

**FINAL REPORT: St. Peter's Parish Jangbunu Projects, Yola Diocese,
Nigeria – Supported by Twinning Team St. John the Evangelist Parish
Ballinteer, Archdiocese of Dublin, Republic of Ireland**

1. Applicant:

Catholic Diocese of Yola
Bishop's House
No. 5 Gashaka Street
P.O. Box 57
Jimeta Yola
Adamawa State, Nigeria
Email: stevemamza@yahoo.com
www.catholicdioceseofyola.org

2. Person responsible for the Project:

Parish Priest St. Peter's Jangbunu
C/o Catholic Bishop of Yola
Bishop's House
No. 5 Gashaka Street
P.O. Box 57
Jimeta Yola
Adamawa State, Nigeria
Email: stevemamza@yahoo.com
Mobile: +2348036601446

3. Project owner:

Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Dami Mamza
Catholic Bishop of Yola
Bishop's House
No. 5 Gashaka Street
P.O. Box 57
Jimeta Yola
Adamawa State, Nigeria
Email: stevemamza@yahoo.com
Mobile: +2348036601446

4. Final Report: St. Peter's Parish Jangbunu Projects, Yola Diocese, Nigeria – Supported by Twinning Team St. John the Evangelist Parish Ballinteer, Archdiocese of Dublin, Republic of Ireland

5. Submitted to Twinning Team St. John the Evangelist Parish Ballinteer, Archdiocese of Dublin, Republic of Ireland

6. Project description

6.1. Description of the Project Environment

Geographically: The Catholic Diocese of Yola covers about ¼ of Adamawa State in North East Nigeria. The State has a total area of 39,742.12 square kilometers. This is about 4.4 percent of the land area of Nigeria. The State lies between latitudes 8° N longitude 11.5° E and 13.5° E. It borders the Republic of Cameroon. The State capital Yola also serves as the centre of the Diocese. The population of the State according to the last Census in 2006 is 2,840,000. An estimated population of the Diocese is about 2,600,000 with Catholics numbering about 213,000.

6.2. Planning and background

i. Why Intervene in Educational Service Provision in Jangbunu

Nigeria is Africa's largest economy and most populous country has over 200 million inhabitants. Nigeria is a linguistic, cultural, ethnic and religious patchwork, which creates both diversity and challenges. There are enormous class divisions, and over half of the population is in poverty, living on less than USD 1.25 a day.

Jangbunu like many other areas in the north are the poorest in the country. Jangbunu is the poorest village in the Diocese of Yola. Here, social rights are weak, and there is a glaring lack of schooling and health services. The population is increasing rapidly, but life expectancy is only 53 years.

That Northern Nigeria is glaringly trailing the Southern part of the country in most education comparative parameters is not in doubt. While the indices are many with which to assess the North, at a time the UN is aggressively promoting free and compulsory education, the key indices remain Access, Inclusivity, Affordability and Quality. Yet, despite the political pronouncements and sometimes huge funds that have been committed for Basic, secondary and tertiary education in the region, the very low enrolment rates of between 35 to 47% in the North compared to 75 to 85% rates in the 3 Geopolitical zones of the South speaks to the disparity. Furthermore, the fact that no Northern State was among the top 10 States in the country in respect of literacy rate depicts the sad reality of the worrisome indices for the future development of the North in the near future.

Yet, in the face of these stark reality, all is not lost, as there is the potential for reversing these negative indices, if the right measures and attitude are adopted, not just by governments, as though government is managed by ghosts, but the citizenry, with religious organizations working to make educational access possible for poor communities.

Some Facts that speak to the Challenges of Access to education in Northern Nigeria:

- According to UNICEF statistics www.unicef.org/ng/edu, Even though education is supposed to be free and compulsory, about 10.5 million children nationally aged 5-14 (Basic School Classes) are out of school.
- Of the total number of those who are registered in lower basic and middle basic i.e. age 16-11 equivalent to primary 1-6 only 61% are regular.
- Still of the number registered, only 35.6% 36-59 months (3-5 years) have access to early childhood education.
- In the north, the picture is even bleaker.

The school attendance rate is put at 53%.

- The North West and the north east have school attendance rates for the girl child put at 47.3 and 47.7 respectively.
- Meaning that more than half of the girls are out of school (Nnadu, Avidime, Oguntunde, Dashe, Abdulkareem and Mandara (2010)) agree with the statistic.
- These realities are indeed worrisome to every one of us when we consider the fact that education and in particular Formal education has consistently, right from the colonial days to today, remain the key socio-political as well as socio-economic means of advancement and empowerment.
- The child right act (UNICEF 1999) stipulates: “every child (male or female) is entitled to receive free and compulsory basic education and equal opportunity for higher education based on individual ability”. This has since been domesticated and captured in the Nigerian nation policy of education but the implementation is not done.

