



UNIVERSAL SERVICE

PROVISION FUND

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

EXTENDING ACCESS TO ICT



Table of Contents

Chairman's Statement	04
Secretary's Statement	06
About the USPF	08
Mandate of the USPF	10
USPF Organogram	12
The USPF Board	12
Strategic Management Plan 2018-2022	14
Access Programme	39
School Knowledge Centres (SKC)	40
Tertiary Institution Knowledge Centres (TIKC)	41
E-Accessibility Project	41
Connectivity Programme	42
Accelerated Mobile Phone Expansion Base Transceiver Station (BTS)	44
Bandwidth Aggregation	44
University Inter-Campus Connectivity (UniCC)	45
Capacity Building of Community-Based Organisations	45
Projects and Major Events of the USPF in 2018	46
USPF Changemaker Challenge 2018	46
Nigeria at ITU 2018	49
Two Days South-West Zonal Stakeholder Engagement Workshop	50
Limitations/Challenges	52
Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2018	54
Statement of Financial Performance for the year ending 31st December 2018	55

Chairman's Statement



Adebayo Shittu

Chairman, USP Board and Hon. Minister of Communication Technology

The Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) is a vehicle for promoting the digital and rapid extension of ICTs to rural areas of the country. In its efforts to support the provision of ICT services in unserved and underserved areas of the country and in line with the Federal Government's agenda to connect the unconnected with affordable and accessible connectivity services, amongst other things, the USPF, under my guidance and supervision as the Chairman of the USP Board developed a Five (5) year Strategic Management Plan (2018-2022), to guide the activities of the Secretariat for the next Five (5) years.

In developing the SMP (2018-2022), the USP Secretariat consulted widely with industry stakeholders. It also carried out a holistic review of the SMP (2013-2017), the Impact Assessment Report and the Midterm Review Report as well as outlined Key Performance Indicators for each of the programmes. The Three (3) goals in the SMP (2013-2017) were retained. These goals are; To facilitate an enabling environment for sustainable

ICT, Promote Universal Access and Universal Service that would facilitate ICT for development (ICT4D) and Institutional Development.

In the new SMP, programmes and projects that would facilitate the achievement of these goals, with emphasis on the sustainability of the projects were well articulated. Subsequently, we mapped out various strategies and programmes/projects that would promote the acquisition of 21st-century skills like ICT/Internet literacy and applications development, amongst other things, while encouraging community ownership of Universal Service projects and promoting entrepreneurship in target communities.

“Our objective is to promote availability and use of the transmission infrastructure and connectivity to the National Backbone in all LGAs and to drive increased access to community-based ICT services.”

To achieve our goal of promoting Universal Access and Universal Service that would facilitate ICT for development (ICT4D), our objective is to promote availability and use of transmission infrastructure and connectivity to the National Backbone in all Local Government Areas (LGAs), and to drive increased access to community-based ICT services on a shared basis while providing a platform for Universal Service. Consequently, we plan to sustain the provision of subsidies and other forms of incentives to telecom operators and eligible service providers to extend ICT transmission infrastructure to identified unserved and underserved areas.

Lastly, under institutional development goal, we have strengthened the USP Secretariat to effectively deliver on its mandate by continuously updating the organization's processes and putting in place Performance Measurement Systems and partnerships that would allow the Secretariat to successfully monitor, evaluate and assess the impact of its programmes and projects. We are optimistic that the SMP (2018–2022) will help us to successfully achieve our desired goals and objectives of providing Affordable, Accessible, Available and continuous connectivity for all Nigerians.

Adebayo Shittu

Secretary's Statement



Ayuba Shuaibu
Secretary, Universal Service Provision Fund

It is my pleasure to present the report of the Universal Service Provision Secretariat (USPS) for the year 2018, which is the first year of implementation of our new Strategic Management Plan (SMP) (2018–2022).

In the year 2018, USPF Projects under the Two (2) broad programmes (Access and Connectivity) targeted the provision of basic, affordable ICT infrastructure and service to address the Universal Service principles of Availability, Accessibility and Affordability. This report highlights various projects and achievements of the USP Secretariat in line with the (2018–2022) Strategic Management Plan (SMP) vis-à-vis the Annual Operating Plan (2018), which outlines the key programmes and projects implemented in the operational year.

One of the successes recorded in the year 2018 was the completion of One Hundred and Ten (110)

School Knowledge Centres (SKCs) project sites. The objective of the School Knowledge Centre project is to facilitate a digital lifestyle in public schools as well as in the school communities, thereby promoting the use of ICT in teaching and learning in public secondary schools. A total of about One Hundred and Sixty Five Thousand (165,000) students are expected to benefit from the projects.

The Tertiary Institution Knowledge Centre (TIKC), a project of the Universal Service Provision Fund is aimed at facilitating connectivity through deployment of Optic Fibre Cable (OFC) and other facilities/devices to provide bandwidth with internet broadband speed of up to 2mbps. In the year under review, Three (3) TIKC were successfully implemented and expected to provide high broadband internet access to over Fifteen Thousand (15,000) users.

To improve the quality of life of persons living with disabilities in the country, the USP Fund provided ICTs and Assistive Technology solutions to institutions catering for the needs of different categories of persons living with disabilities. Individuals with different categories of disabilities were targeted as beneficiaries within the selected institutions, namely; sight disability, hearing disability, mobility disability and cognition/communication disability. In 2018, Ten (10) institutions benefited from the USP Funds E-Accessibility project.

The Secretariat also facilitated the execution of Twenty (20) Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) in the year 2018. The BTS project is to facilitate the achievement of the Accelerated Mobile Phone Expansion (AMPE) Programme which targets the achievement of full voice coverage. This project

In 2018 ◀

110 SKCs
Implemented

3 TIKCs
Successfully implemented

354 Institutions
benefited from Bandwidth
Aggregation Project

229 km
of Optic Fibre Cable
installations

is implemented through counterpart funding. It is estimated that over One Hundred Thousand (100,000) people living in unserved areas are now connected and will have access to ICT services.

The Fund also continued to provide seamless bandwidth to some of its projects amongst which are; School Knowledge Centre (SKC), E-Libraries, Community Resource Centre (CRC) and other USPF interventions across the country through the Bandwidth Aggregation (BA) project. In the year 2018, a total of Three Hundred and Fifty Four (354) Institutions benefited from this project in different locations across the Six (6) geopolitical zones of

the country.

Similarly, Five (5) institutions benefited from the University Inter-Campus Connectivity (UniCC) project. This initiative is a collaborative project with the National Universities Commission under the Nigerian Research and Education Network (NgREN) project. The intervention is being deployed in Two (2) phases. The first phase involves the interconnection of the permanent/main campuses of selected Universities and their corresponding Teaching Hospitals or annex campuses through Optic Fibre Cable (OFC) and the second phase is the deployment of end-user electronics that will enable the utilization of the OFC. Five (5) institutions benefitted from this project within the year, this is to complement the cumulative 229km of Optic Fibre Cable installations under the UniCC OFC laid in 2015. These institutions are spread across the Six (6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

During the year under review, the Secretariat trained about One Thousand (1000) participants from Five (5) geopolitical zones of the country. We initiated this capacity building in order to address the lack of requisite capacity of local entrepreneurs/businesses and community-based organizations to own, manage and operate the ICT services and applications which have somewhat limited the adoption of ICTs as well as the sustainability of Universal Service and Universal Access projects. This project is designed to build the entrepreneurial capacity of stakeholders in the use of ICT in everyday life processes while developing the capacity to effectively participate in the ICT driven world (maximize business opportunities).

