

# INTEGRATING PRO-POOR POLICIES INTO PPP: LESSONS FROM NIGERIA'S WATER REFORM PROCESS **LA0356**

**Framework Theme:** Water supply and sanitation for all

**Organization:** The Bread of Life Development Foundation

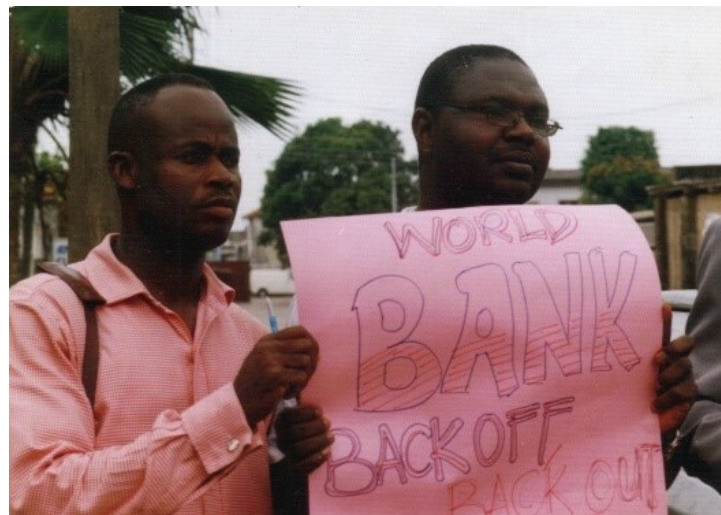
**Contact:** Suite 3, No 13/15, Ekoru road, Abule Egba,  
Box 14055, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria

**Telephone:** +234-17942833, +234-8035897435.

**Email:** [blfnigeria@yahoo.com](mailto:blfnigeria@yahoo.com), [babalobi@yahoo.com](mailto:babalobi@yahoo.com)

**Web site:** [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/waterwatch\\_nigeria](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/waterwatch_nigeria)

**Contact:** Babatope Babalobi



1. OVERVIEW
2. OBJECTIVES OF LOCAL ACTION
3. METHODOLOGY/APPROACH
4. ACTIVITIES
5. STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATION
6. OUTCOMES/OUTPUTS
7. LESSONS
8. CONCLUSIONS
9. CHALLENGES/FUTURE PLANS



CSOs meeting with World Bank officials- Sitting from left to right. 4th left is Dr Chudi Okafor of the WB, next to him-Mr. Olumuyiwa Coker, CEO of the Lagos Water Board, and next is Alex Menhail of the WB. Sitting 2<sup>nd</sup> right is Martin Mbonu of the EU, Nigeria

## 1. OVERVIEW

The Nigerian Federal Government is presently implementing the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Urban Water Sector Reform Project (2<sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP), which is aimed at achieving Water sector reform at the National level to permit and encourage private sector financing; and also to improve water supply to urban residents in Lagos and Cross River states, two out of the 36 states in the Nigeria Federation. The World Bank is financing the project with a \$220m International Development Association IDA credit.

The World Bank had in the past, financed up to Seven multi-million dollar water projects in Nigeria, and their outcomes have so far, been with mixed results. The World Bank itself, admitted this much in the *Project Appraisal document* for the 2<sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP, wherein it is stated that outcomes of these past projects have been “**unsatisfactory**” and “**unsustainable**”. One of the main reasons for the past failures of Water projects in Nigeria is official corruption. The WB further admits this in the *Project Appraisal document for the 2<sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP*, thus:

