

MACARTHUR

# The MacArthur Foundation in Nigeria Report on Activities



The John D. and Catherine T.  
MacArthur Foundation

## WHAT IS A PRIVATE FOUNDATION?

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**I**n the United States, private foundations are charitable organizations that provide grants to organizations or individuals, helping those in need or working to solve social problems. Foundations can operate locally, nationally, or internationally and enjoy considerable flexibility in choosing what to support. Private foundations act independently of the United States government and receive no government support. Many private foundations, including MacArthur, have endowments that are the sole source of funds for the grants they make. Each is governed by an independent board of trustees that oversees grantmaking activity.

## WHAT IS THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION?

**T**he John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is a private foundation, headquartered in Chicago, providing approximately \$200 million in grants annually to universities, charitable and non-governmental organizations, and talented individuals in the United States and 65 other countries around the world. Our mission is to help improve the human condition. The MacArthur Foundation is not affiliated in any way with the United States government or any international agency, religious organization, or commercial firm, nor do we engage in fundraising. Our assets derive entirely from the estate of John D. MacArthur, a wealthy businessman who died in 1978. An independent board of private citizens oversees the Foundation's work. MacArthur is one of a number of private foundations engaged in Nigeria.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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**I**n 1999, after decades of colonial and military rule, Nigeria began a transition to democracy. Government, non-governmental organizations, and individuals are now working together to ensure the growth of a free and fair Nigeria. The MacArthur Foundation is a long-term partner in these efforts. We have worked in Nigeria for 17 years, making over \$68 million in grants to support its future.

The MacArthur Foundation does not embrace any ideology other than a commitment to free expression and reasoned discourse. Wherever we work, we try to give good, smart people the chance to exercise their talents and apply their ideals to the benefit of society.

Our work in Nigeria falls into three main categories:

- strengthening Nigerian universities;
- improving the sexual and reproductive health of women and adolescents; and
- advancing human rights and the rule of law.

The primary purpose of our grantmaking is to enable local citizens and organizations to help shape Nigeria's democratic future. Members of our Abuja office staff are all Nigerians and are deeply committed to their country. Through our grants, we

seek to demonstrate the possibilities for meaningful partnerships among the growing community of non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and public institutions. We are pleased to present this report, which describes MacArthur's programs in Nigeria and lists the organizations that are currently receiving our financial support.

During my seven years as President, I have visited Nigeria five times. On each visit, I have been impressed by the tremendous progress underway. That is not to underestimate the challenges ahead, which are serious and daunting. But I believe there is reason for optimism given the energy and commitment I have seen among people across the country, people addressing Nigeria's challenges directly and working for a better future.

Central to our involvement in Nigeria is an ongoing dialogue with its citizens. We welcome your comments and questions, which can be sent to [4answers@macfound.org](mailto:4answers@macfound.org). You can also access more information about the Foundation or sign-up for our free monthly electronic newsletter at [www.nigeria.macfound.org](http://www.nigeria.macfound.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

Jonathan F. Fanton

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

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**T**he John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is a private, independent grantmaking institution dedicated to helping groups and individuals foster lasting improvement in the human condition. Through the support it provides, the Foundation fosters the development of knowledge, nurtures individual creativity, helps strengthen institutions, helps improve public policy, and provides information to the public, primarily through support for public interest media. The Foundation makes grants through four programs and by making program-related investments.

The Program on Global Security and Sustainability focuses on international issues, including peace and security, conservation and sustainable development, population and reproductive health, and human rights. The program also supports initiatives in Russia and Nigeria, particularly concerning the improvement of higher education. International offices are located in Mexico, India, Nigeria, and Russia.



The Program on Human and Community Development operates primarily within the United States. Issues of interest include community development; affordable housing, with a particular emphasis on the preservation of rental housing; and reform in education and juvenile justice. In addition to grants, the program makes program-related investments, primarily for affordable housing and U.S.-based community development financial institutions.

The General Program supports public interest media, including public radio and the production of independent documentary film. Grants are made to arts and cultural institutions in the Chicago area. The program also supports special initiatives, currently including intellectual property rights in a digital environment.

The MacArthur Fellows Program awards five-year, unrestricted fellowships to individuals across all ages and fields who show exceptional merit and promise of continued creative work. It is limited to U.S. citizens and other residents of the United States.

One of the largest private philanthropic foundations in the United States, MacArthur has awarded more than \$3 billion in grants since it began operations in 1978, and today has assets of \$5.5 billion. Annual grantmaking totals approximately \$200 million. The Foundation believes its grantmaking is most effective when focused upon a relatively few areas of work, combined with sufficient resources over a long enough period of time to make a measurable difference.

John D. MacArthur (1897-1978) developed and owned Bankers Life and Casualty Company and other businesses, as well as considerable property in Florida and New York. His wife Catherine (1909-1981) held positions in many of these companies and served as a director of the Foundation.

To learn more about the Foundation's work in Nigeria and sign-up for our free monthly electronic newsletter, please visit [www.nigeria.macfound.org](http://www.nigeria.macfound.org).

## MACARTHUR IN NIGERIA

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Since 1989, MacArthur has made 409 grants totaling more than \$68 million in support of organizations and individuals in Nigeria. The recipients of these grants are helping Nigeria develop into a strong regional economic and education center and a leading democratic presence on the African continent.

MacArthur's Nigeria office is located in Abuja and is staffed by a committed group of Nigerians who are continually engaged in dialogue with local community organizations and grant recipients to better understand the changing needs and priorities of Nigerian society. The office itself has a well-stocked research library, which is available to the public. The Abuja office also hosts an international lecture series on critical issues.