Finally, I want to assure you that the USPF will continue to take strides in achieving our Vision of **Equitable and Sustainable ICT Access for All**, through the deployment of effective and innovative Universal Access and Universal Service Programmes throughout Nigeria.

Ayuba Shuaibu

ABOUT THE USPF

The Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria to facilitate the achievement of National Policy Goals for Universal Access and Universal Service to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in rural, unserved, and underserved areas in Nigeria.

The Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003, No. 19, provides for the Universal Service Provision (USP) in Nigeria. Section 115 of the Act established the Universal Service Provision Board with the mandate to supervise and provide broad policy direction for the management of the USP Fund. Section 118 of the Act established the USP Secretariat and states that it shall reside in the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Universal Service Provision Fund. Pursuant to its mandate, the USP Fund started operation in August 2006, and has embarked on various projects to realize its objectives.



Mandate of the USPF

The USPF is committed to creating an enabling environment and ensuring that Nigerians irrespective of demography, social and economic status have access to quality and affordable ICT services.

In line with Chapter VII, Part IV of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003, the Federal Government of Nigeria established a Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) to promote the widespread availability and usage of network services and applications services throughout Nigeria by encouraging the installation of network facilities and the provision of network services and applications services to institutions in unserved, underserved areas or for underserved groups within the community.

OUR VISION

Equitable and Sustainable ICT
Access for All

OUR MISSION

To facilitate the achievement of Universal Service and Universal Access to ICT through partnerships which stimulate development in rural, unserved and underserved communities.

CORE VALUES



Integrity



Collaboration



Team Spirit



Transparency



Innovation



Professionalism



Service Excellence

USP PLEDGE

The activities of the USPF are encapsulated in the Declaration of Principles of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) which states that “Everyone, everywhere should have the opportunity to participate and no one should be excluded from the benefits the information society offers”.

Policy Objectives

The major objective of the USP Fund is to ensure that public interest is attained in the provision of ICT applications and services in Nigeria. These are:

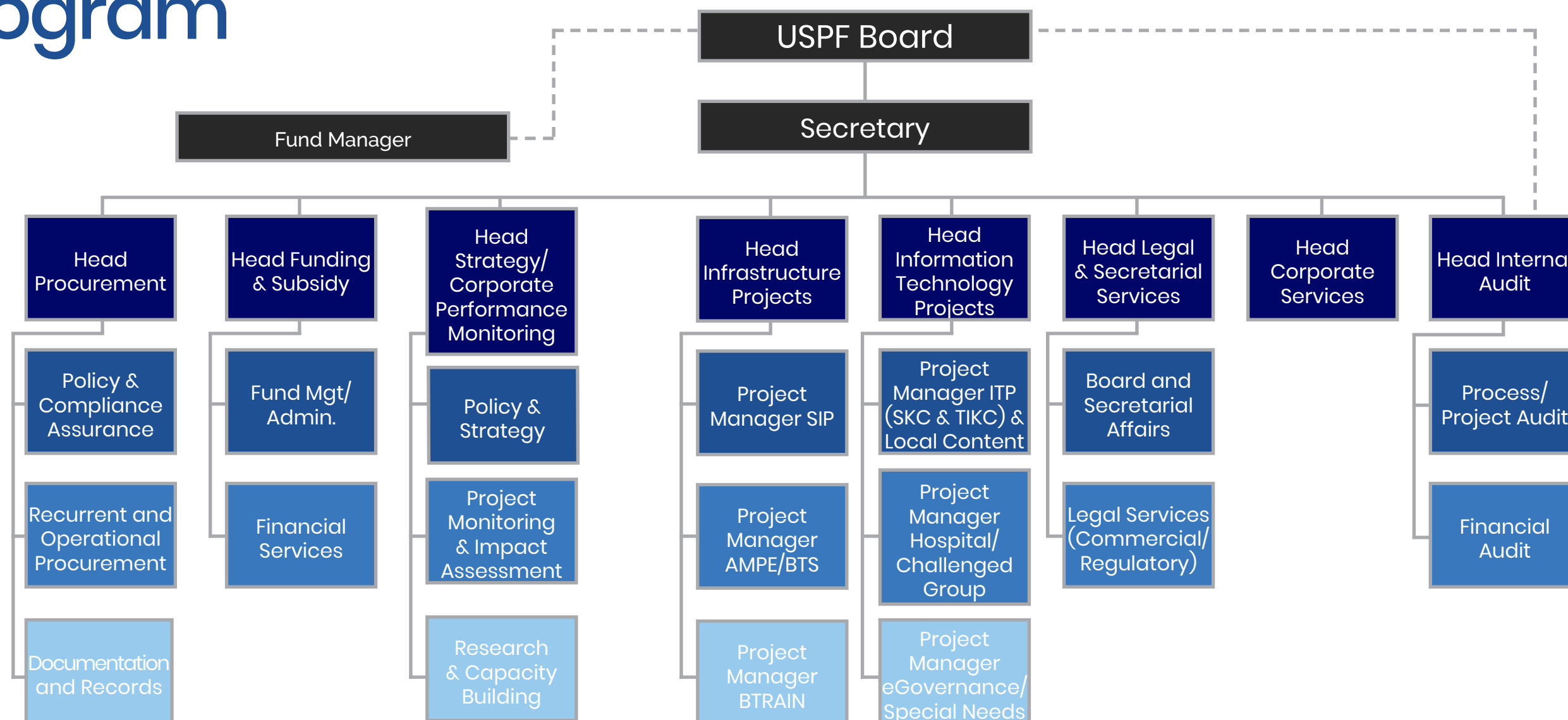


Promote greater social equity and inclusion for the people of Nigeria.



Contribute to national economic, social and cultural development of Nigeria.

USPF Organogram



The USP Board

1. **Barr. Adebayo Shittu**
Chairman of USP Board and Minister of Communication Technology
2. **Senator Olabiyi Durojaye**
Vice-Chairman of USP Board and Chairman of NCC Board
3. **Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta**
Member and Executive Vice Chairman of NCC Board

The Nigerian Communications Act (2003) conferred on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria the power to constitute an Eleven (11) member USP Board to among other functions, provide broad policy directions for the management of the USPF. The Act states that members of the Board shall comprise:

4. Member and Executive Commissioner NCC Board
5. Member and Representative of National Planning Commission
6. Member and Representative of the Ministry of Finance
7. Member and Representative of the Ministry of Communication Technology
8. Member and Representative of Private Sector
9. Member and Representative of Private Sector
10. Member and Representative of Private Sector
11. Member and Representative of Private Sector

The Strategic goals of the USPF are outlined below:

Strategic Management Plan 2018-2022

The Three (3) strategic goals identified by the USPF from 2013 to 2017 in order to drive the achievement of its mandate, were reviewed and found still relevant, and as such were adopted with modifications. USPF recognizes the need to place a priority on building the capacity of the USP Secretariat thus ensuring the possession of relevant, up-to-date information on the ICT industry to guide the design and implementation of USP projects. The other Two (2) strategic goals are geared towards achieving the USPF Vision.

Goal 1

Facilitate An Enabling Environment For Sustainable ICT

Objective

Design incentives that would promote the rollout of sustainable ICT services in rural, unserved and underserved areas.

Strategies

- ▶ Carry out relevant studies to determine the demand indices for different categories of ICT services within the country.
- ▶ Continuous consultation with Stakeholders in the telecommunications industry to identify the barriers/issues which prevent the market from functioning effectively.
- ▶ Continuous consultation and collaboration with the Nigerian Communications Commission and relevant government agencies to design, plan and implement.
- ▶ Facilitate programmes that promote 21st Century skills (data interpretation, analysis, website, and applications development, ICT literacy, and internet literacy).



