

# **Civil Society Organizations and Community Development in Nigeria: An Assessment of Justice, Development and Peace Commission in Enugu State**

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## **Abstract**

The study examined the role of Civil Society Organisations with particular reference to Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) in community development in Enugu state, Nigeria. Previous studies on the role of civil society organizations in community development have been largely generic in orientation resulting in a dearth of area studies and organization-specific analysis; thereby necessitating a re-systematization of data by focusing on the role of JDPC in community development in Enugu state. The study hypothesized that the intervention of Justice, Development and Peace Commission enhanced infrastructural development and equally improved human capacity development in Enugu state. The study, which was anchored on the theory of neoliberalism, employed qualitative data gathering technique and analyzed the data so gathered using qualitative descriptive analysis. On the strength of available empirical evidence, the hypotheses were validated. The study nonetheless noted that though the intervention of CSOs in community development is both useful and desirable, such interventions do not provide sufficient alibi for the state's abdication of its primary responsibility of providing for the well-being of the citizens as currently the norm. It therefore recommended the strengthening of state institutions to perform their constitutional responsibilities and the provision of enabling environment for private businesses to stimulate enduring development.

**Key words:** State, Civil Society Organizations, Community Development, Justice Development and Peace Commission

## **Les organisations de la société civile et du développement communautaire au Nigeria: Une évaluation de la Commission de Justice, Développement et Paix dans l'Etat d'Enugu**

### **Résumé**

L'étude a examiné le rôle des Organisations de la société civile et du développement communautaire avec un intérêt particulier de la Commission de Justice, Développement et Paix(CJDP) dans l'Etat d'Enugu, au Nigeria. Des études antérieures sur le rôle des organisations de la société civile dans le développement communautaire ont été en grande partie génériques dans l'orientation résultant en un manque d'études de la région et des analyses spécifiques à l'organisation; nécessitant ainsi une nouvelle systématisation des données en mettant l'accent sur le rôle des CJDP dans le développement communautaire dans l'état d'Enugu. L'étude a émis l'hypothèse que l'intervention de la Commission de Justice, Développement et Paix renforçait le développement des infrastructures et également l'amélioration du développement des capacités

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humaines dans l'État d'Enugu. L'étude, qui a été ancrée sur la théorie du néolibéralisme, a employé la technique qualitative pour la collecte des données et analysé les données ainsi recueillies en utilisant une analyse descriptive qualitative. Sur les bases de données empiriques disponibles, les hypothèses ont été validées. L'étude a néanmoins noté que, bien que l'intervention des OSC dans le développement communautaire soit à la fois utile et souhaitable, de telles interventions ne fournissent pas d'alibi suffisant pour l'abdication de l'état de sa responsabilité principale de fournir pour le bien-être des citoyens comme actuellement la norme. Il a donc recommandé le renforcement des institutions de l'Etat pour exercer leurs responsabilités constitutionnelles et la fourniture d'un environnement favorable pour les entreprises privées pour stimuler le développement durable.

**Mots clés:** État, les organisations de la société civile, le développement communautaire, le développement de la Commission de Justice et Paix

## **Introduction**

Generally, development is seen as the process by which man increases or maximizes his control and use of the resources within himself and nature to improve upon his nature and environment (Obetta & Okide, 2013). Community development on its part involves “organisation of the community with a view to helping the community achieve infrastructural improvements, social amenities, political awareness and economic wellbeing through government agencies, NGOs, or individuals” (Nnaji, 2015, p.3).

A number of approaches or perspectives have evolved over the years, geared towards the actualization of community development. According to Omofonmwan and Odia (2009, 248, one of the most popular approaches to community development is the provision of basic social amenities to communities by government. Others include:

Community Development Association (CDA): that does initiate, mobilize resources and execute community project. Cooperative Societies: they mobilize credit facilities for members and build small scale industries in the community. Community Elites: These are individual community members or groups, who support the community in areas of felt needs as well as influence the government and other development agencies in siting of projects in their communities. And the most recent in the course of institutionalizing stakeholder participation in community development is the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO).

