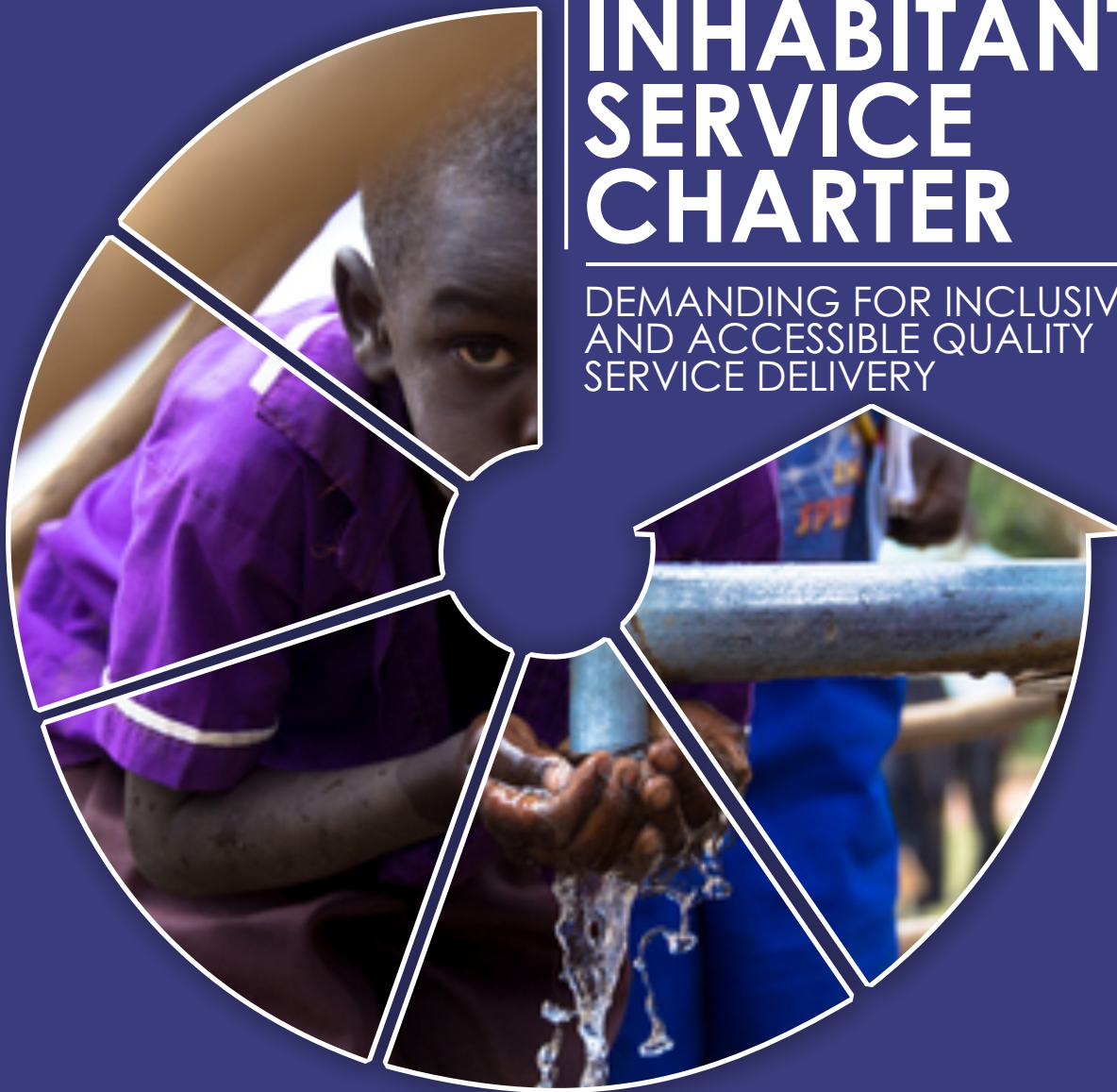


# FCT ORIGINAL INHABITANT SERVICE CHARTER

DEMANDING FOR INCLUSIVE  
AND ACCESSIBLE QUALITY  
SERVICE DELIVERY



MacArthur  
Foundation



## CONTENT

<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.0 HISTORY OF ABUJA</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.0 LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.0 OBLIGATIONS OF GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 Public Service Delivery	8
3.2 The Original Inhabitants of Abuja Service Charter	8
<b>4.0 CHALLENGES AND DEMANDS</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1 Chiefdoms in Abaji Area Council	9
4.2 Abuja Municipal Area Council	13
4.3 Bwari Area Council	18
4.4 Gwagwalada Area Council	19
4.5 Kuje Area Council	21
4.6 Kwali Area Council	25
<b>5.0 STAKEHOLDERS</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>6.0 CHARTER OF DEMANDS</b>	<b>28</b>
6.1 Expected Actionable Deliverables	29
6.2 Provision of qualitative education for the indigenous communities	29
6.3 Provision of Healthcare Facilities	30
6.4 Infrastructure (roads, drains, and street lights) and the environment	30
6.5 Security of Lives and Property	31
<b>7.0 CONCLUSION</b>	<b>31</b>



## BACKGROUND

A chiefdom is a territory ruled by a chief. These territories are inhabited by people who have a common ethnic affinity. Chiefdoms are primarily based on kinship; kinship refers to the culturally defined relationships between individuals who are commonly thought of as having family ties. Societies use kinship as a basis for forming social groups and classifying people. The afore-mentioned position would form the basis for the scope of this service charter.

This position is premised on the fact that the descendants of the people who inhabited the place known and identified today as the Federal Capital Territory – Abuja – have long complained about marginalization since the FCT was created, especially when the seat of government of the Federation moved from Lagos to Abuja. As citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and human beings, they are entitled to the exercise of the fundamental human rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Africa Charter of Peoples Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other relevant local, national, and international laws and instruments.

The Sustainable Development Goals, to which the Nigerian Government made a commitment, are a call to action by governments to end poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy good health, justice, and prosperity. The SDGs aim to transform our world. It is critical that no one is left behind.

### 1.0 History of Abuja

According to history, the land currently known and identified as the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja was part of the ancient Kingdom of Zazzau, now called Zaria. Abuja, in ancient times, was a commercial center where goods were exchanged by traders from long distances. In 1902, the British colonists occupied Abuja and reorganized the kingdoms into Emirates, which continued until 1975. Niger State contributed 80 percent of the land that makes up the new capital, while Plateau State (now Nassarawa) contributed 16 percent and Kwara State (now Kogi) contributed 4 percent to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Abuja Emirate was directed to give its name to the new Federal Capital Territory. Abuja Emirate was renamed Suleja and remained in the present-day Niger State.

The largest indigenous groups in Abuja are the Gbanyi (also known as the Gwari). The next group in size are the Koro. Other smaller groups are the Gede, Gwandara, Bassa, Anwanwan, Egbira, and Gana Gana.

The following crops are grown in Abuja: yams, cassava, maize, plantains, sorghum, guinea corn, and rice. Abuja also has various mineral resources like marble, tin, mica, clay, wolframite, tantalite, and talc.

The Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria moved from Lagos to Abuja on December 12, 1991. FCT has six area councils: Abuja Municipal Area

Council (AMAC), Abaji Area Council, Bwari Area Council, Kuje Area Council, Kwali Area Council, and Gwagwalada Area Council. The chiefdoms comprising the indigenes of Abuja are in the six area councils categorized into 17. Here is the breakdown:

### **Abaji**

- Ona of Abaji
- Yaba

### **Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC)**

- Garki
- Jiwa
- Sarkin Karshi
- Se' Karu

### **Bwari**

- Etsu Bwari
- Sarkin Bwari

### **Gwagwalada**

- Aguma of Gwagwalada
- Aguarae of Zuba

### **Kuje**

- Gomo of Kuje
- Se' Rubochi
- Gwargwada

### **Kwali**

- Etsu Kwali
- Gomani
- Wako
- Pai

### **The People**

The original inhabitants of old settlements referred to as Abuja were mostly Gbagyi (Gwari), with the Gbagyi language as the major language. Other inhabitants of the area

were Bassa, Gwandara, Gade, Dibo, Nupe, Hausas and Koro (Abubakar, 2020). Gbagyi or Gwarri (also spelled Gbari) are peaceful, agriculturist, artistic, Nupoid-speaking people who live in the geopolitical zone of North-Central Nigeria. They are mostly found in Niger State, Kaduna State, and the Federal Capital Territory. They can also be found in the central Nigerian states of Nasarawa and Kogi (then old Plateau and old Kwara States), Gbagyi are the most populous ethnic group and indigenous people in Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory. Farming is their main source of income.

