



UNIVERSAL SERVICE

PROVISION FUND



AFFORDABLE ICT FOR ALL

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND





TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|---|---|---------|
|  | Chairman's Statement | Page-03 |
|  | Secretary's Statement | Page-04 |
|  | USP Board | Page-06 |
|  | Background | Page-07 |
|  | USPF Organogram | Page-10 |
|  | Highlight of USPF 2013-2017 Strategic Management Plan | Page-12 |
|  | USPF in 2014 | Page-16 |
|  | Accelerated Mobile Phone Expansion Base Transceiver Station (AMPE-BTS) | Page-18 |
|  | Backbone Transmission Infrastructure (BTRAIN) | Page-20 |
|  | University Inter Campus Connectivity (UnICC) | Page-22 |
|  | School Knowledge Center (SKC) Projects | Page-24 |
|  | Consultation with Directors of ICT in State Ministries | Page-26 |
|  | E-Accessibility Project | Page-27 |
|  | Community Resource Center (CRC) | Page-28 |
|  | USPF Collaborative Partnership with the Librarians Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) | Page-29 |
|  | Access Gap Cluster Portal | Page-31 |
|  | USPF Board and Management Retreat | Page-36 |
|  | Major Limitations and Challenges | Page-37 |
|  | Critical Success Factors for 2015 | Page-38 |
|  | Balance Sheet as at 31 st December, 2014 | Page-39 |
|  | Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 st December, 2014 | Page-40 |



Chairman's Statement

AFFORDABLE ICT FOR ALL...



Dr. (Mrs) Omobola Johnson
Chairman, USP Board
and Hon. Minister of Communication
Technology

The Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) during the last year (2014) delivered a good performance and continued to play a leading role in promoting and deepening ICT access and availability in the rural areas of the country. Focusing on its core values, the USP Fund carried out extensive and in-depth review of trends in the global and local telecoms Industry as well as Universal Service Provision Funds across the globe and was able to carve out short-term imperatives required to sustain the vision articulated in the SMP 2013–2017.

As reported in the 2013 statement concerning the Access Mapping, we have been able to position the USPF in a way that its target market is clear and definitive. It can now create priority ranking for various groups and classes of unserved persons within the country. In all, a total of 207 clusters were established with an estimated population of about 36.8 million people.

Our challenge still lies in the area of Multiple Taxation, Right of Way charges, levies and taxes approvals and sustainability of some of USPF's projects. As 2014 winds down, Five (5) States (Abuja, Lagos, Bayelsa, Cross River and Ondo) are working to reduce taxes and eliminate Multiple Taxation of Information Communication Technology. Lagos State has reduced its Right of Way charges by Eighty-five percent (85%) and Bayelsa by Fifty percent (50%). Similarly, each of the Five (5) States have reduced levies and taxes on ICT Infrastructure by as much as Fifty percent (50%).

// As the continents largest economy and most populous country, we expect broadband penetration to hit 50 percent by 2020 from the current Six (6) percent, connecting more people to the internet at better speeds and at a cheaper price.

Omobola Johnson **//**

On the sustainability of some of USPF Projects, the Fund has recorded success in the collaboration with the States Ministries of Education on the School Knowledge Center project. The Universal Service Provision Fund is also collaborating with the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) in conducting training for librarians to efficiently manage the e-library project implemented in Seventy-four (74) public libraries under the Information Resource Centre

project.

With regards to Broadband penetration, the Open Access framework set out by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) is expected to guide the country towards increase in Broadband penetration which we expect the USP Fund to ride on in order to push Broadband to the hinterlands and underserved communities and groups within the country. This will fulfill the Boards and my personal vision of how the USPF will help Nigeria to achieve its vision 20:20. As the continent's largest economy and most populous country, we expect broadband penetration to hit 50 percent by 2020 from the current Six (6) percent, connecting more people to the internet at better speeds and at a cheaper price.

As we reflect on past challenges which we are gradually overcoming what turned out to be a very eventful and trying year, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and heartiest thanks to my fellow Board members for their support and confidence in our processes and for prompt decisions on policy issues needed for the realization of our goals. I also thank the USP Secretariat for its professional and dedicated manner and for the support it has provided to the Board, under the able leadership of the Secretary. Finally, I extend my gratitude to the various Stakeholders in the ICT Industry who have collectively worked tirelessly in ensuring that we take ICT to the next level.

Secretary's STATEMENT

It is with great sense of accomplishment that I am presenting this report of the USP Fund Secretariat for the year 2014. This report highlights our major achievements in line with our Strategic Management Plan 2013-2017 programmes and projects that target the provision of basic, affordable ICT infrastructure and services through the Public-Private-People-Partnership framework. One of our major achievement during the year was the successful launch of the Access Gap Cluster Portal. The portal which is accessible through our website www.uspf.gov.ng is assisting the USP Fund in designing projects and strategies to cover these network gaps in Nigeria.

The Secretariat continued to commit resources towards the deployment of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) as part of its efforts to promote access and connectivity to the unserved and underserved areas. Consequently in the year 2014, a total of One Hundred and Eleven (111) communities, with an estimated population of 664,500 people, had access to network signals and began to enjoy connectivity to telecom services following the commissioning of 20 (twenty) Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) deployed through subsidies provided by the USPF. Famous amongst the communities is Igbo Olodumare, in Ondo State, South West Nigeria.



Abdullahi I. Maikano
Secretary, Universal Service
Provision Fund

" The USP Fund continues to take strides in achieving our 'Equitable-ICT Access for All' vision through the deployment of effective and innovative universal access and universal service programmes in Nigeria. **"**

Abdullahi I. Maikano

Key achievements

SKC
146
School Knowledge Centres

CRC
30
Community Resource Centres

UniCC
10GB
Optical Fibre Cable Laid across
40
Federal Universities
28
Satellite Campuses
12
Medical Colleges

AMPE-BTS
20
Base Tranceiver Stations
111
Communities
664,500
People

The School Knowledge Center (SKC) for 2014 budget year was remodelled based on a needs assessment to ensure that maximum values are derived from the beneficiary schools and further foster harmonization and synergy with other government agencies with similar ICT interventions. Under the 2014 project year, a total of 146 schools were earmarked to benefit from the project.

The Secretariat also organised a workshop during the year to discuss and reach a consensus on a framework for partnership with the State Ministries of Education to ensure the sustainability of School Knowledge Centre (SKC) project. Additionally, thirty (30) Community Resource Centres (CRC) were awarded for implementation in 2014. These Centres are designed to provide shared access to ICT tools and equipment, Internet access, ICT training and other value added services to identified beneficiary communities. As a way of

improving local participation and e n g e n d e r s u s t a i n a b l e management and usage of ICT facilities, the USPF has also been engaging Community Resource Centre (CRC) stakeholders through workshops and stakeholder forums organized in the respective geopolitical zones.

In December 2014, USPF commissioned the University Intercampus Connectivity also referred to as UnICC project at the University of Lagos. UnICC was initiated in 2012 and is expected to provide seamless connection between the Universities and their Medical Colleges and Teaching Hospitals to facilitate bi-directional communication for the purpose of sharing resources such as bandwidth and content. The UnICC project is designed to extend the 10GB fibre Optic NgREN network to all 40 Federal Universities, 28 Satellite campuses and 12 medical colleges as well as accommodate other tertiary institutions such as State

Universities, Polytechnics as well as colleges of Education in the near future. Our E-Accessibility Project was awarded during the year 2014. The project is designed to provide ICTs and assistive technologies to institutions and schools catering for the needs of people living with disabilities. A total of 14 centres have been selected to benefit from the project. The project is expected to lead to an improvement in the quality of life for people living with disabilities in Fourteen (14) institutions covered under the pilot phase of the project.

The USP Fund continues to take strides in achieving our 'Equitable-ICT Access for All' vision through the deployment of effective and innovative universal access and universal service programmes in Nigeria. We solicit the support and collaboration of our stakeholders to continue to partner with us as we extend ICT infrastructure and services to other unserved and underserved areas in Nigeria.



BOARD MEMBERS

The USP Board is constituted in accordance with the provisions of Section 116 of the NCA 2003.



Dr (Mrs) Omobola Johnson

Chairman of USP Board and
Minister of Communication
Technology



Engr. Peter Igoh

Vice Chairman of USP
Board and Chairman of
NCC



Dr. Eugene Juwah

Member and Executive
Vice Chairman of NCC



Mr. Okechukwu Itanyi

Member and Executive
Commissioner NCC



Kalli Zaji

Member and
Representative of Ministry
of Finance



Engr. I. O. Adegun

Member and
Representative of National
Planning Commission



**Engr. Ngozi Ogujiofor
CE, MNSE**

Member and
Representative of Ministry
of Communication
Technology



Mrs. Charity Shekari

Member and
Representative of Private
Sector



**Barr. (Mrs) Ngozi
Nwankwo**

Member and
Representative of Private
Sector



**Mrs Olufunmilola
Lamuye**

Member and
Representative of Private
Sector



Mr. Isah Danburam

Member and
Representative of Private
Sector

BACKGROUND



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) No.19 of 2003, Part IV details 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 for network services and applications services to institutions in unserved, underserved areas or for

underserved groups within the community (Universal Service Provision (USP).

OUR MISSION

To facilitate the achievement of universal access to ICT and universal service, through market-based investment, which stimulate development in rural, unserved and underserved communities.



