## **INVESTMENT** OPPORTUNITY The Anglican Relief and Development Fund

## NIGERIA: CONFERENCE CENTER SERVES DIOCESE, EXPANDS MINISTRY

Growing population will benefit from a new building and earn rental income to support programs for women



Construction on a 500-seat multi-purpose center is under construction by the Anglican Diocese of Oji River in Nigeria. When it is completed, the center will benefit 10,000 people.

PROJECT PROFI	LE ID: ARDF-0520-OJI RIVER
Lead Ministry ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF OJI RIVER	Nigeria
LIVES IMPACTED	10,000
SECTOR	Economic Development
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$73,025
COST PER BENEFICIARY	\$7.30
TIMELINE	18 MONTHS

#### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I can say that the diocese is touching spiritual and economic lives of members, particularly women — especially widows like me — through its regular religious program of activities, monetary support, and giving palliatives to the indigent among her members, visitations and prayers, among other things. As this diocese is waxing stronger both spiritually and economically, I wish them more [of] God's favor and abundant resources to develop the diocese and her projects."

- Lois E. Ezeugo, a member of the Mothers Union and the Anglican Diocese of Oji River

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

**CONTEXT:** Despite experiencing its longest period of civilian rule since its 1960 independence from the United Kingdom, Nigeria continues to suffer long-standing ethnic and religious tensions. It is one of the most populous countries in Africa, with more than 200 million people and 500 indigenous languages. Although it is rich in natural resources, Nigeria struggles to leverage its vast wealth. It is fairly stable, but there are pockets of religious extremism in Northern Nigeria. Enugu state has had its fair share of security challenges. Despite the challenges, the Anglican Diocese of Oji River remains a key driver for socio-economic transformation.

**NEED:** Since its founding 21 years ago, the Diocese of Oji River has long played an important role in mobilizing and uniting the rural communities in Enugu state through worship services, Bible studies, and ministry to women and children. Diocesan events are held in the small, 20-year-old St. Paul's Cathedral Church at Oji River. The space is small and inadequate for diocesan activities. To continue offering programs that grow the church and serve the people, the diocese needs funds to complete the construction of a new conference center.

**SOLUTION:** This project will construct and equip a one-story, 500-seat multi-purpose conference center for the Anglican Diocese of Oji River. It will serve vital church programs that benefit the community, particularly women and children. It will also be used for diocesan trainings and workshops for clergy and laypeople. The community will be able to rent the new space for meetings and events.

## LIFE IMPACT

#### Benefits 10,000 people, some in multiple ways:

 10,000 people, including the diocese's Mothers Union and other community members, will be served by the new multi-purpose conference center and empowered when they attend outreach events there. This number includes 5,000 people a year who will attend trainings, meetings, and community events such as weddings.

## WHAT IT'S LIKE NOW



"Despite its strong fundamentals, oilrich Nigeria has been hobbled by inadequate power supply, lack

of infrastructure, delays in the passage of legislative reforms, an inefficient property registration system, restrictive trade policies, an inconsistent regulatory environment, a slow and ineffective judicial system, unreliable dispute resolution mechanisms, insecurity, and pervasive corruption. Regulatory constraints and security risks have limited new investment in oil and natural gas, and Nigeria's oil production had been contracting every year since 2012 until a slight rebound in 2017."

#### - www.cia.gov/library/publications/ the-world-factbook/geos/ni.html

"In Nigeria, there is certainly no gain saying that the multi-religious practices in Nigeria have played more positive roles in its growth and development than the negative consequences of some of the religious practices. That is to say that in my view religion has helped the growth and development of Nigeria. Early education in Nigeria was influenced by both Christian and Islamic religions. Many of the Mission Schools and healthcare centers in Nigeria established by the missionaries, especially the Christian genre, provided much of the educational and healthcare needs of Nigerians in the years after independence."

- guardian.ng/opinion/has-religionimproved-growth-and-development-ofnigeria/ November 2018

## **PROJECT DESIGN**

The project creates a multi-purpose conference center that can seat 500 people. The diocese hired an architect to design the building, which was then approved by the diocesan synod and government engineers. After that, a contractor with experience on church projects was selected.

Upon completion, the multipurpose center will provide adequate space to host diocesan meetings for Mothers Union, clergy training, and other events. The center is conservatively expected to generate \$20,000 a year in rental income. These funds will be used to support the Mothers Union ministry, maintain the conference center, pay diocesan staff salaries, and help fund other projects.

There is no other modern conference center in Oji River. This new center is in a prime location that offers the advantages of adequate space, proximity, and convenience. Activity at this center will raise the visibility of the diocese, helping to attract new members to the church. The image of the diocese will also be raised when the center hosts regional, national, and international conferences.

Funds from the Anglican Relief and Development Fund will cover the cost of the steel and aluminum roof and the building's ceiling. The conference center is expected to benefit an estimated 10,000 people each year.

**Measuring impact.** Diocesan staff will oversee construction and compile quarterly reports on progress and expenses. The diocesan development commission will meet guarterly to evaluate construction progress and, after completion, report on how effectively the center is being used. Project staff will gather beneficiary testimonies.

#### PROJECT BUDGET SOURCES OF FUNDS BUDGETED LOCAL/OTHER ITEM Steel roof \$20,000 Aluminum sheeting \$31,389 \$12,111 Ceiling Research and evaluation \$9,525 NOTES Block works, plastering plumbing, electrical, doors/windows, painting, \$91,667 furniture, and tiling \$73,025 \$91,667\* TOTAL tile work.

#### HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

For \$6,055, you and another donor can cover the cost of the new ceiling. For \$10,000, you and another donor can cover the cost of the steel roof. For \$31,389, you can provide the aluminum sheeting needed for the roof.