The foundation's grantmaking in Nigeria addresses three core areas—strengthening higher education, improving the sexual and reproductive health of women and adolescents, and advancing human rights.

### Strengthening Nigerian Universities

For Nigerian universities, the 20th Century has been marked by periods of growth, decay, and renewal, shaped by the political and economic events of the time. After independence from colonial rule in 1960, Nigerian higher education began to experience a small renaissance fueled by considerable investments in research and infrastructure and the emergence of strong leaders in

the community. Before some newly formed institutions had a chance to establish and deepen their roots, the civil war, military rule, and currency devaluation that characterized portions of the 1970s and 1980s plunged Nigerian higher education into serious neglect and deterioration. Since the re-establishment of a democratic government in 1999, Nigerian universities have begun to reclaim their position in the academic world.

MacArthur's support of Nigerian higher education is based on the belief that robust universities and intellectual freedom are essential to developing and sustaining healthy, economically vibrant, democratic societies. An investment in universities is an investment in the social capital of the country. To date, MacArthur has committed over \$22 million in support of Nigerian universities. Grantmaking is directed to areas of highest priority, as identified in conjunction with the universities, with the objective of reinforcing existing reform efforts while avoiding the duplication of core funding already provided by the government. MacArthur supports projects that include—

- improving information and communication technologies;
- staff and faculty development;
- library support (updating and expanding electronic and print collections);
- upgrading university facilities, with emphasis on facilities/equipment for scientific research;
- encouraging collaborations and linkages with other universities and the private sector;
- strengthening strategic planning; and
- building fundraising capacity.

MacArthur's involvement began with a series of planning grants in 2000 to four of the country's leading universities: the University of Ibadan, Bayero University, Ahmadu Bello University, and the University of Port Harcourt. These universities were selected for their quality of leadership, innovation, and national significance. Since its initial commitment, MacArthur has continued to support the development of initiatives at these four universities with the belief that they will also serve as models for other universities in Nigeria and Africa as a whole.

To achieve the greatest impact from its investments in Nigerian higher education, MacArthur joined with other international foundations to form the Partnership for Higher Education in Africa in 2000. The Partnership, which now includes the Carnegie Corporation and the Ford, Rockefeller, Mellon, and Hewlett Foundations, has contributed over \$150 million for higher education to 49 African universities in nine African countries, with the majority of MacArthur funding provided to Nigerian universities. In 2005, the Partnership pledged an additional \$200 million over the next five years to higher education initiatives in Africa.

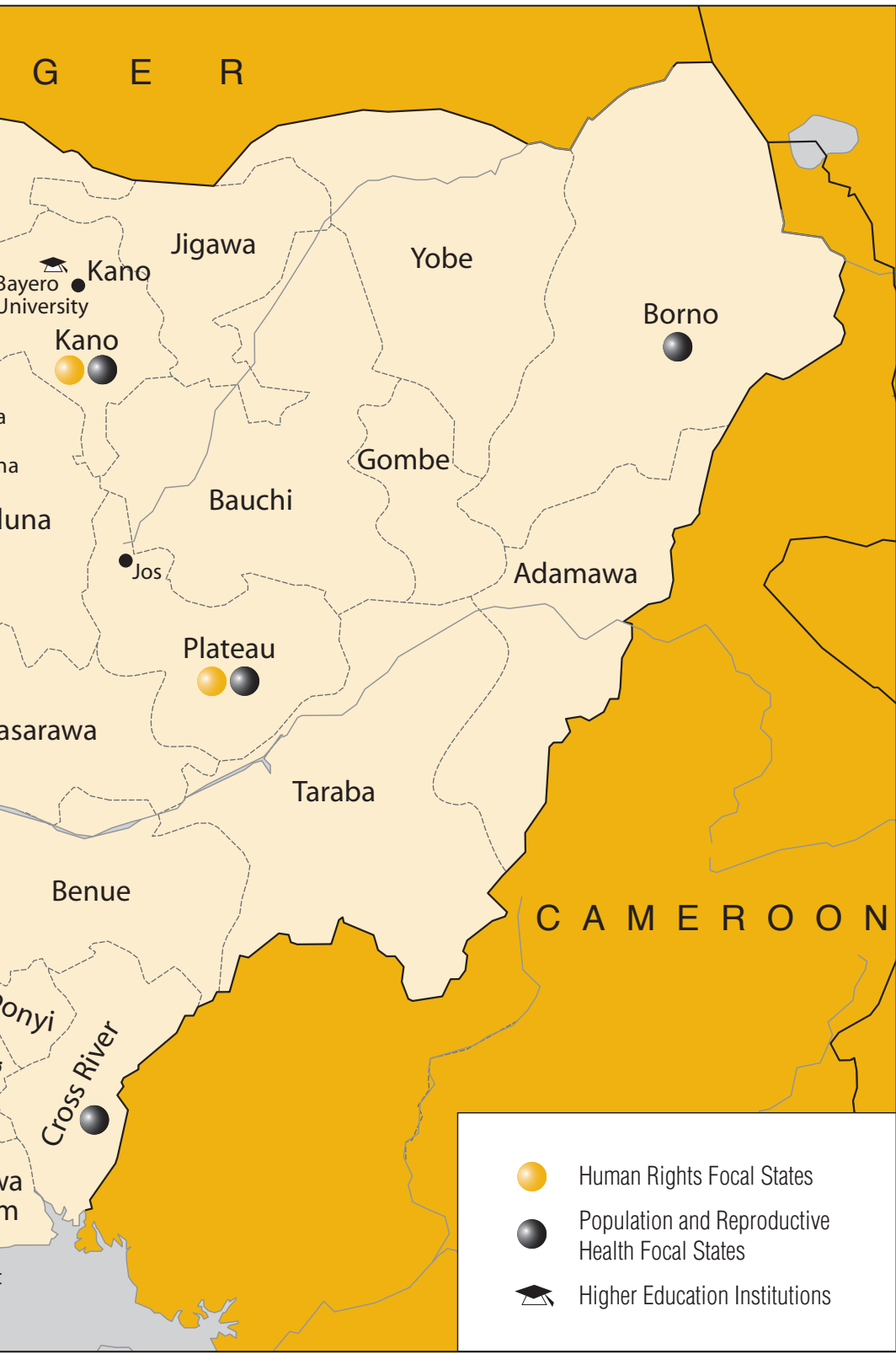
One prime example of the Partnership's ability to pool resources and encourage innovation and transformation on a large scale is its success in greatly increasing the speed of Internet connectivity at Nigerian universities. To address the high cost of expanding Internet capacity and providing greater Internet access in Africa, the Partnership formed the Bandwidth Consortium with a coalition of 19 African institutions of higher education and the African Virtual University, an organization dedicated to satellite-based distance learning in Africa. The following Nigerian universities are currently part of the Consortium: University of Ibadan, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ahmadu Bello University, Bayero University, University of Port Harcourt, and University of Jos. Connectivity has increased by more than eight fold since 2004, while the cost of providing access has declined sharply, from an average of \$7.50 per Kbps per month to \$2.33. With the addition of other institutions over time, the cost of shared bandwidth will drop even further.