Obetta and Okide (2013, p. 4) categorised the expectations from government in rural and community development into two perspectives: the pre-independence experience and the post-independence experience. They summed up government efforts during the pre-Independence era thus:

During the colonial era, roads and railway lines were constructed up and across the country, in the name of and ostensibly for the development of rural areas. Perhaps, they were done to open up the hinterland for civilization. However, the real reason for such constructions was to enable the colonialists and the imperialists to tap and evacuate our agricultural products such as groundnuts, cocoa, cotton, and palm produce. In the rural areas within this era, agricultural mechanization was introduced to increase the hectares of food production for export; and also for the

maximization and exploitation of the rural areas. The objective of the development of the rural areas during this period is secondary.

Continuing the discussion with regard to the post-independence era, Ocheni and Nwankwo (2012) noted that various Nigerian governments have adopted various strategies and methods at developing the rural communities of the country. However, Ikotun (2002) noted that in spite of colossal amount of money that have gone into implementing rural development programmes and the proliferation of rural development agencies one after the other, not much impact has been made. He went further to state that in spite of pious official pronouncements, and declaration of intentions as contained in the development plans, at the end of each plan period rural life remained unchanged.

Since the 1970s, successive governments at various levels have embarked on several programmes aimed at rural development but have failed to fulfill their obligation of community development to the detriment of the people with consequent escalation of poverty rate, high incidences of disease, morbidity and mortality, high crime rate, insecurity, underdevelopment and so on. This failure by governments has necessitated the activation of the other sectors of the society namely: business and, most especially, the civil society for participation. Civil society is made up of a rich array of groups, including professional associations, religious institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), trade unions, academic centers, women's groups and other organisations with varying degrees of capacity, expertise, and commitment. All may be found in the domain termed civil space, and thus are called Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Ghaus-Pasha (2004, p. 4) also noted that:

Other empirical researches on CSOs reveal that they are performing a number of functions. On average, about 64 percent of the total paid and volunteer full-time equivalent workforce in the countries studied is primarily engaged in the service functions. Education and social services (including child welfare, service for elderly and handicapped, emergency and relief services and income support and maintenance) dominate with a share of about 43 percent within the service function. Also important is the advocacy role of civil society. This includes its role in identifying unaddressed problems and bringing them to public attention, in protecting basic human rights and in giving voice to the wide range of political, environmental, social and community interests and concerns.

An active civil society and civic engagement are widely accepted as critical to boost the accountability of governments toward their citizens, to strengthen public policy decisions and to increase the effectiveness of development interventions.

Meanwhile, the observed role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) towards the development of the society in general is enormous and inexhaustible with its activities cutting across all spheres of human endeavour. Some studies on community development have rightly identified the potentials of civil society organizations in this regard (Bratton, 1990; Holanquist, 1984 etc). Some of these, for example, attributed the success of Zimbabwe's agriculture in recent years to strong initiative of local farmers' organizations. Similar success story has also been told of the Kenyan self-help movement (Holanquist, 1988); while in Tanzania, extensive Civil Society Organisation (CSO) lobbying is credited with the abolition of primary school fees at primary school level (Ohiorhenuan, 2003).

With respect to Nigeria, several studies have similarly documented the contributions of CSOs to community development. These include: Adebayo (1997); Ofoneme (2013); Fadakinte (2013); Jekayinfa (nd); Omofonmwan and Odia (2009); Uwem and Afzal (2009); Odeh (2012);

Nwaka (2012); Ikelegbe (2013); Enyi (2014); Ike (2015) and Nnaji (2015) among others. Adebayo, for instance, pointed out that NGOs can help in community development by mobilizing resources beyond the state budget for development purpose.

The Catholic Church being an integral part of the civil society saw the need to contribute in tackling poverty through the provision of critical infrastructure and human capacity development. This it sought to achieve through the establishment of the Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) as both a social vocation of the Christian, and a radical response of the church to the socio-political situation of the time. In its current structure, JDPC emerged as the brain child of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) following the Pope John Paul II's post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation, 'Ecclesia in Africa' which in addition to urging the Church in Africa to care for souls also urged her to work to counter mass illiteracy and poverty ravaging most Nigerian communities despite the country's abundance.

In Enugu state, the Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) was one of the earliest of the civil society organizations that stepped in to fill the void created by the state in the area of community development. Founded in the year 1986, JDPC has survived for close to three decades making it one of the longest surviving non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the state. It is to its credit that the organisation had shown consistency in its focus on community development programming over the years. This is in contrast to the talk shop approach and urban orientation of many civil society organizations in Nigeria. It is against this backdrop that this study assessed the effectiveness of JDPC interventions in infrastructural and human capacity development in Enugu state. While extant literature provides useful insight into the subject matter, there is yet a dearth of area studies on the subject, particularly with respect to our study area and our focal organization.