Programme 1

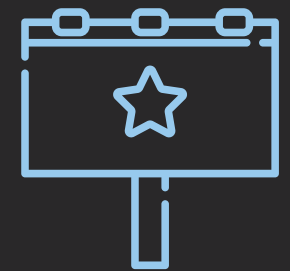
Research Studies and Surveys

This programme will involve carrying out relevant studies/surveys to determine the demand indices for different categories of ICT services within the country.

The focus will be on the demand approach rather than the supply angle previously adopted by USPF. It will entail interactions with beneficiary communities to determine what is or will be beneficial and sustainable in achieving the objectives of USPF interventions. It will also provide a reference point for designing future projects of the USPF. The studies/survey will not only assess the current situation but will attempt to predict future needs of the beneficiary community or institution to ensure that the USPF's resources are expended only on projects that are useful, impactful, and sustainable.

The expected outcome of this study shall be a symmetry of the demand and supply of USPF's interventions, based on identified ICT needs and the type/class of interventions required to address these needs.

Programme 4



Corporate visibility

The aim of this programme is to create awareness and enlightenment campaigns to ensure total branding, sustainability and efficient/effective communication of all USPF projects. The process of achieving this objective involves the following:

- ▶ Manage Stakeholder Engagement Events (Town Hall Meetings, Focused Industry Sessions, ICT Sustainability Workshops, Project Commissioning, Innovative ICT Solutions and Services Workshops).
- ▶ Publicity/Media Management (Press conferences, Press releases, Advertisement on print/electronic media).
- ▶ Public Relations (liaise with internal & external stakeholders).
- ▶ Public Enlightenment (Road Shows, Social Media and Jingles)

Programme 3



Consultation & collaboration

The USPF will continue to engage relevant stakeholders in project conception, planning and implementation. The consultations with key stakeholder groups will provide a platform for identifying barriers, bottlenecks, and disincentives to service expansion to unserved/underserved areas. It will also provide the necessary input for the design of non-monetary incentives which will stimulate expansion into those areas. This programme shall also provide an opportunity to develop key strategic alliances and foster collaborations with key stakeholder groups in implementing and operating ICT development projects.

A key objective of the programme will be to increase the involvement and participation of the ICT industry operators, key government agencies and communities in the delivery of USP Projects. This programme shall be carried out on an on-going basis for the duration of the SMP (2018–2022).

Programme 2



Subsidy and incentive

This programme will create incentives by developing a sustainable subsidy regime that will facilitate the provision of the required ICT services in unserved and underserved communities and institutions. Subsidies shall be determined based on factors such as demand levels, population density, topography, current infrastructure indices, the revenue potential, and average cost, to provide each service. This assessment shall be carried out at the community level depending on what is appropriate for each type of service to be provided.



Goal 2

Promote Universal Access and Universal Service that Facilitates ICT for Development

Objective

Design incentives that would promote the rollout of sustainable ICT services in rural, unserved, and underserved areas.

Strategies

- ▶ Provide subsidies or other forms of incentives to telecom operators and eligible service providers to extend ICT transmission infrastructure to identified unserved and underserved areas.
- ▶ Explore opportunities to deploy a full suite of Universal Access and Universal Service initiatives to enhance utilisation and sustainability of ICT projects.
- ▶ Ensure the collocation and sharing of infrastructure subsidized by USPF.
- ▶ Consult/collaborate with government agencies, not for profit organisations and community-based organisations to facilitate connectivity for development initiatives.
- ▶ Encourage community ownership of Universal Service projects and consequently, promote entrepreneurship in target communities.



National Backbone Connectivity

1 Programme

This programme will involve the rollout of the network infrastructure to close identified gaps and will strive to achieve the deployment of hybrid technology such as aerial/fixed underground fibre network rings/ broadband over power lines to deliver broadband services to the identified target areas. Specifically, this programme will provide incentives to industry operators to extend services

through aerial (leveraging on discos and railway line support structures) and fixed underground fibre networks from major cities/towns where they currently exist to surrounding communities which have been classified as unserved in terms of internet infrastructure and adjudged to be economically viable with the aid of smart subsidies. This programme shall be executed as one major project; however, it shall be divided into sub-projects (trenching, laying/relaying, pooling, lighting cable, and running direct aerial feed fibre) which will group target areas across the Six (6) geopolitical zones into bundles/clusters for bidding. In sequencing the

target areas for intervention under this programme, targets areas shall be clustered, ranked, and based on the extent of support/subsidy required to implement the project. Bundled areas shall be ranked in order of the lowest to the highest subsidy estimates and implemented in that order.

This programme shall continue to run from 2018 through to 2022 and expected targets shall be to cover 6000km optic fibre cable by 2022. The expected outcome will be based on transmission capacity (backhaul and access links) for the delivery of services to target areas.

Project 1 BTRAIN

Backbone Transmission Infrastructure

The Backbone Transmission Infrastructure (BTRAIN) project is designed to facilitate the connection of the unserved and underserved areas to the National Transmission Backbone Infrastructure via the deployment of hybrid technology infrastructure (underground/aerial/wireless fibre connectivity). The USPF will implement this project through Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) with Implementers/licensees by offering subsidies determined through efficient, effective and sustainable competitive solutions.

The objective is to extend the broadband backbone and point of access to the underserved/unserved areas via the following means:

1 Underground Fibre Optic Cable: Fibre optic cables can also be pulled through underground ducts. Underground cable installation can be buried directly underground or placed into a buried duct. Underground duct installations also provides an opportunity for future expansion without the need to dig. This is the most common practice in urban areas.

2 Aerial Fibre Optic Cable: is usually used for outside installation on poles. Aerial cable laying method is not hard to implement as it can utilize the existing overhead pole line to install optic fibre cables which saves more in construction costs and shortens the construction period. Some examples are the use of Electricity Distribution Companies (Discos) and Railways Lines Support Structures to deploy optic fibre cable route.

3 Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) method of Power Line Communication (PLC) that would allow relatively high-speed digital data transmission over the public electric power distribution wiring.

4 Wireless broadband method of broadcasting an Internet connection over radio waves is a broad term that represents many different technologies:

a Optical Wireless: which refers to the combined use of Two (2) technologies - conventional Radio Frequency (RF) wireless and optical fibre - for telecommunication.

b Satellite Wireless: KA Band method of internet broadcast.

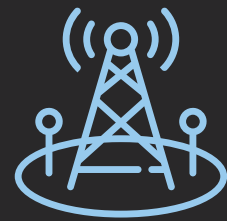
Project 2

UnICC Optic Fiber Cable

University Inter Campus
Connectivity Optic Fibre
Cable

The UnICC is a support project to the National Universities Commissions' (NUC) Nigerian Research and Education Network (NgREN) project, and its main objective is to deliver broadband infrastructure and access to facilitate research and learning using state of the art technology. The UnICC project was, therefore designed to seamlessly connect the networks of the main campuses of selected universities to the networks of their corresponding medical colleges and teaching hospitals through the deployment of fibre optic cable and its associated equipment. There are Two (2) approaches to the implementation of the project:

- 1 Wireless Satellite Broadband and Optic Fibre interconnectivity between the Universities and their corresponding Colleges of Medicine/ Teaching Hospitals.
- 2 Wireless Satellite Broadband and Optic Fibre interconnectivity between main campuses of Universities and Annex Campus systems installed at the institutions.



Accelerated Mobile Phone Expansion

The objective of this programme shall be to subsidise the deployment of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) and other passive infrastructure in underserved and unserved communities in Nigeria to achieve 100% coverage of LGA in Nigeria, and reduce the proportion of underserved LGAs across the country. This infrastructure will be expected to support the extension of voice services to unserved and underserved areas.