Further information on the Partnership can be found at [www.foundation-partnership.org](http://www.foundation-partnership.org).

# MacArthur Foundation Grantmaking in Nigeria







## **Becoming a Research Hub** *University of Ibadan*



Despite its distinction as Nigeria's premier institution of higher learning, the University of Ibadan followed the same rocky road as other Nigerian universities over the past four decades. After finding its way to the forefront of academic research in the 1960s, the University then suffered 'brain drain,' the loss of funding for research and capital improvements, and the collapse of academic journals in the decades that followed.

In the new millennium, the University of Ibadan has taken steps to reposition itself as a citadel of learning in Nigeria. MacArthur grants of over \$6 million have provided three to 12 month fellowships for 148 members of the staff, modernized its library and provided computer labs, and established a Directorate of Advancement to conduct fundraising. Among Ibadan's many accomplishments as a result of these programs has been a 20% increase in the number of faculty members holding PhDs.

One recent example of Ibadan's commitment to transformation is the MacArthur-supported, central multi-disciplinary laboratory developed in 2005 to serve as a world-class research hub for faculty and graduate students. Ibadan has renovated one of its existing buildings and consolidated the acquisition and maintenance of capital-intensive equipment in a central location to avoid duplication across departments. The concentration of funds will also allow for the purchase of advanced research equipment. The result of this investment will be a cost-effective lab that will allow faculty and students to conduct high quality research and engage in innovative research collaborations with other university labs.

The creation of a state-of-the-art research laboratory is one of many steps toward renewal by Ibadan that will assist in the education of future civic, academic, and business leaders and foster collaboration with the private sector.

For more information about the University of Ibadan visit [www.ui.edu.ng](http://www.ui.edu.ng).

## **Growing for the Future**

### *University of Port Harcourt*

The volatile political climate that took hold of Nigeria from 1966 to 1999, combined with the oil bust of the 1980s, left the country's federal universities in a state of disrepair. Disruption came in many forms, from direct government intervention to economic hardship created by the loss of federal funding. During periods of military rule, it was not uncommon for the military to directly appoint vice chancellors of various universities. When government revenues declined, plans to build a permanent campus at Port Harcourt and grow the university were put on hold. Today, however, the University of Port Harcourt is working to secure its own future.

Growing pressures from the steady increase in student enrollment and proposed new federal legislation giving universities greater autonomy (including more financial responsibility) are forcing Nigerian universities to face the challenge of diversifying funding sources beyond government support. The University of Port Harcourt has taken that challenge to heart. In March 2006, the University kicked off a capital campaign to raise \$55 million. The first of its kind in Nigeria, Port Harcourt's campaign reflects a fundamental cultural shift in the way Nigerian universities invest in their development.

With help from MacArthur, Port Harcourt established the Friends of the University of Port Harcourt, a university advisory body composed of business leaders and the University Advancement Centre (UAC), which has a mission of fundraising, developing alumni and donor relations, and cultivating industry and government liaisons. UAC staff members have traveled to American universities, including the University of Washington, to be trained in running capital campaigns, managing alumni relations, and developing fundraising databases.

The capital campaign will allow the University to replace temporary facilities with permanent department buildings and expand its range of available programs and degrees. To kick off the campaign, Vice-Chancellor Baridam and the development staff led by example, asking the Bursary Department to deduct contributions to the fundraising effort from their own salaries. Only five months into the five-year campaign, support for the capital investment program has taken on considerable momentum. In close succession to the campaign's announcement, two 30-room student hostels and a gas turbine generator were donated and buildings were pledged for development of the medical center. The governors of Nasarawa and Kwara States both contributed to the campaign for the expansion of the UAC facilities and support for the Faculty of Agriculture. The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, endowed a chair for the program in Engineering Management.

Already over \$5 million dollars in cash and pledges has been raised. In addition, each returning and new student has pledged \$80 and \$120 respectively, bringing Port Harcourt closer to its goal of financial independence and greater control over its future.