### **Civil Society Organizations and Infrastructural Development**

Infrastructure development is one of the bases of assessing the achievements of various countries in the world. The Infrastructural report of Nigeria just like in most third world countries is nothing to write home about. The housing situation is in a sorry state both quantitatively and qualitatively (Agbola, 1998; Ajanlekoko, 2001; Nubi, 2000; Onibokun, 1996; Oyedele, 2006). Most infrastructures are now decayed and need repair, rehabilitation or replacement. In 2007, United Nations (2007, p. 26) report stated that delivery of basic services in developing countries is fraught with a number of challenges. In response to these issues, governments need to rethink service provision. In a more specific manner, the report pointed thus:

One possible roadway is to broaden the range of service providers by including the "nongovernmental sector," for example CSOs and the private sector, in service provision. Another is to decentralize service provision to lower tiers of government, thereby bringing both government and the provision of services closer to the people.

The basic interest here is that this clarion call has been heeded to by the organisation under study here which comes under the umbrella of CSO.

Meanwhile, Ikpi (1997) further observed that the state of infrastructure of any state is directly related with the quality of life. "According to recent statistics, the quality of life for most people in Africa appears to have either not improved or only done so marginally. This situation arose from the misrule of early leaders most of whom spearheaded the struggle for independence" (Eregha, 2007, p.6). The horrible state of affairs in Africa led to untold devastation of economies

in the continent; people had to live below the poverty line with food insecurity, no shelter to accommodate them and no medical or educational facilities to give them some hope for the future.

The overriding importance of infrastructure in economic growth and human development was equally on point when African Development Bank (ADB) made infrastructure development a cornerstone in its development agenda with regional member countries (TMSA, 2012). The Bank recognizes that lack of adequate social and economic infrastructure is one of the key constraints to short- and medium term poverty reduction in Africa, and has thus been a major force in private and public sector infrastructure development through the provision of financial and technical resources.

Ugwuanyi and Chukwuemeka (2013) buttressed the point that even though successive governments in Nigeria have made some efforts towards enhancing rural development, its meaningful realization has remained a mirage. This is evidenced by the apparent lack of basic infrastructural facilities and glaring presence of general low standard of living among the rural populace as noted since the 1970s (Olatunbunso, 1975). Indeed it has been widely observed that poverty is prevalent among the rural dwellers as about 70 percent of the people in Nigeria living below poverty line are domiciled in the rural areas. Specifically, the Nigerian rural areas are, for instance, characterized by deplorable road network and absence of all year-round reliable access road.

Ijere (1992) had earlier on noted that rural education is characterized by limited functional or work oriented education and disdain for handicraft and technical subjects. Onah and Okoli (220, p.159) made similar observation thus:

The privilege of education which, for instance, is supposed to be a birth right of every Nigerian child is an illusion to many poor rural dwellers. In some places, there are no schools at all while in some others the schools are shabby, ill-equipped and poorly staffed. Nigerian rural areas is equally characterized by apparent lack of health institutions as there are hardly any well-equipped hospitals, health centres, clinics and maternal homes.

So far, there is apparent lack of development in the rural areas of Nigeria as reflected in the near total lack of basic infrastructure, and social services. This further clearly shows the failure of the Nigerian state in its social contract with Nigerians. This failure has inevitably sent a clarion call to non-state actors to fill the void so created. Such situation is prevalent in most developing countries with democratic authoritarian system of government and weak institutions. This explains the considerable upsurge of interest throughout the world in CSOs, which are now recognized as strategically important participants in the development process and an effective but under-utilized vehicle of development.

Ikekeonwu, Randell, and Touwen (2007) observed that civil society partnerships are not new. What has changed since the early 1990s is their expanding numbers and the growing recognition of the important roles that civil society partners play in social and economic development processes, from drawing attention to problems, assisting in the formation of new strategies and providing direct services, to serving as watchdogs ensuring government fulfillment of commitments. The magnitude of their contribution, particularly in developing countries, is sizeable. Some studies estimate that by the late 1990s, 15-20% of all aid to developing countries (\$6 billion) was being channeled through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) the majority of it for development projects and programmes even in the area of infrastructure. According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) estimates, the number of people worldwide 'touched' by NGOs alone is more than 250 million. Pressure is growing to find ways to realize this

potential by increasing opportunities for civil society participation at all levels. While all these are laudable, the need for a great caution exists as there is the possibility of such organisations under the garb of selfless volunteers but they are actually motivated by the desire to enrich themselves and as well satisfy their selfish interest.