OUR VISION

Equitable ICT Access for All

CORE VALUES (ICT TIPS)

Our activities are predicated on the values of:

- Integrity
- Collaboration
- Team Spirit
- Transparency
- Innovation
- Professionalism
- Service Excellence

USP PLEDGE

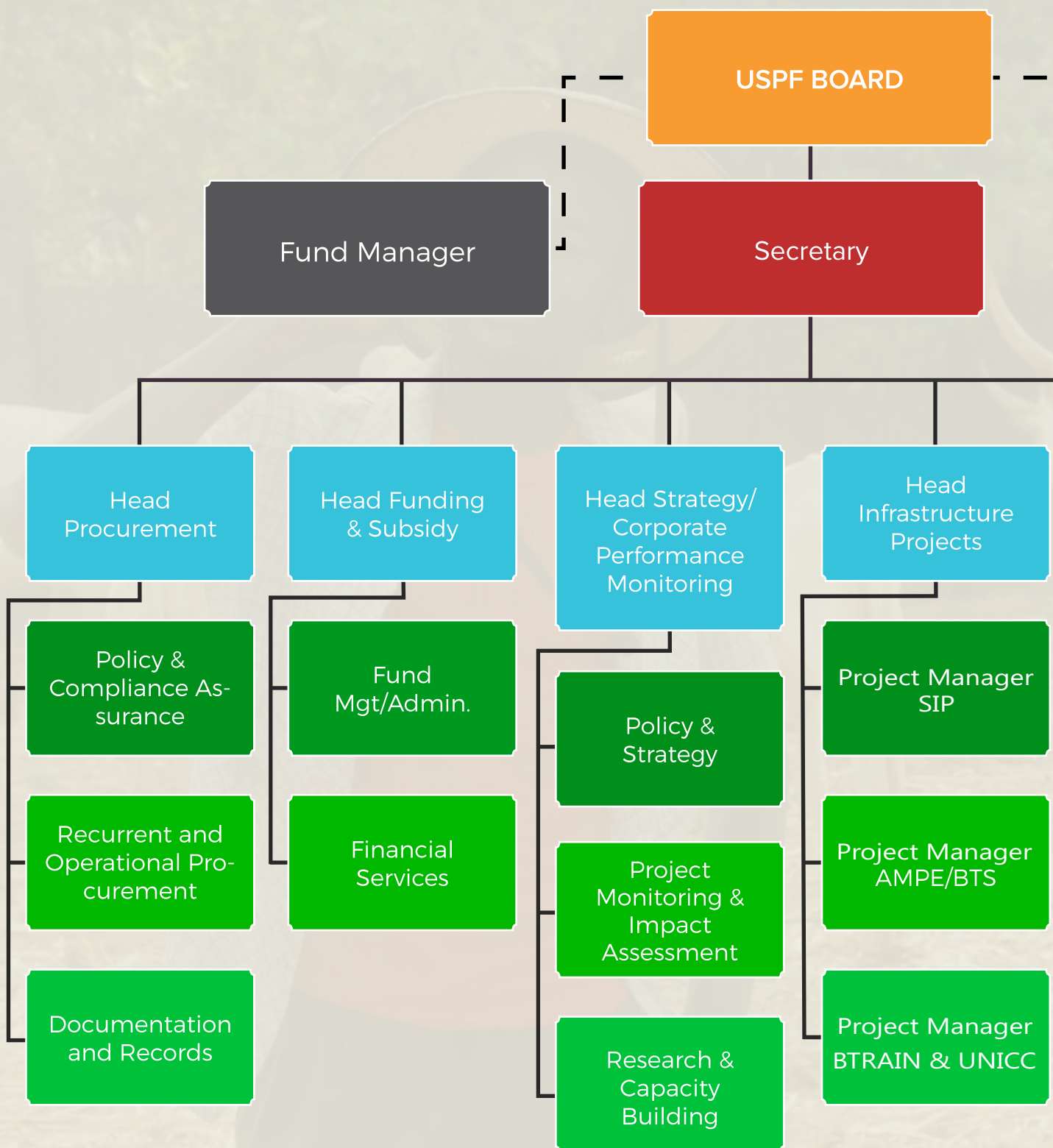
The activities of the USPF are encapsulated in the Declarations of Principles of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) which states that "Everyone everywhere should have the opportunity to participate and no one should be excluded from the benefits the information society offers."

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. That is:

- Promote greater social equity and inclusion for the people of Nigeria.
- Contribute to national economic, social and cultural development of Nigeria.

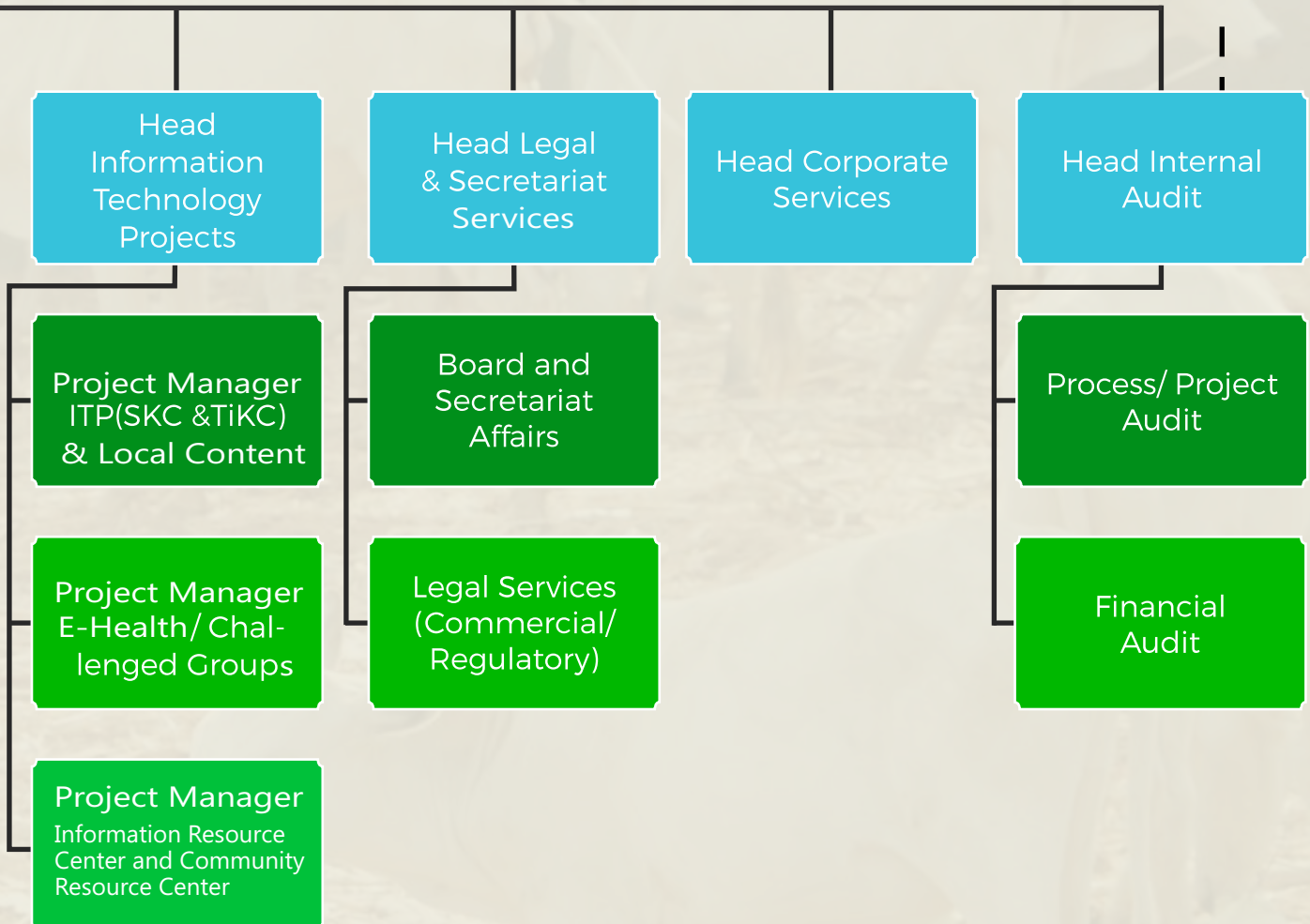
USPF ORGANOGRAM





UNIVERSAL SERVICE

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HIGHLIGHTS OF USPF 2013-2017 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

The USPF has identified three (3) broad strategic goals to drive her activities towards the achievement of her mandate for the next five years (2013 - 2017). In articulating its strategic goals, the USPF recognised the need to place priority on building the organizational capacity of the USP Secretariat and ensuring the possession of relevant, up-to-date information on the ICT industry to guide the design and implementation of USP projects, while the other two (2) strategic goals are geared towards achieving the vision - Equitable ICT Access For All.

OUR VISION

Equitable ICT
Access for All

OUR MISSION

To facilitate the achievement of universal access to ICT and universal service, through market-based investment, which stimulate development in rural, unserved and underserved communities.

CORE VALUES (ICT TIPS)

Our activities are predicated on the values of:

- Integrity
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- Professionalism
- Service Excellence



Goal 1 Programmes:

- Research Studies and Surveys
- Subsidy and Incentive Design
- Consultation and Awareness Creation

Goal 2 Programmes:

- Backbone Connectivity
- Local Access Network and Facilities
- Accelerated Mobile Phone Expansion
- Health Informatics
- E-Accessibility
- Local Content Development

Goal 3 Programmes:

- Review/Development of Organisational Capacity
- Review/Development of Policies and Procedures Manuals
- Review of Organisational Plans

THE STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE USPF



1 Facilitate an enabling environment for ICT

OBJECTIVE

Identify the market efficiency and access gaps and design incentives that would promote the rollout of sustainable ICT services in rural, unserved and underserved areas.