For more information about the University of Port Harcourt visit [www.uniport.edu.ng/uac](http://www.uniport.edu.ng/uac).

# MACARTHUR FOUNDATION GRANTS

## Higher Education, Nigeria

### STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

AFRICAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH CONSORTIUM,  
*Nairobi, Kenya*

\$800,000 in support of strengthening capacity in Africa for policy research and graduate training in economics (over four years). (2005)

AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, *Zaria, Kaduna State*  
\$3,000,000 in support of strategic planning, information technology, and the refurbishing and upgrading of teaching and research facilities (over three years). (2001)

AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, *Zaria, Kaduna State*  
\$50,000 in support of the purchase of science books (over three years). (2004)

BAYERO UNIVERSITY, *Kano, Kano State*  
\$3,000,000 in support of staff development and the refurbishing and upgrading of university facilities (over three years). (2004)

BAYERO UNIVERSITY, *Kano, Kano State*  
\$2,000,000 in support of activities to develop staff, upgrade computer technology, and establish a faculty of agriculture (over three years). (2001)

COMMITTEE OF VICE-CHANCELLORS, *Abuja, FCT*  
\$215,000 to re-engineer and strengthen capacity and influence in the sector (over two years). (2005)

NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION, *Abuja, FCT*  
\$350,000 in support of strengthening the university system and scaling up university best practices (over two years). (2005)

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN - NIGERIA, *Ibadan, Oyo State*  
\$3,400,000 in support of work to strengthen the human capital, institutional facilities, and governance system of the university (over three years). (2004)

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN - NIGERIA, *Ibadan, Oyo State*  
\$3,000,000 in support of initiatives to strengthen the university, with a particular focus on staff development (over three years). (2001)

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT - NIGERIA,  
*Rivers State*  
\$75,000 in support of the purchase of science laboratory equipment. (2004)

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT - NIGERIA,  
*Rivers State*  
\$2,000,000 in support of staff development and facilities improvement (over three years). (2001)

### INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

ABTI-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA  
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY &  
COMMUNICATION, *Yola, Adamawa State*  
\$100,000 in support of the establishment of a hub for the Center for Information and Communication Technology Innovation and Training. (2005)

AFRICAN VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY, *Nairobi, Kenya*  
\$1,270,000 in support of supplying discounted bandwidth to a consortium of universities in Africa (over three years). (2005)

BAYERO UNIVERSITY, *Kano, Kano State*  
\$200,000 in support of revolving loans for staff to acquire computers. (2004)

NIGERIA ICT FORUM OF PARTNERSHIP  
INSTITUTIONS, *Abuja, FCT*  
\$200,000 in support of building capacity, awareness, and higher education information technology policy in Nigeria (over two years). (2005)

TERTIARY EDUCATION NETWORK, *Rondebosch*  
\$160,000 to improve the technical capacity of the universities involved in the African Virtual University Bandwidth Consortium (over three years). (2005)

#### LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

JSTOR, *New York, NY*  
\$122,000 in support of extending access to scholarly resources in the humanities and social sciences to all of Nigeria's research and higher education institutions (over five years). (2005)

NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH GRADUATE FACULTY OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE, *New York, NY*  
\$300,000 in support of a project to strengthen university research libraries in Nigeria through journal subscriptions (over two years). (2006)

SABRE FOUNDATION, *Cambridge, MA*  
\$260,000 for the supply of educational materials to universities in Nigeria (over three years). (2003)

SHEHU MUSA YAR'ADUA FOUNDATION, *Abuja, FCT*  
\$50,000 in support of the purchase of books and materials for the Olusegun Obasanjo Research Library. (2005)

UNITED STATES EMBASSY ABUJA, *Abuja, FCT*  
\$29,000 in support of shipping books to Nigeria. (2006)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN, *Champaign, IL*  
\$303,000 in support of improving user access to research and information materials at university libraries in Nigeria (over three years). (2005)

#### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

MAC SERVICES, *Chicago, IL*  
\$250,000 in support of work to improve the financial administration capacity of four Nigerian universities (over three years). (2002)

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY STEINHARDT SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, *New York, NY*  
\$214,000 in renewed support of projects of the Partnership of Higher Education in Africa (over two years). (2006)

NIGERIA HIGHER EDUCATION FOUNDATION, *New York, NY*  
\$400,000 in support of fundraising and development for Nigerian universities (over three years). (2005)

PAMOJA, *Chester, VT*  
\$150,000 in support of a project to build the fundraising capacity of four Nigerian universities. (2006)

TIDES CENTER AFRICA GRANTMAKERS AFFINITY GROUP, *San Francisco, CA*  
\$75,000 in support of general operations (over three years). (2006)

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, *Ibadan, Oyo State*  
\$250,000 in support of building the culture of educational philanthropy (over three years). (2005)

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS, *Philadelphia, PA*  
\$213,000 in support of collaborations with the University of Ibadan in the areas of nursing and peace and conflict studies. (2003)

## IMPROVING THE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND ADOLESCENTS

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**N**igeria has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality and morbidity in the world. More than 20 percent of the population is between the ages of 10 and 19 and, therefore, faces major sexual and reproductive health challenges from exposure to sexually transmitted diseases to early pregnancy. More than four out of 10 Nigerian girls become mothers before the age of 20, and 21 percent of teenage girls have children.