### **Civil Society Organisations and the Development of Small Scale Enterprises**

Historically, civil society partnerships, particularly with the United Nations and other inter-governmental organizations, were limited to NGOs working for improvement in areas such as education, health, and human rights. Today, these partnerships have expanded beyond established NGOs to cover other non-State actors such as cooperatives, trade unions, service organizations, community-based organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations, academic institutions, policy networks, faith-based organizations, parliamentarians, city and local authorities, even the business sector.

Arguments put forward by Ghaus-Pasha (2004, p. 29) in favor of CSOs engagement in development projects include:

- (1) CSOs are perceived as more flexible, participatory and responsive to local needs of the poor. Corrupt State bureaucracy loots finances and formulate policies that are often motivated by institutional, political and even kinship interests. These policies are typically urban based, delivering to politically favored areas (Lehmann, 1990).
- (2) CSOs can be more resourceful and innovative as they involve local communities in the identification and resolution of development problems which are more cost effective, more sustainable, and more compatible with community values and norms.
- (3) Over and above these direct development roles, CSOs also have a very important advocacy role to play in promoting effective governance.

It has further been pointed out that civil society organisations contribute to the development of human capacity in a multidimensional manner. These include education and training which lead to a higher income at the individual level and higher growth at the macro level (Ghaus-Pasha, 2004). A study of small and medium-size enterprises in Colombia showed that entrepreneurs' background – skills, education and previous experience – strongly influences both technical efficiency and the profitability of the enterprise. CSOs also provide training and capacity strengthening through entrepreneurial, vocational/technical training and workshops for upcoming business and grassroots organizations. Illustrations of the contributions of CSOs in providing education, improving curriculum to make it demand oriented, and providing training are, plentiful and include BRAC in Bangladesh, Basti in Pakistan (Ghaus-Pasha, 2004, p.15).

Furthermore, integrating low income or hard-to-employ workers and the targeting of disadvantaged groups is also an important cornerstone of poverty alleviation strategies. This implies institution of measures targeted at groups of individuals such as ethnic minority groups, the poor, women, redundant workers, the unemployed and youths. There are examples of CSOs rising because market fails to offer the goods and services these groups need. The potential measures may include retraining in skills for which there is local demand and job placement programmes, programmes focused on women employment/credit provision etc. The Self-Employed Women's Association in India is a striking example of how poor and disadvantaged people can enhance their bargaining strength through cooperation (Ghaus-Pasha, 2004).

In his assessment of the role of civil society organizations in economic empowerment, Ike (2015) stated that civil society organizations provide a lot of economic benefits such as, provision of employment opportunity for the masses, especially the youths who are prone to indulge in indecent sources of livelihood. He explained that through skills acquisition programmes and educational scholarships, young men and women are given the opportunity to acquire knowledge and utilize their creative talents which can be of great benefit to the society. Diamond (1995) as cited in Ike (2015, p. 67) noted other benefits to include:

It helps limit the excesses of adverse government activities and violation of human rights; serves as an alternative group to a political union, instills in the people a sense of pride and belonging among a conflicting and complex society; it provides alternatives for negotiation within a multifaceted society by mitigating the excesses of fundamentalists, extremists and maximalists who tend to have a narrow view of life, and it serves as a recruiting ground for and training of prospective members of the political or economic class to enhance the quality of participation in governance (Ike, 2015, p.67).

This role has been significant in so many ways especially in Nigeria. This is because it is better imagined what Nigeria would have degenerated into without such interventions from non-state actors. This would be appreciated when one considers the nature and magnitude of the conflicts and insurgencies ravaging the Nigerian polity.

## **Gap in Literature**

What emerged from the above review is that owing to the failure of state agencies in the task of community development, civil society organizations have been called upon more and more to fill the void created by the state so as to ameliorate the sufferings of community inhabitants, particularly in rural communities, which are structurally far removed from the various power centres where the bulk of the nations' resources are allocated and expended.

## **Theoretical Framework**

This study is situated within the theoretical orientations of Neo-liberalism. Meanwhile, the fundamental assumptions underpinning neo-liberalism are traceable to the classical liberalism, particularly those proposed by Adam Smith in his classic, *The Wealth of Nations*, which was written as a critique of the corrupt mercantilist state that amassed its revenues from taxing trade and licensing monopolies.