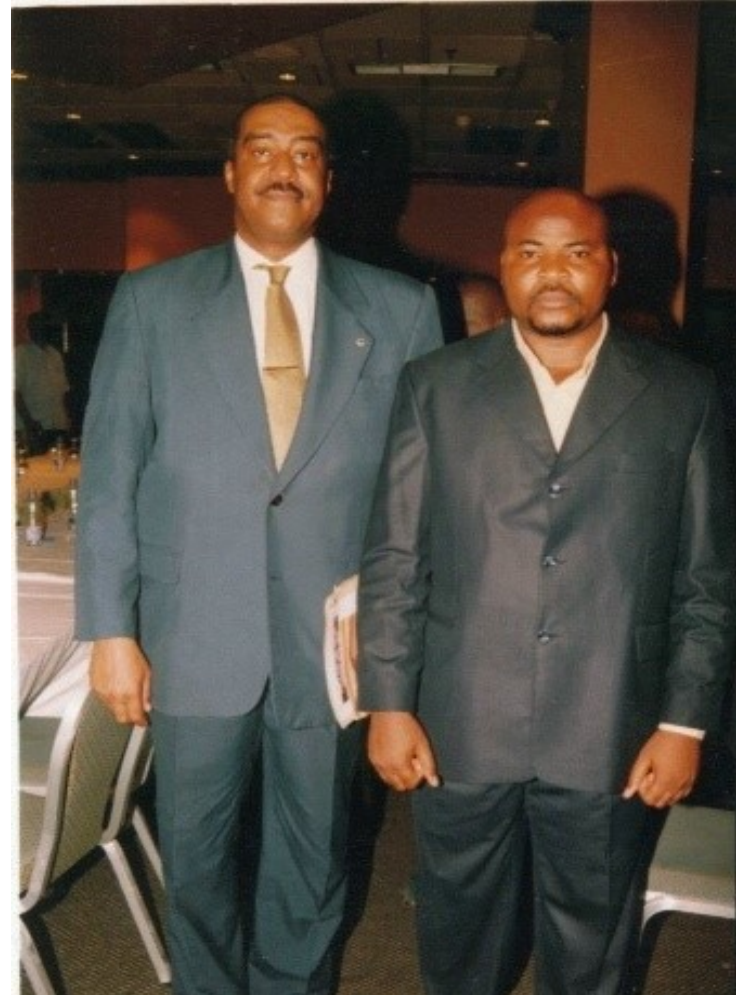
Volunteers of the Bread of Life Dev. Foundation in a street protests against water privatization

“The Country Financial Accountability Assessment (CFAA), which was conducted in CY 2000, revealed that the systems for planning, budgeting, monitoring and controlling public resources in Nigeria have deteriorated to a level **that they do not provide any reasonable assurance that funds are used for the purpose intended** (emphasis ours). Risk of waste, diversion and misuse of funds was highly rated until such a time as the CFAA recommendations have been implemented”

The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation since 2004, had been advocating on 2<sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP related issues for three main reasons; First, there was inadequate public consultation before Project was formulated and now being implemented, Second, fears that funds accruing from the loan (like past World Bank loans in the water sector in Nigeria) will be mismanaged and possibly diverted into private pockets by government officials. Third, if eventually implemented the project may price water out of the reach of poor households

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- a. To highlight the implications of water privatization on water access and affordability particularly for poor households, and ensure water remains in public hands.*
- b. If the Project must go on as presently conceived, to ensure that the Nigerian Federal Government and both the Lagos and Cross River States government adequately consults all stakeholders, including the citizenry in designing and implementing 2<sup>nd</sup> National Urban Water Sector Reform Project in Nigeria*
- c. To ensure the \$220m World Bank loan already approved for this project is prudently managed and judiciously expended, and not diverted to pockets of government officials.*
- d. To mainstream peculiar needs of poor households and gender concerns of into the project, towards achieving the MDG 7 target 10 in Nigeria.*



Executive Director of the Pan African Vision for the Environment, Mr. Anthony Akpan during one of the several Civil Society dialogues with Government officials.



### 3. METHODOLOGY

- Research Studies to reveal causes of past failed water projects, and suggest viable alternatives
- Sensitization meetings with civil society groups, water user associations and community groups
- Roundtables and workshops to critically study the project and its likely outcomes and impacts on water supply.
- Stakeholders Dialogues with Government and WB officials
- Media Advocacy to create public awareness \* Peaceful Protests and rallies



*Members of various civil society groups at a meeting to discuss the Water Sector reform process. Babatope Babalobi is arrowed*



**Maj Fill-Flynn**, Coordinator of the Water For All Campaign, Public Citizen, USA visited Nigeria, May 2005 on a research study on water privatisation