MacArthur has awarded \$32 million in grants to address population and reproductive health issues in Nigeria. Traditionally, efforts to alleviate population pressures have tended to focus narrowly on promoting the use of family planning. MacArthur's grantmaking encompasses a more comprehensive approach, reflecting the belief that women's well-being is central to effective population policy and that individuals should be free to determine and plan the size of their families. With information in hand and access to adequate health care, and with women treated as equal partners with men in making sexual and reproductive decisions, people will make wise choices. This broader thinking reflects the recommendations adopted by 180 countries at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994.

The scope of work supported by MacArthur extends from the national level to programs in six states: Borno, Cross River, Enugu, Lagos, Kano and Plateau. The core objectives of MacArthur's grantmaking in the area of population and reproductive health are:

- reducing maternal mortality and morbidity; and
- advancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people.

MacArthur selects programs that are sensitive to the cultural context of the programs' beneficiaries and respectful of local customs and traditions.

The MacArthur Foundation is committed to helping the Federal Ministry of Health achieve the United Nations' Millennium Development Goal of reducing maternal mortality in Nigeria by 75 percent by 2015 (compared to 1990 levels). Organizations receiving MacArthur funding target critical areas of reproductive health aimed at improving access to, use of, and quality of maternal health care. The range of programs includes outreach and advocacy initiatives addressing unsafe abortion and unwanted pregnancy; education and research in medical schools and hospitals to reduce maternal mortality and improve the management of emergency obstetric complications; and, programs aimed at increasing women's use of reproductive health services available to the community. In the states of Borno, Lagos and Kano, model projects seek to increase community awareness and improve the availability of health services necessary to deal with complications.

To promote the reproductive health and rights of young people, special attention is given to supporting initiatives that implement the federal government's national sexuality education curriculum. The goal of MacArthur support is to implement high quality, comprehensive sexuality education in 100 percent of junior secondary schools in at least four states by 2007. With the increased incidence of HIV/AIDS and the prevalence of other sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy among the adolescent population, reaching out to Nigeria's youth is of great urgency.

Our Nigerian partners are dedicated to integrating education about sexually transmitted diseases and early pregnancy in public secondary schools in Lagos, Niger, Enugu, Cross River, Kano, and Plateau States, with plans underway to replicate these models for secondary school youth in other Nigerian states. MacArthur also supports research on married adolescents in northern Nigeria, assessments of how best to increase access to sexual and reproductive health services for out-of-school youth, and fellowships to promote leadership skills in individuals working to promote adolescent sexual and reproductive health as well as the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity.





## **Informing Young People to Protect Their Health**

### *Youth Adolescent Reflection and Action Center*

When Dr. Tor Iorapuu first studied theater, he never dreamed that he would one day use the stage to save children's lives.

In 1995, Dr. Iorapuu began a three-year project to collect data on the reproductive rights and behavior of Nigerian adolescents. His research, supported by MacArthur's Fund for Leadership Development, ultimately took the form of a dramatic play entitled, "Had I Known." Performed over 150 times to international and local audiences, the theater piece addresses the misinformation and destructiveness associated with adolescents' understanding of and real-life experiences with issues of sexuality. The play became a focal point for discussion among Nigerian youth, parents, teachers, and religious and other community leaders. The momentum created by this experience was so compelling, the information compiled so traumatic, that Dr. Iorapuu created the Youth Adolescent Reflection and Action Center (YARAC) in 2000, with the mission of bringing reproductive and sexual health education to Nigerian public schools and out-of-school youth.

With MacArthur assistance, YARAC is the logical extension of Dr. Iorapuu's earlier work, exploring effective ways to address the growing problem of sexually transmitted disease infection and unwanted pregnancy among Nigeria's youth. Among young people, misconceptions prevail about contraception, contracting sexually transmitted diseases, and other sexuality issues. Schools play an important role in getting the right information to Nigeria's youth so that they can make informed decisions about their own health and well being. YARAC uses plays to connect with young people, interview them, and ultimately communicate with them about a topic that has been historically difficult to broach in culturally and religiously diverse Nigerian communities. By combining training and counseling, drama has proven to be an effective and non-threatening way to make young people comfortable enough to share their personal experiences, reflect upon the consequences of their actions, and think about how to go forward leading a positive lifestyle. The program has also enjoyed the support of parents, the government, local schools, and religious and cultural groups within the community.

In 2001, Nigeria's National Council on Education adopted a national sexuality education curriculum for use in public secondary schools. Since 2002, YARAC has focused on implementing the national sexuality education program at schools in Plateau State. YARAC initially started with 40 public schools and now works with 217 public secondary schools in Plateau. To date, 60 percent of the 217 schools have successfully incorporated sexuality education into their curricula. While the federal government approved a national curriculum, it left the implementation of the curriculum to the discretion of state governments. Making reproductive and sexual health education a mainstream component of the curriculum for secondary schools in Plateau State has become one of YARAC's main priorities.

Exposure to sexuality education in secondary schools can lead to a delay in the onset of sexual intercourse, the increased likelihood of using contraceptives when individuals begin to have intercourse, increased communication with parents about sexual matters, and better self-esteem and decision-making skills. Taking steps toward open dialogue about sexuality issues and access to information will enable Nigerian youth to become more informed, responsible, and civic-minded.

For more information about the Youth Adolescent Reflection and Action Center visit [www.yarac.org](http://www.yarac.org).