STRATEGIES

- Carry out relevant research and studies to determine the market efficiency and true access gap for different categories of ICT services within the country.
- Consult with key players in the telecommunications industry to identify the barriers/issues which prevent the market from functioning effectively.
- Consult and collaborate with the Nigerian Communications Commission and relevant government agencies to design, plan and implement incentives that will facilitate the reduction of market efficiency gaps.

2 Promote universal access and universal service that facilitate connectivity for development

OBJECTIVE

- Facilitate the availability of transmission infrastructure and connection to the national backbone in all LGAs.
- Drive increasing access to community-based data and voice services on a shared basis and provide a platform for universal service.

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 build utilization and sustainability of ICT projects.
- Ensure the co-location and sharing of infrastructure subsidized by USP funds.
- Consult/collaborate with government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, community based organizations to facilitate connectivity for development initiatives.
- Encourage community ownership of universal service projects and consequently, promote entrepreneurship in target communities.

3. Institutional Development

OBJECTIVE

Strengthen the capability of the USP institution to effectively deliver on its mandate

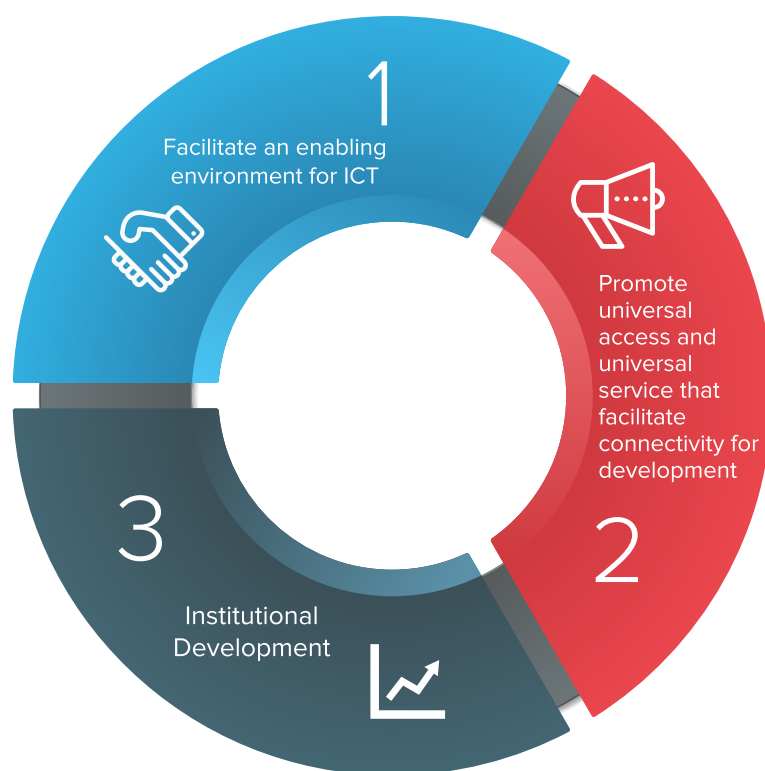
STRATEGIES

PEOPLE

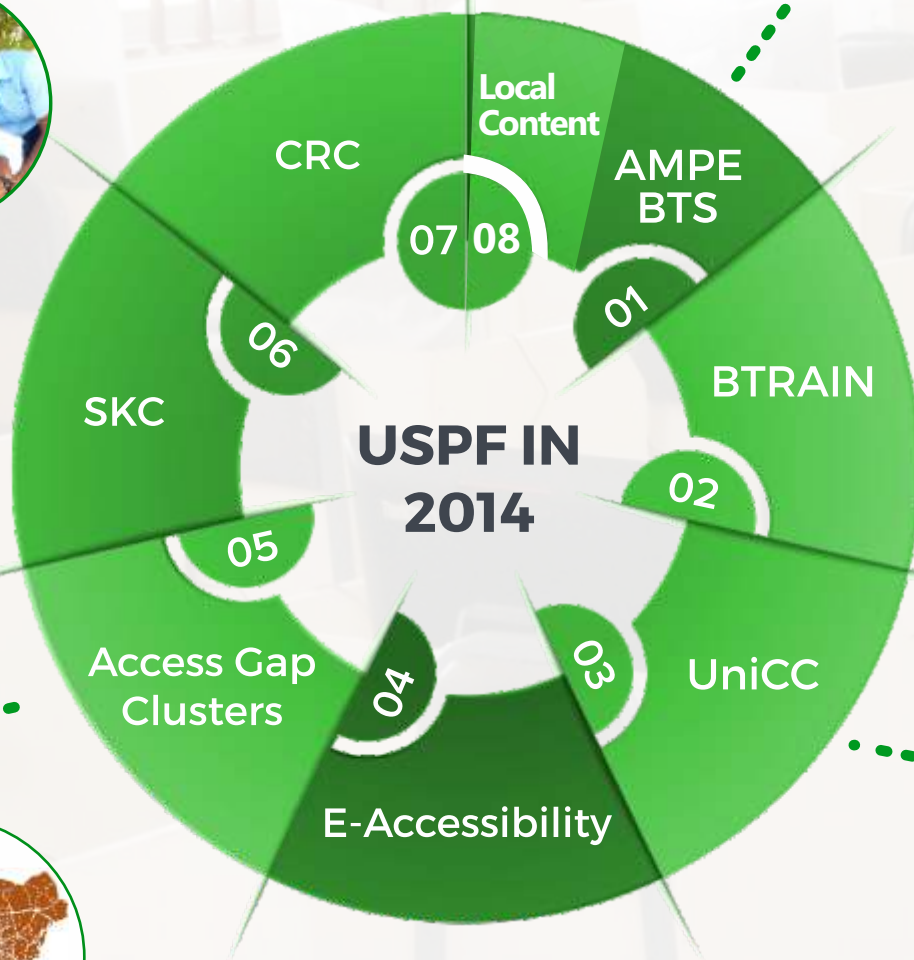
- Ensure alignment of the USP Secretariats structure and functions with the vision and strategic goals of the USPF.
- Identify and execute capacity building initiatives which will equip the USP secretariat with the relevant skills required to drive the achievement of the USPFs strategic goals

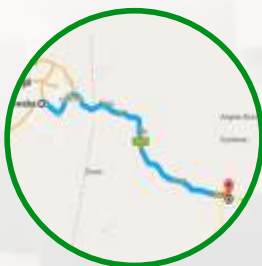
PROCESS

- Develop and implement processes which will drive standardization and efficient service delivery in the Secretariat.





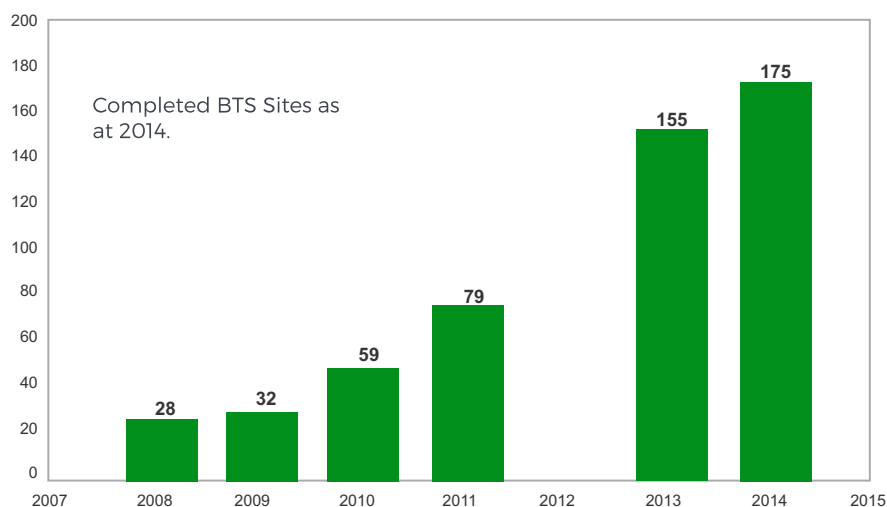
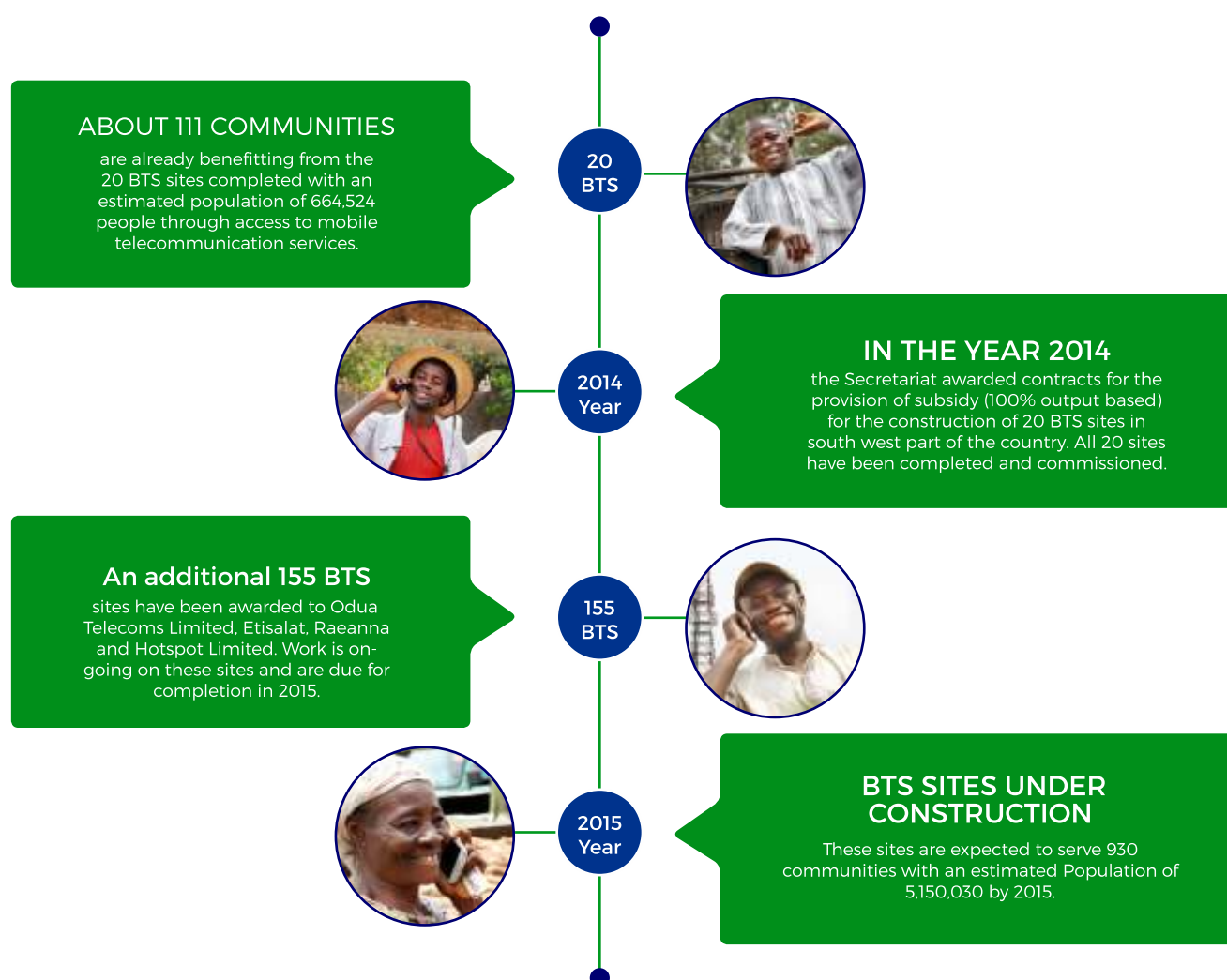