## 4. ACTIVITIES

1. **November 2004** at a Roundtable organized by the **Country Water Partnership**, Nigeria, Babatope Babalobi of **The Bread of Life Development Foundation** spoke of on how to achieve the MGD goal 7 in Nigeria
2. **November 29, 2004.** The Vanguard Daily newspaper, Nigeria [www.vanguardngr.com](http://www.vanguardngr.com) published an article titled “*Hard knocks trail new Lagos Law*” quoting the **Bread of Life Development Foundation** as threatening to sue the Lagos State Government over the newly enacted Lagos Water Law 2004.
3. **December 2004.** **The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation** released a sign on declaration on Water Privatization in Lagos. Several water activist/groups worldwide immediately endorsed the declaration.
4. **January 12, 2005.** **The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation** released an 8 page “*Briefing paper on the Lagos Water Privatization*”.
5. **January 18, 2005.** Vanguard Newspapers Nigeria published a two page article titled “*Lagos should rethink its water privatization policy*”. Babatope Babalobi wrote the article as part of media advocacy campaigns on the water privatization struggle in Nigeria.
6. **World Water Day, Tuesday March 22, 2005.** **The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation** organized a Press Conference/Human Chain against water privatization to alert the global community of the dangers of water privatization in Nigeria The event was widely reported by the local print and electronic media in text and pictures.
7. **March 28, 2005.** The Punch- [www.punchng.com](http://www.punchng.com) - Nigeria’s highest circulating newspapers published a features story titled ‘*Stakeholders differ on water privatization*’ in which Babatope Babalobi of **BLF** was quoted as saying that the Lagos water privatization scheme lacked all criteria for successful development projects including “*inclusiveness, openness, transparency, and broad public participation*”
8. **Friday, April 22, 2005.** The Guardian, [www.ngrguardiannews.com](http://www.ngrguardiannews.com) Nigeria’s most influential Daily Newspaper published an editorial on civil society concerns about Nigeria’ water reform process. It was titled “*Water supply and Public Health*”.
9. **April 2005.** The World Bank announced the introduction of a “*Customer Feed-Back System*”. A Statement said the Nigeria Government, through the Lagos State Water Corporation and the Cross River Sate Water Board, has decided to employ several Nigerian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as Consultants to develop and then implement the *Customer Feed-Back System*, whose stated aim is to ensure that water service reflects demands of all user groups. CSOs were invited to a meeting to hold on May 14, 2005 in Lagos to discuss and develop the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the “*Customer Feed-Back System*”.
10. **PAVE**, an NGO with the support of the Department for International Development (DFID), Nigerian office facilitated the organisation of a NGO workshop in May, 2005, Lagos, to consider the Terms of Reference for civil society organisations involvement in the Citizens Feedback System. **Bread of Life P** members participated actively in this event.

**4<sup>TH</sup> WWF, Mexico March 16-22, 2006. Local Action LA0356; “Integrating Pro Poor Policies into PPP: Lessons from Nigeria’s Water Reform Process**