According to the 2006 National Population census figures, the Gbagyi people are one of Nigeria's ethnic groups, with an estimated population of 5.8 million spread across four states, including the FCT and thirty local government areas. Furthermore, it is the dominant ethnic group in the nation's capital, Abuja which implies that no Nigerian can afford to ignore its history, traditions, culture, socio-economic and political life.







## 2.0 Legal Framework for the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja

The Federal Capital Territory of Abuja was established by Decree No. 6 of February 4, 1976, now CAP. 503 LFN, 2004. By virtue of Decree No. 6 (now CAP 503), the over 8,000 sq. km of the area and constituent that is FCT-Abuja were cut out of the former states of Niger, Plateau (now Nassarawa), and Kwara (now Kogi). With effect from February 4, 1976, Abuja ceased to be part of the afore-mentioned states and assumed a new status as the Federal Capital Territory and seat of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

To better understand the status of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) is the best place to look. Section 2(a) states that Nigeria is a federation consisting of states and a Federal Capital Territory. Subsection 4 further defines FCT to also include Abuja, to which the provisions of Chapter VIII, Part 1 apply. The said CAP consists of Sections 297 to 304. Our focus would be on Section 299.

Section 297 (1) defines the boundaries of the FCT-Abuja. Subsection (2) states that the ownership of all lands in FCT-Abuja shall vest in the Government of the Federation; Section 298 states that FCT-Abuja is to be the capital of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the seat of the Government of the Federation.

The provisions of this Constitution shall apply to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, as if it were one of the States of the Federation, and accordingly:

(a) All the legislative powers, the executive powers, and the judicial powers vested in the House of Assembly, the Governor of a State, and the courts of a State shall, respectively, vest in the National Assembly, the President of the Federation, and in the courts, which by virtue of the foregoing provisions are courts established for the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;

(b) All the powers referred to in paragraph (a) of this section shall be exercised in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution; and

(c) The provisions of this Constitution pertaining to the matters aforesaid shall be read with such modifications and adaptations as may be reasonably necessary to bring them into conformity with the provisions of this section.

For the purposes of Chapter V of this Constitution, the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja shall constitute one senatorial district and as many federal constituencies as it is entitled to under Section 49 of this Constitution.

Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of Section 299 of this Constitution, in its application to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, this Constitution shall be construed as if:

(a) References to the Governor, Deputy Governor, and Executive Council of a State (howsoever called) were references to the President, Vice President, and Executive Council of the Federation (howsoever called), respectively;

(b) References to the Chief Judge and Judges of the High Court of a State were references to the Chief Judge and Judges of the High Court, which is established for the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, by the provisions of this Constitution; and



(c) References to persons, offices, and authorities of a state were references to the persons, offices, and authorities of the Federation with like status, designations, and powers, respectively, and in particular, as if references to the Attorney-General, Commissioners, and Auditor-General for a state were references to the Attorney-General, Ministers, and Auditor-General of the Federation with like status, designations, and powers.

The President may, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Section 147 of this Constitution, appoint for the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a Minister who shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be delegated to him by the President from time to time.

The Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, shall comprise six area councils, and the administrative and political structure thereof shall be as provided by an Act of the National Assembly.

(1) There shall be for the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a Judicial Service Committee of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, whose composition and functions shall be as provided in Part III of the Third Schedule to this Constitution.

(2) The provisions of sections 154(1) and (3), 155, 156, 157(1) and (2), 158(1), and 159 to 161 of this Constitution shall apply with necessary modifications to the Judicial Service Committee of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The following facts can be deduced from the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

The land known and identified as Abuja is the Federal Capital Territory. It belongs to the Federal Government of Nigeria and is the seat of the government of the federation.

Based on the provisions of the Land Use Act, all lands are vested in the respective state governments. Consequently, Abuja is vested in the Federal Government.

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria doubles as the Governor of Abuja, and the National Assembly doubles as the State House of Assembly for Abuja, and there are courts set up for Abuja like State High Courts

To this end, the people of Abuja have a State House of Assembly, where they only elect 3 members: 1 in the Senate and 2 in the House of Representatives. This is a national assembly that has over 400 members. The president who doubles as their governor was not really elected by them because their votes only constituted a fraction of the total votes cast. The only organ that is really unique to them is the Judiciary, but when one considers that the appointment is determined by the Executive and Parliament, it drives home the point.

The FCT Minister is an appointee of the President, and the President can choose to either appoint or not appoint a Minister of the FCT; he is not obligated to appoint an FCT original inhabitant.

The Federal Government plays a dual role for the FCT; the Federal and State Governments and the Area Councils are the only components of government that the

residents and indigenous people of the FCT can elect in the true sense of the word. However, mention must be made of the fact that it is only in the FCT that the local government is relatively independent. This position is premised on the fact that elections in the FCT are conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Furthermore, the area councils have relative financial autonomy in comparison to other local governments in Nigeria.

It is against this background that engagements with the stakeholders in the FCT have to be pursued to gather their voices and concerns on public service delivery to them.

### 3.0 Obligations of Government

**Chapter II, Section 14 (2) (b), states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government:**

In line with the above provision, the federal and local governments are obligated to meet the security and welfare needs of the indigenous people of the FCT. The Federal Government is responsible for the exclusive, concurrent, and residual lists as they relate to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The implications of this position are that the key demands for the FCT must be directed to the Federal Government (Executive and Legislature), which is responsible for a lion's share of the resources and funds due to the FCT, and the Area Councils have fewer funds in comparison to the Federal Government.

Since the Federal Government made the decision to relocate the nation's capital to Abuja, the original inhabitants of Abuja have continued to make demands for compensation. The demands include compensation for loss of land, representation in the governance of Abuja and the federal executive council as mandated by the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the delivery of quality, inclusive, and accessible public services. These struggles have continued, and the clamor and agitation have refused to abate. The government has continued to insist that it has done a lot to compensate the indigenes, but the position of the people remains that whatever has been done is not enough. As earlier mentioned, the demands are not just socio-economic but also political. The position, however, remains that, in line with the fact that the original inhabitants gave up their ancestral lands for the nation's capital, the government must ensure that everything is done to justify the sacrifice made.

The President, as Governor of Abuja, has a duty and obligation to the indigenous people of Abuja. To underscore the importance that the President places on the responsibility placed by the Constitution, he or she must ensure that Abuja is given the attention it deserves. The president must run Abuja like a state, with indigenous people and residents. Abuja must be run as a state in the proper sense of the word and not "like" a state. If a Minister for the FCT is to be appointed, he or she must be someone who understands the enormity of the task and has the ability and capacity to run and manage the FCT. The challenge, however, is that the FCT Minister is an appointee of the President and acts in line with the President's instructions. The problem posed by this reality is that you have one person with real power and another with delegated power who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the FCT. People responsible for sectors like education, health, etc. are civil servants. To this end, all political powers rest with the President and Minister of the FCT.

There are six area councils in Abuja, and the executive and legislative arms are elected into office. As such, they have some level of autonomy, and in line with the position that



to whom much is given, much is expected, more must begin to be demanded of them.

Stakeholders must begin to actively participate in the processes of budget formulation, defense, monitoring, and tracking at the local and national levels.

### **3.1 Public Service Delivery**

Public service delivery is the mechanism through which public services are delivered to the public by local, municipal, or federal governments. Sewage and trash disposal, street cleaning, public education, and health services are some examples of public services. For the purpose of this project, our focus is on public service delivery for indigenes of Abuja and their communities.

The task before us is to establish if the government at all levels has met the public service needs of the indigenes. Some of the needs established include healthcare, education, provision of water, sanitation, etc. As earlier mentioned, the Federal Government has the lion's share in meeting the above obligation, but the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) and the Area Council also have a duty to complement the efforts of the Federal Government based on the resources made available to them.

