisions of the National Tobacco Control Act 2015 and the National Tobacco Control Regulations 2019 that prohibit tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorships in movies and entertainment.

Another highlight of the event was the unveiling and the official release of the music video on **No to Smoking in Movies and Music Videos** which the winner of the 2019 edition of the Tobacco Control Rap Challenge, Efemena Okugunni aka "ReflexSoundz" and second runner up, Adeogun Yinka aka "Zadok" performed live.
Our advocacy activities helped enrich public discourse on trans fats and policy engagements regarding the passage of the draft regulations on fats and oils in Nigeria.

With technical support from the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) team in Washington, CAPPA expanded its knowledge base on global trends in relation to trans fats and has become one of the focal organisations in Nigeria championing the cause of a trans-fat free country.

At the policy level, CAPPA continued to engage the relevant agencies of government to ensure that the Governing Council of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) speedily approves the 'Fats & Oils Regulation, 2019' and the 'Pre-packaged Food, Water, and Ice Labelling Regulation, 2019'.

To this end, CAPPA at several times visited the Public Affairs Department of the National Agency for Food Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to provide update on the campaign's Public Service Announcements (PSAs) developed by GHAI and its Nigerian partners.

In the same vein, on September 11, 2020, the CAPPA team visited the Minister of State for Health, Senator Olorunimbe Mamora who made significant commitment to act as a key champion for the regulation of trans fat in Nigeria.
We also met with the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Department of the Federal Ministry of Health to discuss how the Ministry can better partner with NAFDAC on trans-fat regulation in Nigeria. CAPPA, in collaboration with the Network for Health Equity and Development (NHED), on November 31 and December 1, 2020, successfully co-hosted a meeting and training on trans-fat for coalition partners and Subject Matter Experts which included five digital media Influencers and journalists who have worked with CAPPA on the campaign.

Besides, CAPPA also successfully launched the #transfatfree Public Service Announcements (PSAs) in five languages - English, Igbo, Yoruba, Hausa, and Pidgin English. The event itself was widely publicized and reported on national media platforms as well as various social media platforms with the hashtag #transfatfreeNigeria. Trans fat mention in the news, particularly in the traditional media has been extensive with well over 110 media reports documented.

To consolidate our relationship with the media and deepen reportage of trans fats issues, we initiated the Journalism Fellowship on Trans fat Reporting. The fellowship, announced on October 13, 2020 will ultimately build the capacities of the Nigerian media to report on ways to eliminate trans-fat from Nigeria’s food supply from an informed perspective in line with the World Health Organisation’s recommended standards for countries to follow.

The selection process for the Fellowship has been completed with seven journalists emerging winners from across different media platforms. In the incoming year they will be producing in depth reports on trans-fat and will be mentored by professional journalists for the duration of the fellowship.

To complement the traditional media, we equally bolstered our digital media campaigns deploying innovative strategies that include a new angle to our monthly social media chat which now includes thematic/focus areas for each chat. The monthly social media chats have featured thematic areas such as personal experiences with the consumption of processed foods containing trans-fat and youth involvement in the campaign for a
trans-fat free Nigeria. It has also looked at the public health risks of trans fats and touched on the out-of-pocket payment for cardiovascular diseases in Nigeria and the role of trans fat in this. There has also been strategic engagement of digital media influencers.

All the #transfatfreeNigeria digital platforms are currently witnessing unusually high number of impressions, likes and views. The likes on the Facebook page grew to 7,086 while Facebook followers increased to 7,110 by the end of the year.

There are currently 2,867 followers on twitter. The Facebook page has reached 601,163 people while Twitter has achieved 1,144,138 million impressions.
#EndSARS: Nigerian Government May Face ICC

APPA was actively involved in demanding good governance and challenging abuse of power in public space in Nigeria. One of the causes that we supported and have remained actively committed to is the #EndSARS movement, which symbolizes a campaign against police brutality and bad governance.

The impunity of the Nigeria Police force, especially its now disbanded Special Anti-Robbery Squad, popularly called SARS, has gone on for years without check, and has left many young Nigerians as victims of brutal force, arbitrary arrests, intimidation, harassments, and extra-judicial killings.

Video footage of yet another brutal attack by SARS officials in Ughelli, Delta State on October 4, 2020 sparked outrage across the country and led to a record-breaking population of young Nigerians taking to the streets, demanding justice, and an end to police brutality.

Commendably, the protests were peaceful and involved mainly street marches, processions, and convergence at specific open locations. Characteristic of the Nigerian police, their response was high-handed and reflective of a culture that treats protests as antagonistic of any government in power.

On the night of October 20, 2020, a new dimension was introduced by the Nigerian government. In what is now the most infamous criminal act of inhumanity in the history of Nigeria’s young democracy, the Nigerian army called in by the Lagos State government and the Federal Government shot and maimed harmless Nigerian protesters at the Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos. The horrific, yet unprovoked firing of live rounds was captured on cameras and streamed live on social media platform. In the words of one young Nigerian who escaped the scene by the whiskers, “We asked for the right to live and feel secure in our own country, but rather than heed the plea, the government
decided to turn on us with violence, outright torture, killing, and arresting, for daring to protest or speak against the continued brutality."