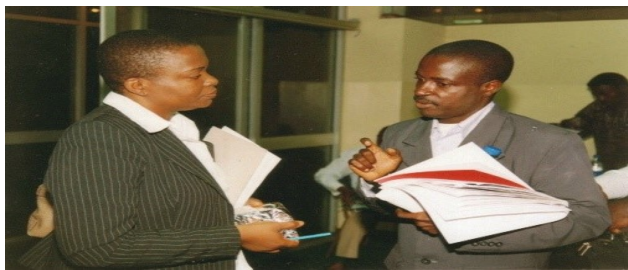
11. **May 14, 2005. The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation** organized a stand up protest at Sheraton Hotel Lagos, where the World Bank scheduled a meeting with civil society groups in order to discuss the Terms of Reference of the ‘*Customer Feedback System*’. Our Volunteers members insisted that that the issue should not be discussed until the World Bank releases the **Public Appraisal Document** on the Nigeria’s water reform process, and responses to civil society queries on past World Bank financed projects in Nigeria, all of which had ended in failures. The stand in protest was successful; the meeting was stalemated and eventually postponed.
12. **May 2005.** A reconvened meeting between civil society groups and World Bank officials led by task team Leader of the World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme Team Leader, Alexander A. McPhail was held in Lagos. **Civil Society groups presented several requests in order to mainstream pro poor agenda into the Water sector reform process. Chief of them were:**
  - a. *That civil society nominee should be a member of the State Project Monitoring Units of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Urban Civil Water Sector Reform Project in Lagos and Cross River states.* The Project Implementation Unit, is saddled with overseeing the execution of the water reform process
  - b. *A review of the Lagos state water Law 2004.*
  - c. *The modification of the Customer Feedback System being proposed by the World Bank to a **Citizens participation system** in order to engage the civil society as partners rather than contractors to the World bank.* Alexander A. McPhail accepted the request for the appointment of a Civil Society person in the Project Implementation Unit. He, however, said it is only the Lagos State Government that can respond to the request (b). **The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation** played a leading role in this event.
13. **Babatope Babalobi** delivered a paper on “*An analysis of the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) at a Public Policy Forum* organized the Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE), an NGO in Heinrich Boell Foundation office, Lagos. May 27, 2005. He warned all NGOs of the dangers of supporting water privatization schemes
14. Maj Fill-Flynn, Coordinator of Water for All campaign, Public Citizen, a consumer right organisation, and Nikky Reich of the Bank Information Centre, both in the United States visited Nigeria between May 12-29, 2005 on a research study, and held meetings with Civil Groups, including officials of the **Bread of Life**.
15. **June 2005. Babatope Babalobi represented** Bread of Life Dev. Foundation attended an International Conference on *Private Participation in Infrastructure Development organized* by the World Bank, in Cape Town, South Africa, June, 2005. At the meeting, Babalobi met with the WB water and sanitation sector Manager, Eustache Ouayoro and expressed civil society concerns on the on going water sector reform process in Nigeria.
16. Babatope Babalobi was invited to speak at the *Interactive Hearings of NGOs, the Private Sector, and Business on the Millennium Development Goals organized by the United Nations, New York, June, 2005*, and delivered a 3-minute statement on the Right to Water.
17. **June 2005. Babatope Babalobi** visited the New York Water Board on a study visit to investigate how the Public Water Utility of United state’s most populous state is being efficiently managed, without recourse to privatization. He had discussions with top officials including Mr. William Kusterberk Staff member and Treasurer of the New York City Water Board. On return to Nigeria, he wrote a report on his findings.

**4<sup>TH</sup> WWF, Mexico March 16-22, 2006. Local Action LA0356; “Integrating Pro Poor Policies into PPP: Lessons from Nigeria’s Water Reform Process**

18. **Lagos, July 12, 2005.** Babatope Babalobi delivered a paper on ‘*Water Privatization in Nigeria’ during an IWRM Dialogue Series on ‘Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Privatization of water Infrastructure- What possibilities?’* The event was organized by the Country Water Partnership Nigeria
19. **July 25, 2005.** The Punch newspaper published a news story titled ‘*World Bank in \$200 million Lagos, Cross River water schemes...project will impede attainment of MDG’s*’ which largely featured an interview with Babatope Babalobi of the **Bread of Life Dev. Foundation**
20. **November 16, 2005.** Babatope Babalobi delivered a paper on ‘*Water and Sanitation: Implications for sustainable development*’ during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nigeria Social Forum held in Lagos. He advocated for the constitutional provision of the right to water and make the right to water fully enforceable in our national laws, as in other countries like South Africa and Uruguay.
21. Developments in Nigeria’s water sector also elicited the interests of four International Students, who visited the offices of The **Bread of Life Dev. Foundation**, and other NGOs in Nigeria between June and September 2005, to conduct research on the process. They are:
  - i. *Soscha Bollag and Sarah Hench both undergraduate students of History and Political Science and International Studies in the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Their research was entitled: “The move to Privatise water in Nigeria: Consequences and Civil Society”. They visited July 2005.*
  - ii. *Josephine Tucker, an MSc student of Water Sciences, Policy and Management, in University of Oxford, England spent six weeks in Nigeria mid 2005 studying civil society engagement in the water sector reform process.*
  - iii. *Charisma, an Undergraduate student from the University of California also visited in August/ September for research study.*
22. **January 19, 2006. Lagos.** The World Bank and the Lagos State Government met civil society groups in Lagos to discuss the terms of reference of the ‘*Customer Feedback System*’ being proposed by the WB. The World Bank took the inputs of the Civil Society on the terms of reference on the “*Customer Feedback System, and accepted the ‘Citizens participation system proposed by CSOs.*’ Also during the meeting, the Lagos State Government represented by Olumuyiwa Coker, Boss of the Water Corporation announced the non-acceptance of two critical demands of the civil society (**see No 8 above**) on the Lagos State Water reform process. Coker said the Lagos Water Law 2005 is in order and was enacted through due process, and challenged its opposers to head for the law courts. He also announced the rejection of the request of the civil society to be represented on the Project Implementation Unit of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP, saying the representation of civil society in the Project Implementation Unit will not add ‘any value’ to the process and therefore not acceptable. This invalidates an earlier understanding reached on this issue in May 2005 at a meeting between civil society and the World Bank team led by Alexander A. McPhail .
23. **March 8, 2006. The National Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation In Nigeria (NEWSAN), National and Lagos State Chapter** organized Stakeholders Roundtable involving community leaders from all the Local governments in Lagos state, to review civil society participation in the water sector reform process. At the end of the exercise participants urged the Federal Government and Lagos State Government to suspend further implementation of the Water Sector reform process, until the public have been adequately consulted and their concerns mainstreamed into project design and implementation. **The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation**, hosts the Lagos State Secretariat of the **NEWSAN**.