The programme will run through 2018 to 2022 and is expected to increase in voice coverage of Nigeria's inhabited land mass with basic telephony services in 2022 through a review (very high level technical collaboration) of identified BTS gaps alongside respective service providers. Most of the already identified gaps (BTS) may not necessarily be technically feasible/in line with the service providers business models in high capacity BTS 2-2.75G and E-Nodes 3G with lesser hops and better optimizations capability in deployment by the service providers.

Programme





Connectivity for Development Programme

3 Programme

The world has adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to accelerate global developments in a sustainable manner. Infrastructure, Investments, Innovation and Inclusivity are the Four (4) pillars ("4 I's") that the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) plan to implement to help accelerate the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This programme, Connectivity For Development (C4D) will serve as the platform for the USP Fund to support the attainment of the SDGs in Nigeria. The aim of this programme is to encourage and facilitate the building of an e-society in Nigeria and promote digital lifestyle among the citizenry. The goal will facilitate connectivity for key e-services to institutions such as schools and hospitals, centres for the challenged groups. It will also encourage the use of ICT for government and governance and collaborate on alternative energy sources to power ICT connectivity.

Project 1 SKC

School Knowledge Centres

The USPF designed the SKC project to provide a platform for accessing online/offline educational resources and the adoption of ICT as a learning platform in the public secondary schools to create 21st century skills. The SKC is an avenue to help in the training of students to acquire ICT skills and bridge the digital divide.

The SKC will have the following objectives:

- ▶ Promoting seamless access to online/offline remote educational resources.
- ▶ Adoption of Smart education thereby increasing ICT literacy among teachers and students.
- ▶ Provide students with ICT skills acquisition and encourage innovation.
- ▶ Training and mentoring technology startups to develop technology solutions.
- ▶ Encourage independent and active learning by students.
- ▶ Ensure ICT sustainability in the host community.

Project 2 TIKC

Tertiary Institution Knowledge Centres

Tertiary Institution Knowledge Center (TIKC) is one of the initiatives of the Universal Service Provision Fund aimed at facilitating bandwidth connectivity and installation of ICT devices and peripherals in selected tertiary institutions.

The TIKC project will also serve as an ICT centre in each selected tertiary institution. The ICT centre will be an avenue for students to acquire and improve their ICT skills e.g. application development and web design etc. This will also give attention to technology startups that could be further trained and mentored to develop technology solutions that will be commercially viable to attract financial growth and create job opportunities for the up-coming generation.

Project 3 E-Agriculture

This project is expected to be executed in consultation/collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), River Basin Authorities, development partners and other stakeholders to explore the use of ICT for improvement of Agriculture. The aim of this project is to enable farmers within the unserved and underserved areas achieve the following:

- ▶ Acquire agricultural knowledge and skills.
- ▶ Promote sale & purchase of farm produce, fertilizers, and tools.
- ▶ Learn ICT applications/solutions to enhance sustainable agricultural innovations.

Project 4 E-Health

The project is aimed at using Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) to improve access to healthcare, raise the quality and reduce the cost of health care provision thereby endowing patients in rural communities. It is expected to be executed in alliance with the National Primary Health Development Agency (NPHDA), Primary Health/Public Health

Centres in rural, unserved, and underserved communities. The project will be designed to provide access to real-time consultancy services between primary health centres/facilities with General Hospitals, Federal Medical Centres and other existing secondary Public Health Centres.

The target is to provide internet access between selected primary health centres and the secondary health centres across the country by 2022. This will be achieved by connecting remote, rural and underserved communities with referral centres, expert care, and support training health care providers using ICT. It will also facilitate communication between primary health workers, specialists, and patients for improved health care access in rural communities.

Project 5 E-Accessibility

This project is expected to be executed in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. The objective of the project is to provide ICT needs of persons living with disabilities in Nigeria and access to required ICT services through institutions/organisations that have been set up to cater to this group. In this regard, USPF shall make provisions within its budget to support all-inclusive ICT access to people living with disabilities.

Project 6 E-Library

Information Resource Centre

The E-Library also known as the Information Resource Centre Project (IRC) is an intervention by the USPF to create ICT-driven knowledge management that will adequately respond to the changing

demands of users. Through the project, the USPF establishes digital libraries in the existing public libraries to enable sharing of information and other resources as well as connect and share resources with libraries outside the country.

The objective of the project is to create a platform for online fully cross-searchable portal for displaying library documents and educational database to provide users with unlimited access to knowledge resources and educational materials on a wide range of subjects in order to facilitate the building of an e-society in Nigeria and promote digital lifestyle amongst the citizenry.



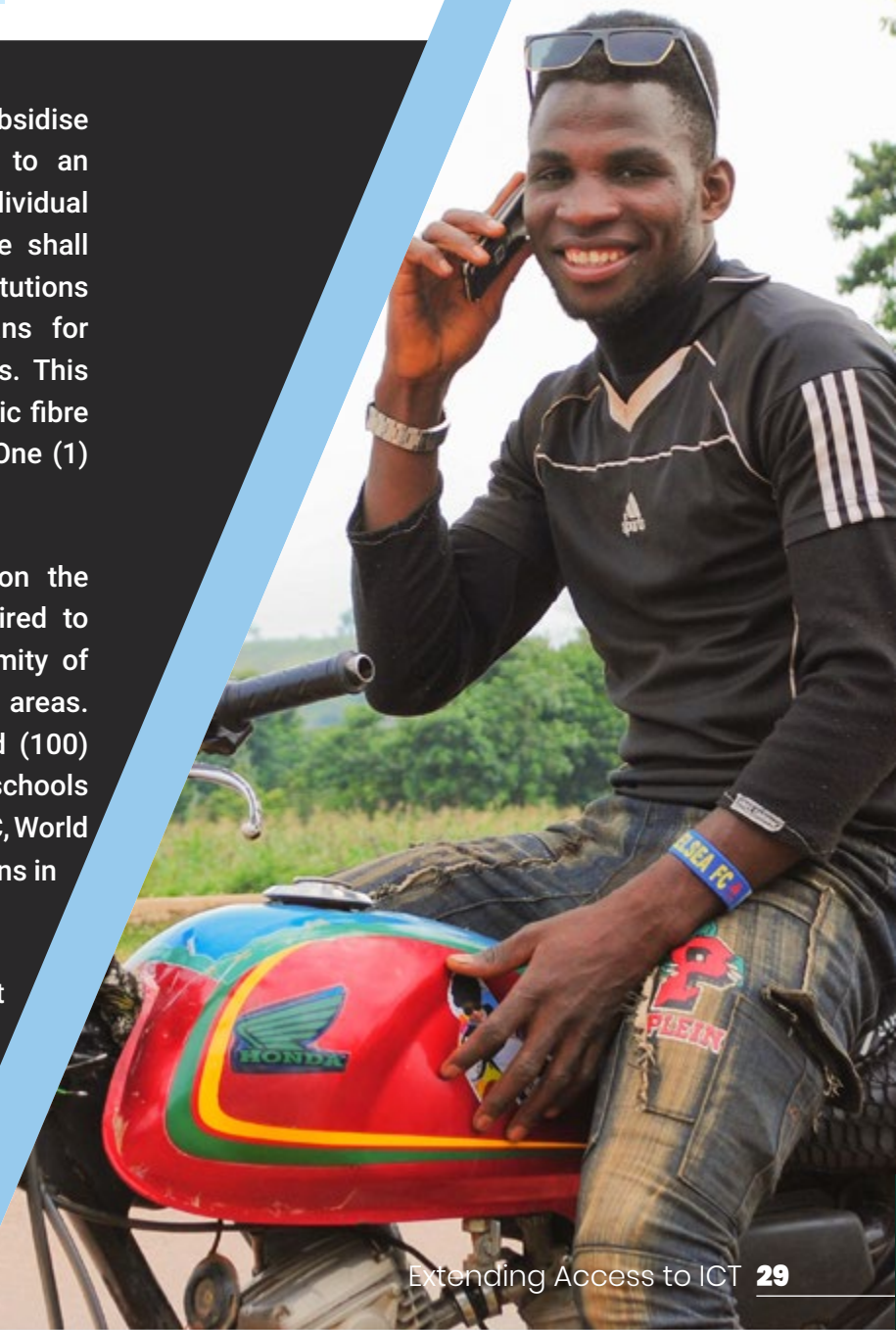
Access
Network
& Facilities

Programme

The thrust of this programme shall be to subsidise the costs of providing internet services to an identified target population on a shared or individual basis. The projects under this programme shall target youths in secondary and tertiary institutions across Nigeria and also provide a means for entire communities to access ICT facilities. This programme shall take advantage of the optic fibre infrastructure deployed under Programme One (1) to provide target groups with ICT facilities.