Nigeria's government massacred its own citizens, maimed many and left many in anguish of various degrees of losses. These actions by the Nigerian government are reminiscent of the tragic days of military dictatorship, not of a country which projects itself to the world as a thriving democracy.

Sadly, events after the Lekki killings have equally been most disturbing. Daily, there have been reports of individuals who participated in the protests being whisked away from their homes by the police. Many were denied access to their families and lawyers. Prominent supporters of the protests have also been denied their right to travel out of the country and their passports seized by the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) allegedly on instructions “from above”.

Media organisations that the public have rated highly for giving unbiased coverage of the protests faced backlash from the government. The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) slammed a N3 million (three million naira) fine on Arise TV, Africa Independent Television (AIT), and Channels TV, describing their reports as “unprofessional”. Nothing can be farther from the truth.

Curiously, the obnoxious Social Media Regulation Bill which was widely debated in the 8th National Assembly and criticized by Nigerians was suddenly resurrected in the Senate by lawmakers who have spoken openly against the #EndSARS protests. As if these were not enough, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) obtained an order from a Federal High Court in Abuja to freeze 20 bank accounts of #EndSARS protesters domiciled in Access Bank, Fidelity Bank, First Bank Nigeria, Guaranty Trust Bank, United Bank of Africa, and Zenith Bank. Suddenly Nigerians woke up to the reality that the civic space was shrinking.
While the Federal Government claims it was waving the olive branch with left hand, it was using the right hand to muzzle the right to free speech and peaceful protests which is a right of every Nigerian guaranteed by the Constitution.

CAPPA, as a frontline organization in human rights and public interest campaigns swung into action, took active steps in holding leadership to account, demanding good governance and challenging abuse of power. Our most decisive move was to drag the Nigerian government before the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the United Nations Human Rights Commission for gross human rights violations and citizens abuse during and after the #EndSARS protests. CAPPA lodged petitions at the ICC, directly addressed to the court's President, Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji and Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda; and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet.

By November 20, 2020, the petition had attracted 10,027 (Ten thousand and twenty-seven) individual signatures and 154 civil society signatures across 75 countries. A press conference was also hosted by CAPPA in Lagos to carry the public along in pressing home the petition's demands for the ICC and the OHCHR to open an international inquiry into the killing and maiming of #EndSARS protesters.

We have received correspondence from the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in which, in addition to confirming the receipt of the heavily supported petition calling for investigation and appropriate sanctions on the government of Nigeria for gross violation of human rights on peaceful #EndSARS and the Lekki shooting, the OHCHR reassured of their presence in Nigeria towards process-monitoring to ensure that the government abides by all binding human rights treaty obligations.

In the words of the UN Human Rights officer, Bradford Smith, "Please be assured that the High Commissioner remains overly concerned about the situation in Nigeria. The OHCHR Senior Human Rights Advisor in Abuja is closely following the situation and is working with the United Nations Country Team, the National Human Rights Commission,
Government and security force officials and other partners to ensure that the Government of Nigeria abides by its international human rights treaty obligations, in particular by investigating the recent attacks against peaceful protesters, human rights abuses committed by SARS units and other security officials, ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice and that redress is provided to the families of the victims, as well as security sector reform in the long term”.

As we enter 2021 with hopes and expectations, we will continue to track the process and progress by both the ICC and the OHCHR, while offering support as an organization to ensure that independent investigations are successfully carried out and the Government of Nigeria is held to the highest standards of its international human rights treaty obligations for overall justice served for the benefit of the Nigerian people.
Financial Report


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<td>Grants &amp; Foundations</td>
<td>171,529,602.00</td>
<td>490,084.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>1,071,376.00</td>
<td>3,061.07</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support &amp; Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>190,160,078.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>543,314.51</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Naira (₦)</th>
<th>USD $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassroot organizing</td>
<td>51,782,290.31</td>
<td>147,949.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International organizing</td>
<td>25,050,551.50</td>
<td>71,573.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program communication</td>
<td>12,238,839.81</td>
<td>34,968.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership development</td>
<td>3,526,060.00</td>
<td>10,074.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media organizing</td>
<td>4,659,440.00</td>
<td>13,312.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research &amp; development</td>
<td>19,403,455.02</td>
<td>55,438.44</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Program expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>116,660,636.64</strong></td>
<td><strong>333,316.10</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUPPORTING SERVICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; general operations</td>
<td>35,014,340.15</td>
<td>100,040.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect expenses</td>
<td>1,215,148.41</td>
<td>3,471.85</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal supporting services</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,229,488.56</strong></td>
<td><strong>103,512.82</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Naira (₦)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>152,890,125.20</strong></td>
<td><strong>436,828.93</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Naira (₦)</th>
<th>USD $</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance Equity</td>
<td>80,007.00</td>
<td>228.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income /Change in net assets</td>
<td>37,234,952.80</td>
<td>106,385.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>End of the year</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,314,959.80</strong></td>
<td><strong>106,614.17</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Notes