The communities that make up the chiefdoms in Abuja have Nigerians who are indigenous to the FCT. These citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria have rights that governments at all levels have an obligation to fulfill, and their performance would be dependent on their ability or inability to meet those needs. Provision of pipe-borne water, functional clinics, and schools that give children a qualitative education are basic services that the government owes the people. It goes beyond just providing infrastructure for these services to making sure that they are adequate for the number of people that are residents of these communities. Furthermore, these services must work at all times. Here are some examples of the standards against which performance would be measured.

- The schools must be properly built with the relevant facilities like classrooms with furniture, a library, toilets that have running water, a dispensary with a nurse, a library with books, computers, a playground, a sports field, a gym, and electricity. The school must also have adequate staff, and the ratio of pupils and students to their teachers must comply with the national standards. Factors like accessibility and security must be considered when building these schools. The schools must be constructed for a specific population of pupils and students. And administrators must ensure that the required standards are maintained and complied with.
- The medical facilities must be constructed to standard; they should have beds and equipment that are in line with the purpose and mandate of the health facility. The facilities must have adequate personnel, water, and security, just to mention a few.

The above are just some of the examples of what should be in place in the chiefdoms.

### **3.2 The Original Inhabitants of Abuja Service Charter**

HipCity Innovation Centre is an NGO that supports marginalized communities in the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja) in their quest for improved service delivery and livelihood opportunities. To achieve this, it undertakes research, community mobilization, advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and town hall meetings.

It is against this background that HipCity Innovation Centre has, jointly with the seventeen (17) chiefdoms and original inhabitants of Abuja, collaborated to chronicle a compendium of the service needs and demands of the people contained in a *Service Charter of Demands to serve as a basis for the Indigenous people to engage public office holders, public and civil servants, candidates, and political parties in the dispense of their statutory obligations*. This document represents what is actually on the ground, and its rationale and purpose are well understood by the people because it is their document.

Information contained in this charter is directly sourced by direct visits to the chiefdoms, interaction with the indigenous people, organized town hall meetings, and research. It is from these sources that the Charter of Demands has been developed.

## 4.0 CHALLENGES AND DEMANDS

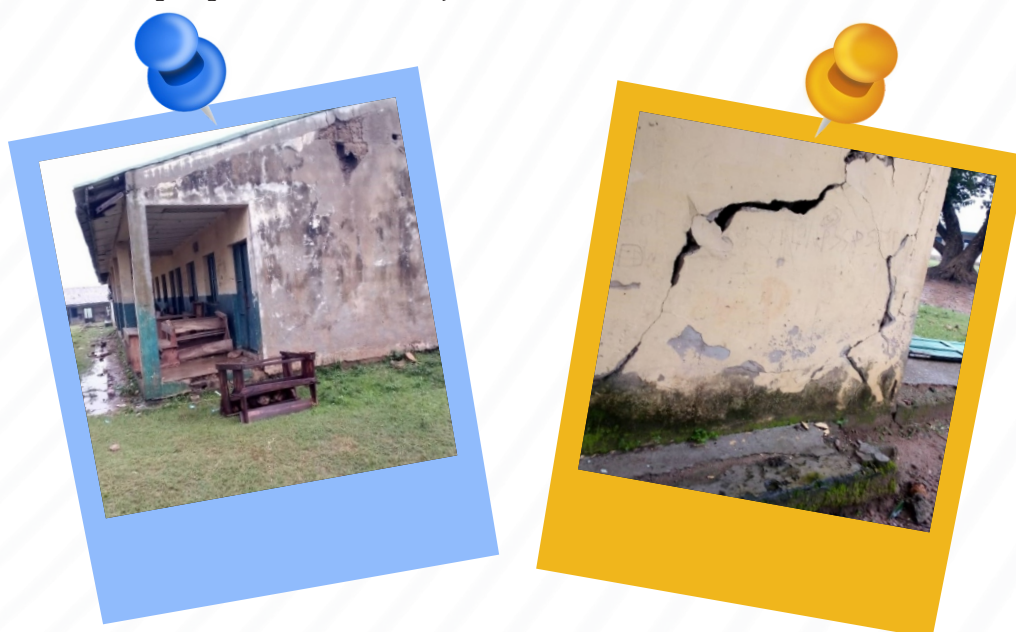
### 4.1 Chiefdoms in Abaji Area Council

#### Ona of Abaji

The Ona of Abaji Chiefdom is facing numerous challenges, but we would like to highlight some of them.

**Flooding:** Communities in the Chiefdom are affected erosion and flooding, and this affects so many aspects of the lives of their inhabitants. The adverse effect of erosion and flooding on the lives of indigenes cannot be overemphasized, as floods cause damage to properties, roads, and farmlands, just to mention a few. In view of the above, it is expected that the government, especially the federal government, is proactive and ensures that communities are protected against flooding by building their resilience.

**Water:** Access to pipe borne water is another major problem faced by the indigenous communities in Abaji Area Council. In view of this problem, Bore holes have become the alternative as boreholes have been drilled in communities by either the government or private individuals. The challenge is that most of the bore holes are in a dysfunctional state and as such people have had to resort to getting water from other sources like wells, streams, buying water from private boreholes and water vendors. Clean water is critical for good health and as therefore is imperative that clean water must be made available for the people in Ona of Abaji Chiefdom.





### **Quality Public Education for Children:**

It has been said that if you want to see the future of any country, look at its children and youth. The quality of education of our children and youth will determine their future, and as such, the government must invest in their education. If the government valued the indigenous people, it would ensure that the right infrastructure and resources were put in place to create an enabling environment for children in these communities. The schools are not adequate for the number of children and lack the facilities and manpower needed to give the children a good and qualitative education.

**Publicly funded healthcare** facilities are not adequate and are understaffed. If public-funded health facilities are a priority for the government, It would ensure that the facilities that are put in place are well equipped and have qualified and well-remunerated personnel in place to attend to the health needs of patients that attend these hospitals. Indigenes complained of the state of the primary health care facilities and called on the government to see to it that these facilities can provide quality services to the people when they come for treatment.

### **Yaba Chiefdom**

**Poor access roads** are a challenge in Yaba Chiefdom. The availability of good roads is important for so many aspects of the lives of the indigenous people. Good roads would aid the movement of people. Roads are used by farmers, by people going to work, by children going to school, and by people pursuing their various duties and responsibilities. The bad roads in the communities in Yaba Chiefdom are really putting a serious strain on the indigenous people. Roads connect communities, area councils, and states, so the government should give roads the priority they deserve.



The boreholes in most communities within the chiefdom are not functioning. The irony of the situation is that the bore holes were just supposed to be a palliative to the absence of infrastructure that would make pipe-borne water available in homes. It is imperative to note that pipe-borne water is critical and essential and cannot and should not be replaced by bore holes. It is within this context that the current state of disrepair of the boreholes, which are not even enough for the communities in the chiefdom, is unacceptable. One can only imagine what the people go through just to get water, which is essential for human existence and healthy living.



***Public-funded education in communities in Yaba Chiefdom*** is a must for the children. What is on the ground is really a far cry from the ideal and what is expected if we are serious about providing a good education that would put our children in good stead to compete favorably in Nigeria and around the world. The schools that are available need to be renovated and more classrooms added. More schools also have to be built to be able to meet the population of children. It is inexcusable that our children are learning in the conditions that they are exposed to in the 21st century, and their lives should matter.

***Publicly funded healthcare should be given the requisite attention.*** It is the state of our healthcare facilities in Yaba that produces the kind of negative statistics that Nigeria has globally in healthcare. It is scandalous that a country like Nigeria is at the top in the areas of maternal mortality and infant mortality. The primary health care centers in Yaba are understaffed and lack the required drugs and facilities. The PHCs in Yaba must be humane; efforts should be made by the relevant authorities to put an atmosphere in place in these facilities that would see patients treated with respect and dignity. The lives of the indigenous people must matter. Most residents of Yaba travel to Abaji town to access healthcare services.

**Flooding:** Communities within the Yaba Chiefdom have suffered several episodes of flooding which has inundated their farmlands, washed away their crops and homes.