Target areas shall be prioritised based on the availability of network infrastructure required to provide internet access and/ or the proximity of existing network infrastructure to target areas. USPF shall aim to connect about Hundred (100) communities, about Hundred (100) public schools and collaborate with other stakeholders (NUC, World Bank Step B) to connect all tertiary institutions in the country by 2022.

Other local institutions within the target communities will also be connected. These include government buildings and offices, local health facilities, and other locations of public interest.





Project 1 CRC

Community Resource Centres

The USPF, in partnership with local entrepreneurs and community-based organizations will facilitate the establishment of Community Resource Centres (CRCs). The aim is to extend voice, internet, and ICT training and other e-Services to unserved communities on a shared basis and bridge the digital divide in the communities.

The CRCs will also serve as support centres for the following projects in order to ensure the inclusion of unserved and underserved target communities:

- ▶ ICT Innovation Hubs;
- ▶ E-Health Support Centres
- ▶ E- Agriculture Centres
- ▶ E-Government
- ▶ E-Commerce

Project 2 UnICC End User

University Inter Campus Connectivity-End User

The UnICC End User is the secondary project to the UnICC OFC project designed to seamlessly connect the networks of the main campuses of selected universities to the networks of their corresponding medical colleges and teaching hospitals by utilizing the UnICC OFC project of deployed infrastructure fibre optic cable and its associated equipment and provisioning of UnICC End-User Equipment. The provision of equipment enhances the usefulness of the project and encourages the universities to maintain the infrastructure thus guaranteeing the sustainability of the Two (2) projects (OFC & End-User Electronics). The UnICC project facilitates research, collaboration and enhancement of education and digital lifestyle in the Universities and Tertiary Institutions.

Electronic last-mile user-devices including video conferencing system, CCTV system, Smart classroom, data centers and IP telephone systems will be installed at the institutions.

Project 3 RUBI

Rural Broadband Initiative

Through the RUBI project, the USPF provides subsidies to operators for the deployment of network to support the establishment of core delivery mechanisms for broadband services in the rural/semi-urban areas of Nigeria.

Currently, wireless mobile broadband hotspots are being implemented across the country. This project provides both wired and wireless internet at high speed in the rural areas at wholesale, and at the same time serves as a catalyst for the uptake of other broadband-dependent projects in those locations such as e-library, e-health, and e-government etc.



Local Applications/ Content Deployment

5. Programme

The USPF will support, in line with its mandate local entrepreneurs to develop local applications and content for the internet. The aim is to improve the adoption of ICT in everyday activities and bridge the digital divide. The local applications and/or content would be socially and culturally relevant to the communities. In addition to this, projects that will support local content hosting platforms will also be implemented.

Project 1 Local Content Deployment

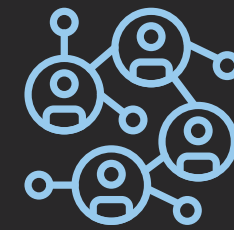
The USPF shall facilitate the deployment of local content and applications/solutions which promote the use of ICTs in rural, unserved and underserved areas of the country. USPF's strategy shall be to partner with relevant stakeholders for the deployment of application /solutions in Nigerian Education Curriculum, which provide relevant information/solutions to secondary schools under the SKC programme in line with the Ministry of Education.

Project 2 e-Portal & Local Content Deployment & Hosting

The aim of E-portal is to encourage the deployment of local content and portals that can be hosted either locally or on the internet. This could be a YouTube channel, dedicated educational channel or portal but the content and values of the content as well as methods of access shall be determined by the USPF. Additionally, the installation of local servers that will need to connect continuously to the internet but accessed locally via LAN or Wifi to host or mirror most of the major educational websites.

Goal 3

Institutional
Development



People Human Capital Development

This programme will consist of several projects focused on developing the human capital of the USP Board and Secretariat concerning the skills and competencies required to effectively deliver on the USPF's mandate.

Programme 1



Process Corporate Performance Management

This programme shall involve implementing a robust performance management system that would include continuous review and standardisation of internal processes monitoring and evaluation framework which will define the metrics/indicators which would be used to determine the efficiency of the UAS programmes, as well as assignments designed to improve the sustainability of the USPF projects. Under this programme, the Secretariat shall also develop Operating Plans on an annual basis to provide a detailed guide for its day-to-day activities as well as produce an Annual Report of its activities.

Programme 2



High-Level Project Timeline of SMP (2018-2022)

PROJECTS

The table below presents a high-level timeline for executing the projects defined in the SMP 2018–2022. The timeline for each project is defined in consideration of the dependencies and targets outlined for the project.

S/N	GOAL 1	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1.1.1	Update of USPF Access Gap Study					
1.1.2	Innovative ICT Solutions & Entrepreneurship Development					
1.1.3	ICT Readiness in Access Gap Clusters					
1.2.1	USP Subsidy Optimization					
1.3.1	Focused Industry Session					
1.3.2	Consultations with other Relevant Government Agencies					
1.4.1	Stakeholder Forum					
1.4.2	School Competition/Quiz					
GOAL 2						
2.1.1	Backbone Transmission Infrastructure					
2.1.2	University Inter-Campus Connectivity (UnICC) Optic Fibre Cable (OFC)					
2.2.1	Base Transceiver Station (BTS)					
2.3.1	University Inter-Campus Connectivity (UnICC) End-User Devices					
2.3.2	Rural Broadband Initiative (RuBI)					
2.4.1	Community Resource Centre (CRC)					
2.4.2	School Knowledge Centre (SKC)					
2.4.3	Tertiary Institution Knowledge Centre (TIKC)					
2.4.4	E-Accessibility					
2.4.5	E-Health					
2.4.6	E-Library					
2.4.7	E-Agriculture					
2.5.1	Local Content Development					
2.6.1	Stakeholder Initiated Projects (SIP)					
GOAL 3						
3.1.1	Capacity Development for USP Board & Secretariat					
3.2.1	Development of Annual Operating Plan					
3.2.2	Review of Performance Management					
3.2.3	Publication of Annual Report					
3.2.4	Monitoring and Evaluation					
3.2.5	Mid Term Review of SMP					
3.3.1	Bandwidth Aggregation (BA)					
3.3.2	Board and Management Retreat					
3.3.3	Review & Standardisation of Operational Policies and Procedure Manual					

Access Programme

Projects under the Access Programme are implemented through grants and are designed to create demand and promote usage of ICTs in unserved and underserved communities and groups. The project involves the provision of end-user devices to complement the telecommunication infrastructures that are deployed under the Connectivity Programme.