Basically, neo-liberalism is an ideological position that is anchored on strong beliefs in the promotion of the general good based on the principles of free market, limited state intervention, individualistic self-interest, rational utility-maximization, and comparative advantage in free trade (Toye, 1991). Essentially, the priorities of neo-liberal policies are to expand market forces and reduce the welfare programmes by the state.

There are four ideological foundations that underpin neo-liberalism as a theoretical framework of analysis. These include: minimal state, pro-market economic policies such as deregulation, privatization and liberalization, principle of comparative advantage and free trade, while opposing protectionist policies for domestic industry. Finally, neo-liberals are strongly opposed to issues such as economic development, income distribution, and poverty alleviation via state involvement and intervention. They rather emphasize economic growth, and even endorse inequality, in some instances, as a prerequisite for growth. Thus, by advocating pro-market policies, neo-liberals seek to revive and elevate market forces on the one hand, and dismantle the basic economic and

welfare rights of citizens provided by the state such as in education, economic security, and health provision, among others on the other (King in Haque, 1999). In sum, neo-liberal thinkers strongly believe in the sovereignty of market forces.

### **Application of the Theory**

In applying the theory of neoliberalism to the analysis of the role of JDPC and community development in Enugu state, it needs be pointed out that it is the responsibility of the state to perform such critical functions as the control of territory and population; the guarantee of safety, security, public and social order and justice; the provision of public goods, social services, infrastructure and the promotion of economic progress, citizen welfare and wellbeing. The ability, competence and potential to perform these critical roles and match attributes are however dependent on state power and capacity (Ikelegbe, 2005). According to Ikelegbe, capacity is technical, administrative, regulatory, extractive, political and institutional and the competence and strength of the state is particularly critical to the performance of developmental roles.

In Nigeria, the dominance of foreign capital and parasitic and dependent roles of political leadership have coalesced to weaken Nigeria's economy and capacity, perpetuate her external economic dependence and eventually render the implementation of pro-market economic reforms an irresistible option. Under the neo-liberal theoretical preferment however, the power of the state has continued to recede. Consequently, some states have been characterized as weak, fragile, failing or collapsing, depending on the capacity and actual performance of roles and responsibilities. Fragile states are weak, have failed or are failing in providing development, economic progress and prosperity, poverty alleviation and effective performance of state extractive, allocative, regulatory, social service and security functions.

Essentially, this state of affairs is manifest in Nigeria in that the Nigerian state has clearly vacated the space traditionally occupied by it through the abdication of her primary responsibility of service provisioning. Civil society organizations have thus been frequently called upon to fill the space so created by the state with the consequence that from its traditional watchdog role, civil society organizations have had to get more and more involved in service provisioning. It is within this milieu that the Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) emerged as one of the earliest of the civil society organizations that stepped in to fill the space so created and has continued to show consistency in its focus on community development programming over the years. Since 1986, the organization is said to have been proactive with pro-poor and people-centered programmes that are geared towards alleviating poverty in Enugu State.

It is worth noting that the state's abdication of its primary responsibility and the increasing involvement of civil society organizations in service provisioning is not without implication for state sovereignty, especially given the structure of funding of civil society organizations in developing states. Akin to this, is that the state should be wary too with regard to the increasing complex groupings in the world nowadays portend to escalate and perpetuate fundamentalism and extremism have come to stay should be a clarion call to nations and states to be wary of surrendering leadership as such might lead to grave consequences.

### **Intervention of JDPC in the Provision of Community Projects and Infrastructural Development in Enugu State**



In Enugu state, JDPC of Enugu diocese better known by the acronym CIDJAP (Catholic Institute for Development, Justice and Peace) has been very proactive in infrastructural development and empowerment schemes. The facts supporting this proposal are sufficiently discussed as this work progresses. The organisation had shown consistency in its focus on community development programming over the years and its intervention is particularly pronounced in three areas in Enugu state. These include: healthcare delivery, farm settlement scheme and housing scheme.