In line with the USPF 2013-2017 Strategic Management Plan, the USPF embarked on Access and Connectivity Programmes in 2014 in accordance with its mandate to facilitate the deployment and utilization of ICT across Nigeria and ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of ICT services to unserved and under-served communities and groups in the country.

ACCELERATED MOBILE PHONE EXPANSION- BASE TRANSCIVER STATION (AMPE-BTS)

The Accelerated Mobile Phone Expansion Base Transceiver Station (AMPE - BTS) is one of the Universal Access and Universal Service Programmes with the aim of increasing access of individuals to voice and data services. To achieve this laudable objective, the USPF provides subsidies to licensed telecommunications operators for the deployment of Base Transceiver Station infrastructure in unserved and underserved locations across the country.



COMMISSIONING OF BTS PROJECTS

The Chairman, Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) Board and Honorable Minister of Communication Technology Dr. (Mrs.) Omobola Johnson, commissioned the 20 Base Transceiver Station (BTS) projects at Igbo Olodumare, Ondo State on November 7, 2014. The BTS project was deployed across the South West region in Nigeria through subsidies provided by the USPF. So far, over 79 BTS have been deployed across different communities and providing access to about 10 million people. In the next phase, the USPF plans to support the deployment of more than 200 BTS across the country and it is envisaged that more than Three hundred (300) communities will have access to ICT when the phase is completed.



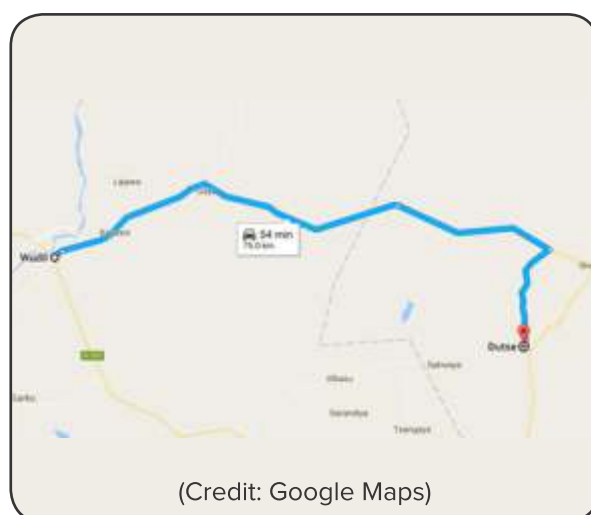
BACKBONE TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE (BTRAIN)

The Backbone Transmission Infrastructure (BTRAIN) project is designed to address the dearth and inadequacies of fibre optic backbone networks and transmission links in rural Nigeria, which adversely affects network performance, quality of service, expansion of ICT access, and service delivery.

The BTRAIN project is aimed at accelerating the build-out of backbone transmission infrastructure in rural and semi urban areas where the construction will be delayed without immediate intervention from USPF. BTRAIN is intended to facilitate the distribution of high speed fibre connectivity to the rural areas by spreading the available bandwidth from the submarine cables and other terrestrial fibre networks.



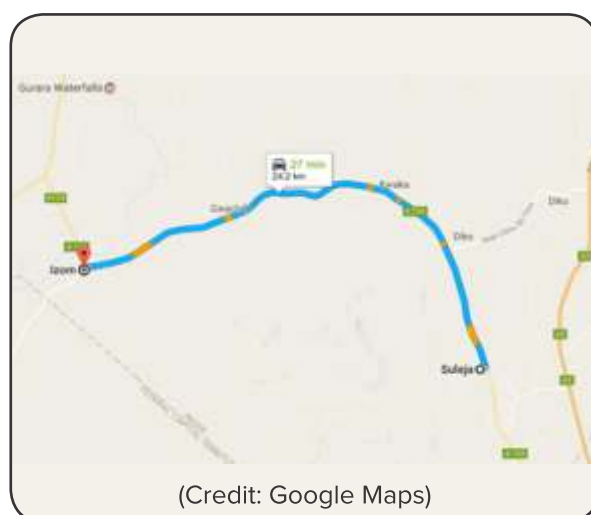
Overview Map of Nigeria Showing 75.0km
OFC Laid from Wudil to Dutse, Kano State



Map of Nigeria showing 75.0km
OFC Laid from Wudil to Dutse, Kano



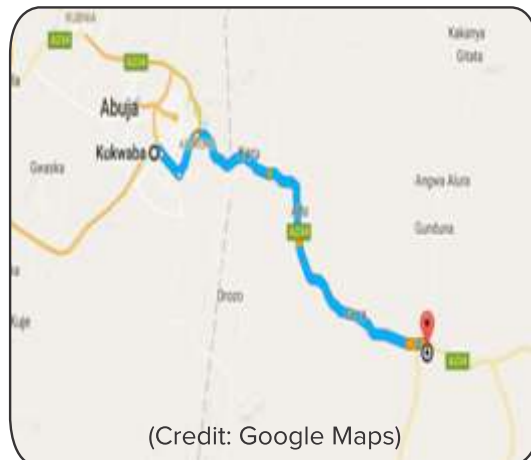
Overview Map of Nigeria showing 24.0km
OFC Laid from Suleja to Izom, Niger State



Map of Nigeria Showing 24.0km
OFC Laid from Suleja to Izom, Niger State



Overview Map of Nigeria showing 63.5km OFC Laid from Kukwaba to Keffi



Map of Nigeria showing 63.5km OFC Laid from Kukwaba to Keffi



Overview Map of Nigeria showing 90.3km OFC Laid from Tunga to Bida, Niger State



Map of Nigeria showing 90.3km OFC Laid from Tunga to Bida, Niger State

Four (4) new links, totaling 256km of OFC have been completed between the under listed locations

1. Wudil - Dutse
2. Suleja - Izom
3. Kukwaba(Apo) - Keffi
4. Minna(Tunga) Bida

Another Six (6) links totaling 200km of OFC were replaced as a result of the challenges with obtaining Rights of Ways, community and operational issues that plagued the implementation.

These 6 links are:

1. Yenagoa to Brass 39.4km
2. Port Hartcourt to Bony 39.5km
3. Port Harcourt to Onne 34km
4. Lagos to Otta 39.5km
5. Oshogbo to Lafia road 27.6km
6. Aba Road to Port Harcourt 20km

The following routes have been approved for implementation:

| Route | Distance |
|--|--------------|
| Lagos-Covenant University (Otta)-Agbara Estate | 66km |
| Akowonjo-Igando-Iba | 20km |
| Lagos-Ikorodu-Egbin power station/Idogunyan | 71km |
| Epe-Ikorodu | 62km |
| Total | 219km |

UNIVERSITY INTER CAMPUS CONNECTIVITY (UNICC)

In 2012, USPF collaborated with the Nigeria Universities Commission to drive ICT interventions in tertiary institutions across the country. The collaborative project between the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) and the National Universities Commission (NUC), is called the University Inter Campus Connectivity (UnICC) initiative. The project deliverables are designed to, amongst other things, achieve a seamless connection between the Universities and their Medical Colleges & Teaching Hospitals to facilitate bi-directional communication for the purpose of sharing resources such as bandwidth, content.

The UnICC project also ensures the extension of the 10GB fibre optic NgREN network to all the 40 Federal Universities, 28 Satellite Campuses and 12 Medical Colleges as well as the Colleges of Education. In addition, the project is also inclusive of the End-User Electronics component. This provides relevant electronic components to complement the UnICC OFC project.