The following projects were implemented under the Access Programme:

School Knowledge Centres SKC

The School Knowledge Centre (SKC) of the USPF is aimed at achieving the “Connectivity for Development (C4D)” goal in line with the mandate of the Fund to promote the connection of government schools to broadband internet. The aim is to facilitate the digital lifestyle in public schools as well as in the school communities.

The objective of the project is to promote the use of ICT in teaching and learning in public secondary schools by providing them with adequate ICT infrastructure and tools.

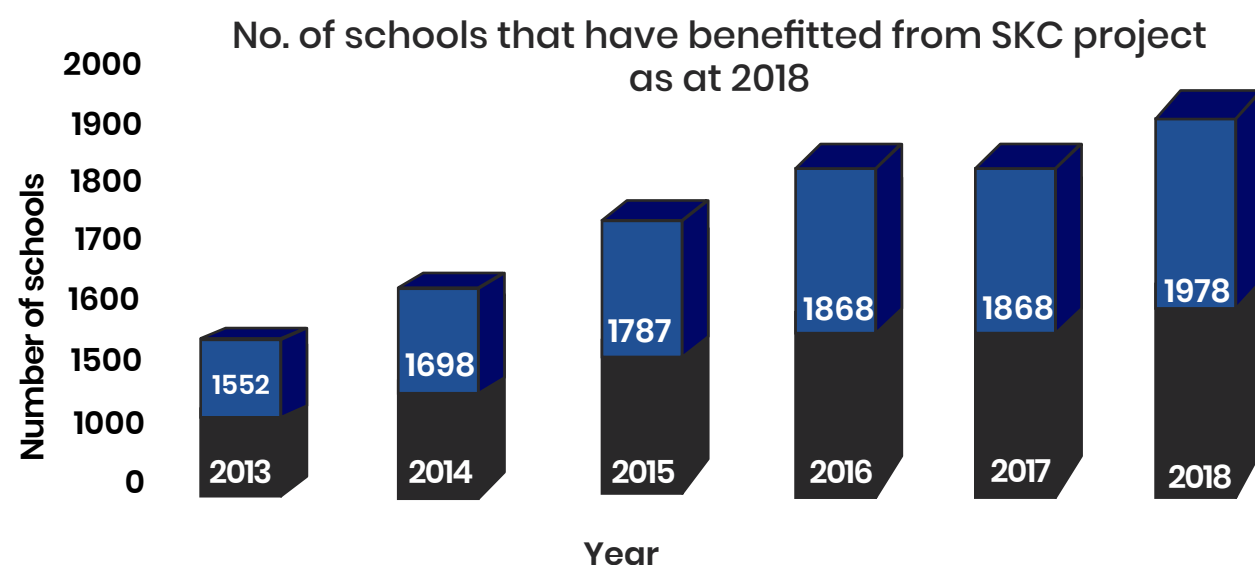
A total of One Hundred and Ten (110) SKCs were implemented in 2018.

Project Description/ Classification

The implementation of the SKC project hinges on the level of the ICT infrastructure and knowledge in each of the beneficiary schools. Accordingly, the Project is classified into Two (2) types as project:

Type A: Target beneficiaries shall be public secondary schools in urban areas where the schools have adequate classrooms, modern infrastructures and facilities and most of the teachers and students have near adequate computer and ICT skills.

Type B: To be implemented in public secondary schools in rural and remote areas where the infrastructure available at the schools are inadequate or unavailable to support the type of ICT equipment to be deployed.



	1	2	3	4	5	6
SKCs	218	146	89	81	0	110
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018

Tertiary Institution Knowledge Centre TIKC

Tertiary Institution Knowledge Centre (TIKC) is one of the projects of the Universal Service Provision Fund aimed at facilitating connectivity through deployment of Optic Fibre Cable (OFC) to provide bandwidth connectivity with internet broadband speed of up to 2mbps for developmental goals and ensuring the extension of ICT facilities, through installations of ICT devices and its peripherals such as computers, printers, computer desks/chairs, power backup in some selected tertiary institutions thus facilitating a digital lifestyle.

The objective of the project is to promote the use of ICT in teaching and learning in Tertiary Institutions as well as the institution communities. In this regard, the USPF designed the Tertiary Institution Knowledge Centre (TIKC) projects, to provide ICT tools, associated infrastructures and bandwidth connectivity to institutions, and surrounding communities.

E-ACCESSIBILITY Project

Provision of ICTs and Assistive Technology Tools/Solutions to Schools/Institutions Catering for Persons Living with Disabilities

To improve the quality of life of persons living with disabilities in the country, the USPF through its project Implementers is providing ICTs and Assistive Technology solutions to institutions catering for the needs of different categories of persons living with disabilities. Individuals with different categories of disabilities such as sight disability, hearing disability, mobility disability, and cognition/ communication disability were targeted as beneficiaries within the selected institutions.

In 2018, Ten (10) institutions benefited from this project.

Development & Deployment of Local Content

e-Learning software

In line with the USPF's strategic objective of promoting Universal Access/Universal Service to unserved and underserved communities in Nigeria, the USPF is currently supporting the development and deployment of local content for its School Knowledge Centre (SKC) project. Software Application Developers were engaged to develop and deploy e-learning software to improve the overall learning experience of Students.

The software supports multi-user local content instructional materials are aimed at helping Pupils/Students to understand the key educational concepts in Mathematics, the Sciences, and so on. The objective is to create a sustainable open technology that promotes innovation, flexibility, and choice in both teaching and learning.

Connectivity Programme

The connectivity programme comprises of telecommunication infrastructure projects that are implemented through the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model. They are subsidized by the USPF but implemented, owned, and operated by Operators and Service Providers. They provide the platform on which the Access programmes thrive.

The following projects are implemented under this programme:

1 Accelerated Mobile Phone Expansion

AMPE-BTS

The objective of the Base Transceiver Station (BTS) project is to facilitate the achievement of the Accelerated Mobile Phone Expansion (AMPE) Programme which targets the achievement of full voice coverage. This project is implemented through subsidy. The subsidies are determined and awarded through a competitive bidding process by which operators compete for the available subsidies to deploy and operate the Base Transceiver Stations. The focus is on accelerating mobile voice and broadband coverage in underserved and unserved communities.

In 2018, a total of Twenty (20) BTS were completed.

2 Bandwidth Aggregation

The Bandwidth Aggregation project is designed to ensure connectivity requirements of School Knowledge Centre (SKC), E-Libraries, Community Resource Centre (CRC) and other USPF assisted projects across the country. The project requires the purchase of bulk bandwidth that must have a minimum of 128/512 kbps bandwidth capacity and can cater to the projects mentioned above.

In the year under review, Three Hundred and Fifty Four (354) Institutions benefited from this project in different locations across the Six (6) geopolitical zones of the country.

Base Transceiver Station



3 University Inter-Campus Connectivity UnICC

The University Inter-Campus Connectivity (UnICC) initiative is a collaborative project with the National Universities Commission under the Nigerian Research and Education Network (NgREN) project. The project is being deployed in Two (2) phases.

The first phase involves the interconnection of the permanent (Main) campuses of selected Universities and their corresponding Teaching Hospitals or annex campuses through Optic Fibre Cable (OFC) and the second phase is the deployment of end-user electronics that will enable the utilization of the OFC. Five (5) institutions benefited from this project in this year, this is to complement the cumulative 229km of Optic Fibre Cable installations under the UnICC OFC laid in 2015. These institutions are spread across the Six (6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria. A detailed list of the beneficiaries can be obtained from www.uspf.gov.ng

The initiative provides a seamless connection between the Universities and their Medical Colleges and Teaching Hospitals, it also enables the bi-directional communication for resource and content sharing, and facilitates research among benefitting institutions.