DFID (2003) report had indicated that at the last measure, 57 percent of the citizens of Enugu state were living in poverty, and almost one in six in extreme poverty. Between 1980 and 1996, poverty incidence rose from one household in ten to encompass over a half of the population. According to the report, poverty tends to be most severe in rural areas even as most indicators of human development in the state are very poor. Infant mortality and under-5 mortality are extremely high at 74 and 135 per thousand births respectively. As regards nutritional status, one in five children in Enugu state are stunted, 7 percent wasted, and 10 percent underweight. Only a quarter of households, and only 15 percent of rural households, had access to safe water (i.e. pipe-borne, borehole/hand pump or protected well) (DFID, 2003; PRS/SEEDS, 2004).

For the purpose of our assessment of JDPC's intervention in the infrastructural development in Enugu state, we shall focus on the following areas: Building, equipping and supporting hospitals and health centres; Construction of a farm settlement scheme; and Building, equipping and maintaining semi-detached bungalows.

### **JDPC's active involvement in the area of healthcare provision**

One area of intervention by JDPC as identified from its various annual reports and reaffirmed by the organization's pronouncements of its top echelons is the provision of qualitative healthcare services to various communities in the state. In order to actualize this objective, CIDJAP (2014, p.9) described its efforts thus:

We have over the last twenty years established several rural health centres, primary, preventive healthcare programmes, maternities and a specialist hospital that deliver ready and affordable health care services to the people who are saved the pains of traveling long distances to receive preventive and curative treatment for common ailments such as malaria, water borne diseases, infections and organic ailments.

Some of the healthcare facilities built or supported by the commission include: Ntasi Obi Ndi No N' Afufu Specialist Hospital, Trans-Ekulu, Enugu, Aru Ike NdiOria Health Centre, Akegbe Ugwu, Ezenwanyi Nke Udo Health Centre, Ugwu Omu, Nike, Ukamaka Health Centre, Akpakwume Nze, Nne Nke Ebere Health Centre, Akama Oye. Saint Clara Health Centre, Umana-Ndiagu, Inye Aka NdiOtu Kristi Health Centre, Etiti Obele-Agu, Mother of Mercy Hospital, Ngwo, and Saint Anthony Hospital, Mgbowo. There are also other health posts some of which include All Hallows Maternity located at Ngwo, Iva-Valley Enugu, AkpugoNkanu and AgbaUmana. Achi Joint Hospital, Achi, Oji River and the Bishop Shanahan Hospital Nsukka were also said to have been partly equipped by the institute through the commission. In 1995, the commission through the support of the dioceses of Poelten, Austria and Frau Antonia Reikersdorfer built a full-fledged specialist hospital known as Ntasi Obi Ndi No N' Afufu Specialist Hospital which offers diverse medical services. The report also noted that CIDJAP primary healthcare programme has reached more than sixty communities within its locations of four health centres spread across Enugu state. The community health centre located at AkegbeUgwu covers more than twelve communities, the centre at Akpakwume and Nze respectively cover sixteen and twelve communities, while the centre at Ugwuomu Nike covers twenty communities.

The report further stated that the people of the above named communities enjoy regular hospital, primary healthcare and maternity services in the areas of health education, HIV/AIDS awareness and treatment, Maternal and Childcare, Family planning, Essential drugs and food/water supply, Treatment of minor ailments and dental care, Mental Health and domestic accident prevention, Prevention and treatment of endemic diseases, Environmental and occupational health (www.cidjap.org accessed on 12/02/2015).

Following from the claims made in the various CIDJAP reports, the researcher embarked on field observation of some of the health facilities to ascertain the veracity of the claims and to determine the actual contribution of JDPC to the development of healthcare infrastructure in the state. Below is a tabular presentation of the result of field observations of some of the health infrastructural facilities provided by JDPC within the study area.

**Table 3: Tabular presentation of the result of field observations of some of the health infrastructural facilities**

S/No	Facility	Location	Availability	Functionality
1.	Ntasi Obi Ndi No N' Afufu Specialist Hospital	Trans-Ekulu, Enugu	Available	Highly functional
2.	Aru Ike NdiOria Health Centre	AkegbeUgwu	Available	Functional
3.	Saint Clara Health Centre	Umana-Ndiagu	Available	Functional
4.	NneNkeEbere Health Centre.	AkamaOye	Available	Functional
5.	Saint Anthony Hospital	Mgbowo	Available	Functional

