



MANTRA team collating beneficiary experience on the recovered Abacha loot utilization during a monitoring exercise

BACKGROUND

In 2017 Switzerland authorities returned \$322.5 Million dollars of the Abacha Loot to Nigeria through 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, the Federal Ministry of Justice in Nigeria signed an MOU with the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice,(ANEEJ) for monitoring the use of the \$322.5 million recovered Abacha Loot.

Currently, ANEEJ is working with eight partners across the country to undertake the monitoring exercise across all States where the National Cash Transfer Programme is being implemented.



MANTRA MODEL

- 1 • Local CSO and citizen capacity building to monitor disbursement of the looted asset
- 2 • Trace and verification of data generated in the programme
- 3 • Beneficiary experience survey in the programme
- 4 • Engagement with the programme Grievance redress mechanism
- 5 • Partnership with government institutions on the monitoring process

1. Capacity Building



Monitors deployed

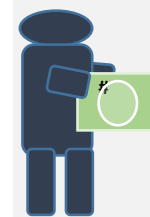


Supervisors



CSO engaged

2. Trace And Verification



Beneficiaries paid

3. Beneficiary Survey



74,401

Beneficiaries reached

20 STATES

4. Engagement with the Grievance Mechanism

MANTRA engages the programmes grievance redress mechanism to address findings and complaints

5. Collaboration with Government Institutions in the monitoring process

MANTRA has monitored 2 payment rounds

August September 2019 Payment Round

May June 2019 Payment Round

Methods and findings are validated through a stakeholder endorsed process

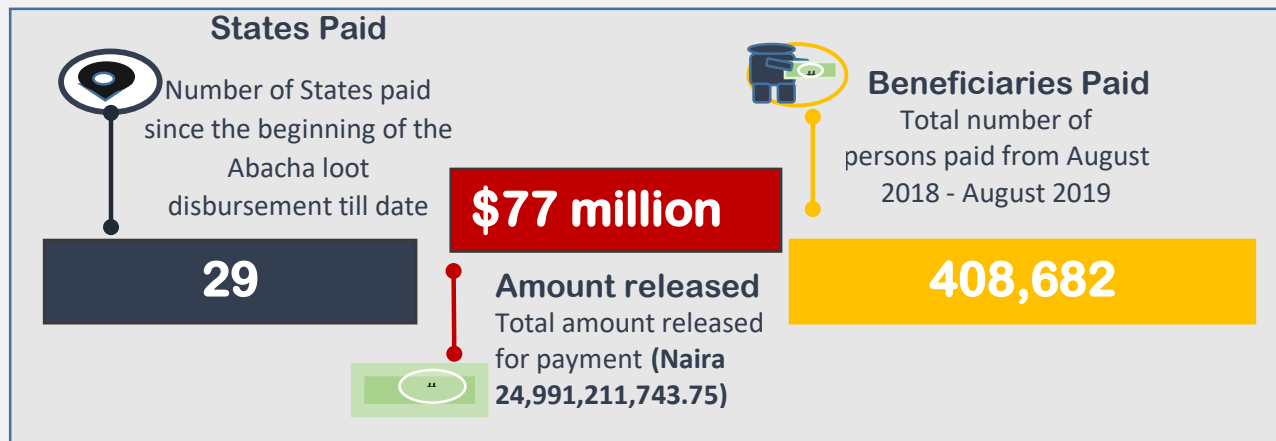


KEY FINDINGS

Disbursement commenced in August 2018

Base transfer of 10,000 naira paid to beneficiaries every 2 months

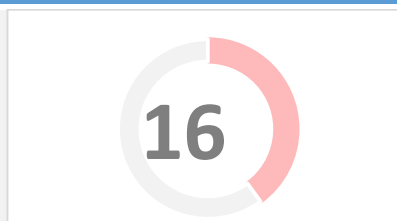
Recovered funds comprise 80% of the base transfers