## Enabling Community-Based Health Education

### *Healthy Mothers Healthy Nation*

For Dr. Hauwa Larai Goni, one of the many challenges in making a connection with rural communities to reduce the many preventable pregnancy-related deaths and diseases has been the rain. Five of the six communities she works with in Yobe State have no health facility and are not accessible during the rainy season. On a recent trip, local villagers warned visitors to leave before the rains prevailed. But there was work to be done and Dr. Goni's team waited to leave until after the rains had come and gone. Knee-deep in thick, sticky mud, Dr. Goni and her assistants slowly walked home alongside their motorcycles, carefully maneuvering through the puddles to avoid the snakes swimming in the water.

For Dr. Goni, taking cues from the environment has not just been a matter of the weather. Her approach to community-based outreach has placed a strong emphasis on the importance of first listening to the community voice its own concerns and ideas about how to ensure the health and safety of pregnant women and then helping the people get what they need.

In 2003, Dr. Goni received a two-year fellowship from the Foundation's Fund for Leadership Development to conduct a community-based project geared toward the reduction of maternal mortality among rural women. Dr. Goni's project, Healthy Mothers Healthy Nation (HMHN), focuses on maternal mortality and morbidity issues in the following six communities in Yobe State: Fika, Ganjuwale, Gashua, Gangawa, Maruwa, and Diwidi. Her approach has been all-encompassing, educating community members and hospital staff on the roles of every member of the community in ensuring safe motherhood.

Dr. Goni started by conducting a survey to understand the factors affecting people's attitudes towards hospital attendance, pre-natal care, family planning, and community development programs. The survey showed very low literacy levels and little knowledge of family planning. Ignorance, poverty, lack of good roads, geographical distance, and negative attitudes of health workers were among the factors that affected utilization of health services. Dr. Goni then held sessions during which members of the community suggested strategies that they themselves thought would be most effective. HMHN has, to a great extent, played the role of "enabler" by helping provide the necessary support in design and initiation of interventions with the community members doing most of the work for themselves.

One outcome of Dr. Goni's project has been the realization that there are many ways of sensitizing people to take more responsibility for their own health. Approaches that proved effective in her targeted communities include advocacy visits to community leaders; meetings with community groups; formation of safe motherhood committees; provision of emergency obstetric care materials to local hospitals; initiation of adult literacy programs; workshops on emergency obstetric care for hospital staff; birth attendant training; and production of radio and television episodes discussing safe motherhood, personal hygiene, and disease prevention.

Signs of change are already evident. Community leaders who once discouraged local women from participating in the HMHN project are now supportive. Birthing attendants say they are better informed. HMHN even helped local women to generate income during the rainy season through the sale of groundnut oil and locally made spaghetti at market. With this kind of health education and community mobilization, HMHN has helped create greater awareness of the causes and prevention of maternal mortality in rural communities and helped enhance self-sufficiency that residents will no doubt sustain, even through the rainy season.

For more information about Healthy Mothers Healthy Nation, contact Dr. Hauwa Larai Goni at [hlgoni@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hlgoni@yahoo.co.uk).

## MACARTHUR FOUNDATION GRANTS

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### Population and Reproductive Health, Nigeria

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY

CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNWANTED PREGNANCY, *Ikeja, Lagos State*

\$300,000 in support of media education, research, and strengthening medical school curricula and teaching related to reproductive health and maternal mortality (over three years). (2006)

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION ACTIVITIES, *Washington, DC*

\$400,000 for an advocacy campaign to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in Nigeria (over three years). (2003)

IPAS, *Chapel Hill, NC*

\$400,000 in support of increasing access to maternal health-care services in six priority states of Nigeria (over three years). (2006)

NIGERIAN PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE MOTHERHOOD, *Benin City, Edo State*

\$200,000 to train advocates of safe motherhood in Nigeria (over three years). (2001)

PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL, *Watertown, MA*

\$400,000 in renewed support of an initiative to improve maternal health in Nigeria (over three years). (2006)

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

ACTION HEALTH, INCORPORATED, *Yaba, Lagos State*  
\$500,000 to implement the National Sexuality Education Curriculum in Lagos State (over three years). (2004)

ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND INFORMATION PROJECTS, *Kano, Kano State*

\$330,000 in support of implementation of the Family Life and HIV/AIDS Education Curriculum in Kano State (over three years). (2005)

CALABAR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH, INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION, *Calabar, Cross River State*

\$150,000 to expand a comprehensive sexuality education program to include men and young boys (over three years). (2003)

CENTER FOR COMMUNICATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES, *Bida, Niger State*

\$215,000 to implement the National Sexuality Education Curriculum in Niger State (over two years). (2004)

COMMUNITY LIFE PROJECT, *Apapa, Lagos State*

\$200,000 for activities to increase access to reproductive and sexual health services for out-of-school youth in Lagos State (over three years). (2004)

GIRLS' POWER INITIATIVE, NIGERIA, *Calabar, Cross River State*  
\$330,000 in support of the implementation of the National Sexuality Education Curriculum in Cross River State (over three years). (2004)

GLOBAL HEALTH AND AWARENESS RESEARCH FOUNDATION, *Enugu, Enugu State*  
\$300,000 to implement the National Sexuality Education Curriculum in Enugu State (over three years). (2004)

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR AFRICA, *Ilford, Essex, United Kingdom*  
\$240,000 in support of building a constituency to advocate for and ensure the successful implementation of the national sexuality education curriculum (over two years). (2005)

YOUTH, ADOLESCENT, REFLECTION & ACTION CENTER, *Jos, Plateau State*  
\$324,000 to implement the National Sexuality Education Curriculum in Plateau State (over three years). (2004)

## OTHER GRANTS

CIVIL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE, *Enugu, Enugu State*  
\$200,000 in support of activities toward improving maternal health and reproductive rights of women and young people in Nigeria through the legal system (over three years). (2006)