## 4.2 Abuja Municipal Area Council Garki Chieftdom

The waste disposal system leaves a lot to be desired. As a result of this, we have a situation where waste piles up and overflows and becomes a breeding ground for the spread of disease. Due to the population explosion, there is no doubt that waste will increase. The implication of this position is that the environment will be polluted if steps are not taken to address the issues. In the recent past, epidemics have spread, and this obviously is not unconnected with the unhealthy conditions that the indigenes are exposed to. Apart from poor waste disposal, there are no efforts to fumigate the environment to deal with the associated health risks from a dirty environment.

Some schools in the Garki chieftdom are overcrowded and not adequate for the children. The schools are understaffed, and furniture and equipment are not enough. The staff are also not properly motivated. The

welfare conditions of the staff would be a determinant of their level of commitment to the education of the children. If the public schools are not good enough for the children of government officials to attend, then they are not good enough for any child to attend. It is based on this premise that efforts must be made to bring all public schools up to the required standard.

The security of lives and property is another challenge in the chieftdom. The level of crime has gone up, and this is not unconnected with the level of poverty and the migration of more people into Abuja due to the security situation in the country and in search of greener pastures. The cases of crime in the chieftdom have risen, and the government has to do more to curb this ugly development. The lives and property of the indigenes of Garki Chieftdom must be protected, and the government has to be proactive. Daily reports of armed robbery, theft, car snatching, and killings are reported.





## Jiwa Chiefdom

The number and quality of schools in Jiwa Chiefdom are far below accepted standards. Primary and secondary schools in Jiwa are not sufficient to meet the population of the indigenous people and residents of Jiwa Chiefdom. Furthermore, the schools don't have enough classrooms, and facilities such as computers, teaching aids, and other related items are either scarce, in disrepair, or nonexistent. Things are so bad that even basic maintenance of infrastructure is not carried out as a result of poor maintenance culture. Those responsible for the management and administration of schools ignore issues that should be given attention. Most schools are understaffed.

Health is wealth, and without health, people cannot carry out their day-to-day duties and responsibilities. The health facilities and personnel are not adequate, and this has an adverse effect on the quality of care given to the patients. There are a lot of complaints from indigenes about how they are treated. Some of the complaints from indigenes include lack of drugs, rude personnel, and inadequate treatment. It just seems like they are going through the motions. The program for maternity and infant care falls below the required standards.

The communities that make up Jiwa Chiefdoms have challenges with access to pipe-borne water. The alternative for them is boreholes, which are not enough in comparison to the people that need them. The boreholes that are available are either not functioning optimally or are in disrepair. Clean drinking water is essential for good health. It is for this very reason that responsive governments have an obligation to provide good water to the indigenous people.

Waste disposal management in the communities that make up Jiwa Chiefdom is another problem. Indigenes have to find ways of disposing of their waste; to this end, they find ways to dispose of their waste, and most of these approaches are harmful to them and the environment. The waste also breeds rodents that carry diseases that are harmful to people. With the increased awareness about the damage that burning waste can cause, it is imperative that efforts are made to put a system in place for the disposal of waste in Jiwa Chiefdom.



## Sarkin Karshi Chiefdom

The roads and drainages in the communities that make up Sarkin Karshi Chiefdom are grossly inadequate for the number of people that are residents in the chiefdom. Evidence of government neglect is evident in some communities. As a result of the population explosion due to the migration of people from other parts of Nigeria to Abuja and the high cost of rent in the city center, places

like Karshi has become attractive to people. Even the link road that runs through Karshi has not been completed to date. As a result of the state of the roads in Karshi, commuting for residents is a big challenge.

Indigenes have to rely on alternative sources to get water to drink and cook with. This position is premised on the fact that pipe-borne water is not available, and furthermore, the boreholes are not enough for the people. Indigenes have to rely on water vendors, wells, and other sources to get water, exposing them to unclean water that is dangerous to their health. Diseases like cholera and typhoid fever are connected to the quality of the drinking water that an individual takes. It has been said that prevention is better than cure, so it is better and cheaper to provide clean drinking water than to spend money on treatments.

The public schools in the chiefdoms are not adequate for the communities that make up Karshi Chiefdom. The classrooms are not adequate in the existing schools, and schools are not distributed in such a way that children have easy access to these schools. Teachers are not enough and are not properly motivated. It is based on this premise that teachers embark on strike action from time to time to press home their demands. Evidence of a lack of attention and management is evident in the state of the building and the facilities that have been provided. Schools don't have functioning toilets, running water, or computers, just to mention a few. These are some of the challenges bedeviling the public schools in Karshi. Another important case to flag is that many children cannot access education in the Karshi chiefdom because there have been reports of kidnapping, teachers are

afraid to resume at their duty post or they pick one or two days in a week to resume at the school. This erratic attendance is discouraging parents and pupils alike from sending their wards to school.

The communities in Karshi don't have a proportionate amount of health facilities to meet their needs. The facilities that are available are not adequately funded, and this results in poor staffing, the absence of drugs, and dysfunctional equipment, among others. People resort to patronizing private clinics, which in most cases are more expensive, hence endangering their lives. Women and children are the most affected by the poor state of public healthcare. These are the factors that contribute to Nigeria's dismal ranking in infant and maternal mortality. It is pertinent to note that most original inhabitants of Karshi are unaware of the FCT health insurance scheme and the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) that are set up by the government to guarantee universal health coverage and reduce out-of-pocket expenses for the poorest of the poor.

**Financial Inclusion:** The people of Karshi fear that they are financially excluded due to the lack of any financial institution within the Karshi Town. Residents of Karshi have to travel to Karu and Nyanya to transact or make any financial dealings. They are demanding that the government in collaboration with the private sector site a bank in Karshi.





## Se' Karu Chiefdom

Public health facilities are not proportional to the population; the implication of this position is that the available facilities are overburdened, which results to suboptimal services rendered to the patients in many cases. This is in addition to the fact that some of the PHCs within the chiefdom are not well equipped and stocked with adequate drugs for the patients. The atmosphere around some of the public health facilities is hostile due to the poor welfare conditions of the staff. Proper planning would see the government responding to the population growth in the chiefdom; to this end, public health facilities would be built where they are needed. Let it be on record that Karu is one of the most developed communities in the chiefdom due to its proximity to the city center and the preponderance of other Nigerians; hence, public health facilities in Karu are far better than what is obtainable in the far-reaching communities that make up the chiefdoms.

From the foregoing, access to portable water in Karu is averagely okay; however, access to portable drinking water in surrounding communities of Karu chiefdom is a major challenge for the indigenes of the chiefdom. Indigenes still rely on surface waters like streams and hand-dug gullies to obtain water, while in some communities where boreholes have been drilled, they're grossly insufficient to meet the population's needs or do not work. The other options are digging wells, buying water from vendors, and buying sachet water, and those are for those that can afford them. The implication of this position is that the poor, who cannot afford to buy water, are forced to source it from unclean sources. And this results in people falling ill as a result of water-borne germs.

The people of Karu Chiefdom are also calling for the relocation of the Abattoir from its current location which unfortunately is now at the centre of the chiefdom due to urban growth and expansion. The activities at the abattoir is causing serious environmental pollution; particularly air pollution due to the daily burning of tyres which infiltrates the air and make it unsafe for breathing, another activity of the abattoir affecting the people is the contamination of water sources. The people complain that the waste from the abattoir is dumped directly into water channels without any treatment leading to serious water contamination for those who depend on these surface water sources.

The schools in the communities that make up Karu chiefdom are not enough to cater for the children of the indigenes. This is because the carrying capacity of the schools is not enough if we calculate the number of schools and class rooms against the overall population in the chiefdom. Other challenges include poor facilities, a shortage of teachers, and dilapidated structures and facilities. The children are not given quality education that would put them at par with their peers all over the world.

Waste disposal in the chiefdom is poor or nonexistent. Indigenes have to resort to other means of disposing of their waste, with the most commonly available and patronized being the bababolar (Hausa word for waste cart pushers). The alternative means of disposing the waste is not ideal for the community and the people resident in the chiefdom. It is for this reason that people are exposed to epidemics and diseases carried by rodents.



