



Launch event in Nigeria

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Almost a year into the implementation period of the programme, we have navigated through the global pandemic to drive forward with our plans.

Working in an adaptive way has meant we are able to adjust quickly, something that has been crucial in recent months. An important element of this has been our baseline data collection.

Just as our activities to gather data from communities were getting started, the world was closing down and coming to a standstill. This presented a number of challenges and our approach had to change quickly.

Read about the changes we made and the unexpected successes these brought, in our article 'Adapting data collection in a global pandemic' on our website.

[Click here to read](#)

In July, the ECID team completed its first Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) scan. This annual process assesses whether we are meeting our objective to be GESI sensitive and paving the way for GESI transformative change.

Going beyond looking at our activities with partners and communities, we look inward at ourselves.

The ECID consortium is made up of diverse global organisations. Our personal attitudes, as well as our organisational cultures and processes, can have a positive or negative impact on the quality of programming on the ground; we can end up causing harm by reinforcing structural inequalities.

Emma Haegeman, from ECID partner Social Development Direct, writes about the annual participatory process we go through to critically assess our own attitudes and behaviours, and to develop ideas on improving our performance on GESI within the programme, our own organisations and ourselves.

Read Emma's blog 'Looking inwards: being accountable and modelling the change we want to see in others' on our website.

[Click here to read](#)

Our work in Zimbabwe

Once Covid-19 lockdown measures in Zimbabwe had eased, we were delighted that activities could get back on track. Completing the baseline evaluation was a big priority so we had to adapt some of our initial approaches to ensure we could work safely. Instead of doing face to face interviews with key informants, we conducted these over the phone. Our plans to roll out mass messaging about the programme via community visits and events was not possible but we found great use of radio and TV to get these messages to a wider audience. Both proved to be successful alternatives and gave us rich evidence and community awareness.

The evaluation confirmed that people with disabilities and women are the most marginalised groups in Zimbabwe. 30% of responses prioritised people with disabilities and 19% prioritised women. Both of these groups were included throughout the process so they could contribute their own views.

Working with the community

Our partner, Women's Academy for Leadership and Political Excellence (WALPE), ran a successful gender equality campaign #Let'sGo5050 entirely through social media and radio. The campaign raises awareness on the issues of gender equality and social inclusion of marginalised groups. A key aim is to increase representation of women and people with disabilities in leadership and decision-making processes at both local and national levels. There was huge interest sparked amongst young women and people with disabilities across the country and several organisations requested to be members in the project. #Let'sGo5050 will continue to strengthen a social movement and amplify the voices of women and people with disabilities. They aim to build awareness of the rights of these groups and to engage decision makers in data-driven development, to be inclusive and to address the needs of marginalised people.

One of the gaps in services that was identified as a priority by marginalised groups was access to legal aid. As a result we worked with local partner organisation Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) to assist 400 women and people with disabilities with legal aid awareness. Issues the communities wanted legal support on included gender based violence, divorce, property and inheritance. This really brings to light the gaps in gender justice for women and people with disabilities.

The assistance was delivered through mobile clinics held at common public spaces such as water points, clinics and shops. The clinics will continue to reach out to

more clients with the aim of developing follow-up actions and monitor how the sessions have helped those who attended.

To date, there has been significant positive feedback

Working with a civil society and decision makers

In the wake of political and security uncertainties in Zimbabwe, it was important that we worked with decision makers in our implementation process at local, provincial and national levels. This ensured full understanding of the project and its value to their work. The project team held a workshop to assess the data needs of a range of decision makers in Lupane, Binga, Mutasa and Mutare districts which helped us to plan what data to collect and present back to them. This data-led approach was praised and even likened to the national Census in Zimbabwe.

We have finalised our systems and tools to collect, analyse, and present data on access to services for marginalised groups and track service delivery. The data collection system is accessible to civil society organisations and decision makers and the tracking tool will help communities assess whether services are inclusive.

Mr Dickson Mudimba is a Special Psychological Needs Specialist from the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education in Binga. He attended training with ECID partner Ntengwe where he was presented with data on inclusion of people with disabilities within programmes in the District.

There has been a lot of support from Mr Mudimba but he acknowledged that more needs to be done to reach the whole District.

"With the support of Ntengwe, we have done a lot in terms of promoting inclusion especially of children with disabilities here in Binga. However, this has been covering 8 out of 25 wards which means the situation could be worse elsewhere."



Our work in Nigeria

ECID is official!!

We officially launched ECID in Anambra in July and Kaduna in August. Due to Covid-19 restrictions on numbers of people gathering for events, we hosted those most critical to the success of the programme. These launch events provided the opportunity to discuss the project in detail to increase understanding and affirm commitments to work together.