WOMEN'S AID COLLECTIVE, *Enugu, Enugu State*  
\$200,000 in support of consolidating and scaling up activities to integrate reproductive health and rights into legal education in Nigeria (over three years). (2006)

LEGAL RESEARCH AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, *Yaba, Lagos*  
\$200,000 in support of consolidating and scaling up activities to integrate reproductive health and rights into legal education in Nigeria (over three years). (2006)

BAOBAB FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS, *Lagos, Lagos State*  
\$400,000 for work to promote the reproductive health and rights of women whose lives are governed by Sharia'h (over three years). (2004)

PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL, *Watertown, MA*  
\$690,000 for a program to develop leadership skills in individuals working for the promotion of young people's sexual and reproductive health and the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity (over three years). (2004)

CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON HIV/AIDS IN NIGERIA, *Abuja, FCT*  
\$120,000 For activities to strengthen nongovernmental monitoring of HIV/AIDS prevention efforts (over three years). (2002)

## IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS

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Since 1978, MacArthur has been committed to the support of governmental and civic organizations that help promote human rights and the rule of law around the world. This includes advancing programs that hold countries accountable to their constitutions and international agreements and seeking to insert human rights standards in policymaking.

On an international scale, the Foundation provided grants to strengthen the global infrastructure for human rights and helping to build awareness of the International Criminal Court and other human rights mechanisms within the international justice system.

At the country level, grantmaking in Nigeria and other parts of the world strengthens and expands the network of human rights organizations that provide the basic infrastructure for a national human rights culture. Grants are made to build the institutional capacity of organizations and support specific human rights projects. In addition, MacArthur seeks to promote connections among governmental and non-governmental initiatives and links between Nigerian human rights advocates and their international counterparts. Since Nigeria's elections in 1999, the democratic government has launched a number of human rights initiatives. Building on this momentum, MacArthur seeks to expand and strengthen human rights organizations nationally as well as locally, in the states of Kano, Lagos, Plateau, and Rivers.

To date, MacArthur's grantmaking for human rights issues in Nigeria has totaled \$11 million. The scope of these programs includes:

- strengthening the national legal architecture through reform of national laws;
- incorporating Nigeria's international treaty obligations into domestic law, including support for the National Human Rights Commission;
- committing to an international system of justice through the work of the African Court of Human and People's Rights, the International Criminal Court and other justice mechanisms; and
- promoting police reform and addressing police abuse of human rights.

Organizations supported by MacArthur address a broad range of issues, such as modernizing the criminal justice system, eradicating illegal and extended pretrial detentions, monitoring human rights violations, increasing police accountability, and updating and publishing Nigerian law consistent with the re-establishment of democracy in Nigeria since 1999. MacArthur has also assisted in the development of a Nigerian human rights infrastructure, assisting national institutions that provide the legal framework, and funding local human rights organizations that monitor and support government initiatives.

## **Modernizing Nigeria's Criminal Justice System**

*Federal Ministry of Justice of Nigeria*

The backbone of any just and democratic society is a legitimate criminal justice system that effectively protects the rights of its citizens. The loss of public trust in the system can lead people to abandon due process and resort to private means of settling disputes, possibly even through vigilantism and communal violence. For Nigeria's impaired and outdated criminal justice system, such a loss of trust was a reality even after the country's transition to democracy in 1999.

Decades of colonial rule left Nigeria with a patchwork quilt of obsolete and inconsistent laws governing different regions of the country. One set of criminal procedures codes dating back to 1916 were applicable to the southern part of the country while another set of codes dating back to 1945 governed the northern regions. Complicating matters further, more than 500 military decrees had been enacted between 1990 and 1999, many of which violated basic human rights. As an example, some of the outdated laws empowered the state to detain individuals for up to six months without being charged with a crime. The Nigerian legal system needed comprehensive revision to remove these vestiges of military and colonial rule and to reflect the spirit of the 1999 constitution.

Despite the adoption of a new constitution and the election of a democratic government, Nigeria's criminal justice system also remained ineffective. Prevailing problems included unnecessary delays in processing and prosecuting cases, backlogs of cases, lack of public confidence in the system, gross violations of human rights, lack of investor confidence in the system, prison congestion, and lack of access to justice by the poor.

With MacArthur funding, the Federal Ministry of Justice put together a national working group in 2004 to review existing procedures and laws with the objective of proposing policies to update and harmonize the rule of law and to modernize the criminal justice system as a whole. For the first time, the main administrators of criminal justice—the police, prison system, and judiciary—worked together to improve the system. As a result of two years of diligent work by this group, the revision project has been completed and submitted to the Nigerian Federal Executive Council for deliberation.

Having a modernized and harmonized criminal justice system should result in a reduction in the number of individuals awaiting trials, decongestion of prisons, an efficient prosecutorial system, and greater protection of human rights.

For more information contact Professor Yemi Akinseye George at [yemakingeorge@yahoo.com](mailto:yemakingeorge@yahoo.com).