This involves the deployment of

- Video Conferencing facility
- IP Telephony
- Smart Classroom with 50 All-in-One PCs
- CCTV
- Establishment/equipping of 2 data centres with high end MPLS switches and routers in the 16 Universities and their corresponding Teaching Hospitals.
- 10KVA backup power supply
- FM-200 fire extinguishing systems, biometric access control and raised floors are also incorporated into this project.



COMMISSIONING OF UNICC PROJECT

The commissioning of the University Inter-Campus Connectivity (UnICC) Project held at the University of Lagos, Medical College, Idi Araba, Lagos State on December 19, 2014. It is one of the USPF initiated projects to facilitate the deployment of ICT infrastructure and services which are designed to extend ICT and other telecommunications services to tertiary institutions. This project which was implemented through subsidies provided by the USPF exemplifies a unique model of collaboration among government agencies as a means of optimizing scarce resources.



Commissioning of UnICC in Lagos University

SCHOOL KNOWLEDGE CENTRE (SKC) PROJECTS

The School Knowledge Centre (SKC) was designed to achieve the Connectivity for Development (C4D) goal in line with the goals of the Fund to promote the connection of government secondary schools to broadband internet. The aim of the project is to use ICT for teaching and learning in Nigerian public secondary schools as well as in the school communities.

Each school is provided with 40 desktop PCs, e-learning content and accessories along with high speed internet connectivity. The schools are encouraged to share these facilities with their surrounding communities on a commercial basis to support maintenance and ensure sustainability where convenient. Under the 2014 project year, a total of 146 schools were listed to benefit from the project. SKC for 2014 budget year was remodelled to strategically meet the requirements of specific beneficiary secondary schools. Hence, the 2014-SKC was customized based on thorough needs assessment to ensure that maximum values are derived from the beneficiary schools and further foster harmonization and synergy with other government agencies with similar ICT Interventions.

Learning session in SKC Sites



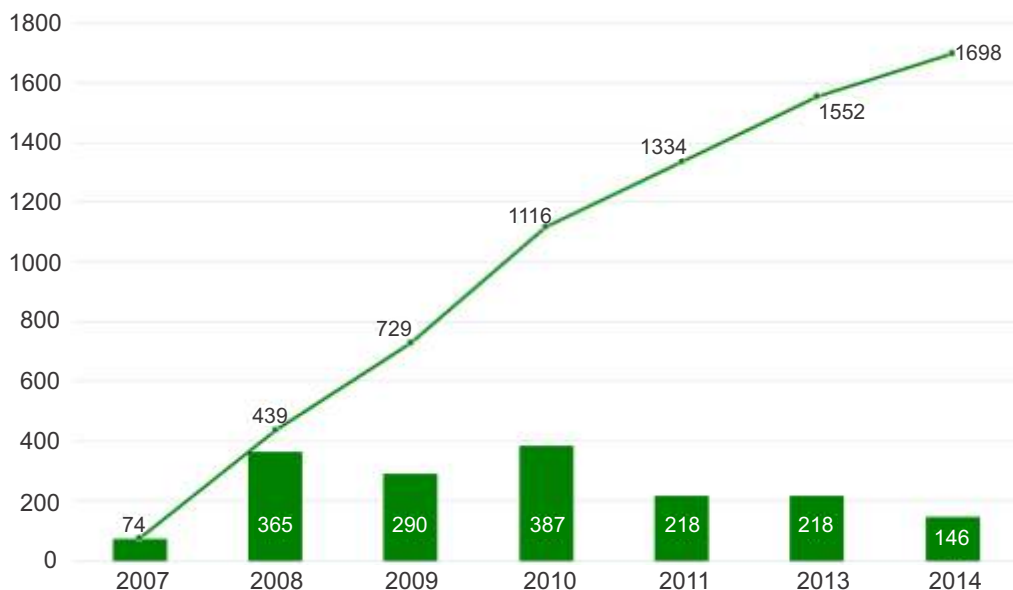
The implementation of 2014 SKC was referenced as follows:

Type A:

Target beneficiaries shall be public secondary schools in urban areas, where the schools have adequate classrooms, modern infrastructure and facilities and most of the teachers and students have near adequate ICT terminal devices and ICT skills. Distinct here is the provision of 40 desktop computers.

Type B:

To be implemented in public secondary schools in rural and remote areas where the infrastructure available is not adequate to accommodate the types of ICT equipment to be deployed. It is pertinent to note that this category is inclusive of building and 40 desktop computers.



Number of schools that have benefitted from SKC as at 2014

Local Content and Application Services

Sequel to the deployment for School Knowledge Centres in 2011, and consequent impact assessments carried out, it became evident that the project deliverables were missing a critical element.

This critical element was the need to localise some software and application services that will promote digital lifestyle and improve the standard of education among teeming youths in Nigeria.

Therefore, in 2014 the USP Fund implemented the Local Content and application services deploying multi-user local content software and application services known as Brain-Friend in 218 schools for the School Knowledge Centre (SKC) deployed in 2011.

Some features of the software include:

- 42 subjects for primary 1 to Senior Secondary School (SSS3)
- Questions, answers and explanatory notes
- National curriculum for Primary 1 to Senior Secondary School (SSS3)



Credit: www.brainfriendonline.com

CONSULTATION WITH DIRECTORS OF ICT IN THE STATE MINISTRIES

A One-day workshop was held with the Directors of ICT from the State Ministries of Education on June 26, 2014, with the objective of creating a partnership between the USPF and the States with the aim of making School Knowledge Centres (SKCs) sustainable. The workshop was attended by representatives from 29 States and at the end, a communique was produced which outlined the outcome of the workshop and ways of working together, moving forward.

The major outcome of the workshop and the consensus reached are as follows:

- The States will accept ownership of the SKCs and grow awareness and buy-in for the project at community level.
- A desk officer will be appointed in the States to work with USP Secretariat for the sustainability of the project.
- The States will use their own resources to replicate the SKC within their various States.

In view of the above, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the State Ministries of Education and USPF has been developed.



E-ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

The E-Accessibility Project was designed to provide ICTs and Assistive Technologies to institutions and schools catering for the needs of people living with disabilities.

The implementation of this project commenced in December, 2014 and is slated to be completed in 2015.

The aim of the E-Accessibility project is to create an improvement in the quality of life for people living with disabilities. So far, Fourteen (14) institutions have been covered under the pilot phase of this project.

The assistive technologies will make the performance of routine tasks easier and thus promote interpersonal interactions amongst the different categories of people living with disabilities.

Furthermore, the ICT tools will facilitate learning and access to modern cutting-edge information about various global trends.

More importantly, the E-Accessibility project is to ensure digital inclusion of this important segment of people who are ordinarily disadvantaged.



The pilot phase beneficiary institutions are:

| Sr.no. | Name of Institution |
|--------|--|
| 01 | School for the Handicapped, Kuje, Abuja |
| 02 | School for the Blind, Jabi, Abuja |
| 03 | Kwara State School of Special Needs, Ilorin |
| 04 | Niger State School of Special Education, Minna. Niger |
| 05 | Special Education School, Kuka Bulukia, Kano. Kano |
| 06 | Rehabilitation Centre, Katsina. |
| 07 | Special Education Centre, Gombe. Gombe |
| 08 | Special Education Centre, Jada, Taraba State |
| 09 | Evami Special Education School, Enugu. |
| 10 | Special Education Centre, Orlu. Imo |
| 11 | Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo Ibadan |
| 12 | Ondo State School of the Blind, Owo. Ondo |
| 13 | Madonna Special Needs School, Okpanam. Delta |
| 14 | Bayelsa State Comprehensive School for the Handicapped, Yenogoa. |

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER (CRC) PROJECT

In the year 2014, USPF awarded the implementation of 30 Community Resource Centres (CRC). These Centres are designed to provide shared access to ICT tools and equipment, Internet access, ICT training and other value added services. The CRCs are to serve as public centres where people can access computers, the internet, and other digital technologies that enable them gather information, create, learn, and communicate with others while they develop essential 21st century digital skills.

The Community Resource Centre promotes the use of digital technologies to support community, economic, educational and social development thereby reducing:

- Isolation
- Bridging the digital divide
- Promoting health issues
- Creating economic opportunities and
- Reaching out to youth.

The major deliverables of the CRC are:

- Desktop Computers
- Projector
- LaserJet Printers; Colour,
- Black/White printer
- APC Backups
- Backup for Server
- 7.5kva Inverter power back up
- Tables/Chairs
- IP Phones
- Internet connectivity and related equipment with one year bandwidth subscription
- A building to house the facilities.



Sustainability Workshop on Community Resource Centre (CRC)

A series of workshops on sustainability of Community Resource Centres (CRCs) were held in Gombe (North East Zone), Sokoto (North West Zone), Uyo (South South Zone) and Abakaliki (South East Zone) in the year 2014. The theme of the workshops was "ICTs for Community Empowerment through Knowledge based Development" and the objective was to evolve innovative ways of ensuring the growth and sustainability of CRCs in ways that will accelerate growth in the communities, and ensure economic and social development by promoting the use of ICT.

CRC WOKSHOP IN SOKOTO

Credit: Universal
Service Provision Fund



CRC WORKSHOP IN EBONYI STATE

Credit: Universal
Service Provision Fund



USPF Collaborative Partnership with the Librarians Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN)

In a bid to ensure the sustainability of the USPF e-library project, USPF entered into a collaborative partnership with the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Under the partnership framework, the LRCN, on behalf of USPF is to carry out the following activities amongst others;

- Baseline study and needs assessment
- Training of librarians
- Conduct monitoring/evaluation and impact assessment of the e-libraries, public enlightenment program
- Development of e-library sustainability plan and collection development.