## 5. STAKEOLDERS PARTICIPATION

The following organizations actively participated in various activities organized around this process.

NO	Name of Stakeholder	Roles
1	<b>THE WORLD BANK, U.S.A. AND NIGERIA OFFICES</b> % Alex Mcphail, Water Task Team Leader, <a href="mailto:amcphail@worldbank.org">amcphail@worldbank.org</a> (202) 456 2125	<b>The World Bank</b> organised meetings with civil society groups monitoring the water reform process in Sheraton Hotel Lagos, Saturday May 14th, 2005, and in Cross River State Water Board Ltd. Head office, Calabar Friday May 20th, 2005.
2	<b>HEINRICH BOELL FOUNDATION, NIGERIA OFFICE LAGOS.</b> % Mr. Axel Harniet-Seivers, Director <a href="mailto:axel@boellnigeria.org">axel@boellnigeria.org</a> +234-14721405	Henrich Boell Foundation gave a grant support for organisation of dialogues in Lagos in 2004, and 2005.
3	<b>THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)</b> %John Barker , Programme Manager, States and Local Government Programme, Lagos State, Nigeria <a href="mailto:slgplagos@yahoo.co.uk">slgplagos@yahoo.co.uk</a> , +234-8036203416	Supported Civil society meetings in April 2005, to discuss the terms of reference of the Citizens Feedback System
4	<b>GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP (GWP-NIGERIA)</b> % DR. EMMANUEL ADEYEMO, Chair Country Water Partnership, NIGERIA <a href="mailto:pax@infoweb.abs.net">pax@infoweb.abs.net</a> +243-8034031493	The Country Water Partnership Nigeria organised a dialogue on “ <i>MDGs and Privatisation of Water Infrastructure: -what possibilities</i> ” which took place July 12, 2005
5	<b>WATERAID Nigerian office, Abuja</b> % Mrs. Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba, Head of Policy and Partnerships <a href="mailto:ifeomacharlesmonwuba@wateraidnig.org">ifeomacharlesmonwuba@wateraidnig.org</a> , +234094135476 	WaterAID Nigeria office gave a grant to organise meeting involving all community leaders in Lagos states. Also it facilitated meetings between officials of <b>Bread of Life</b> and the WB

Babalobi discussing with Mrs Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba during a meeting on the water reform process.