**Source: Field observation data, 2015**

In all the health facilities visited, we observed that in terms of availability, the health facilities are available as reported in the CIDJAP reports. In terms of functionality, we found that all the healthcare centres visited are functional and are dispensing meaningful healthcare services to the populace which include maternal and child care services, outpatient and in-patient healthcare services, and health education. Also, in terms of sustainability, we found that the healthcare facilities appear reasonably sustainable having been in operation for periods ranging from ten to twenty years. Specifically, Ntasi Obi Ndi No N' Afufu Specialist Hospital Trans-Ekulu, Enugu, for instance, has won acclaim as a state of the art hospital which provides general and specialized medical services at comparably reduced rates to inhabitants of Enugu capital city and beyond.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that while the other health facilities visited are not as prominent as the specialist hospital, they are nonetheless engaged in meaningful healthcare provisioning in their more rural locations. The researcher's interaction with some of the patrons/patients of the various facilities affirmed that those facilities are preferred over the government-owned health centers due to the better quality of services rendered in the former over the latter.

### **JDPC's construction of a revolutionary farm settlement scheme**

With respect to agriculture, CIDJAP reports for various years indicated that in order to address the most disturbing problem facing the people, which is food, JDPC at the instance of the then Bishop of the Enugu Diocese, Rt Rev. Dr. Michael Eneja, established its 190 hectare integrated Justice and Peace Farms at Ugwu-Omu Nike. According to the reports, the farms operated with the objective to make agriculture more attractive, encourage young people to reside in the farm community which boasts of improved living standards, good sanitation, healthcare and other social amenities. Also, undergraduates of tertiary institutions in Enugu state and environs receive industrial training at the farm while members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) are also deployed to the farm for their primary assignments (CIDJAP, 2013).

The farm which maintains scientific relationship with University of Nigeria Nsukka, the Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) Enugu, the Enugu State Agricultural Development Project, the Centre for International Development and Agricultural Cooperation Israel and the Voralberg State Government, Austria, has poultry farm with different apartments for brooding and producing mature hens in batches four times a year. It also have piggery farm and fish ponds while the Feed Mill in the farm serves its poultry and piggery feed requirements.

Also, crop production in the farm records yearly output of maize and soya beans to the tune of seventy tones which are also threshed in the farm to provide feed raw materials for the farm's livestock. The Palm Plantation in the farm which occupies land area of approximately two hectares produces palm for feed production and palm oil sold to members of the public.

Irrigation system in the farm ensures that pumpkin, cucumber, lettuce, tomatoes, spinach, pepper, okro, pineapples and maize are produced all season for sale to the public. Machine and Machinery in the farms include tractors, planters and mowers that facilitate cropping, planting and weeding processes in the plantations. The workshop in the farm is manned by highly trained technicians that repair and maintain the farm machineries. Trainings offered to the farm personnel overseas and locally expose them to modern methods and trends in the agricultural sector. Produce marketing is carried out at several strategically located outlets at reasonable prices.

Our field observations confirmed the availability and functionality of the farm as well as its sustainability given the quality of equipment and personnel as well as the work atmosphere. Overall, it could be said that the farm is functioning near optimally providing employment and sustenance for quite a large number of staff.

**Table 2: Availability and Functionality of Agricultural facilities**

S/No	Section	Availability	Functionality
1.	Poultry Farm	Available	Functional
2.	Piggery Farm	Available	Functional
3.	Fish Ponds	Available	Functional
4.	Crop production	Available	Functional

**Source: Data from field observation, 2015**

### **JDPC's involvement in housing scheme**

In an effort to tackle the housing needs of the people, the then Bishop of the Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Eneja, in 1996 commissioned a housing estate named Nwanne Di Na Mba Social Housing Estate. Built with financial grants from the European Union, Brussels and the Papal Missionary Works, Germany, the Nwanne Di Na Mba Low Cost Housing Estate is situated on one of the choicest areas of Enugu, along the Enugu Abakaliki Expressway/Airport Road. According to the JDPC report, the housing estate is the contribution of the Institute towards solving the problems

of inadequate and decent housing for the low income earners. According to the JDPC report, it was proposed that the organization would expand the estate by constructing more houses to provide decent accommodation for the people some of whom reside in hovels, slums and shacks due to lack of affordable and decent housing in the urban area. However, the Programme Officer of JDPC, interviewed in the course of this study informed us that this ambition has not been realized due to competing needs. He however informed us that the organization is currently in discussion with a coalition of resident civil society organizations in Enugu for the syndication of housing projects.

### **Intervention of JDPC in the Establishment of Skills Acquisition Centres in Enugu State**

To effectively contribute to human capital development in Enugu State, JDPC has established centre for Entrepreneurial Development, Skills Acquisition and Micro-credit Scheme.

