



United States Diplomatic Mission to Nigeria, Public Affairs Section
Plot 1075, Diplomatic Drive, Central Business District, Abuja
Telephone: 09-461-4000. Website at

<http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 30, 2021

PR-026/2021

USAID Launches New \$33 Million Activity to Enhance Civil Society Advocacy in Nigeria

Abuja – On March 30, 2021, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a new activity that promises to enhance the ability of Nigeria’s civil society and business membership organizations (CSOs and BMOs) to influence policies and reforms across the most critical service sectors.

The five-year, \$32.9 million Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement (SCALE) activity strengthens the financial, management, and advocacy capacity of CSOs and BMOs to create a more accountable and democratic Nigeria with more efficient public service delivery.

At a launch ceremony attended by a wide variety of governmental and private sector advocates for good governance, USAID Acting Mission Director Katie Donohoe said that Nigerian civil society has the potential to support transformational change in Nigeria.

“This investment underscores the depth of the U.S. commitment to strengthen CSO advocacy in Nigeria,” Ms. Donohoe said. “Civic action has achieved significant global impacts in recent years. People here and around the world are expressing their wish for a stronger, better functioning democracy.”

Built on the framework of the earlier USAID Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement activity, Palladium Group serves as the implementer for SCALE in partnership with strong local organizations such as the Policy and Legislative Advocacy Center, Center for Leadership, Strategy and Development, and Nigeria Network of Non-Governmental Organizations.

“This activity aligns with the government’s commitment for a more accountable and responsive government to the citizens of our great nation, Nigeria,” said Minister of Women Affairs Sen. Pauline Tallen, who pledged the government’s support for the activity. “SCALE could not have come at a better time -- when citizens are looking to us to consolidate on the change we promised.”

SCALE helps CSOs and BMOs exercise their rights to advocate for economic opportunities that lead to better lives by influencing policy reform in critical sectors such as health, education, water and sanitation, governance, agriculture, and extractive industries. Special attention will be paid to the prevention of child marriage, trafficking in persons, and gender-based violence.

By improving the civil policy and regulatory environment at the local level, SCALE enhances collaborative advocacy in areas that will improve quality of life for Nigerians, especially women, youth, people living with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.

For additional information, please contact: abujadoc@usaid.gov

###

***ABOUT USAID:** USAID leads international development and humanitarian efforts to save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance and help nations progress beyond assistance. In Nigeria, USAID supports health systems strengthening, transparent and accountable governance, basic education, and a more market-led, trade-friendly economy. For more information about USAID and its programs, please visit www.usaid.gov/nigeria and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @USAIDNigeria*

CAPTION: Officials led by Minister of Women Affairs Dame Pauline Tallen (center, pink dress) celebrate the launch of the new USAID Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement (SCALE) activity to be implemented in six Nigerian states over the next five years.