### 4.3 Bwari Area Council Etsu Bwari Chiefdom

- The indigenous people of the chiefdom complain about exorbitant charges for medical services. The cost of the services is high in relation to the standard of living of most of the indigenous people. The resultant impact of this situation is that good health is only for the rich and those who can afford it. They also complained about other forms of extortion for other services and other unprofessional conduct by the personnel. The health facilities are not adequate, and the ones that exist are not functioning optimally. The facilities are not properly staffed and are not properly stocked with drugs.
  - The class rooms in the public schools are overcrowded because they are overpopulated. As a result of the burden in some of the schools, the authorities have had to adopt morning and afternoon shifts for pupils. There were also complaints that some teachers were not qualified to teach and instruct the children. Some schools within the chiefdom are poorly equipped and understaffed. Facilities like computers and other modern equipment that are used in the 21st century for teaching are not available. Most of the primary schools don't have running water, and the toilets are either not available or out of order.
  - The indigenes complained of the fact that they are not benefiting from the Usuma Dam, which provides water to Abuja metropolis, even though the indigenes had to cede their lands to the FG and be relocated to situate the dam. They are boreholes, but most of them are not functioning. Residents and original inhabitants have to look for alternative sources of water—wells, streams, and even buying water from vendors—in a bid to get water. In many cases, the indigenes have been condemned to drinking water that is not fit for human consumption. The people fall ill from avoidable illnesses caused by ingesting contaminated water.
  - The indigenes complained about the fact that there are no economic opportunities for women and children. Unemployment is a major reason why young people, especially male youths, go into a life of crime.
- The Bwari chiefdom demands water schemes for the chiefdom.



### **Sarkin Bwari Chieftdom**

- The indigenes complained about the PHCs and general hospitals being too expensive and beyond the reach of ordinary people. Public health facilities are not within a reasonable distance for most people, and such people go through a lot to get medical attention. It is even more worrisome when one considers the fact that medical emergencies can occur at night, coupled with the level of insecurity, and a means of transportation is not available to convey them. Infant and maternal care is not adequate and, as such, puts infants and pregnant women at risk. Most of the primary health care centers in Bwari are grossly understaffed and underequipped. As a result of this gap, the secondary health system (the general hospital) is overburdened and stressed with cases that should be handled at the primary health care level.
- PTA levies and other related levies are charged to parents for education that should be free. The essence of free education is to ensure that people who cannot afford education for their children are able to send their children to school. The teacher-pupil ratio is below the required standard, as the number of children in a classroom makes it difficult for children to learn. The classrooms are not equipped with the appropriate learning aids. Facilities like water, a functioning toilet, and electricity are not available. The security of the children is also ignored, as the schools are

exposed with no perimeter fence.

- Communities within the chieftdom are without piped-borne water, even when they are close to the dam that supplies water to residents of the city center. Most of the boreholes that have been sunk by the government are not functioning, so the indigenous people have to find other means of getting water.
- Poor waste management needs improvement. Waste disposal is not available for the communities that make up Sarkin Bwari Chieftdom. They are left to dispose of their waste in an uncoordinated manner. And in view of this state of affairs, they are exposed to germs that cause sickness and illness. It is a vicious cycle that can be avoided if the government provides facilities for disposing of the waste in the community.

### **4.4 Gwagwalada Area Council Gwagwalada Chieftdom:**

1. Some communities in Gwagwalada Chieftdom (Angwan Bassa and Angwan Dodo) are in need of more primary schools, as they only have one primary school for the whole community. While some other communities don't have any at all. Children from the communities that don't have any school have to come to the community with just one school to attend. It was also reported that due to the lack of school infrastructure, the primary and secondary schools are operated on a rotational basis, with the primary pupils using the facility in the morning while the secondary



school students resume in the afternoon. Considering the climate of Gwagwalada, it is foolhardy to think that any child will be able to concentrate and learn with the weather at its hottest in the afternoon. Hence, the community needs more classrooms for its teeming young population. Also, parents cannot afford textbooks for their pupils as they are expensive, and they request that the government assist them by either providing these textbooks or subsidizing them. The issue of teachers teaching in the local dialect was also raised. It was reported that in LEA Rafin-Zurufi, pupils are taught in the Gbagyi dialect.

2. PHCs in Angwan Dodo and Anagada communities do not have drugs, sufficient beds, or other medical equipment. The PHCs also do not operate round-the-clock and are not secure. Indigenes from Angwan Dodo are of the view that the one (1) PHC in their community is not enough to cater for the over 10,000 thousand people in the community. The challenge for communities in the chiefdom is that the healthcare facilities cannot respond to and address the healthcare needs of the population. As such, the government has to build more healthcare facilities, and these facilities have to be within a reasonable distance for the people to access.
3. Communities within the chiefdom depend on wells and water vendors (Mairuwa), as there are no government-provided boreholes or pumps. The cost of buying from water vendors is also a challenge for their meager incomes. The dangers inherent in using water from unclean sources are enormous. The ones that people can relate to are water-borne illnesses that are caused by drinking dirty and unclean water.
4. Insecurity is a serious threat facing the people of Gwagwalada chiefdom. The people are worried over continuous theft and crime in their chiefdom. They complained about the activities of Bababolar and how they are radicalizing children and teenagers by introducing them to drugs and substance abuse and thereafter commissioning them to perpetuate crimes in the communities. The communities demand that a police station be set up in the communities to curtail and arrest irritant youths who disturb the peace and order of the communities.
5. Other issues raised were those pertaining to poor roads in need of repair (areas in need of urgent intervention are Paiko to Ibwa and Dukpa 2 to Ibwa 2), poor environmental sanitation, as well as the high rate of unemployment, which predisposes youths to crime.

#### **Zuba Chiefdom:**

1. Communities in Zuba Chiefdom do not have pipe-borne water, and they also do not have public boreholes. To this end, residents have to depend on water vendors (Mairuwa) for water, which goes for between 1500 and 2000 NGN a truck in the dry season. In places like Minister Hill and Central Mosque in Zuba, it is more difficult to get water. Subjecting indigenes to the distress of having to look for other sources of water, which are more expensive and tedious. Life for the indigenes is very tough as there are a lot of activities that are dependent on water; water cannot be avoided because water is life. The water that is used for cooking and drinking has to be clean to avoid water-borne illnesses.

2. The access roads and drainages in the communities are in a terrible state. And this makes commuting for indigenous people stressful. Activities like going to the market, school, work, and places of worship, just to mention a few, are far from ideal. And this affects the economic and social lives of the people. The recent flooding that rocked many parts of the country established the need for the government to be proactive and put infrastructure in place that would protect the people against flooding and other natural disasters. There is a need for a bridge linking Ibwa 1 community and Ibwa 2 community to be constructed so as to put an end to students having to cross the river on their way to the senior secondary school in Ibwa 2 community.
3. Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) in some communities in Zuba Chiefdom do not have enough drugs, and their service charges are expensive, almost comparable to what one would pay in a private hospital or clinic. Some PHCs also need midwives and other medical personnel. The health facilities are not also evenly and proportionally spread and distributed to meet the medical needs of the indigenes. Indigenes have to commute for very long distances to be able to get to medical facilities without any real guarantees that the facilities will be able to meet their needs. Some health facilities within the chiefdom don't have running water.
4. The people of Zuba chiefdom believe that the schools in their

communities are insufficient for their population. For example, children in Tunga Maje have to walk kilometers to Zuba to attend secondary school, risking their lives to road accidents which has claimed the lives of some young indigenes whose only crime was to seek education. Communities in Igwa ward need more qualified teachers in their schools, scholarships for pupils, and educational materials and stationery for their children in school. To this end, the people are calling on the government to remedy this defect by building more schools and ensuring that they are equipped and adequately staffed.

#### 4.5 Kuje Area Council Gwargwada Chiefdom

1. The infrastructure of primary schools in the chiefdom is dilapidated, which has led to the closure of some of the schools. The schools that are operating are also understaffed. A major feature for most of the schools is that they are not really conducive for learning. Facilities like water points, functioning toilets, stocked libraries, and sports facilities are not available. In fact, children in Gwagwarda chiefdom learn under trees and on rainy days are crammed into the few available classrooms. The children are not given the impression that their education and welfare are important and that they matter. The security of the schools within the chiefdom is poor and grossly inadequate. The schools are also understaffed and in need of more qualified teachers.