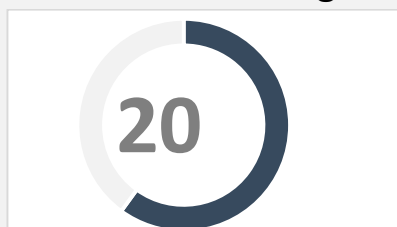
Number of States paid

% of registered beneficiaries paid

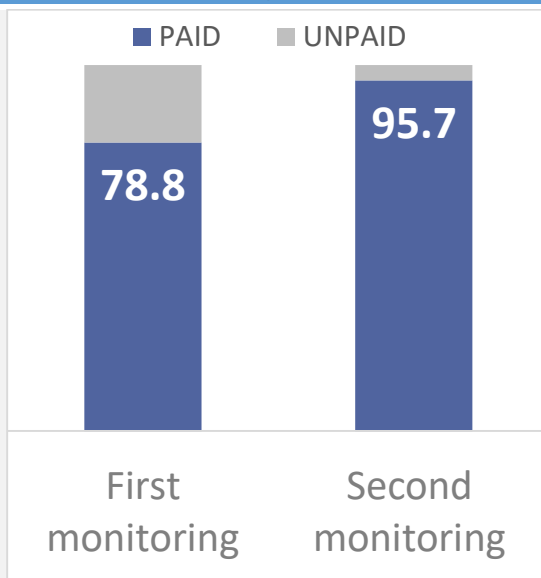
Use of funds disbursed by beneficiaries



First monitoring



Second monitoring



- Petty trading 60.1%
- Feeding 23.73%
- Education 11.4%

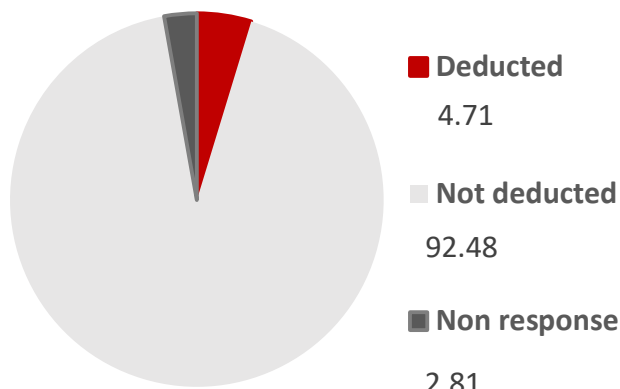
Amount disbursed in Naira

% of beneficiaries reporting unapproved deductions

974,478,000

1,794,200,000

■ second monitoring ■ first monitoring





MONITORING OUTCOMES 1st YEAR ABACHA LOOT DISBURSEMENT

The following are areas of system strengthening in the National Cash Transfer Programme in response to issues raised:

- Increased availability of community level disaggregated data on beneficiaries in the programme
- Strengthened systems and partnership with civil society for detecting and prosecuting corruption in the programme
- Improved inter-sector collaboration with prosecuting agencies for prosecution of corrupt State and non-State officials involved in unapproved deductions
- Increased opportunities and partnerships with CSO for monitoring utilization of other recovered assets

LESSONS LEARNT

1

- Working as partners for development with Government stakeholders and not antagonists

2

- Working with local CSOs in the grass roots and citizens is cost effective and promotes sustainability

3

- Timing of the monitoring annually or bi annually improves efficiency of the monitoring process and uptake of findings

OPPORTUNITIES AND NEXT STEPS

- Continued CSOs and citizen monitoring of disbursement of the \$322.5 million Abacha loot for National Cash Transfer Programme
- Engagement of Stakeholders with findings of second monitoring
- Utilising the grievance redress mechanism to ensure prosecution of culpable individuals in unapproved deductions
- MANTRA participation in Abacha 3 repatriation and monitoring
- Strengthening and institutionalising the work of the Network on Asset Recovery (NAR) to promote sustainability of interventions after the life of the project