6	<b>WATER FOR ALL, PUBLIC CITIZEN, USA</b> MAJ-FILL-FLYNN, COORDINATOR <a href="mailto:mfill@citizen.org">mfill@citizen.org</a> 202-588-1000 <a href="http://www.citizen.org">www.citizen.org</a>	Donated useful materials to <b>Bread of Life</b> and facilitated meetings with WB officials
7	<b>BANK INFORMATION CENTRE, U.S.A.</b> % NIKKY REICH, COORDINATOR, AFRICAN PROGRAM <a href="http://www.bicusa.org">www.bicusa.org</a> <a href="mailto:reich@bicusa.org">reich@bicusa.org</a> (202) 737-1155	Donated useful materials to <b>Bread of Life</b> on how to engage the WB
8	<b>FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, ABUJA</b> % ENGR AGISEGIRI, Coordinator, Project Management Unit, 2 <sup>nd</sup> National Urban Water Sector Reform Project <a href="mailto:nwatsan@yahoo.com">nwatsan@yahoo.com</a> +234-92342205	<b>Engr. Agisegiri</b> accompanied by the Water Task Team Leader World Bank, in February 2005 visited the offices of several civil groups in Lagos, in order answer civil society enquiries on the project.
9	<b>LAGOS STATE WATER CORPORATION</b> % Dr Yemi Suleiman, Coordinator, State Project Management Unit, 2 <sup>nd</sup> National Urban Water Sector Reform Project <a href="mailto:yemisuleiman@yahoo.com">yemisuleiman@yahoo.com</a> , 08055245918	<b>The General Manager of the Lagos State Water Corporation</b> , Mr. Olawale Coker attended the two dialogues held in March and August 2004 at the Henrich Boell Foundation Lagos, and explained Government perspectives on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP.
10	<b>NATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK ON WATER AND SANITATION IN NIGERIA (NEWSAN)</b> % Leo Atakpu, National Coordinator <a href="mailto:ohioatakpu@yahoo.co.uk">ohioatakpu@yahoo.co.uk</a> +234-802345733	The <b>National Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation in Nigeria</b> , , at its Annual General Meeting held in Abuja, March 21-22, 2005 issued a Communiqué calling on the National and State Governments to mainstream pro- poor agenda on all projects meant to improve water supply in Nigeria
11	<b>CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION AGAINST WATER PRIVATISATION IN NIGERIA (CISCAWP NIGERIA)</b> % The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation <a href="mailto:blfnigeria@yahoo.com">blfnigeria@yahoo.com</a> , +234-17942833	<b>The Civil Society Coalition Against Water Privatisation in Nigeria</b> , organised media advocacy campaigns between 2004-2005 calling for the integration of pro poor policies in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP in Nigeria
12	<b>PAN AFRCIAN VISION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</b> % Johnson Akpan, Executive Director, <a href="mailto:ajakpan@yahoo.com">ajakpan@yahoo.com</a> , +234-8033510419	Organized several dialogues and meetings on the water sector reform process

### 13 Foreign Research Students




"What is the way forward?" .... Mr. Axel Harniet-Seivers, Director of HBF seems to be asking Mr. John Barker of the DFID, during one of the several stakeholders meetings

The developments elicited the interests of four International Students, who came to visit the offices of **The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation**, and other NGOs in Nigeria between June and September 2005, to conduct research on the process. They are;

Soscha Bollag [sbollag@unc.edu](mailto:sbollag@unc.edu) and Sarah Hench [smhench@email.unc.edu](mailto:smhench@email.unc.edu) both undergraduate students of History and Political Science and International Studies in the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Their research was entitled: "*The move to Privatised water in Nigeria: Consequences and Civil Society*". They visited July 2005.

Josephine Tucker, [tuckerjos@yahoo.com](mailto:tuckerjos@yahoo.com) and MSc student of Water Sciences, Policy and Management, in University of Oxford, England spent six weeks in Nigeria mid 2005 studying civil society engagement in the water sector reform process. Charisma, an Undergraduate student from the University of California also visited in August/September for research study.

Charisma, an Undergraduate student from the University of California also visited in August/September for research study.