## MACARTHUR FOUNDATION GRANTS

### Human Rights, Nigeria

#### ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

CIVIL LIBERTIES ORGANISATION, *Ikeja, Lagos State*  
\$230,000 to research and publish information on human rights violations in Nigeria (over two years). (2004)

CIVIL LIBERTIES ORGANISATION, *Ikeja, Lagos State*  
\$40,000 Campaign for the Abrogation of the Public Order Act. (2006)

LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, *Jos, Plateau State*  
\$240,000 in support of a project to promote the right to equality and non-discrimination in Plateau State (over three years). (2006)

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS ACTION CENTER, *Lagos, Lagos State*  
\$300,000 in support of the advancement of economic, social, and cultural rights in Nigeria (over three years). (2006)

#### LEGAL ARCHITECTURE

ACCESS TO JUSTICE, *Apapa, Lagos State*  
\$400,000 in support of activities to strengthen the protection against extra-judicial killings through the revival and implementation of State Coroner laws and procedures in Nigeria (over three years). (2006)

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, *Abuja, FCT*  
\$200,000 in support of modernizing the administration of the criminal justice system (over two years). (2004)

HUMAN RIGHTS LAW SERVICE, *Apapa, Lagos State*  
\$150,000 in support of efforts to suspend the use of capital punishment in Nigeria (over two years). (2003)

LEGAL DEFENSE AND ASSISTANCE PROJECT, *Anthony Village, Lagos State*  
\$350,000 for a project to train state prosecutors as a means of improving the administration of criminal justice in Nigeria (over three years). (2004)



NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,  
*Abuja, FCT*  
\$300,000 to implement the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Nigeria (over two years). (2004)

WOMEN'S RIGHT ADVANCEMENT AND PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE, *Abuja, FCT*  
\$250,000 in support of Islamic Family Law and Practices in Northwestern Nigeria (over three years). (2005)

#### POLICE REFORM

CLEEN FOUNDATION, *Ikeja, Lagos State*  
\$475,000 in support of activities to increase police accountability in Nigeria (over three years). (2004)

CLEEN FOUNDATION, *Ikeja, Lagos State*  
\$330,000 for the conduct and use of a national crime victimization survey as a complementary and reliable source of information to official statistics on crime in Nigeria (over two years). (2005)

NETWORK ON POLICE REFORM IN NIGERIA, *Ikeja, Lagos State*  
\$300,000 in support of a research and advocacy project on abuse of human rights by police in Nigeria (over two years). (2005)

NIGERIA POLICE FORCE, *Abuja, FCT*  
\$300,000 for activities to increase collaboration between civil society and police in Nigeria. (2004)

#### OTHER GRANTS

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION, *Kano, Kano State*  
\$50,000 in support of a project on Conflict Management and the Media in Nigeria. (2004)

INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW, *Port Harcourt, Rivers State*  
\$200,000 in support of work to strengthen transparency and accountability relating to public oil revenues in the Niger Delta (over three years). (2004)

MOVEMENT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE OGONI PEOPLE (MOSOP), *Port Harcourt, Rivers State*  
\$100,000 For participatory monitoring of local government resources and improving accountability in Rivers State (over two years). (2005)

THIRD MILLENNIUM FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TOLERANCE EDUCATION, *Brooklyn, NY*  
\$35,000 in support of the International Guest Program. (2006)

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**Lloyd Axworthy** is President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg. He is a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada. In February 2004, he was appointed UN Special Envoy for Ethiopia-Eritrea to assist in implementing a peace deal between the East African countries.

**John Seely Brown** is the former chief scientist of Xerox Corporation and former director of Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC). Brown co-founded the Institute for Research on Learning, which explores the problems of lifelong learning.

**Drew Saunders Days, III** is Alfred M. Rankin Professor of Law at the Yale Law School and Counsel to the law firm of Morrison and Foerster LLP, specializing in Supreme Court and appellate practice. He is a former Solicitor General of the U.S. (1993-1996) and former Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights (1977-1980).

**Robert E. Denham** is an attorney with the law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP, specializing in corporate, financial, and strategic issues. He is the former chair and Chief Executive Officer of Salomon Inc.

**Jonathan F. Fanton** has been president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation since September 1, 1999. Previously, he was president of New School University in New York City and vice president for planning at The University of Chicago, where he taught American history.

**Jack Fuller** was President of Tribune Publishing (1997-2001) and on its board of directors from 2001 until he retired in 2004. In 1986 he won a Pulitzer Prize for his editorials in the Chicago Tribune on constitutional issues. He is the author of *News Values: Ideas for an Information Age* and six novels.



**Jamie Gorelick** is a partner in the Washington office of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP. She has previously served as a member of the 9/11 Commission, as Deputy Attorney General of the United States, and as General Counsel at the Department of Defense, among other positions.

**Mary Graham** is co-director of the Transparency Policy Project at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. She is the author of *Democracy by Disclosure: The Rise of Technopopulism* and *The Morning After Earth Day: Practical Environmental Politics*.

**Donald R. Hopkins**, M.D., M.P.H., is associate executive director for health programs at The Carter Center, a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization based in Atlanta, GA. He is responsible for leading public health efforts such as the Center's worldwide Guinea worm eradication initiative and its efforts to fight river blindness and trachoma in Africa and Latin America. Formerly, he served for 20 years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is the author of *The Greatest Killer: Smallpox in History*.

**Will Miller** is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Irwin Financial Corporation of Columbus, Indiana, an interrelated group of financial services companies serving consumers and small businesses across the United States and Canada.

**Mario J. Molina** is a Professor at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), with a joint appointment in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, and of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. Molina received the Tyler Ecology & Energy Prize in 1983, the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1995, and the UNEP-Sasakawa Award in 1999.

**Marjorie M. Scardino** is Chief Executive Officer of Pearson, an international education and media group headquartered in London, England, whose primary business operations include The Financial Times Group, Penguin Pearson Education, and half interest in The Economist Group. She won a Pulitzer Prize in 1984 while publisher, with her husband, of a weekly newspaper in Georgia. Formerly, she was Chief Executive Officer of The Economist Group.

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