



Universal Service Provision Fund



Universal Service Provision Fund

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## BRIDGING THE CONNECTIVITY GAP

BRIDGING  
THE CONNECTIVITY  
GAP

2019  
ANNUAL REPORT

# CONTENT

S/No	Item	Page
1.	Chairman's Statement -----	1
2.	Secretary's Statement -----	3
3.	About USPF -----	5
4.	Mandate of USPF -----	6
5.	Vision and Mission -----	7
6.	Core Values -----	8
7.	USPF Pledge -----	9
8.	Policy Objective -----	10
9.	Organogram -----	11
10.	Th USPF Board -----	12
11.	Strategic Management Plan 2018 – 2022-----	13
12.	USPF Programme Achievment in 2019 -----	15
13.	Access Programme -----	17
14.	Skill Knowledge Centres (SKC)-----	18
15.	Tertiary Institution Knowledge Centres (TIKC)-	22
16.	e-Accessibility Projects -----	25
17.	e-Library Project -----	32
18.	e-Health Project -----	35
19.	Local Content Development & Deploement (LCD)	39
20.	Connectivity Programme -----	44
21.	Rural Broadband Infrastructure -----	49
22.	Bandwidth Aggregation -----	54
23.	Projects and major Events of the USPF in 2019	56
24.	USPF Changemaker Challenge 2019 -----	57
25.	Capacity Building of Community -----	64
	Based Organisations	
26.	Clusters of ICT Gap -----	68
27.	Capacity Building for Staff-----	71
28.	Major Limitatiosn/Challenges -----	72
29.	Financial Statement -----	73
30.	USPF Social Activities -----	80



## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Dr. Isa Ali Pantami

Chairman, USPF Board and Hon. Minister  
of Communication and Digital Economy

---

*The importance of connecting the unconnected people of Nigeria with affordable and accessible connectivity services and infrastructure cannot be overstated as internet connectivity has become an essential necessity in our everyday lives.*

---

**A**s the Chairman of the Board of the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF), one of our responsibilities, amongst others, is to supervise and support the Management of the USPF in its efforts to achieve its mandate of facilitating access to available and affordable telecommunications networks and services throughout the country, most especially in rural, unserved and underserved areas, and to ensure that nobody is left out or left behind.

Information and Communications technology play a very important role in accelerating economic growth and social inclusion, however, a considerable number of the population are still offline and have been left

behind in a fast-developing world, and many of the unconnected population are mostly rural dwellers. It is in line with this, that the USPF has continued to put in place incentives such as the grant of counterpart funding through Public Private Partnerships (PPP), to encourage the roll-out of broadband infrastructure across the Six (6) geopolitical zones and the Federal Capital Territory, through its various projects and programmes, which are ultimately designed to ensure equitable access to ICT services to all, including the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups such as the elderly, physically challenged, women and children.

In 2019, under my stewardship, the USPF

successfully developed a 'Sustainability Model' for all its projects by putting measures in place to ensure that they are sustained. These measures include trainings and project monitoring amongst others.

In order to fast track the deployment of broadband infrastructure for the provision of affordable internet services to underserved and unserved areas, the Board of the USPF has solicited the support and collaboration of state governments by convincing them that uniform Right of Way charges are essential for the social and economic development of the country. It is our hope that these continuous engagements and collaborations will produce the desired result as the deepening of Broadband penetration across the country will continue to bridge the digital divide and access gaps.

The USPF has remarkably reduced the access gap through the successful implementation and completion of its connectivity and access projects. In 2015, the number of people living

in underserved and unserved areas stood at 33.7 million, whereas in 2019, this number reduced to 31.16 million, while the number of clusters have also dropped from 207 in 2013 to 114 in 2019. It is our belief that these numbers will continue to reduce on a yearly basis until the gap is reduced to its barest minimum.

The Board of the USPF remains committed to ensuring that the right policies are put in place in line with the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS) of President Muhammad Buhari, which includes amongst other things, digital literacy and skills development and services, while it continues to give the appropriate policy direction to the Management of the USPF towards achieving its mandate of ensuring that there is continuous and sustainable equitable ICT access for all.

**In 2019, under my stewardship, the USPF successfully developed a “Sustainability Model” for all its projects by putting measures in place to ensure that they are sustained.**

**Dr. Isa Ali Pantami**



## SECRETARY'S STATEMENT

Ayuba Shuaibu

Secretary, Universal Service Provision Fund

The year 2019 was a remarkable one with opportunities and challenges for the USP Secretariat. In our drive to achieve the mission and mandate of the Universal Service Provision Fund in line with the 2018-2022 Strategic Management Plan (SMP), the Secretariat has continued to implement programmes and projects that are beneficial to the people in order to facilitate the achievement of universal service and universal access to ICT, through partnerships, which stimulate development in rural, unserved and underserved communities

The Secretariat continues to promote the provision of basic, Equitable and sustainable ICT infrastructure, services and collaborations with entrepreneurs to create jobs through the use of ICT services, networks and applications in line with our mandate and National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy.

The programmes and projects implemented during the year focused on addressing the

universal service principles of Availability, Accessibility and Affordability. Some of the achievements recorded in 2019 include:

- **Information Resource Centre under USPF Electronic Library (E-Library Project).** A total of 9 E-Libraries sites were completed so that users have unlimited access to wealth of knowledge, educational materials, developmental issues and on a wide range of subjects with international standard quality of materials.
- **Electronic Health Records System (E-Health Project).** Six (6) E-Health sites were completed during the period to significantly improve access and delivery of healthcare services in public secondary healthcare facilities across the country using ICTs.
- **Tertiary Institution Knowledge Centre (TIKC).** Ten (10) tertiary institutions benefited from the

project which is aimed at promoting the use of ICT in teaching, research and learning in Tertiary Institutions as well as the institution communities.