	<p><b>The Bread of Life Development Foundation</b></p>  <p><i>Babalobi addresses a World Press Conference on the theme “Water is Life” March 22, 2005</i></p>	<p><b>The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation</b>, addressed a World Press Conference on March 22, 2005 to highlight its concerns about inadequate public consultation on the project, and absence of civil society representation in the regulatory and Project Implementation Units, as set up then. We also facilitated general debates on this process through our e-mail listserv, which has hundreds of organisation subscribers:  <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/waterwatch_nigeria">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/waterwatch_nigeria</a></p>
15	<p><b>AMALGAMATED UNION OF PUBLIC CORPORATIONS, CIVIL SERVICE, TECHNICAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES EMPLOYEES (AUPCTRE)</b>          % Comrade Sylvester Ejiofor, General Secretary  <a href="mailto:aucptre@infoweb.abs.net">aucptre@infoweb.abs.net</a> +234-8033187399</p>	<p>Educated its members working in Federal and State Water boards and related agencies on the water sector reform process</p>
16	<p><b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS, LAGOS STATE</b>          % Debo Adeniran, Children Project  <a href="mailto:childreducationnow@yahoo.com">childreducationnow@yahoo.com</a>, +234-8037194969</p>	<p>Mobilized Community groups and water user bodies to attend sensitization meetings on the water sector reform process</p>

## 6. OUTCOMES/OUTPUTS

As outcomes of several multi stakeholder dialogues involving Civil Society groups, donor Community, and Government officials, the World Bank has introduced two new components into the 2<sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP into to allay the fears of the civil groups, and address some concerns of **The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation** and other bodies. . The two initiatives are: First, in order to increase public participation, strengthen relations with communities, and gain public support and acceptance of the project, the World Bank with the support of the Government authorities introduced a comprehensive stakeholder outreach program, tagged **Citizens Participation System**. The **Citizens Participation System** involves a partnership between selected civil society groups and Government authorities, whereby NGOs will be contracted as Consultants to implement this project. The overall aim of this **Citizens Participation System** is to ensure that water service provision under the 2<sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP reflects demands and interests of

all user groups. The draft Terms Of Reference outlining the **Citizens Participation System** is at:  
<[http://web.worldbank.org/external/default/main?menuPK=368928&pagePK=141155&piPK=](http://web.worldbank.org/external/default/main?menuPK=368928&pagePK=141155&piPK=141124&theSitePK=368896)

[141124&theSitePK=368896](http://web.worldbank.org/external/default/main?menuPK=368928&pagePK=141155&piPK=141124&theSitePK=368896)> World Bank studies show that, one of the reasons for the failures of publicly managed water utility boards in Nigeria are that “*consultation of customers by the water utilities has been weak or Non-existent*”. This problem is expected to be resolved by the **Citizens Feed-Back System**, newly introduced into the 2<sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP, as it will promote citizens’ participation in the Project; in particular defend the interests of private customers and communities in the water utilities, *particularly on the vexed matters of pricing, and a physical access.* .

Second, and by far the most significant achievement of Civil society-World Bank-Government engagement in this process, is the acceptance of the civil society demand that the Civil Society should be represented in the Project Implementation Units (PIUs), which are the executing agencies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP at the National Level and the two states of Lagos and Cross River. As stated, one of the planks of **The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation** and other civil society groups’ opposition to the \$220 2<sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP is that the loan, like previous loans may be mismanaged by Nigerian Government officials, but with a nominee of Civil Groups sitting on the Project Implementation Units (PIUs), Civil Society will be able to check and mate fraudulent activities, act as ombudsman, and ensure proceeds of the \$220 loan is well spent. Unfortunately, this gain was eroded few weeks ago, when the CEO of the Lagos State Water Board, Mr. Olumuyiwa Coker said his agency will not support this resolution, as such a Civil society representative will not be accepted in the Lagos State Project Implementation Unit. **The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation** intends to engage the Lagos State Water Board on this issue, and it is hoped that in the near future, the government agency will see the wisdom in this civil society request, and support it.

The new features of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP, likely to be introduced as an outcome of advocacy by **The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation** and other bodies, will ensure that the project meets its objectives of supporting the Nigerian Government to provide potable water supply to urban residents in Nigeria. Specifically improving the reliability and financial viability of selected urban water utilities; and increasing access to piped water networks in selected urban areas. Though some civil society groups including **The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation** are still fundamentally opposed to the water reform process, we largely agree to cautiously partner with the World Bank/Government, as the alternative is continued protests, which would unlikely, deliver water to the taps of the citizens. *The initiatives are unique because they were not features of past failed World Bank water projects in Nigeria, and it indicates that meaningful results can be achieved from constructive multi stakeholders’ engagements.*