2. The Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) in Gombe and Gwargwada communities are poorly staffed, have no electricity or water and poorly maintained. The facilities have only one government-employed staff member, who, due to fatigue and administrative demands, is not always available. These facilities also lack needed drugs. The primary healthcare centers are not enough and not proportional to the population. To this end, more PHCs have to be built to meet the needs of the people in the community.
3. The chiefdom doesn't have access to pipe-borne or portable water. To this end, people rely on alternative sources of water. Gwargwada community has no borehole; Gombe community has one borehole that is currently not working; Tusha community also has no borehole or hand pump well. All these communities rely on stream water for their daily needs. Indigenes have to suffer to get water for their needs. They have to trek and walk for miles to be able to get water. Women and children are the most affected by the situation, and they are exposed to unnecessary risks by going out to get water.
4. Residents in the chiefdom are also exposed to security threats due to the absence of adequate security in the community. Kidnapping, theft, and armed robbery are some of the security risks they are exposed to. Farming in the communities has slowed in the last one year due to insecurity.

### Gomo Chiefdom

1. The primary schools in the chiefdom all have dilapidated buildings and are in dire need of urgent renovation. This is in addition to the fact that the schools are not enough for the number of children that are eligible to attend school. The schools are understaffed. The schools lack the necessary facilities to ensure the children can learn in a conducive environment. The right to education has been denied to the children of the indigenes of the chiefdom. The children don't have the necessary materials, like books, to aid their learning. The quality of education that the children are exposed to is not befitting of Nigeria and human beings in the 21st century.
2. The Agwai community's PHC was constructed by the community; it is too small, and as such, there is a need for a standard structure to be built in its place. Tukuba PHC is dilapidated and needs renovation. Also, PHC's surroundings are not well maintained. Staff of PHCs and Corp members posted there do not show up to work regularly due to poor/lack of supervision. The government does not create adequate awareness and sensitization among community members before embarking on immunization and other health-related campaigns.
3. Angwan-gade community has only one of their five boreholes still working, while Agwai and other communities in the chiefdom do not have boreholes and have to rely on stream water. Women and children are the worst hit by the scarcity of water because they have to go out and look for it. To this end, the government has an obligation to ensure that the people have access to pipe-borne water or water schemes that will provide them with adequate water.
4. The communities in the chiefdom have challenges with roads, drainage, and other infrastructure needed to improve the quality of their lives.
5. Lack of junior secondary schools in Angwan-gade: The people of Angwan-gade are calling on the government to site a junior secondary school close to them so that their wards do not have to trek unendingly to access education.
6. **Poor power supply:** The people of the Chiefdom are demanding that government connect them to the national grid or any alternative source of power which will improve their economic status due to the potential business that comes with the availability of power.

## Rubochi Chieftdom

1. The Primary Health Care (PHC) in Rubochi is understaffed (3 government-employed workers), relying on volunteers. The PHCs also lack drugs and medical equipment, leading to a heavy reliance on referrals to PHCs in Abaji and Gwagwalada. The PHCs are not adequate to meet the needs of the population. Due to the staff shortage in the PHCs, the personnel are operating under a lot of pressure, and in this condition, the chances are very high that they won't be able to function optimally, which could have adverse effects on the patients who are in need of quality healthcare. The implication of this situation is that the indigenes are at risk of getting substandard medical care.
2. It is only the main Rubochi community that has a primary school, and pupils have to trek miles from interior villages such as Kulo to attend school; this school is severely overcrowded and in need of more classrooms to be constructed. The fact that the chieftdom has just one school to serve the needs of several communities in Rubochi chieftdom is an indication that these communities have been abandoned and are in urgent need of urgent attention. Children should not be allowed to go through a harrowing experience every day because they want to learn. Children need to be in the right state of mind if they are to learn efficiently.

There are only 3 primary schools in Rubochi, namely Science Primary School,

Rubochi, LEA Primary School, Ope-Rubochi, and Model Primary School. These schools are not adequate. Across the schools mentions, their toilets are not functional, classrooms need renovation, there is inadequate furniture, and there is no perimeter fence.

Original inhabitants in the communities such as Kulo, Tika Simami, and Upo trek long distances to Rubochi to access the junior and senior secondary schools.

Junior Secondary School Rubochi Central (a newly commissioned school) is understaffed and mostly run by volunteers and staff drafted from Science Primary School.

3. Most of the communities away from Rubochi town in Rubochi Chieftdom do not have access to pipe-borne water. There are also no boreholes in the communities. To this end, the communities depend on wells and streams for water, e.g., Munu community, Tika community, Kulo and Sumami/Ope, Zokotu, Rubochi Central.
4. The communities do not have good access roads and drainages.
5. Demand for electricity: Rubochi chieftdom have been without electricity for over 10 years, they are calling on government to do the needful in restoring them back to the national grid.





## 4.6 Kwali Area Council

### Etsu Kwali Chiefdom:

1. The primary school in Lambata community is overcrowded, and the staff office is not big enough and, as such, uncomfortable. In other schools in the chiefdom, teachers rarely go to work. The school is grossly inadequate to meet the needs of the chiefdom. The schools are also understaffed and lack basic facilities like functional boreholes, functioning toilets, sports facilities, and a health center, among other necessary facilities. The schools also lack electricity. There is an urgent need for more schools and classrooms to be built for the community. The schools should also be upgraded to create a conducive atmosphere for the children to learn.
2. The Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) in Lambata and other communities within the chiefdom are understaffed, while many interior communities do not have PHCs. Also, the cost of accessing healthcare is too high for the people, as hospital cards at Kwali General Hospital go for about 1000 NGN. The health facilities lack drugs, medical facilities, and equipment. Furthermore, the facilities do not have running water and depend on alternative sources of water. The patients do not get proper attention from the staff because the staff are not enough and as such, are under a lot of pressure.
3. The communities in the chiefdom do not have access to pipe-borne water. Most communities in the chiefdom do not also have boreholes. To this end, they are left with the only option of sourcing water from streams and wells. Lambata, Bonugo,
4. Community members complained about bad roads (Turkuruwa: no road and water), insecurity, they also called on the government to provide mosquito nets for them.
5. Demand for market expansion in Kwali Central opposite Town Hall to accommodate more traders.
6. Poor road from Kwali town to Science Technology College Kwali; no security within the Science Technology College; no electricity in the school.

### Pai Chiefdom:

1. The primary school in Leleyi Bassa was constructed in 2008, but the building has collapsed (speedy completion of the facility is required). As a result of the collapsed building, pupils now take their lessons in the open. Pupils have to commute a long distance to attend school in Pai or Leleyi Gwari, which is discouraging as they have to travel for about an hour to get there. One can only wonder why children would have to be subjected to terrible conditions just because they want to go to school. The purpose of the Child Rights Act/Law is to protect children, and children in Abuja are covered by the Act. In view of the provisions contained in the Act, no child should be allowed to suffer in order to go to school.
2. The PHC in Pai has only two staff members who rarely resume work, leaving the PHC to be manned by the volunteer staff there. This has made most residents rather take their sick ones to Kwali instead. The PHCs in the chiefdom are not enough, and the only one that functions doesn't function in the true sense of the word. For instance, the PHC building in Leleyi Gwari is on the verge of collapse, and it has taken community efforts to undertake several remedial actions to ensure the building is still standing. In the same PHC, there are not enough beds, equipment, or electricity, although the Pai PHC has solar power, which is used for vaccine storage, same for the PHC in Leleyi Gwari. The authorities must, as a matter of urgency, look into the reason why paid staff avoid resuming at their



duty post daily. Health facilities are really important, and as such, all efforts must be made to ensure that these facilities work optimally.

3. The access roads to Pai are also not motorable and pose a daily threat to the lives of residents. During the rainy season, the conditions of the road are worse, and this makes life a living hell for residents of the community.
4. Insecurity is a challenge, there's been kidnap on the road leading to Pai and the people are calling on the government to increase security visibility within the chiefdom.
5. Teachers, school furniture, and the building of functional public toilets in the school environment are needed in Pai to discourage open defecation.

#### **Wako Chiefdom**

1. The PHC in Wako Chiefdom is understaffed; the community needs more PHCs to be able to adequately address the health needs of the community. The existing healthcare facility lacks amenities like running water and functioning toilets. In line with the fact that the PHC is understaffed, the available staff are overworked and burdened, and this puts a lot of pressure on them.
2. There is no portable water in the community because it has no access to pipe-borne water. To this end, the indigenes rely on private boreholes and other sources of water. The boreholes in the community are in need of fixing because most of them don't work. The implication of this position is that indigenes get water from other sources, most of which are not clean.