In 2014, the baseline study and needs assessment was carried out in the months of August and September. The report identified the pattern of patronage of e-libraries by different categories of users, in addition to highlighting the prevailing typology of skills/knowledge gaps amongst librarians manning these e-library facilities.

Consequently, an intensive training program for librarians was designed for implementation to address the knowledge/skills gaps identified during the study.

USPF e-Library Baseline study needs assessment and equipments deployed



Professor Kenneth Dike Library, Awka



Cross River State Library



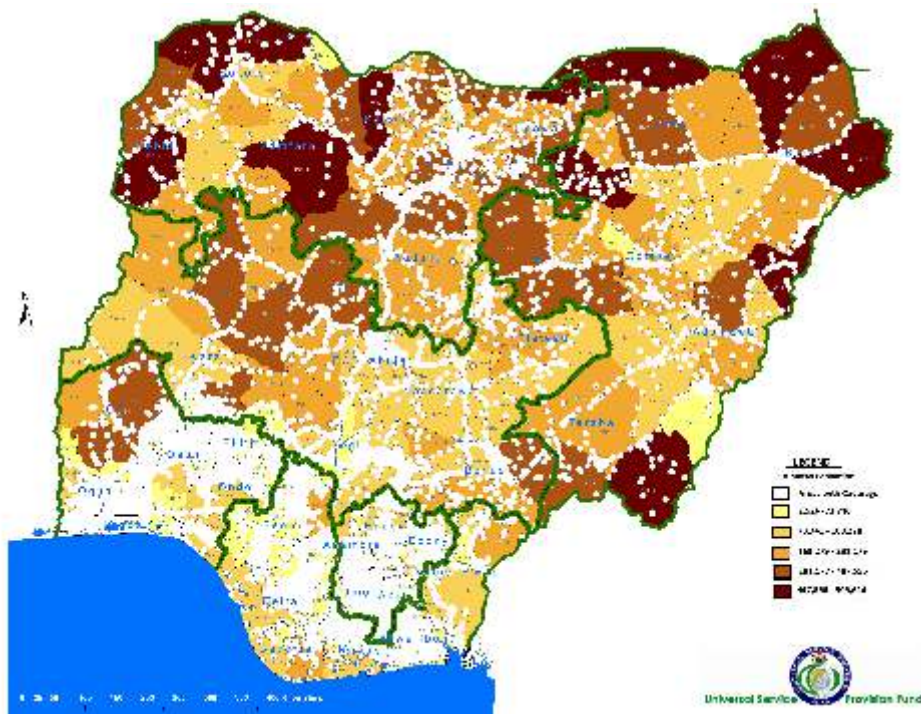
Bauchi State Library



National Library, Umuahia

ACCESS GAP CLUSTER PORTAL

Unveiling the USPF Website and Launch of the Access Gap Cluster Portal



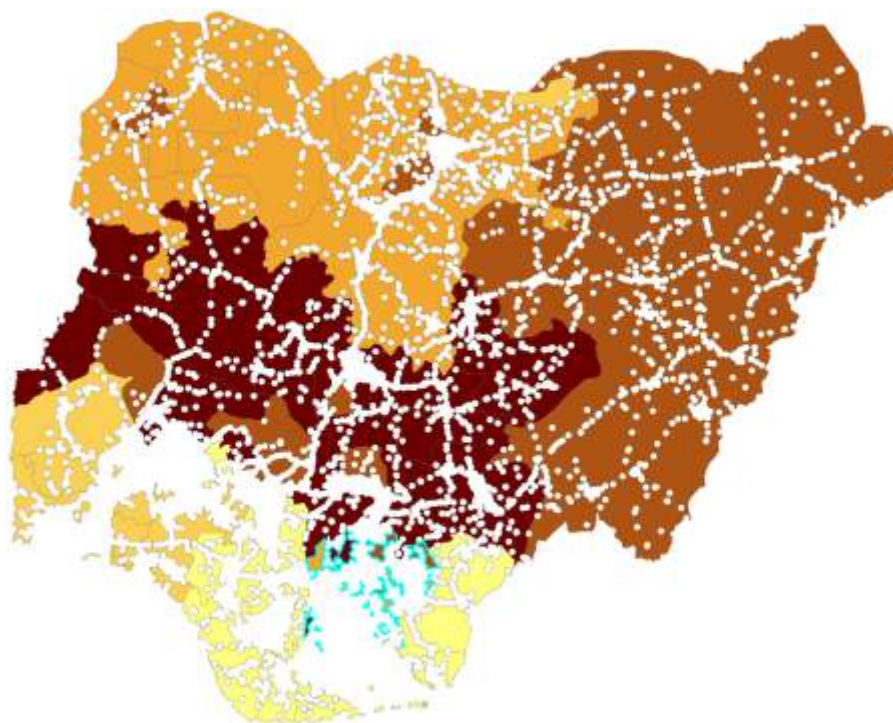
Map of the 207 clusters

The Access Gap Cluster Portal was launched in December 2014 by the Chairman, USP Board and Honourable Minister of Communication Technology Dr. (Mrs) Omobola Johnson. Also present during the ceremony were the UPSF Board members, Operators and other stakeholders. The portal provides public access to the outcome of the study carried out to identify and establish clusters of voice telephony and transport network gaps in the country.

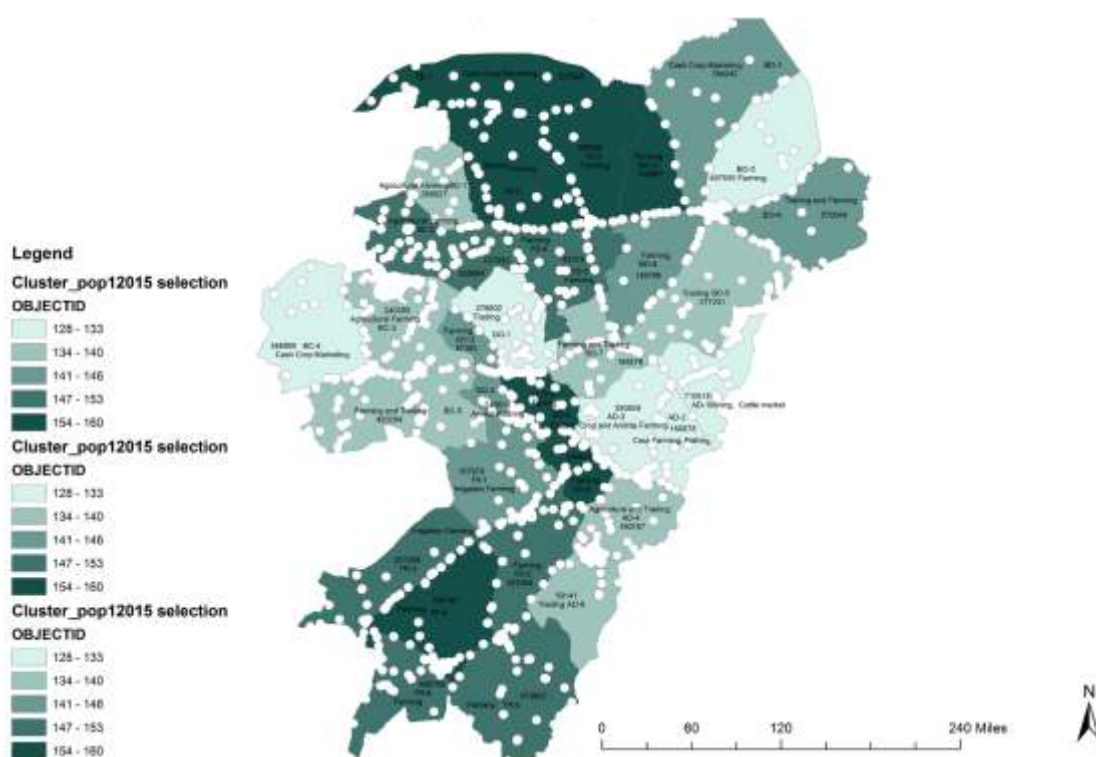
The result was the creation of Two hundred and Seven (207) ICT Gap Clusters of areas that are unserved or underserved that would enable the USP Fund provide access to about Forty million Nigerians that currently lack access to ICT services. Each Cluster has the requisite attributes, population estimates, size, major towns, main economic activities/ occupation, institutions, vegetation type etc.

The result of the study which is available to Telecoms Operators and other stakeholders through the portal will enable them get a detailed view of the needs and demand and consequently assist them in developing roll-out plans for these unreached areas.

