2019/2020
ANNUAL REPORT
Our Vision
Accountable Institutions
Empowered citizens
Sustainable Communities

Our Mission
To promote social, economic and ecological outcomes that are
people-centred, equitable and sustainable.

THEMATIC AREA OF FOCUS

Community Rights and Livelihoods
This program enables citizens to understand their socio-economic rights
and empower them with the capacity to actualize them.

Economic Governance
Our governance program promotes citizen and community participation,
transparent and accountable public governance.

Environment and Climate Justice
We address the issues of lack of access to safe water governance,
poor refuse disposal and drainage systems, and
oil and gas pollution in the Niger Delta.
INTRODUCTION

In the six years of Policy Alert’s existence, it has continued to work to improve citizen’s awareness on their socioeconomic rights, strengthen their capacity to demand for transparency and accountability in the management of government revenue, and influence policy and governance reforms.

In 2019, an election year, Policy Alert was involved in several pre and post elections campaigns to ensure peaceful and credible elections and a seamless transition of power both at the Federal and subnational levels. Seeing the level of poverty, insecurity, and quantum of other development challenges faced by Nigeria, we had envisaged that the 2019 election will usher in a leadership regime that would be able to steer the ship during the worst of times and put Nigeria on the path of growth and sustainable development.

Several years of high level advocacy on the enactment of relevant “sunshine laws” by Policy Alert to state actors culminated in enactment of the Public Procurement and Fiscal Responsibility Laws in Akwa Ibom State in 2019 and 2020 respectively. Policy Alert has continued to work to open-up the budget space in Akwa Ibom State to citizens’ engagement. Our work overtime has contributed to influencing the reduction in overheads and increases in sectoral budgets for education, health and agriculture in the Akwa Ibom States 2020 and 2021 budgets. Partly owing to continuous advocacy efforts towards an open government by Policy Alert, budget information and other Public Finance Management data is now publicly available online as against being withheld from the public in the past.

Policy Alert has through several trainings and capacity building workshops has continued to build the capacity of accountability actors (including but not limited to members of the media, civil society organizations and community actors) to engage with Public Finance Management documents and hold the government to account. We have been succeeded in raising a number of award winning transparency and accountability champions who have continued to keep the government on their toes regarding quality service delivery to the people and effective utilization of government resources.

Our work on extractives transparency, championed through the “WetinWeGain” campaign, is building the capacity of citizens to use mandatory payments-to-
governments data to investigate Nigeria's extractive sector and promote transparency, public participation and accountability therein. We have been able to and continue to work to, improve public awareness on oil and gas operations in various communities in the Niger Delta, provide more information on development opportunities and benefits to communities, and empower citizens to maximize the benefits that accrue to them.

Tijah Bolton Akpan
Executive Director
Facilitating people-centered development through legislative engagement.

Policy Alert has over the years grown to be known as a trusted ally as of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly (AKHA). In 2019 and 2020, we presented our memoranda on various bills deliberated by the AKHA at public hearings and engaged individual members of committees on our positions on the aforementioned bills. To mention a few, the Public Procurement Bill, Fiscal Responsibility Bill, Debt Management Office Bill etc. Similarly, we engaged the Finance and Appropriations Committee and Public Accounts Committee on infractions in budget documents and other Public Finance Management documents. Currently, we are having preliminary discussions with few AKHA members from oil producing areas on a draft Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (PADEC) bill.

At the federal level, we engaged a few members of the House of Representatives on the Findings of our action research on “Transparency, Accountability, and Participation in Nigeria’s Extractive Sector.” We also engaged the National Assembly (NASS) Joint Committee on the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) and presented alternative provisions in the bill to effectively reform the sector and empower host communities.
In 2019, with support from Action Aid Nigeria, we built the capacity of a 300 journalists on budget analysis, utilising the Freedom of information Act, ethical reporting and data journalism and the deployment of the acquired skill set to follow the trail of corruption red flags and publish stories related to corruption in specific sectors in the state. Over the course of about one year, over a dozen stories were published exposing corruption risks, red flags and in some cases, eliciting remedial action.

Policy Alert also organized occasional physical meet-ups where we brought other anticorruption actors such as CSOs and anticorruption agencies to interact with the journalists. This gave reporters an opportunity to sound out their challenges in the field, review strategy and share insights from the stories they were investigating.
We recognize traditional rulers as key influencers in our engagement with communities. We have succeeded in converting almost every traditional rulers we have met into transparency and accountability champions. Considering their role as custodians of their communities, they are often credible sources of information and mobilizers for community action. In 2020 we grew our network of supportive traditional rulers across the Niger-Delta to 150.
In 2019, Policy Alert joined other consortium of partners in implementing the Strengthening Citizens Resistance against Prevalence of Corruption (SCRAP-C) a programme of Actionaid Nigeria with funding from UKAid. The project's focus was to galvanize and mobilize citizens, strengthen their capacity and provide them with tools to take independent actions to combat corruption by using budget data and the Freedom of Information Act as tools for anti-corruption advocacy in the basic education & WASH sectors. Through the SCRAP-C project, Policy Alert built the capacity of citizens to take action on corruption issues and improved the legal and policy environment for anti-corruption.