4 Capacity Building of Community-Based Organisations CBO's

The absence of requisite capacity of local entrepreneurs/ business and community-based organizations to own, manage and operate the ICT service and applications have somewhat limited the adoption of ICTs as well as the sustainability of Universal Service and Universal Access projects. This project is designed to build the entrepreneurial capacity of stakeholders in the use of ICT in everyday life processes while developing the capacity to effectively participate in the ICT-driven world (maximize business opportunities). The Workshop created avenues for consultation with stakeholders across the country intending to enrich the experiences and receive feedback from implementing partners especially the CRC Managers/Implementers and SKC Desk Officers as well as Teachers and Students that have benefited from this initiative. Other stakeholders like ICT Innovation Hubs, Community Based Organisations/ Civil Society Organizations and various schools and Tertiary Institutions) are also beneficiaries of this project, in order to deepen the penetration of ICT4 development in underserved and unserved communities.

During the period under review, about One Thousand (1000) participants were trained in the Workshop from Five (5) geopolitical zones of the country.

Projects & Major Events

of the Universal Service Provision Secretariat in 2018



USPF CHANGEMAKER CHALLENGE 2018

The USPF Changemaker Challenge is a nationwide competition opened to young aspiring innovators, software developers, techpreneurs and other ICT enthusiasts from the Six (6) geographical zones of Nigeria. The major objective of the competition is to identify young talents offering modern ICT ideas and solutions that can be used to tackle a selection of identified problems based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as they apply to Nigeria and offer solutions accordingly. Consequently, the contestants were given a golden opportunity for various sponsorship deals and also mentorship by some of the finest ICT professionals the industry has to offer as this will guarantee the success of various identified Smart ideas and innovations in ICT.

The finals of the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) Changemaker Challenge 2018, was held at the Kanem Suite Jabi, Abuja, following the emergence of Ten (10) finalists who emerged from the initial Thirty (30) teams that contested the Semi-Finals on Friday 25th January, 2019.

The participants from various parts of the country, showcased their applications and software which cuts across major sectors of the economy ranging from Health, Education, E-Government and E-Commerce. Below are the List of winners and their business ideas:

1. 1st Prize Winner
 - Team Name: Real Media
 - Product: Places and Services
2. 2nd Prize Winner
 - Team Name: Xavia
 - Product Name: Beza X
3. 3rd Prize Winner
 - Team Name: iNeeds
 - Product Name: iNeeds.ng



Real Media

Business idea:

Placesandservices.ng is a multifunctional website that hosts places and services owned or managed by young people for the satisfaction of the general public in Nigeria. It is an e-commerce site that integrates services in place of goods as its primary value proposition.

Team Xavier

Business idea:

Xavier is a medical wearable device that monitors your pulse and body temperature, and gives relevant clinical information.

A person's body temperature says a lot about their health as a number of diseases are characterized by a specific pattern of changes in body temperature. The affordable wearable device will monitor an individual's temperature and pulse rate, and provide actionable or relevant clinical information about his/her wellbeing.

Team iNeeds.

Business Idea:

iNeeds is a digital platform that seeks to cater to the basic needs of corps members (moving to or moving out), to various states in Nigeria.

New, existing and outgoing corps members can find, sell, share and exchange necessary goods and services including, free apartment corporers lodge in each state, gas cylinder, mattresses, and home essentials.

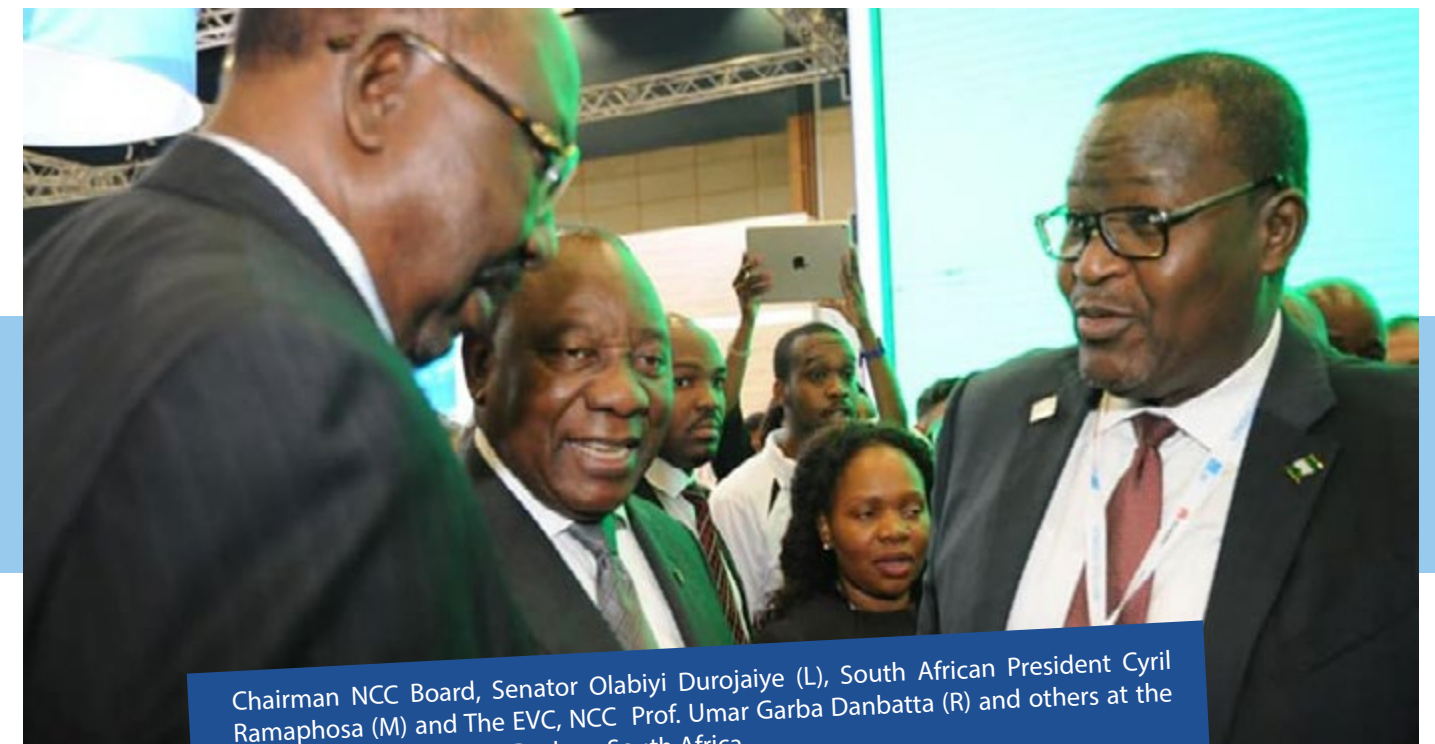
The platform also links corporers to services, helpful resources, materials, and colleagues with likeminds.



NIGERIA @ ITU 2018



Nigerian Pavilion at the ITU Telecom World 2018, Durban, South Africa



Chairman NCC Board, Senator Olabiyi Durojaiye (L), South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (M) and The EVC, NCC Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta (R) and others at the ITU Telecom World 2018, Durban, South Africa



TWO (2) DAYS SOUTH-WEST ZONAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP IN IJEBU IGBO, OGUN STATE.

The Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) hosted the 'South West Zonal Stakeholders Workshop on ICT Utilization and Sustainability', on the 2nd and 3rd of July, 2018, in Ijebu Igbo, Ogun State.