Access to education in Nigeria is driven by various factors, includes, economic barrier and socio-cultural norms and practices that discourages school enrollment, retention and completion especially in formal education for both gender but that of the girl child is worst.

- i. **The Pastoral Plan of Yola Diocese:** The over-all goal of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan is focused on provision of quality education of children who come from very poor families and to offer spiritual and psychosocial support. The Catholic Diocese of Yola is dedicated to improving educational services to the rural poor. The Bishop has been able to make

this project possible through the support of the Twinning Team of St. John the Evangelist Ballinteer Parish.

- ii. How our planned measures fit into this plan:** There is a direct link between education and poverty, indicating how improving education in Nigeria can help the economic growth of the country while helping citizens rise out of poverty. When children are educated, they develop the skills and knowledge that can help them secure well-paying jobs in the future. Furthermore, poverty is a cycle, and, a lack of access to education perpetuates that cycle. Oftentimes, parents are unable to send their children to school due to the unaffordable secondary costs of schooling. Even when school itself is free, textbooks and uniforms warrant costs that families simply cannot afford to pay. Uneducated children are unable to break cycles of poverty, meaning the next generation will most likely continue the cycle of poverty too. Additionally, education reduces gender equality disparities. Educated girls are able to attain financial independence, reducing poverty for themselves and their communities. Educated women are also more likely to prioritize the education of their children. According to Global Citizen, If all adults completed secondary education, 420 million people could rise above the poverty line. This is due to the fact that education increases yearly earnings by 10% with each added year of education.
- iii. Tackling future running costs:** The Diocese will take full charge of tackling any future costs of the infrastructural maintenance of the school.
- iv. Genesis of the project:** This project was borne from the Bishop's concern about stakeholders engagement from the time he took over the leadership of the diocese. He realized that education is the key to unlocking the golden door of freedom for all in Yola Diocese. It is the bedrock of social and economic development. Education is crucial as it is an investment in human capital. This yields tremendous benefits at many levels and spheres. It benefits the individual, family, community and nation. Education is a sustainable means to alleviate poverty and bring lasting change. Consequently, to effect permanent change, any effort to bring lasting change must include education, in one way or the other. Providing a quality education to children reflects the fact that every child is entitled to fundamental human rights and should be treated with dignity. Where children lack access to education, this results in poverty, violence, abuse, exploitation and other undesirable results. Poverty and its related challenges contribute to high drop-out rates. Therefore, one of

the goals of Yola Diocese is to create opportunities for promising but impoverished African children and youths.

6.3. List of projects Supported by the Twinning Team:

Activity #1.1 – Constructed Motorized Borehole for Water Supply New School, Parish House and Convent in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

Activity #2.1 - Constructed a Block of 4 Classrooms in the New School in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria (PHASE I)

Activity #3.1 – Constructed a Block of 4 Classrooms in the New School in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria (PHASE II)

Activity #4.1 – Bought and Installed a 5 KVA Inverter, Batteries and Solar Panels for New School New School, Parish House and Convent in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

Activity #5.1 – Installed Computers and Printers for New School in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

Activity #6.1 – Rehabilitated the Church and Parish House in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

Activity #7.1 – Constructed and Furnished the New Convent in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

Activity #8.1 – Purchased a New Vehicle and Generator for the New Convent in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

6.4.0. Executed Measures

6.4.1. Constructed Motorized Borehole in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria:

- i. Exact description:** Construction of Motorized Borehole
- ii. Intended use:** Provision of Clean Water
- iii. Provisions for future maintenance** will be undertaken by the Diocese of Yola

6.4.2. Constructed a Block of 4 Classrooms in the New School in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria (PHASE I)

- i. Exact description:** Constructed a Block of Classrooms
- ii. Intended use:** Provision for Teaching/Learning
- iii. Provisions for future maintenance** will be undertaken by the Diocese of Yola

6.4.3. Constructed a Block of 4 Classrooms in the New School in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria (PHASE II)

- i. Exact description:** Constructed a Block of Classrooms
- ii. Intended use:** Provision for Teaching/Learning
- iii. Provisions for future maintenance** will be undertaken by the Diocese of Yola

6.4.4. Bought and Installed a 5 KVA Inverter, Batteries and Solar Panels for New School New School, Parish House and Convent in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