We created six Citizens against Corruption (CAC's) Committees and 12 Community Assemblies in different communities across Akwa Ibom State and trained them on using the FOI to demand accountability. Similarly, we created two Public Expenditure Review (PER) reports and 7 factsheets, mini-documentaries on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Education, posters & stickers, and a 3-year public expenditure review of basic education & WASH Sectors in Akwa Ibom State. On Media advocacy, we had the ALLOKAY Radio Drama Series, Office of the Citizen (OOTC) Radio Show, Upright4Nigeria Radio show, investigative reports, social media campaigns, and sponsored columns in newspapers and blogs.

Our citizens-centered social audit interventions led to increased reporting of corruption red flags by citizens and media, which in some cases attracted remedial action. During the tracking of the state government's Covid-19 response, for instance, 1,259 reports (including several corruption red flags) were received from our community monitors, roving monitors and investigative journalists.
Policy Alert joined forces with HEDA Resource Center to embark on a project to reinforce youth demand for accountability and good governance in their local communities. In several communities in Akwa Ibom State, we carried out youth sensitization and pre-test on youth awareness and participation in governance processes and social monitoring and reporting.

Participants were educated on the psychological basis of corruption, and the destructive effects of corruption on human psychology and the economy. Similarly, participants were trained on advocacy strategies to demand accountability from duty bearers. Having gone through our trainings, several participants used tools acquired during the course of the trainings to petition government on the abandonment of some projects in their
Strengthening Good Governance and Democratic Processes in Nigeria

With funding from United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), Policy Alert in collaboration with Women United for Economic Empowerment (WUEE) implemented a project titled Citizens Civic Education: Strengthening Good Governance and Democratic Processes in Local Level across five (5) communities of Ediene Clan in Ikono LGA of Akwa Ibom State. The community sensitization programme was held from early September through to December 15, 2020 across five communities for Ediene Clan. 656 community persons were reached in all five communities. The primary purpose of the project was to conduct analysis and simplification of local government budget information specific to Ikono LGA, produce and disseminate open government and budget factsheets in local languages, and carry out an open government road show across five communities on market days over a period of five weeks. The roadshows were staged during the market days to optimise reach and participation and involved a drama/street theatre troupe performance at each market to simplify governance messaging to the local audiences, while on-the-spot community needs assessments were held using participatory rural appraisal techniques to harvest the communities’ priorities.

The project resulted in increased number of citizens –women, youths and PWDs- who are empowered with knowledge on local governance; improved understanding on community needs assessment by women, youths and PWDs of the 5 communities in Ikono LGA; enhanced interest and participation of citizens –women, youths and PWDs- in local governance; and increased accessibility and engagement with public officials. The project recorded the following results:
Establishment of Community Development Association (CDA) in Ikot Oku Ediene, Nung Idio Ediene and Afaha Oku Ediene. Osuk Ediene and Ikot Ayan Ediene were in the process of setting up their CDA.

- Nung Idio Ediene has commenced the process of registering the CDA with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) of Nigeria
- Ikot Oku Ediene has began engaging governments through writing of letters sent out.
- Follow-up meetings by newly established Usuk Ediene CDA to develop a Community Development Plan; community members participation reflects committed to ongoing involvement in local decision-making processes
- CDA at Afaha Ediene challenging revenue officials and demanding accountability
- Ikot Oku Ediene wrote to relevant government MDAs for delineation of a polling unit in their community
- Meetings held between local government authorities and CDA at Afaha Ediene
#WetinWeGain: Transparency, Accountability and Participation in Nigeria's Extractive Sector

Policy Alert, in collaboration with PWYP UK and funding from the PWYP International Secretariat launched a campaign called #WetinWeGain (Nigerian pidgin for “what's in it for us?”). The aim of this project was to democratise available data on the extractive industries through research, analysis, infographics, public awareness raising, community mobilisation, and advocacy towards government entities and companies. The goal was that Nigerian government entities improve their use of the extractive receipts they receive on behalf of communities and that companies strive harder to earn and maintain a social license to operate though being more publicly accountable to citizens.

In the course of the campaign, we published approximately 20 infographics between April 2019 and September 2020, many of them under the title “What we know about Nigeria’s oil blocks/mining sector”, on our #WetinWeGain web page and via social media. In researching the data and compiling the infographics, we found disparity between
To bring the issues closer to host and extraction-impacted Niger Delta communities, and to better understand and engage with community views, Policy Alert organized visits to, and consultation meetings with, host communities in two local government areas of Akwa Ibom State. Policy Alert published a press statement on the 42 expired oil block licenses due for renewal in 2019. This statement made it to the front page of a National Daily Newspaper, The Guardian, which got the immediate attention of the DPR.