Senator Olabiyi Durojaiye, the Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) Board and Vice Chairman of the USPF Board while declaring the Workshop open, said participants should fully harness the digital economic opportunities available online. He also encouraged the benefiting communities to use and protect the infrastructure provided.

He said, "Maximizing the power of ICT to grow the Nigerian economy, create jobs and enhance national competitiveness for all Nigerians remains a priority for NCC and the USPF".

Barrister Abdur-Raheem Adebayo Shittu, the Hon. Minister of Communications and Chairman of the USPF Board while giving his speech at the event said, "the government cannot provide jobs for all unemployed youths, but USPF wants to identify hidden talents

in Nigerians and equip them with ICT skills to enable them to create jobs rather than waiting for jobs. Some countries that are not blessed with crude oil are more developed than Nigeria. These countries leverage on ICT to create wealth. Therefore, Nigerians need to learn more about ICT to aid the development of the country".

Mr. Kelechi Nwankwo, Head, Strategy and Corporate Performance Monitoring, who represented the Secretary of USPF, Mr. Ayuba Shuaibu, said, "the USPF is convinced that socio-economic challenges are not simply solved by the presence of ICTs but by peoples' abilities to use such technologies to improve their wellbeing. The importance of ICT in the transformation of lives in rural communities are one of the reasons for the establishment of the USPF". Hence, the goal of the Workshop was to enrich participants' understanding of sustainable solutions that encourage the use of ICT for development in Agriculture, Healthcare, Education, and Security.

Mr. Olubunmi Bamijoko, a Principal Manager in the USPF, educated participants on the mandate of the USPF which are as follows:

- Create an enabling environment by raising public awareness of the uses and benefits of ICTs, building capacity amongst communities to participate in and take advantage of economic opportunities in ICT.



- Contribute to national economic and social development through enhancing the Universal Access and availability of telecommunications and ICT infrastructure and services.
- Facilitate the provision of infrastructural development to unserved, underserved, and rural areas in a non-discriminatory manner.
- Promote technological innovation in ICT services delivery.
- Support the establishment of efficient, self-sustaining, market-oriented businesses, which will continue to expand access to ICTs infrastructure and services.
- Use ICT to promote greater social equity and inclusion for all the people of Nigeria.
- Foster the adoption and use of methods of attaining greater Universal Access and Universal Service.

In addition, a session on understanding the concepts and applicability of ICT in agriculture, education, health, wealth creation and security was delivered by experts in each field.

The Second day of the Workshop commenced with trainings on Web & Mobile Android Development and Arduino projects by Three (3) different specialized trainees. While the trainings were ongoing, Senator Durojaiye went around to supervise and ensure that the participants were in tune with the trainees.

At the end of the 2-day training, Senator Durojaiye had an interactive session with the participants, where he advised the Students to focus on using ICT knowledge acquired during the Stakeholders engagement which the USPF has provided in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He said the training will empower them to participate actively and score brilliant landmarks in the global digitization revolution going on in the world.

The Secretariat had previously carried out similar Workshops to create awareness and empower communities in Cross-River State (Calabar), Benue State (Makurdi), Adamawa State (Yola), and Enugu State (Enugu). This is intended to project its Vision and Mission Statement, while enhancing the utilisation and sustainability of implemented projects, especially, Community Resource Centre and School Knowledge Centres.



Limitations/ Challenges

The Secretariat is faced with various challenges that hinder the actualization of its mandate. These include the following:

a. Lack of Critical Infrastructural Facilities

The lack of access to network connectivity, suitable buildings in some selected schools to house network infrastructure and the non-availability of adequate public infrastructure such as access roads in rural areas have impeded successful project delivery over the years.

b. Non-availability and Inadequate Public Power Supply

Incessant power outages in most locations have over exerted pressure on the generator and solar power solutions provided in some sites which have led to a break down of the power source and ultimately power cut to the ICT tools. This has led to the facilities in some locations not being optimally utilized.

c. Security Concerns

Security of lives of personnel of operating companies and network equipment is a concern that hampers the extension of telecommunication and ICT services to some parts of the country. Civil unrest and insurgency in some parts of the country are great hurdles preventing Implementers and USPF staff from carrying out their activities. This has led to implementation delays and project overrun in those locations. Another major concern is theft and wanton destruction of ICT equipment in some sites leading to the total collapse of the project and inoperative to beneficiaries.

d. Delay in Budget Approval

The delay in the passing of budgets by the relevant authorities sometimes affect the projected cost of items/deliverables due to the fluctuating value of the dollar which invariably leads to delays in project implementation.

e. Lack of Cooperation from Relevant Stakeholders

The absence of support and cooperation from some relevant stakeholders such as the host states, representatives of the beneficiary institutions and communities have been responsible for delays or the lack of project execution in some selected project locations.

f. Deficiency in Basic ICT Knowledge

The level of ICT knowledge of the beneficiaries is very low or absent which impedes the proper use of the ICT tools provided and in most cases affects the transfer of needed skills for the effective implementation of USPF projects.

USPF

Statement of Financial Position

as at
31st December 2018

	2018 =N=	Previous year 2017 =N=
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	17,163,861,690	8,662,516,376
Receivables	5,881,824,734	10,118,366,538
Prepayments	1,843,000	1,077,078
Inventories	12,849,877	15,790,837
Total Current Assets	23,060,379,301	18,797,750,829
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	37,706,037	22,472,288
Technical Library Books	8,885,250	5,903,250
Total Non-Current Assets	46,591,287	28,375,538
Total Assets	23,106,970,588	18,826,126,367
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Unremitted Deductions	110,564,164	-
Payables	15,345,093,596	14,107,604,544
Total Current Liabilities	15,455,657,760	14,107,604,544
Total Liabilities	15,455,657,760	14,107,604,544
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	7,651,312,828	4,718,521,823
NET ASSETS/EQUITY		
Accumulated Fund/(Deficit)	7,651,312,828	4,718,521,823

USPF

Statement of Financial Performance

for the year ending
31st December 2018

	2018 =N=	2017 =N=
REVENUE		
Fees	12,350,000	-
Interest Earned	136,087,599	285,709,785
Domestic Grants	16,743,161,673	13,258,608,448
Total Revenue	16,891,599,272	13,544,318,233
EXPENDITURE		
Grants & Subsidies	6,238,169,695	3,986,226,901
Personnel Costs	780,413,358	805,867,254
Overhead Cost	125,061,993	82,770,422
Repairs and Maintenance Services	3,114,686	3,508,148
Training - General	249,109,681	198,918,114
Consulting & Professional Services	365,909,645	71,929,798
Financial Charges	2,172,834	3,471,946
Depreciation Charges	10,637,511	20,641,200
Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) Revenue Remittance	6,185,790,418	3,314,652,112
Total Expenditure	13,960,379,821	8,487,985,895
Surplus/(Deficit) from Operating Activities for the Period	2,931,219,451	5,056,332,338
Non-Operating Revenue/(Expenses)		
Gain/(Loss) on Foreign Exchange Transaction	193,484	193,484
Gain/(Loss) on Disposal of Asset-PPE	1,378,070	-
Total Non-Operating Revenue/(Expenses)	1,571,554	193,484
Surplus/(Deficit) from Ordinary Activities	2,932,791,005	5,056,525,822
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period	2,932,791,005	5,056,525,822

OLVE
ROBLEM
SAME LE
CREATE
RISE
TEXT





Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF)

Nigerian Communications Commission
Head Office Building,
Plot 423, Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama,
Abuja,
Federal Capital Territory,
Federal Republic of Nigeria



+234 (0)9 4617000



info@uspf.gov.ng



www.uspf.gov.ng



UNIVERSAL SERVICE

PROVISION FUND