3. Stakeholders in the community are of the view that there is a need for more awareness about the dangers of open defecation. They are of the view that public toilets should be built for the community with access to water. That this would help combat the menace of open defecation in Wako Chiefdom.
5. Schools in Wako Chiefdom are not adequate to provide quality education for the children.

#### **Gomani Chiefdom:**

1. Communities in Gomani Chiefdom do not have access to pipe-borne water. The communities do not also have functioning boreholes. To this end, indigenes (who depend largely on streams) have to look for other alternatives in a bid to get water to meet their domestic needs.
2. Gomani Chiefdom is in need of a secondary school for the indigenes. The absence of a secondary school in the chiefdom means that children have to walk to neighboring communities to get secondary school education. (They spend an average of 1000 naira as transportation cost to access schools and spend an average of 6 hours to and fro school. In order to be at school on time, these pupils leave their homes as early as 5 a.m. daily putting themselves at risk of danger.)
3. The access roads in Gomani Chiefdom are not motorable, and this hampers smooth transportation to and from Gomani Chiefdom.
4. *Kundu, Sadaba, Kunguni, and Dogoruwa:* The primary schools in the listed communities require renovation; they are

understaffed, pupils learn sitting on the floor, there are no public toilets, no water, and no electricity.

5. The PHCs in Tunga and Gomani are uncompleted (in Tunga, the chief donated a room for the PHC staff; in Gomani, the PHC is a small room begging for expansion).
6. Land grabbing is a huge issue (allotees show up with papers to claim community land without any consultation with the community).
7. Water poverty in Dogoruwa, Sadaba is at a threatening height as the people struggle daily for access to water.
8. Insecurity is also a huge challenge facing the people of the chiefdom and they are calling on the government to do right by the people.

## 5.0 STAKEHOLDERS

It has been established that the critical stakeholders must work together towards the realization of optimal service delivery for the indigenous people of FCT and the fulfillment of the Charter of Demands. The stakeholders are as follows:

- The indigenous people and residents of the chiefdoms and communities within the chiefdoms
- The government (area councils, FCTA, and the federal government)
- Civil Society Stakeholders

### 1. *The Indigenes and Residents of the Chiefdoms and Communities Within the Chiefdom*

The traditional rulers and institutions (public and private companies operating within the communities), the indigenous people (living within and outside the communities), and

residents who are non-indigenes all have a role to play. It is evident that if we are to achieve our goals, all hands must be on deck. The indigenes and residents must be educated to understand their rights and obligations. The people must become watchdogs in their communities. The traditional rulers and their institutions must be positioned to enable them to respond to the needs of their environment. It is clear that the only way people can engage and be involved is if they understand the issues: how the systems work, the relevant provisions of the law, the applicable policies, and who is responsible for what. The only way this can be achieved is if the people are educated and have the capacity.

The other endeavor is that community-based organizations must be in place apart from traditional institutions. Community associations, resident associations, women's and youth associations, and religious associations must all work together to demand from the government, hold the government accountable, monitor and track ongoing projects, and secure government and community projects. They are also required to give the government reports and updates on relevant activities and projects.

The communities must also take ownership of their communities by recognizing that the government has competing needs and, as such, may not meet all the demands of the entire chiefdoms. As such, each community that has benefited from any intervention of the government, charities, or philanthropists must guard and protect such infrastructures jealously to avoid vandalism and misuse. Communities must also learn to embrace self-help on matters where community efforts can be galvanized; e.g., communities can pass a law that mandates every household to build a



household toilet so that the available water bodies are not contaminated and the entire community is not at risk of sanitation-related epidemics such as cholera.

### **Government**

In view of the status of Abuja as the Federal Capital Territory, the Federal Government doubles as the Federal Government and State Government for Abuja. The area councils are similar to the local governments across the country. Mention must, however, be made of the fact that the FCT Area Councils are the most autonomous in the country. This position is premised on the fact that the area councils have elections in the true sense of the word, conducted by INEC. Furthermore, the area councils also have relative control over their funds, unlike their counterparts in the respective states. In view of this position, they have no excuse to fail in their obligation to the chiefdoms and Abuja residents as a grassroot development vehicle of the government.

The primary duty of government at all levels is the security and welfare of the Nigerian people. To this end, the government must be committed to public service delivery.

### **Civil Society Organization**

Civil society organizations are obligated to support communities by educating and training them. They would also reach out to the relevant government agencies and officers and bring forward to them the challenges facing the original inhabitants of the FCT. They would also be involved in advocacy, tracking, and monitoring of projects, programs, and activities in the communities.

## **6.0 CHARTER OF DEMANDS**

The Service Charter of Demands for the Indigenous People of Abuja has been conceived for the benefit of the indigenous communities in the FCT. The indigenous people and their leaders would utilize the document to engage with elected government officials, candidates of political parties contesting for office, political parties, the President, Vice President, Senate President, Deputy Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator(s), House Member(s), Council Chairs and Councilors, House Committee on FCT at the National Assembly and public office holders charged with the responsibility of providing public service delivery.

The President, Minister for FCT, Federal Capital Territory Administration, and the relevant departments and agencies responsible for health, water, rural roads and infrastructure, education, and security, among others, the Area Council Chair and Legislators, and Senators and House of Representative members in the FCT have a duty and obligation to the people.

The Charter outlines the priority areas that were identified in the course of the engagement with the people on the issues and challenges in the respective chiefdoms.

The priority areas include the following:

- Access to quality and adequate water provision
- Provision of qualitative education for children of indigenous communities (primary and secondary schools)
- Provision of quality healthcare facilities for the indigenous communities.
- Basic infrastructure (roads, electricity, drainage, and street lights) and waste management
- Security of lives and property.

## 6.1 Expected Actionable Deliverables

Facilities, amenities, and infrastructure must be put in place based on who needs them and be proportional to the population on the ground. It is imperative that the government plan properly and determine the population, number of children, youths, women, and men, and their age brackets. Projects must be sited in locations where they are needed. Access to these facilities must also be taken into consideration when setting them up.

The government should, as a matter of importance and urgency, undertake or conduct a social and infrastructural audit in the over 800 communities that make up the 17 chiefdoms to aggregate the availability of basic services in the community, their adequacy, functionality, and performance, and ensure to carry the indigenous people along in coming up with projects in their communities to determine what is really needed. Some of the things that would be looked for are:

- The number of publicly owned and funded facilities in the chiefdoms and the communities in the chiefdoms
- The number of personnel in the facilities to determine if they are adequate and to determine their capacity to deliver on their jobs.
- The state of the facilities, amenities, and infrastructure
- Access to quality and adequate water provision

### ❖ Challenge

From the findings, it is evident that virtually all the indigenous communities in the FCT do not have piped-borne water or sufficient water. The implication of this position is that the indigenes struggle to access clean water. The alternative or palliative approach is sinking boreholes, but the boreholes are not even adequate, and most of them are grounded.

### ❖ Demands

- Repair of all the dilapidated and broken-down bore holes and putting in place and operationalizing a maintenance plan for the bore holes.
- As a palliative, short-term, and immediate measure, increase the number of boreholes in the chiefdoms.
- An integrative development plan has to be developed and funds made available to commence the construction of pipe-borne water for indigenous communities in Abuja.
- Integrate the indigenous people into the maintenance teams for the bore holes in Abuja and/or expand the current VLOM initiative across the entire communities.
- There should be a 24-hour response unit to address and respond to complaints.

## 6.2 Provision of qualitative education for the indigenous communities

### ❖ Challenges

Education is a right, not a privilege. To this end, public-funded education must not be approached halfheartedly. From the available facts, public-funded schools are not adequate and proportional to the population in the respective communities. The personnel, classrooms, facilities, and equipment are not ideal for learning in the 21st century.



### ❖ **Demands**

- Publicly funded schools (primary and secondary schools) must be up to global and national standards with respect to personnel and facilities. Teachers must be well compensated.
- The ratio of children to teachers must be conducive to learning for the children.
- Schools should be accessible to children in their respective communities.
- The schools must be safe and secure for the children and staff.
- Publicly funded schools should be free, and the home-grown school feeding program should be implemented in all the schools.