To address such questions, we wrote letters to operating companies and agencies of the Nigerian government about specific issues that are unclear ranging from payments reports and other documentation (such as NEITI data), to where information is contradictory, e.g. relating to ownership of and proportionate shares in joint ventures, or why companies have not reported specific payments, or how companies have calculated certain payments such as the annual 3% Niger Delta Development Corporation (NDDC) levy.
In 2020, Policy Alert got funding from ANEEJ to implement a project on The National Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (NCTP), also known as the Household Uplifting Programme. The NCTP pays a monthly stipend of N5,000 per beneficiary/month to poor and vulnerable individuals who are captured in the social register.

The grievance monitoring exercise sought to clarify grey areas in the implementation of the NCTP, especially capturing the experiences of beneficiaries to identify inefficiencies and corruption risks and make such information available for use by the implementers and other stakeholders to course correct or improve implementation. Specifically, we sought to find out why the state was yet to fully commence the payment of CCT beneficiaries for 2019 while 24 other states had completed the payment of beneficiaries for January/April and May/June of 2020.

In the course of executing the project, we discovered that despite repeated invitation for documentation and payment, only a few units in two out of the nine beneficiary LGAs (Uruan and Nsit Atai) of Akwa Ibom State were finally cleared for payment in 2019, some of them with deductions from their payments. The payments were to begin running from July 2019, but the first payments were received in December.
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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
ON THE FUND ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT.

TO THE MEMBERS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GRASSROOT PEOPLE EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

We have audited the accompanying Fund Accountability Statements of 31st December, 2019, which have been prepared on the basis of significant accounting policies and the explanatory note.

Director’s Responsibility for the Fund Accountability Statements
The Directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this Fund Accountability statement in compliance with the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act, No. 6, 2011 and with the requirements of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, CAP C20, LFN 2014.

This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Fund Accountability statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor’s Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these Fund Accountability statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Nigerian Standards on Auditing (NSA) Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Fund Accountability statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatements in the statements, whether due to fraud or error.

In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the Fund Accountability statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Trustees, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion
In our opinion, the Fund Accountability Statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Organization financial position as at 31st December, 2019 in compliance with the financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act, No. 6, 2011, the Companies and Allied Matters Act, CAP C20, LFN 2004 and International Accounting Standard (IAS).

[Signature]
(Chairman Accountants)
Uyo, Nigeria
April 24th, 2020
### Statement of Financial Position

**Grassroot People Empowerment Foundation**

**For the Year Ended 31st December, 2019**

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<thead>
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<th>NOTE</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
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<td>1,503,700</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Asset</strong></td>
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<td>Receivables</td>
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<td>Bank and Cash Balance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,571,235</td>
<td>7,666,765</td>
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<tr>
<td>Represented by:</td>
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<td>Accumulated fund</td>
<td>7,666,765</td>
<td>614,790</td>
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<td>Previous year Unused Fund</td>
<td>(6,145,530)</td>
<td>5,781,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payables</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,571,235</td>
<td>7,666,765</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Trustee Signatures**

### Fund Accountability Statement

**Grassroot People Empowerment Foundation**

**For the Year Ended 31st December, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOTE</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>Income from grants</td>
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<td>37,175,400</td>
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<td>Other Donations</td>
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<td>Total Revenue</td>
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<td>36,379,000</td>
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<td><strong>Cost Incurred</strong></td>
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<td>Project Executed</td>
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<td>33,252,779</td>
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<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10,151,186</td>
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<td>Total Expenditure</td>
<td>43,403,965</td>
<td>30,597,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net surplus (Deficit) for the year</td>
<td>250,835</td>
<td>5,781,975</td>
</tr>
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#Relief4Refugees

Between September 11 and 17 2020 Policy Alert with support from AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) embarked on Psychosocial Support and Distribution of Covid-19 Relief to Cameroonian Refugees in Uquo, Esit- Eket and Mbaitok Itam, Itu Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State, where we supported and provided urgent intervention covering COVID 19 awareness, advocacy, water, sanitation, and hygiene and welfare supplies as well as distribution of Covid-19 palliatives and conducting psychological therapy to Cameroonian refuges.

During this intervention, the clan head of Uquo in Esit- Eket LGA, Chief Ette Udo Ikot spoke on the struggles of refugees: “they encountered lack of shelter, hunger and unemployment. Other NGOs have been assisting with skill acquisition, food items and clothes, and our community members have been accommodating them and giving them menial job to survive the daily food.”

Mrs, Ines Vanessa, one of the Cameroonian refugees appealed: “we need help, we need to be equip with jobs so we can have something to survive with, we also the need basic things like water, food, shelter, and electricity.

The project was able give the refugees hope for a better future.
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