- i. Exact description:** Purchased a 5 KVA Inverter, Batteries and Solar Panels for New School, Parish House and Convent
- ii. Intended use:** Provision of Power
- iii. Provisions for future maintenance** will be undertaken by the Diocese of Yola

6.4.5. Installed Computers and Printers for New School New School in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

- iv. **Exact description:** Installed Computers and Printers for New School
- v. **Intended use:** Provision for Teaching/Learning
- vi. **Provisions for future maintenance** will be undertaken by the Diocese of Yola

6.4.6. Rehabilitated the Church and Parish House in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria

- i. **Exact description:** Rehabilitated the Church/Parish House
- ii. **Intended use:** Provision for Prayer/Priest's accommodation
- iii. **Provisions for future maintenance** will be undertaken by the Diocese of Yola

6.4.7. Constructed/Furnished the New Convent in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria

- i. **Exact description:** Constructed/Furnished New Convent
- ii. **Intended use:** Provision for Sisters' accommodation
- iii. **Provisions for future maintenance** will be undertaken by the Diocese of Yola

6.4.8. Purchased a New Vehicle and Generator for New Convent in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

- vii. **Exact description:** Purchased a New Toyota Starlet car/New Generator
- viii. **Intended use:** Provision of Transport/Power Supply
- ix. **Provisions for future maintenance** will be undertaken by the Diocese of Yola

6.5.0. Impact with regard to:

6.5.1. Social context: This project has improved the lives of the Jangbunu community and other surrounding villages to live together in peace and harmony, dedicated to improve spiritual and psychosocial support and the education of children affected by extreme poverty. The social standing of the beneficiaries in the community was raised, as people looked at them with respect in this beautiful and secure environment of prayer and educational access for the poor and vulnerable.

6.5.2. Revived Parish Community: Parish life in Jangbunu has been revived due to this project. By its nature the parish is the ordinary place where the faithful worship and live their Christian life. In it they can express and practice the initiatives which faith and Christian charity bring to the attention of the community of believers. Jangbunu parish is now a place which manifests the communion of various groups and movements, which find in it spiritual sustenance and material support. The Priest and lay people see to it that parish life is harmonious, expressing the Church as Family, where all devote "themselves to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). The Parish liturgy has become more lively and the Parish Church is the community meeting ground for worship, socialization and fellowship.

6.5.3. Members of other religions: Inter-religious dialogue forms part of the Church's evangelizing mission. This project especially the Water Supply has made the community members engage in practical cooperation with adherents of other faiths in facing challenges threatening peaceful coexistence and seek to promote peace, justice and development through the education of vulnerable groups and psychosocial support.

6.5.4. Environment: The Parish House, Convent and New School have a positive impact on the environment. Community action will focus on ecological issues and the Church's teaching on the care for the earth. It will be geared towards not just the cleanliness of the environment but the total care of the earth in the spirit of "Laudato Si" of Pope Francis. It is an opportunity for initiating inter-religious dialogue. The community shall embark on peacebuilding activities with Muslims and Traditional Religionists to bring about justice, peace and development which is seriously needed due to the religious tension in North East Nigeria where Yola Diocese is situated.

6.5.5. Sustainability: The Parish House, Convent and New School Project for Jangbunu community is sustainable through the combined efforts of the target beneficiaries owning the project and the diocese overseeing the progress.

Bishop's Attestation Page

I make my submission here that these Projects Supported by the Twinning Team were Completed Based on our Agreement:

Activity #1.1 – Constructed Motorized Borehole for Water Supply New School, Parish House and Convent in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

Activity #2.1 - Constructed a Block of 4 Classrooms in the New School in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria (PHASE I)

Activity #3.1 – Constructed a Block of 4 Classrooms in the New School in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria (PHASE II)

Activity #4.1 – Bought and Installed a 5 KVA Inverter, Batteries and Solar Panels for New School New School, Parish House and Convent in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

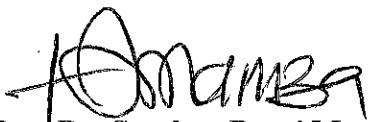
Activity #5.1 – Installed Computers and Printers for New School in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

Activity #6.1 – Rehabilitated the Church and Parish House in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

Activity #7.1 – Constructed and Furnished the New Convent in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

Activity #8.1 – Purchased a New Vehicle and Generator for the New Convent in Jangbunu, Yola Diocese Nigeria.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



**Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Dami Mamza
Catholic Bishop of Yola
NIGERIA**