Launch event with Mercy Onyeama, Christian Aid; Emmanuel Onet, AID Foundation, Hadiza Umar, Hope for Communities and Children Initiative, and Rebecca Sako-John, Legal Awareness for Nigerian Women

Webinars: Data for policy and decision making

Two webinars were held in July for targeting civil society, representatives of marginalised groups, policy makers, decision makers and Academics. The aim was to assess, among other things, the impacts of government response policies to the various marginalised groups. Focus was on those living in hard-to-reach areas and their access to key services.

The voices of marginalised people are a critical source of evidence in improving policy making for better services. This, along with other kinds of data, needs to be explored for inclusive and sustainable development to be achieved. ECID emphasizes the role of evidence in decision-making at all levels, and is working to change the approach to policy-making in its target states in Nigeria – Anambra and Kaduna States.

We also discussed the gaps in development due to the lack of data for policy and decision-making. We explored what more government and other stakeholders need to do to enhance policy making and ensure better opportunities for marginalised groups.

Bringing together policy makers as panellists at both webinars, some being directly involved in the Covid-19 decision-making processes, allowed us to establish the need for looking at the current policy ecosystem and the existing gaps. The discussions showed that, although both state collects some level of data, it is not sufficient to make effective decisions for sustainable development.

Up-skilling Civil Society Organisations

As part of its support to ensure the effectiveness of civil society in addressing the issues of marginalised groups, Christian Aid Nigeria is training its ECID partners to improve their skills on key programme management processes such as GESI, financial management and MEAL. It is also upskilling other civil society organisations relevant to the four priority areas on policy and advocacy. This will ensure that civil society in both states are able to effectively support marginalised groups to influence policies using evidence.

Data gaps review

A review of data gaps is being conducted in both states. This will provide better insight into what the gaps are at community and local government levels to have the right evidence for development and policymaking. This will provide the starting point for ECID to support the government in transforming the existing databases in the state into a functional and accessible platform for evidence-based decision making at state level.

Case study: Hope for Joy

"I don't know how to write my name" declares Joy Meze, from Anambra state.

When Joy was at school teachers often didn't conduct lessons. Describing one teacher she said *"If he comes to the school, he takes all of us to his farm to plant yam, okro and pepper. We will be there till the closing hour."*

She said *"There was only one teacher as others would not travel on the treacherous roads to Nmbato."*

Years later, this community is still facing the same challenges, creating a cycle of poverty they can't break.



Although Joy finished her primary education, due to her experience and lack of significant classroom teaching, she felt it would be a waste of time going to secondary.

She is determined to speak out about the condition of education wherever she has the opportunity.

"Anywhere they said we will go and talk about the condition of Anambra West in terms of education, I will go because they are the ones that made me an illiterate".

We are working with people like Joy to ensure their voices are heard and considered by service providers.

Our work in Myanmar

After a challenging process, the programme team in Myanmar and partners successfully completed the baseline data collection and reporting. Different voices and perceptions from targeted groups were brought together to ensure we were reaching some of the most marginalised people. Based on the initial analysis, it is evident that cross cutting vulnerabilities, such as people with disabilities who are living with HIV/AIDS, are an important consideration for the programme.

We trained our partners on Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) tools and their use in the context of Covid-19 for the most marginalised communities. Following this training our partners led rapid and small scale Covid-19 responses, specifically targeting people with disabilities and vulnerable groups in IDP camps.

Webinars and TV talk shows

Part of this response included our partner Kachinland Research Centre (KRC) who organised two webinar events aiming to emphasise the importance of the voices of marginalised groups, grassroots organisations, and IDPs in policy making. One of the webinars “Data and Policy talk” included on the panel a senior government official, a lawyer, a faith leader and Secretary of Kachin Women Association Thailand. The events were live-streamed through their Facebook page receiving a total of 10.4K views.

In total, KRC, delivered 3 live webinars and TV talk shows, in collaboration with Covid-19 Concern and Response Committee Kachin (CCRCK). The opening show in May gave Kachin people who were living abroad the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences of the pandemic response in their country which helped to enhance understanding of different approaches.

The second show ‘Covid-19 Awareness and Data talk show’, was held in June. This show focused on the impact of government restrictions on grassroots organisations and marginalised groups while also raising awareness of prevention measures. The recommendation was shared that voices of grassroots organisations and IDPs should be incorporated into law and policy making which was a major success from this event.



Filming of the Covid-19 Awareness and Data talk show where panelists wore masks to remain protected from the virus.

The final show in July, focussed on data and policy. The panel included Mr. Tint Naing, a government official working actively on Covid-19 prevention activities in Kachin State. He has been instrumental in developing government policy that focusses on the importance of ‘leaving no-one behind’. While hearing from marginalised groups themselves, grassroots organisations and IDPs, the event also drew on the recommendations of humanitarian aid groups and CSOs.

Recommendations were made for the voices of marginalised groups to be considered in policy making. Mr Naing confirmed that he had followed up with his department about bringing in needs assessments in their policy making processes.

Next steps

The team will soon be hosting two events to launch the programme with senior government officials, partners and CSOs. Further workshops are also being held with partners as well as ongoing data collection activities.

Contact us

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