### **Entrepreneurial Development**

It is generally acknowledged that well-trained entrepreneurs are the catalyst for a stable economy. Entrepreneurs often are persons whose performance in the public and private sector of an economy like Nigeria balances the gaps between government and non-governmental activities. Through their engagement as leadership agents in society, self-reliant businesses are enhanced; skills acquisition is promoted and small and medium scale entrepreneurs given access to training and financial capital for their businesses. In this regard, CIDJAP founded the Small and Medium Scale Entrepreneurs and Training Association (SEPTA) in 2003 which membership is over 200 entrepreneurs in various business concerns in Nigeria. CIDJAP also formed the Grassroots Women Empowerment and Development Education (GWEDE) in 2006 which has currently over 5,000 members (all female entrepreneurs) and spread over the rural and urban areas of Nigeria, especially in the south East. These two organizations under CIDJAP meet regularly and have trained and networked to institutions, firms, market linkages and banks for mutual benefit (CIDJAP, 2013).

**Figure 3: An Entrepreneurship Training Workshop Organized by CIDJAP**



**Source:** The Programme Officer, CIDJAP Enugu during face-face- interview, 2015.

Also, for the entrepreneurial development of Women in Nigeria, CIDJAP co-founded the Nazareth Skill Center at Coal camp Enugu to empower young women to obtain skills for self-reliance and better their lives. Since the year 2000, the Center has trained over 1,500 graduands

who are gainfully employed or have started their own projects. The centre has trained and graduated several young girls in (1) Computer and Secretarial Studies (2) Tailoring and Fashion Designing (3) Soap and Pomade Making (4) Domestic Training (5) Accounting (6) Career and Skill Development (7) Moral Education (8) Cosmetology.

### **Skills Acquisition Centres**

Another center founded by CIDJAP for human capacity development is the Vocational Industrial Technical Training Centre(VITTC) at Coal Camp Enugu founded in 1996.Funded by the European Union, the UNDP and the RheinDonau Foundation, Germany with support from FIDESCO Austria, the centre has made it possible for over 1,000 young men and women to receive training in practical fields of welding, electrical wiring, plumbing, design, mechanics and various automobile and water management techniques as the pictures below show.

**Figure 3: Vocational Industrial Technical Training Centre founded by CIDJAP**



**Source:** Provided by the Programme Officer, JDPC Enugu State during face-face- interview, 2015.

### **Micro-Credit Scheme**

To complement the above stated efforts, CIDJAP which runs a Small Projects Fund has also co-established a Micro Finance Bank, the Umuchinemere Micro-Finance Procredit Bank (UPMFB Ltd) in Enugu, as a leading shareholder. The business started in 1995 as a Community Bank for the purposes of granting revolving loans and financial services to entrepreneurs. It has an asset base of over 2 billion Naira and has been generally awarded prizes from the Central Bank of Nigeria and other leading financial service providers for best practices and poverty reduction. The bank provides a robust linkage between the various projects for entrepreneurial support, training and leadership promotion.

Also, together with the Growing Businesses Foundation, (GBF) Lagos, CIDJAP founded the Micro Enterprise Development Co-operation (MDC) in year 2001 which holds quarterly training programme for selected participants from various NGOs, entrepreneurs, the larger society and centers of practical training for unemployed youth. According to the 2014 Annual Report of CIDJAP, the MDC has held over 100 training programmes over the last ten years on decentralized economic development, governance, technology, environment, water resources and agriculture, skills acquisition techniques, marketing and market linkages, sustainable development and economic transformation for businesses and practitioners in Nigeria. These trainings have received

technical and funding support from governments within Nigeria and international donor support from some foundations.

## Conclusion

This study submits that even though civil society organizations like the JDPC have made significant and commendable contributions to various aspects of development, such contributions would hardly compensate for the abdication of the responsibility by the state in most African states. While such interventions are no doubt useful, they can hardly march the scope of what an efficient productive state would deliver in terms of service provisioning. More so, by vacating its traditional space for the civil society, the states in Africa open themselves up for erosion of their sovereignty. One way this could happen is through the intrusion of malevolent external forces masquerading as funders of civil society organizations who ultimately exploit the good will they create in the process to further their corporate objectives usually in pursuit of the profit motive. Moreover, it could also create spaces for the infiltration of extremist ideologization in a world that is becoming increasingly radicalized.

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