



Final Learning Exercise Summary Report

Abuja, Nigeria - Action Plan 2021- 2022

This report is a summary of the analysis of the information submitted in the Inception and End-of-Commitment Assessments and is categorized into two main sections;

- Successes recorded during the implementation cycle
- Areas of Improvement of the Action Plan

1. Successes

The Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) set out to specifically increase citizens' participation in the budget process through the specific activities highlighted in the Action Plan and this objective was achieved, as for the first time in the Area Council;

- a. Participatory Budgeting Tools were developed and disseminated to citizens to further aid their participation in the budget process by simplifying the means of a collection of suggestions into the budget. Citizens were also trained on how to use the tools created. These were done in partnership with citizen groups on the steering committee. Town Hall meetings were held in various parts of the communities to collect the priority needs of the citizens that will be captured in the 2022 budget.
- b. Citizens' representatives were invited to and present at the budget retreat of the area council which was previously attended by only government officials. The presence of citizen representatives was a reflection of the commitment to ensure that citizens are



actively involved in the budget process. The presence of citizen representatives at the retreat allowed citizens to prioritize, by themselves, their suggestions for the 2022 budget which would previously have been done by government officials charged with the responsibility of allocating public resources to the implementation of budgetary items.

- c. As a result of the two successes mentioned above, there have been improved government-citizen relations whereby citizens groups provide technical assistance to council workers to improve transparency in the budget process and one of the priority needs of each ward within the council was incorporated in the 2022 budget and the council is already working toward implementing the project.

2. Areas of improvement

- a. The timeline for the implementation of the activities and commitment, in view of limited resources constrained wider participation. AMAC has taken note of this and will make concerted efforts to ensure that Action Plans are developed in good time to ensure an improved implementation status as well as make alternative plans to support wider participation.
- b. Most of the activities undertaken were under-reported. The council has now taken note to ensure that all activities undertaken towards the implementation of the are properly documented and communicated.
- c. As a new member of the local program, the council would have fared better with ensuring wider participation of citizens in the process and institutionalization of OGP thematic in the council by-laws for the continuity of the process.