## 7. Lessons

- *Power does not concede demands without pressure.*
- *Partnership works and fruitful progress could be achieved through multi- stakeholder dialogues*
- *Civil Society groups must have a fall back position in their struggles. At times, it may be necessary to move from passionate protests to constructive engagements with other stakeholders, if we are to achieve meaningful results.*
- *Though civil society views are often diametrically opposed to positions of state institutions, we must learn to accommodate opposing views in order to secure concessions*

## 8 Conclusion

*The new features of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NUWSRP, likely to be introduced as an outcome of advocacy by The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation and other bodies, will ensure that the project meets its objectives of supporting the Nigerian Government to provide potable water supply to urban residents in Nigeria.*

*Though some civil society groups including The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation are still fundamentally opposed to the water reform process, we largely agree to cautiously partner with the World Bank/Government, as the alternative is continued protests, which would unlikely, deliver water to the taps of the citizens. The initiatives are unique because they were not features of past failed World Bank water projects in Nigeria, and it indicates that meaningful results can be achieved from constructive multi stakeholders’ engagements.*

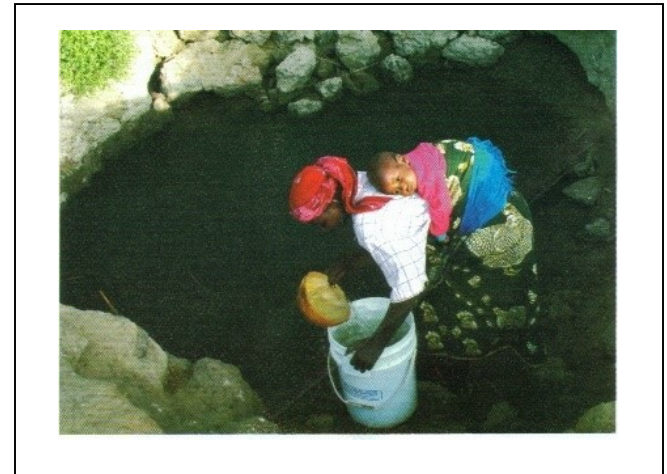
## 9. CHALLENGES/ FUTURE PLANS

4. Lack of funds for activities of **Bread of Life** . So far, all activities have been internally generated.
5. **Bread of Life** and other groups opposing water privatization in Nigeria need to come up with an alternative agenda against water privatization in Nigeria.

Funding available, the scheduled activities for year 2006 are:

- a. Commissioning of a study to develop an alternate programme to Water privatization in Nigeria.
- b. Organization of an International Conference on water sector reform process
- c. Organization of a Stakeholders meeting, quarterly to inform community groups on the water sector reform process
- d. Continued media advocacy including monthly Publication of a Newsletter to sensitize the public on the issues involved.
- e. Organization of Right to Water Advocacy training workshops for Nigeria's civil society groups.

## Faces of Nigerians struggling to access water







*Members and Volunteers of **The Bread of Life Dev. Foundation** protesting against water privatization during a meeting with World Bank officials at Sheranton Hotel, Lagos. May 2005.; and also on the streets of Lagos, Nigeria*





**4<sup>TH</sup> WWF, Mexico March 16-22, 2006. Local Action LA0356; “Integrating Pro Poor Policies into PPP: Lessons from Nigeria’s Water Reform Process**

From left to right at a multi stakeholders meeting on Nigeria’s water sector reform process are: Chudi Okafor of the WB, Dr Yemi Suleiman of the Lagos State Water Board Project Implementation Unit, Olumuyiwa Coker-CEO of the Water Board, and Alex Mcphail of the WB.



Nikky Reich (far right) of the Bank Information Centre during her visit to Lagos, Nigeria. May 2006. She dialogued with water activists on to engage the WB. Next to her is Babalobi



“Hope we had a successful meeting”...**Chudi Okafor** Civil Society liaison officer of the WB, Nigeria office (far right) in a warm handshake with Axel- **Axel Harniet-Seivers**, Director HBF Nigeria. In the Middle is **Wale Agbojo**, Programme officer, HBF



*Martins Mbonu, an official of the water and sanitation sector, European Union Delegation to Nigeria and **John Baker**. during a meeting to work out the terms of reference of Civil Society’s partnership with the WB on the Water sector reform process.*