\* Diocese of Oji River will contribute \$91,667 towards this project, which covers the cost of block work, plastering, plumbing, electrical, doors, windows, painting, furniture, and

(ii) This mark is used throughout the report to indicate additional information available upon request.



#### IMPLEMENTER FINANCIALS\*

This project adheres to some or all of this sector's established best practices

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#### NOTES:

\*Income and expenditures reported in U.S. dollars

**INCOME:** The diocese's financial reports show significant growth in 2018, as a result of increased church quota contributions, synod proceeds, and the sale of trees and land. Internally generated revenue averaged 5% of the total revenue over the three years in review. Sunday collections and donations have fluctuated between the three years, almost tripling in 2019 to \$42,929, as compared to \$15,100 and \$15,686 in 2018 and 2017, respectively. Loan income grew steadily

## **RISK ANALYSIS**

CONCEPT: 1

The Church in Nigeria has continued to provide both moral and economic impetus for the country's economic development. Construction of the conference center is vital for the diocese's continued growth and core ministry.

#### **PROGRAM DESIGN & EXPERIENCE: 1**

Twenty years ago, the Diocese of Oji River was bequeathed a large expanse of land. The diocese has been a good steward of the gift, investing heavily in the region and implementing a number of development programs. The diocese's development office staff is experienced and qualified; its development officer has experience in implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

#### **LEADERSHIP: 1**

Project leaders have the skills and experience necessary for managing a variety of complex projects.

#### **FINANCIAL CONTROL: 3**

The Anglican Diocese of Oji River has stable management

from 5% in 2017 to 11% of the total revenue in 2018. Miscellaneous income is from fundraising.

**EXPENSES:** Major expenses included salaries and benefits. They averaged 57% over the three years. Construction projects represented the second-largest expense, averaging 19% over the three years. The diocese contributed to other churches in the form of quotas averaging 5% annually. Property maintenance, staff, loans, office administration, travel, and utilities represented 8% of costs in 2017, 5% in 2018, and 23% in 2019.

#### Low: 1, Low/Medium: 2, Medium: 3, Medium/High: 4, High: 5

and secure financial transfer methods, but lacks externally audited financial statements. The diocese maintains a separate bank account for the construction project with three account signatories. It is not an independent board as all are members of the Anglican Church.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY: 2**

This project is designed to be a commercial venture used by the public. It is projected to generate at least \$20,000 per year, which will cover future maintenance and staff costs. The diocese has a good track record of establishing selfsustaining programs that benefit thousands of people.

#### **EXTERNAL: 2**

Instability is growing in Nigeria as a result of violent threats. Conflicts include ongoing clashes in the Niger Delta in the south and frequent clashes between farmers and herdsmen in the north. Combined with the kidnapping and violence involving Boko Haram, there is a growing sense of political and economic instability.



## **LEADERSHIP PROFILES**

The background of His Grace, the Most Rev. Dr. Amos A. Madu, Pioneer Archbishop of Enugu Ecclesiastical Province and Bishop, Diocese of Oji River, includes:

- a diploma and higher diploma in theology from Theological College of Northern Nigeria, Bukuru, Jos, Nigeria
- a master's degree and doctorate in theology from Virginia Theological Seminary, Virginia
- an ordained deacon in the Anglican Diocese of Jos and an ordained priest, Anglican Diocese of Jos
- consecrated as Bishop of Oji River
- author of several books including "Celebration of Divine Healing," "The Preacher's Mirror," and "Holy Priesthood"

The Rev. Moses Nwosu is the lead architect who designed the multi-purpose conference center. He will handle the technical aspects of the project, including quality assurance functions. His experience includes:

- an ordained priest with the Anglican Diocese of Oji River
- 15 years of experience in building supervision
- a degree in architecture from University of Nigeria
- a member of the Nigerian Institute of Architects
- a senior engineering consultant with Gideon Associates, one the oldest and biggest engineering consultants in Enugu
- 10 years as a diocesan consultant who recently supervised a cathedral, among other projects

## REFERENCES

"I have known the Diocese of Oji River since its creation in 1999. My interest was and has been sustained by the humility, gentle and humane disposition of the man whom the diocese was blessed to have as their first Bishop, Most Rev. Amos A. Madu. ... His devotion to the growth and development of the diocese in the face of daunting challenges associated with peer dioceses is something I like to emulate. Over the last 20 years, he has worked very hard to turn around what otherwise is a 'rural diocese' into a diocese of repute in the Anglican Communion in Nigeria.

"A tree we know does not make a forest. Thus, as a team player, he assembled and leads a workforce of carefully selected, dedicated, and committed priests who understanding the work at hand [and] have synergized to endear Anglicanism through community-based activities."

 Dr. Egbuna O. Obidike, professor of pediatrics, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu

## **RESEARCHER'S STATEMENT**



Frederick Barasa Sr. Research Analyst May 2020

in driving socio-economic transformation in Nigeria. Churchowned enterprises help rebuild a community's social infrastructure and play an important part in the gospel-transforming society. The entrepreneurship exhibited by the Diocese of Oji River through this project serves as a good example for organizations trying to meet the needs for mission and evangelism in a sustainable way. Income generated from this facility will economically empower the church and its members, enabling

The Church plays a key role

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them to fund development without having to rely solely on outside support.

#### **IMPLEMENTER'S INSPIRATION**

"Well, whatever you do, whether you eat or drink, do it all for God's glory."

- 1 Corinthians 10: 31 (GNT)

## HOW TO FUND THIS PROJECT

#### PROJECT RECAP

 ID ARDF-0520 - Oji River

 Timeline 18 months

 Requested \$73,025

 Modified 061720

For information about the Fund or Projects, write to: 800 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003-2316 (724) 251-6045 www.ARDF.org



# THE GRID

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