

INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION OF LIFE TRANSFORMERS

VOL3

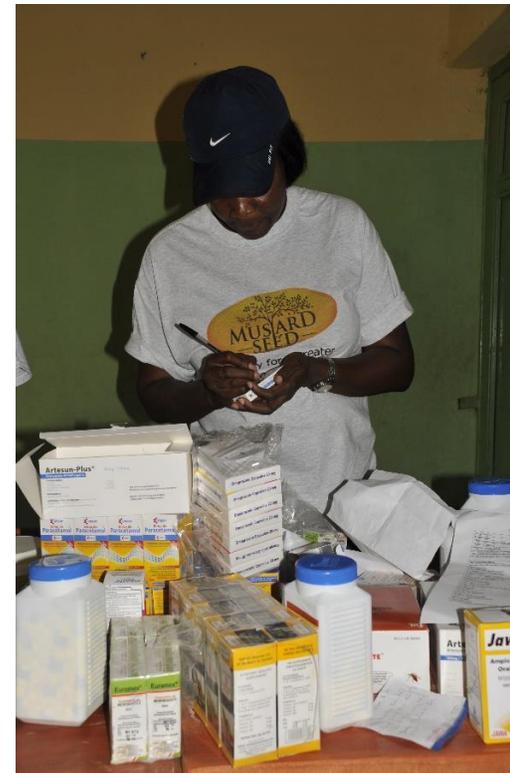
## HELLO!

It is with great delight we welcome you all to this third edition of our newsletter – “The Mustard Seed”. A quarterly avenue to share and continuously acquaint ourselves of the activities specific to Mustard Seed organization, tit bits of general NGO/charity related matters, and other issues for your reading pleasure and enlightenment.

### Free Medical Missions to Kaima, Tokulo and Panunnuke

On the 9th of May, 2015, The Mustard Seed team went to Kaima and surrounding communities (Tokulo and Panunnuke) for a one day free medical mission. Services provided include the following: Eye care/assessment –visual acuity, glaucoma and cataract check, provision of reading glasses and medications, Medical consultations and drug prescriptions (free medications), Vital signs check which involved Blood pressure, weight, temperature pulse and respiration, health education and promotion, lab tests (HIV, HbsAg (hepatitis B test), Malaria Parasite Test, Random Blood Sugar tests – diabetes), all children were dewormed as a preventive and curative measure against

worm infection as a result of the communities bad water source, general hygiene, Free mosquito Nets were distributed to all children. All these services were provided at no cost at all.



Mustard Seed Volunteers at work during the free Medical Mission to Kaima, Tokulo and Panunnuke.

**PHOTOS FROM KAIMA**



**Free Mosquito nets**



**Mr. Ofoma and the community Children**



**Vital signs: Blood Pressure check.**



**Lab tests**

# Jahi Primary School Project



**Jahi Primary School**



The Mustard seed organization recently embarked on a Project to build a primary school block in the government Primary school located in slums of Jahi, located in the federal capital tertiary Abuja. The Primary school is the only Primary school located within that area. The other class rooms available are overcrowded and as a result, some of the student have to learn outside in a make shift shed with leaking roofs. When it rains the shed gets flooded and when its sunny it gets too hot because of the heat radiating from the zinc roof. The Mustard Seed has therefore taken up the building of an extra block of class room in a bid to provide a conducive learning atmosphere for the kids in order to enhance primary school education among the kids in that area. Please support Mustard Seed Organization

as they undertake this task. With your Support we can do a lot more.



**Jahi Primary School Building.**

## Importance Infrastructure to achieving economic growth and poverty alleviation in Africa.

By Okoli Ifunanya.A

The importance of infrastructure in support of economic growth and poverty alleviation cannot be over emphasized. The WBG's (World Bank groups) 1994 World Development Report noted that the provision of infrastructure services to meet the demands of businesses, households and other users was "one of the major challenges of economic development."

Infrastructure according to the oxford dictionary are the basic systems and services that are necessary for a country or an organization to run smoothly, for example buildings, transport, water and power supplies. Unfortunately a lot of these tend to be lacking in a lot of African countries hence the reason for their not so smooth running. The "Voices of the Poor" survey published in 2000 validated the finding that the linkage between infrastructure and poverty was strong. Poor people pointed to the dramatic impacts that access to potable water, sanitation or to a road made to the quality of their lives.

There are several ways in which infrastructural services contribute to poverty reduction and improvements in living standards. One important way is how these services have strong and direct links to improved health status. Water-related illnesses account for a very substantial number of disease in the developing world, exacting high costs in terms of death, treatment of malnutrition, treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases, health treatment subsidies and reduced productivity. Provision of clean, accessible water and improved sanitation facilities have been shown to reduce these costs substantially. The mobility provided by accessible transport services has been shown to permit women and children better access to health care services.

Access to infrastructure services is also often associated with improved educational outcomes. Lack of improved water facilities can result in low

educational outcomes, especially for girls who do not attend school for lack of water facilities and the demands of household chores like fetching water. Lack of sanitary facilities leads places children at risk of communicable and non-communicable diseases associated with poor sanitary conditions which in turn can affect school attendance and hence educational out comes. Access to all-weather roads has been shown to be a strong factor in increasing primary school attendance, particularly in rural areas.

Infrastructure is also strongly associated to economic growth. Infrastructure services also contribute to improved productivity of business, households and governmental services. This because time spent in trying to achieve basic need like fetching water, and trekking long distances to market places could be used in more productive as more time is made available to achieve more than was possible. Hence children spend less time fetching water and have more time to attend school and parent have more time to put into their trades or farms. This contributes to increased investment and productivity which is essential for sustaining economic growth.

Despite widespread recognition of the importance of infrastructure services for poverty reduction, a very large proportion of the population in low-income countries still lacks access to them. An estimated 1.1 billion people live without safe water, 1.6 billion people live without electricity, 2.4 billion people live without sanitation, and more than 1 billion people are without access to an all-weather road or telephone services. Access to these services varies widely across regions and between urban and rural areas. Access rates are lowest in IDA (international Development association) countries and in rural areas and the gap is most pronounced in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Moreover, these figures underestimate the number of households without adequate services, as they are based on proximity to, or use of, a physical installation but fail to take into account the quality and reliability of the service that users actually obtain. In many low-income countries where infrastructure networks have been installed, the quality of service is very poor. Transport services may be lacking

and roads are often are in poor, unsafe condition.

While increases in ODA (Official development assistance) are clearly needed to help recipient countries close the gap between infrastructure and investment such incremental funding is not, by itself, sufficient to sustain services and expand access. Formulating, implementing and effectively coordinating policies that provide incentives to invest and operate efficiently and to extend services to the poor requires strong, capable institutions, particularly at the local level.

It is evident that the availability of infrastructural asset alone cannot ensure smooth running or economic development as dividends of previous investment in infrastructural assets has not yet been full realized. However, in as much as policy making depends on the policy and law making arm of government. Individual citizen and communities have ability to develop and govern within already set up policies. This is to say that we all can do our bit. Make a resolve to keep our immediate environment clean, contribute to maintenance of available infrastructural assets and encourage others to do same. A change of mentality is key in the fight against poverty and infrastructural development in Africa.

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