MANTRA REPORT

ON THE

DISBURSEMENT OF THE RECOVERED

$322.5MILLION

ABACHA LOOT

DECEMBER 2019
However, there had been limited accountability and transparency in terms of what these monies were used for. Switzerland returned over $700 million to Nigeria under the framework of an MOU specifying that the funds should be spent on the poor and vulnerable through social safety net programmes and monitored by civil society groups in the country. 

Base stipend of $85,000 (Monthly) is paid to eligible beneficiaries but 10,000 is disbursed every 2 months out of which 70% is expected to be from the $322.5 million Abacha loot, while 30% would be from a World Bank facility.

In August 2018, Switzerland authorities returned $322.5 million to Nigeria under the framework of an MOU specifying that the funds should be spent on the poor and vulnerable through social safety net programmes and monitored by civil society groups in the country. 

In January 2018, Nigeria signed an MOU with CSOs to monitor the use of the $322.5 million Abacha loot.

In April 2018, ANEEJ established the Monitoring of Recovered Assets in Nigeria through Transparency and Accountability (MANTRA) Project with funding from UKAID under the Anti-Corruption in Nigeria (ACORN) programme.

Objectives

Targeting payments to specified beneficiaries

Reporting on whether the funds disbursed reached the intended beneficiaries

Reporting on grievances and feedback from beneficiaries

Reporting on total funds disbursed

Trace and verification of data generated in the programme

Beneficiary experience survey on the programme

Engagement with the programme’s Grievance Redress Mechanism

Partnership with government institutions on the monitoring process

MANTRA network reaches 73,998 beneficiaries in 4,540 communities.

97 L.G.As and 20 States

134 CSO, 1,456 field monitors engaged cumulatively

MANTRA MODEL

1

2

3

4

5

Local CSOs and citizens’ capacity building to monitor disbursement of the looted assets.

MANTRA has done its first and second monitoring of the $322.5 million Abacha loot in October 2018 – October 2019.

It is estimated that Nigeria loses about 40% of its national wealth to corruption and corruption-related mismanagement. [1]

Nigeria lost about $40.9 billion through illicit financial flows between 2001 and 2010. [2]

Background


Mixed methods
Quantitative method
- Beneficiary experience survey
- Verification of data generated
Qualitative method
- Review of documents
- Audit of financial records
- Review of processes in the upstream and downstream sectors of the programme

Sample size
Beneficiary Total population (June 2019) N=350,515
Survey Sample size n = 73,998 (21%) 295 Documents reviewed 89 Officials interviewed

Limitations
Hard to reach areas were reached not in a representative manner
Supplementary reconciliation of records after the survey
Repetitions and wrong nomenclature of L.G.As and communities made verification at community level not clear in some locations
Lack of unified reporting format by all L.G.As, State and payment operators posed a challenge of harmonizing data

Objective 2: BENEFICIARIES GRIEVANCES
Beneficiaries with complaints by the end of the first year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
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Table 1: Most common type of complaints reported in each monitoring cycle

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<td>no complaints and non response</td>
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Survey findings
43% Total beneficiaries with complaints who had registered their complaints

Respondents with complaints who registered complaints which were not solved

Study Area
20 States (including the FCT)
97 L.G.As
4540 Communities

Data collection methods
1 auditor and 1456 trained field monitors
Administered data collection tools (Questionnaire, data verification and key informant interviews)

METHODOLOGY
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Findings on Objective 3:

TOTAL FUNDS DISBURSED (JULY 31ST 2019)

Abacha loot disbursed by CBN to NCTO

$32,827,475.00 (₦10,366,211,743.70)

Abacha loot disbursed by NCTO to payment service providers (PSP)

₦12,655,432,000

Abacha loot disbursed by PSP to beneficiaries

₦12,465,216,000

Less than 80% of the base stipends disbursed to beneficiaries in the programme was from the Abacha repatriated funds as at July 31st 2019

Data obtained in December 2019

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<tr>
<td>Total beneficiaries</td>
<td>834,948</td>
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<td>Total beneficiaries paid</td>
<td>703,506</td>
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<td>Total amount released from NCTO to Payment Service Operators (IDA and repatriated Abacha loot)</td>
<td>₦38,136,345,000</td>
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<td>Total amount released from NCTO to Payment Service Providers from Abacha account (repatriated Abacha loot)</td>
<td>₦24,658,072,000</td>
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<td>Total amount paid to beneficiaries from repatriated Abacha loot</td>
<td>₦23,742,580,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of repatriated Abacha loot in total amount released from NCTO to PSP (IDA and Abacha repatriated funds)</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
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Funds distribution Pathway

CBN → NCTO → PSP → Beneficiaries
Findings on Objective 4: Reporting on the success of the funds reaching its intended beneficiaries

- The beneficiary ID cards were reviewed against beneficiaries that were seen to answer the question *is it the right beneficiary?* 97%

- Respondents who experienced deductions from their funds by external parties 4.9%

- Paid Beneficiaries
  - 92.10% in August/September 2018
  - 95.88% in May/June 2019

- Respondents who identified the registered Beneficiaries as persons who collects the funds 84%

- Only 2 states had significant response and (non response rate) for other persons collecting funds on their behalf

- SDG target 16.4 by 2030 significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime.
Glossary

CBN – Central Bank of Nigeria
NCTO – National Cash Transfer Office
CSOs – Civil Society Organisations
PSPs – Payment Service Providers

Link to MANTRA Resources

https://www.aneej.org/nigerian-csos-gfar-welcome-mou-321m-abacha-loot-repatriation/

https://www.aneej.org/aneej-mantra-anchors-with-logical-frameworks/

https://www.aneej.org/how-the-national-social-register-is-built/

The Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) is a non-government organization in Nigeria, West Africa. ANEEJ has been in operations since 1995 and aims to “amplify the voice of the weak, the less privileged and the marginalized groups in the society including women, youths, and people living with disabilities in order to increase their participation in the democratic decision-making process”. ANEEJ is the host of the Monitoring of Recovered Assets through Transparency and Accountability (MANTRA) project.

ABOUT ANEEJ

CONTACT US

Phone: +234 906 688 3269
Email: info@aneej.org
Website: www.aneej.org, www.mantra-acorn.com
Twitter: @aneejnigeria

MANTRA Partners