## **6.3 Provision of Healthcare Facilities**

### ❖ **Challenge**

Health is wealth, and as such, the well-being of the indigenous people must not be toyed with. Human life should matter to the government and the people themselves. The medical facilities, especially the primary healthcare centers, are not sufficient; they are grossly inadequate. The facilities also lack basic amenities and are understaffed, putting the available staff under immense pressure. As a matter of urgency, the FCTA and Area Councils should employ more staff for all the PHCs across the six area councils, as all the PHCs are grossly understaffed.

### ❖ **Demands**

- Efforts must be made to educate the indigenous people about healthy living and lifestyles. As they say, prevention is better than cure.
- The federal and area council governments should build more publicly funded medical facilities and equip, staff, and stock them. These facilities should be able to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- The existing facilities should be renovated, upgraded, and brought up to the required standard.
- As a palliative (short-term) and long-term approach, efforts should be made to provide ambulance, emergency, and paramedic services to respond to emergencies in the communities.
- The welfare of medical workers must be a priority.
- Immediate employment of more medical personnel across the six area councils, as many of the PHCs operate without doctors, nurses, and even midwives.

## **6.4 Infrastructure (roads, drains, and street lights) and the environment**

### ❖ **Challenge**

Most of the communities in the chieftdom, especially those in the remote hinterlands have challenges with other basic infrastructures such as roads, electricity, which hampers their livelihood and other activities. During the rainy season, it is worse for them because the drainage is either nonexistent or inadequate. There is also no waste disposal system in place in these communities, making them resort to self-help, which is dangerous for the environment.

### ❖ **Demand**

- The government at the federal and area council levels must focus on the infrastructure in indigenous communities. Area councils have an obligation to dedicate resources to this area.
- The government and their relevant departments should conduct an audit of roads and drainage in the communities to determine their state and begin to repair and upgrade them immediately.

- The government should allocate resources to infrastructure in the indigenous communities to ensure that they have the needed infrastructure.
- The projects must be built up to international standards and not just another avenue to siphon public funds. Furthermore, projects must be allocated based on priority.
- The infrastructure should be managed and maintained.

## 6.5 Security of Lives and Property

Security is a panacea for development. It is only when people are secure that they can go about their day-to-day tasks, duties, and activities. It is for this reason that there is a direct relationship between security and development. There have been a lot of cases of insecurity in Abuja.

### ❖ Demands

- There is a need to revive community policing; a framework should be put in place to ensure that the people at the grassroots are involved in security.
- Communities should have functional police posts and stations. Other security agencies should also have a presence in these communities.
- Security agencies in Nigeria should be well funded and equipped. The personnel should also be well taken care of and properly trained to enable them to discharge their duties and responsibilities.
- There should be effective patrolling and surveillance of the communities.
- Training of community vigilante groups and profiling of individuals of such groups to forestall any future happenstance where members of such groups may hold the communities to ransom.

## 7.0 CONCLUSION

The evidence on the ground is clear that the government at all levels has not done enough for indigenous communities. The government has to place a priority on development and capital projects in these communities. And when funds are allocated, they must be used for the purpose for which they were allocated. And the people have a duty and role to ensure that their commonwealth is used for their benefit.

The original inhabitants of Abuja are Nigerians and as the constitution provides that the welfare and security of every Nigerian is a constitutional right that is inalienable as such the failure of the government at all levels to provide the basic services deserving to the people to support their existence and all other functionalities of life is injustice to the people.



## TOWN HALL MEETING



**KUJE TOWN HALL MEETING**



**KWALI TOWN HALL MEETING**



**AMAC TOWN HALL MEETING**



**AMAC TOWN HALL MEETING**



**BWARI TOWN HALL MEETING**



**BWARI TOWN HALL MEETING**



**GWAGWALADA TOWN HALL MEETING**



**GWAGWALADA TOWN HALL MEETING**

## VISIT TO EDUCATION SECRETARIAT



## VALIDATION OF OI SERVICE CHARTER OF DEMAND





## COMMUNITY PICTURES



**ABANDONED WATER PROJECT  
IN RUBOCHI, KUJE AREA COUNCIL**



**LEA ZUBA**



**YABA**



**KAWU VILLAGE BWARI**



**PAI SCHOOL**



**KAWU VILLAGE BWARI**



**LEA ZUBA**



**KAWU VILLAGE BWARI**

## SERVICE OF CHARTER DEMAND



**ANGWAN DODO**



**ABANDONED BOREHOLD IN  
ANGWAN DODO**



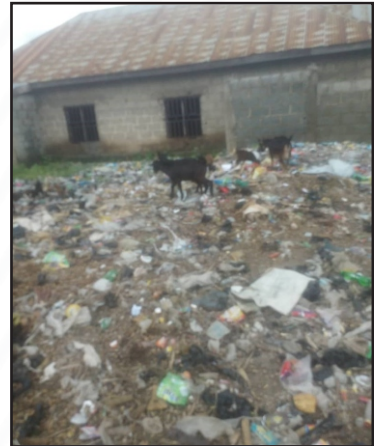
**TIKA COMMUNITY**



**DIBE KASA COMMUNITY**



## PHOTO GALLERY



**HAURA PRIMARY SCHOOL - KARSHI**



**ABAJI PHC**



**DAFARA PHC**



**LEA AGORA ZUBA**



**LEA GAWU PRIMARY  
SCHOOL KUJE**



**LEA GAWU PRIMARY  
SCHOOL KUJE**



## PHOTO GALLERY



**LEA PRIMARY SCHOOL  
BWARI**



**MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL  
RUBOCHI**



**SCIENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
RUBOCHI**



**SHENAGU LEA PRIMARY SCHOOL  
GWAGWALADA**



**SCIENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
YABA**



**PHC RUBOCHI  
MALFUNCTIONING EQUIPMENTS**



**PHC RUBOCHI  
NO BEDS**



**RUBOCHI WATER  
FACILITY**





## A BRIEF OF HIPCITY INNOVATION CENTRE

The realization that daily the inequality gap keeps widening, with the civic space shrinking due to sundry reasons, more women and young persons are locked in poverty and need for want, we therefore recognize that for global peace to be sustained and migration curtailed, young people and women must be trained and equipped with the right attitude, skills set and capacity to create wealth, speak up against all forms of violence and victimization and most importantly play critical role in decision making process.

Therefore at HipCity Innovation Centre we commit ourselves to ensuring free and democratic access to information, sharing with groups that have difficulty to access. We accept the responsibility to influence and cooperate with governmental institutions so long as the actions are approved in a democratic manner and are not in any used as a tool for victimization of the people. We recognize education as an inherent right of each human being.

We defend the principle of free and public education so as to guarantee the accessibility of education to all in order not to impede the privatization of knowledge. We commit ourselves to promoting skills, knowledge transfer to help guide more youths and women into sustainable businesses, while engaging with policy shapers to make legislations that would guarantee that every human has equal rights and opportunities to become the best they can be through their imagination and innovation without any impediments or exclusion.

Vision - We envision a world where everyone irrespective of the circumstances surrounding their existence have equal access to opportunities that would ensure that they attain self-actualization without fear of marginalisation, victimization or outright exclusion from issues that concern them.

Mission - Our mission is to help everyone especially women and youths have the right mind-set to create wealth through skills, coexist, value human rights, respect the rule of law, realise their full potential, and meaningfully become tools for positive sustainable development.

HipCity Innovation Centre is registered in Nigeria with the Corporate Affairs Commission with CAC No: CAC/IT/116821

**Office Address: Suite 009, 3rd floor, Transpharm plaza, Jabi, Abuja**  
**Phone Number: 07034520685, 08039906111**  
**Email Address: [info.hipcityhub@gmail.com](mailto:info.hipcityhub@gmail.com)**  
**Website: [www.hipcityinnovationcentre.org](http://www.hipcityinnovationcentre.org)**  
**facebook: Hipcityhub**  
**twitter: [@Hipcityhub](https://twitter.com/Hipcityhub)**  
**instagram: Hipcityhub**  
**youtube: Hipcity Hub**