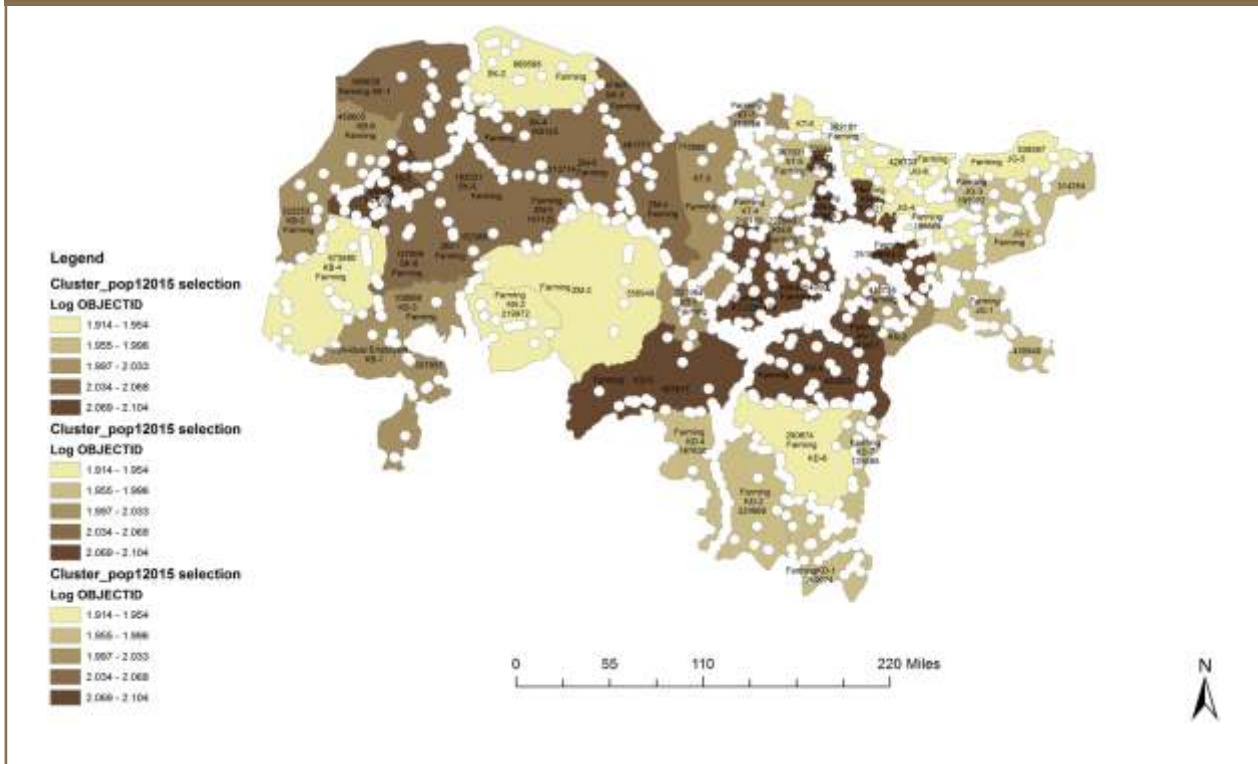
Clusters of ICT Access Gap Nigeria



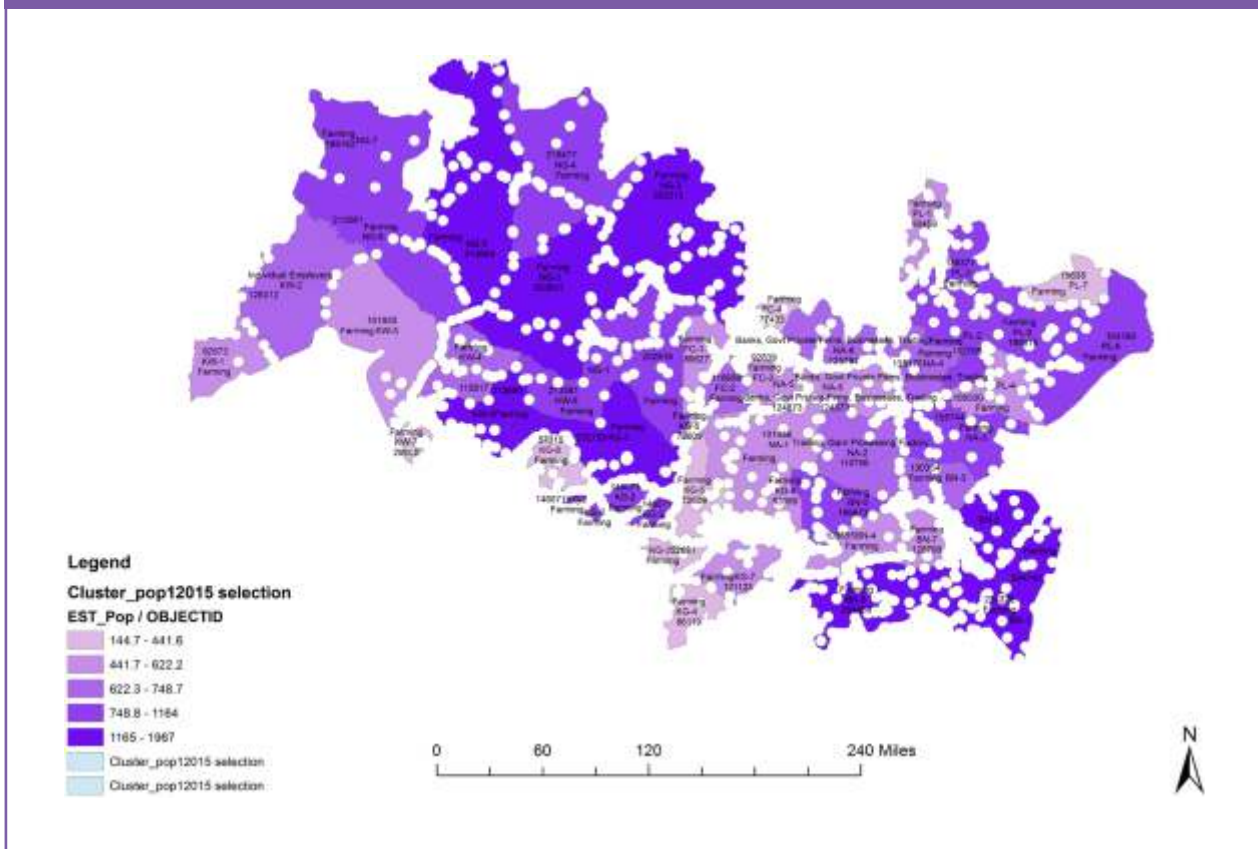
Map of North East Nigeria showing Cluster Identification, Estimated Population and Economic Activity



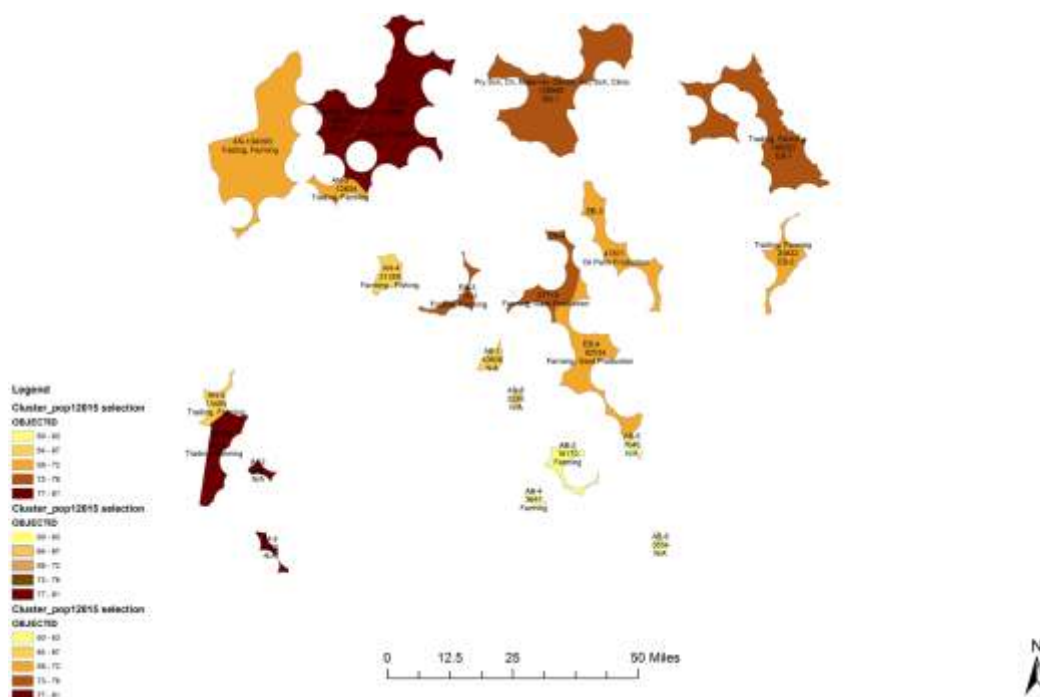
Map of North West Nigeria showing Cluster Identification, Estimated Population, and Economic Activity



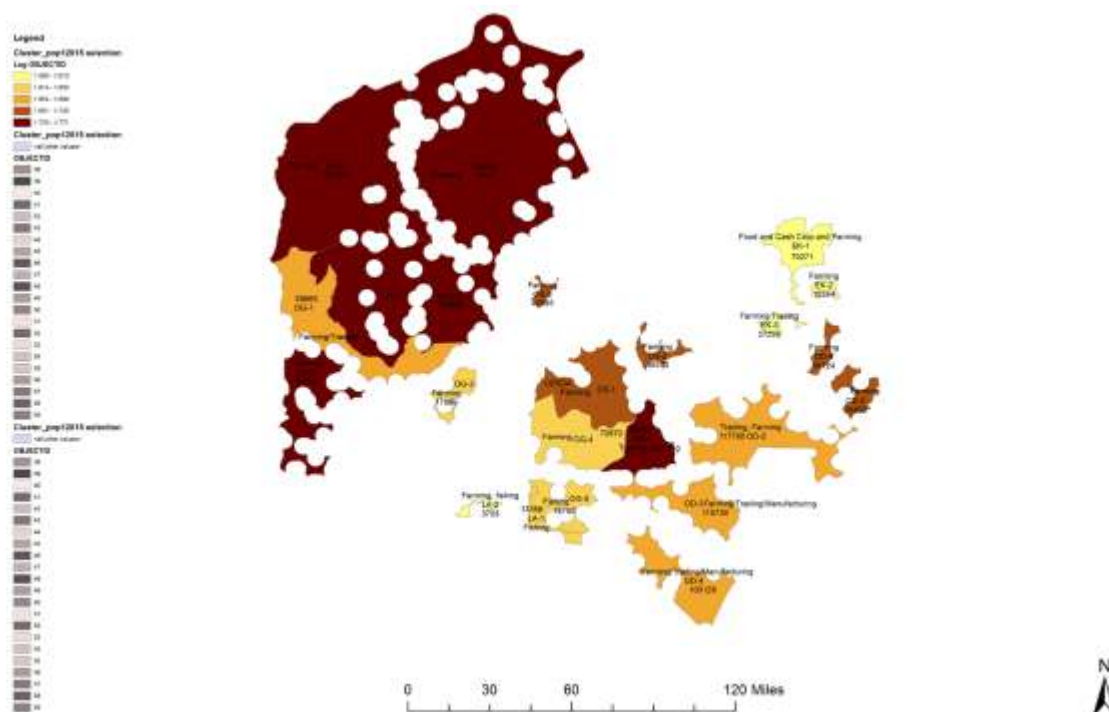
Map of North Central Nigeria showing Cluster Identification, Estimated Population, and Economic Activity



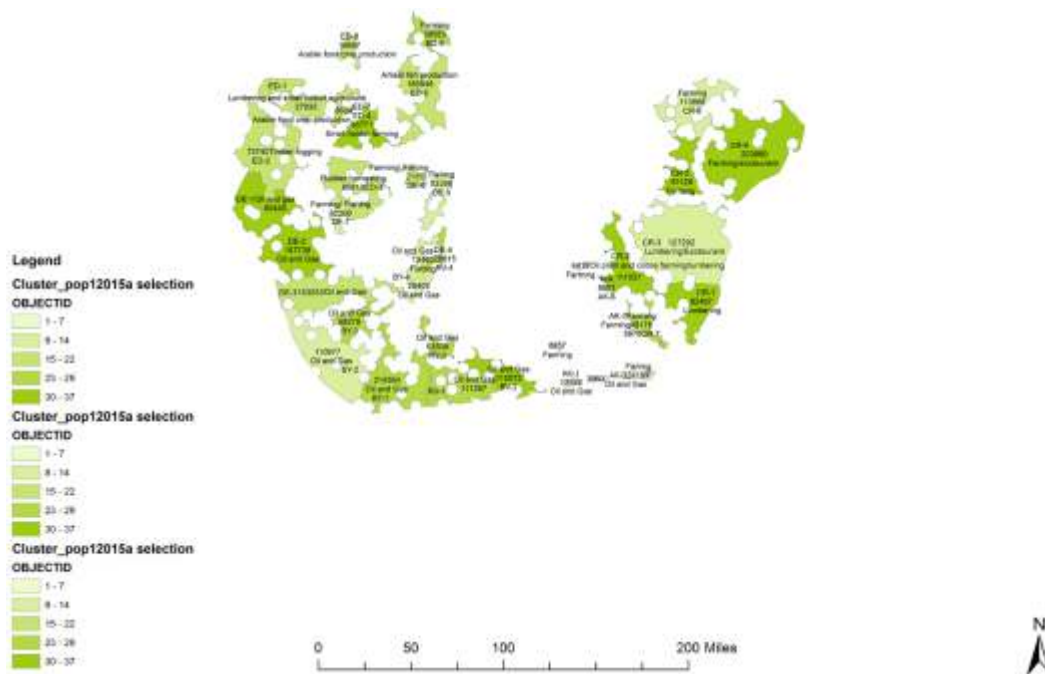
Map of South East Nigeria showing Cluster Identification, Estimated Population and Economic Activity



Map of South West Nigeria showing Cluster Identification, Estimated Population and Economic Activity



Map of South South Nigeria showing Cluster Identification, Estimated Population and Economic Activity



USPF BOARD AND MANAGEMENT RETREAT

The USPF Board and Management took a break in December 2014 from the office environment to conduct a strategy retreat. It was an opportunity to review its scorecard in the first 20 months of SMP 2013 -2017 and to agree on action points for the next implementation period within the context of global trends in Universal Access and Universal Service. In line with the theme of the retreat "Sustaining the Vision:" the Board and Management affirmed the validity of current projects and identified opportunities that could provide additional impetus for higher performance in the coming years.

A pertinent issue that became glaring during the retreat was that, unlike in several countries where it had been reported that Universal Access (UA) Funds were accumulating, the USPF had been able to optimally utilize available UA Funds in Nigeria. The retreat had in attendance a representative of the USAID/GBI. At the end of the programme, both the Board and Management were in no doubt that the standards set by the giant strides of the first year had further raised the expectations of stakeholders.



Cross section of Board members at the 2014 USPF Board and Management Retreat



Mrs. Omobola Johnson, Chairman USP Board (Left) and Engr. Peter Igoh, Vice Chairman USP Board (Right)



Cross section of Board Members and and Management team at the 2014 USPF Board and Management Retreat

MAJOR LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES

In spite of a well-structured operational plan, the Secretariat was constrained by the following challenges during the year with regards to the implementation of its plans and programs:

1. Poor Infrastructural Facilities:

The lack of suitable buildings in some selected schools to house network infrastructures and the non-availability of adequate public infrastructure such as accessible roads in rural areas has been an impediment for successful project delivery over the years.

2. 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 has led to 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.

3. 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. Insecurity in some parts of the country are hurdles preventing implementers and USP staff from carrying out their activities. This has led to implementation delays and project over run in those locations.

Another major concern is theft and wanton destruction of ICT equipment in some sites leading to total collapse of the project and unusable to beneficiaries.

4. Activities of States and other Agencies

Issues affecting the effective execution of the BTS project include: Right of way, C-of-O for land acquisition by operators, community restiveness, poor power supply, access road to rural areas, multiple regulations regarding erection of towers (LGA, State Governments NCCA, NESREA) etc.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS FOR 2015

The Universal Service Provision Fund Secretariat has identified some critical success factors that will enable it perform better in 2015 to include:

1. Budget Approval for USPF

Budget approval has a correlation with implementation. Therefore, it is pertinent to note that timely approval of budget brings about timely execution of projects under a given year period. For the USPF to deliver on its projects as contained in its mandate, it is important that its budget be approved on time.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E)

Monitoring and Evaluation hold a pivotal position in efficient and effective project management for all USPF Projects. This would help to elicit required information from projects being implemented. Without effective monitoring and evaluation, there is a tendency that projects may fail to deliver the goals and, even worse, that failed projects might be replicated.

3. Implementation of 2015 Annual Operational Plan

The Strategic Management Plan 2013-2017 is imperative for the overall success of the Secretariat. The 2015 AOP is expected to guide the operations as well as provide policy direction for the Secretariat in the coming year.

4. Board Meetings

One of the basic functions of the USP Board as contained in the UA and US Regulations, 2007, specifically, Section 4, (c), empowers the Board to approve the USP programs, USP projects and the budget for all operations and expenses. Based on this, it is pertinent for the Board to meet at regular intervals to determine and approve the proposed USP Secretariat budget, programs and projects for timely implementation.

5. Board and Management Retreat

In the pursuit of its vision of "Equitable ICT Access for All," it is important to hold at regular intervals Board and Management retreats to review performance, share experiences and sharpen the vision.

6. Branding and Awareness Campaign

In order to ensure that beneficiaries/stakeholders appreciate various ICT projects in their various locations, it is imperative to carry out an awareness campaign for stakeholders buy-in and acceptability of USPF projects as well as taking ownership of the projects to enhance sustainability.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND (USPF)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

| | 2014 =N= | 2013 =N= |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Non-Current Assets | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 64,704,537 | 79,165,878 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Stock | 4,620,266 | 5,747,460 |
| Debtors and Prepayments | 10,582,955,086 | 10,334,789,081 |
| Short Term Investment | 12,700,000,000 | 14,900,000,000 |
| Cash and Bank | 195,914,724 | 402,439,166 |
| | 23,483,490,076 | 25,642,975,707 |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Creditors and Accruals | (23,740,898,030) | (21,271,724,555) |
| Net Current Assets/(Liabilities) | (257,407,954) | 4,371,251,152 |
| Net Assets/(Liabilities) | (192,703,417) | 4,450,417,030 |
| Financed By: | | |
| Accumulated Fund/(Deficit) | (192,703,417) | 4,450,417,030 |

UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND (USPF)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

| | 2014 =N= | 2013 =N= |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| Income | | |
| Contribution from NCC | 11,521,512,722 | 10,986,665,524 |
| Other Income | 494,850,284 | 1,402,572,425 |
| | 12,016,363,006 | 12,389,237,949 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Projects & Programmes Costs | 10,062,622,295 | 13,230,483,281 |
| Operating Expenses | 36,263,393 | 25,231,174 |
| Fund Management Fees | 15,026,000 | 23,379,332 |
| Administrative Expenses | 83,031,096 | 58,114,296 |
| Employees Compensation & Benefits | 434,936,578 | 240,375,190 |
| Training and Development | 320,351,534 | 272,330,528 |
| Board Expenses | 224,590,823 | 219,990,000 |
| Transfer: FGN/CRF Account | 5,482,661,734 | 2,746,666,380 |
| | 16,659,483,453 | 16,816,570,181 |
| Excess of Expenditure Over Income | (4,643,120,447) | (4,427,332,232) |





UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND

Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF)

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