- **The School Knowledge Centres (SKC).** The USPF implemented One Hundred and Ten (110) SKCs across the six (6) geopolitical zones including Federal Capital Territory Abuja. The project will promote the use of ICT in teaching and learning in public secondary schools.
- **Local Content Development and Deployment (LCD).** A total of One Hundred and Thirty-seven (137) schools have benefitted across the six geopolitical regions in the country. The objective of the LCD Project is to create a sustainable open e-learning technology content (software) that promotes innovation, flexibility, and choice in both teaching and learning.
- **E-Accessibility Project:** (Provision of ICTs and Assistive Technology Tools / Solutions to Schools/Institutions Catering for Persons Living with Disabilities). The project was implemented in 10 (Ten) institutions/schools in 2019. The main objective of the project is to promote the digital inclusion for the physically challenged through the provision of ICTs and Assistive Technologies to institutions and schools catering for their needs in line with the mandate of the USPF of social inclusion.

- **Base Transceiver Station (BTS).** In 2019, the Secretariat deployed a total of Seventy Three (73) BTS, which increased access through community based voice and data services on shared basis.
- **Rural BroadBand Infrastructure (RUBI):** In 2019, the project was deployed in 24 locations to provide a sustainable wireless broadband network in the under-served or un-served areas that will serve as an enabler of fast and reliable internet services catering for commercial, residential, educational, government, healthcare and other agencies and groups.
- **Bandwidth Aggregation for All USPF Projects:** A total of 354 locations benefitted in the year 2019. The project involves the purchase of bulk bandwidth that can satisfy the connectivity requirement of USPF project such as SKCs, TIKCs, CRCs, E-Accessibility, E-library, etc. across the 109 Senatorial Districts of the Country.

“The programmes and projects implemented during the year focused on addressing the universal service principles of Availability, Accessibility and Affordability.”

The USPF will continue to facilitate widespread availability and usage of network services that will ensure that all Nigerians irrespective of demography, social and economic status have access to quality and affordable ICT services. These future efforts will be presented to you in subsequent editions of our reports.

**Ayuba Shuaibu**

# ABOUT THE USPF

**T**he Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria to facilitate the achievement of national policy goals for universal access and universal service to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in rural, unserved, and underserved areas in Nigeria.

The Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003, No.19, provides for the Universal Service Provision (USP) in Nigeria. Section 115 of the Act established the Universal Service

Provision Board with the mandate to supervise and provide broad policy direction for the management of the USP Fund. Section 118 of the Act established the USP Secretariat and states that it shall reside in the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) and shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Universal Service Provision Fund. Pursuant to its mandate, the USP Fund started operation in August 2006, and has embarked on various projects to realize its objectives.



The background of the page features a blue-tinted photograph. In the upper right, four women are shown from the chest up, looking down at a tablet held by one of them. They are all smiling and wearing colorful headwraps. In the lower right, a telecommunications tower with several large satellite dishes is visible against a clear sky.

# MANDATES OF THE USPF

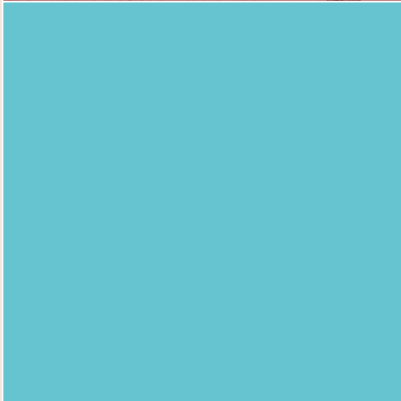
**T**he USPF is committed to creating an enabling environment and ensuring that Nigerians irrespective of demography, social and economic status have access to quality and affordable ICT services

In line with Chapter VII, Part IV of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003, the Federal Government of Nigeria established a Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) to promote the widespread availability and usage of network services and applications services throughout Nigeria by encouraging the installation of network facilities and the provision of network services and applications services to institutions in unserved, underserved areas or for underserved groups within the community.



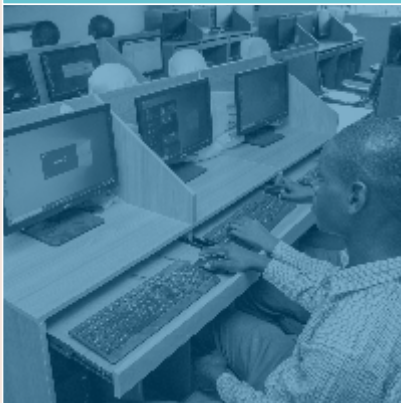
## OUR VISION

Equitable and  
sustainable ICT  
Access for All.



## OUR MISSION

To facilitate the  
achievement of  
universal service and  
universal access to ICT,  
through partnerships,  
which stimulate  
development in rural,  
un-served and  
underserved  
communities.



# CORE VALUES

Integrity



Collaboration



Team Spirit



Transparency



Innovation



Professionalism



Service  
Excellence



# USPF PLEDGE

The activities of the USPF are encapsulated in the Declaration of Principles of the world Summit on Information Society (WSIS) which states that "Everyone, everywhere should have the opportunity to participate and no one should be excluded from the benefits the information society offers."



# POLICY OBJECTIVES

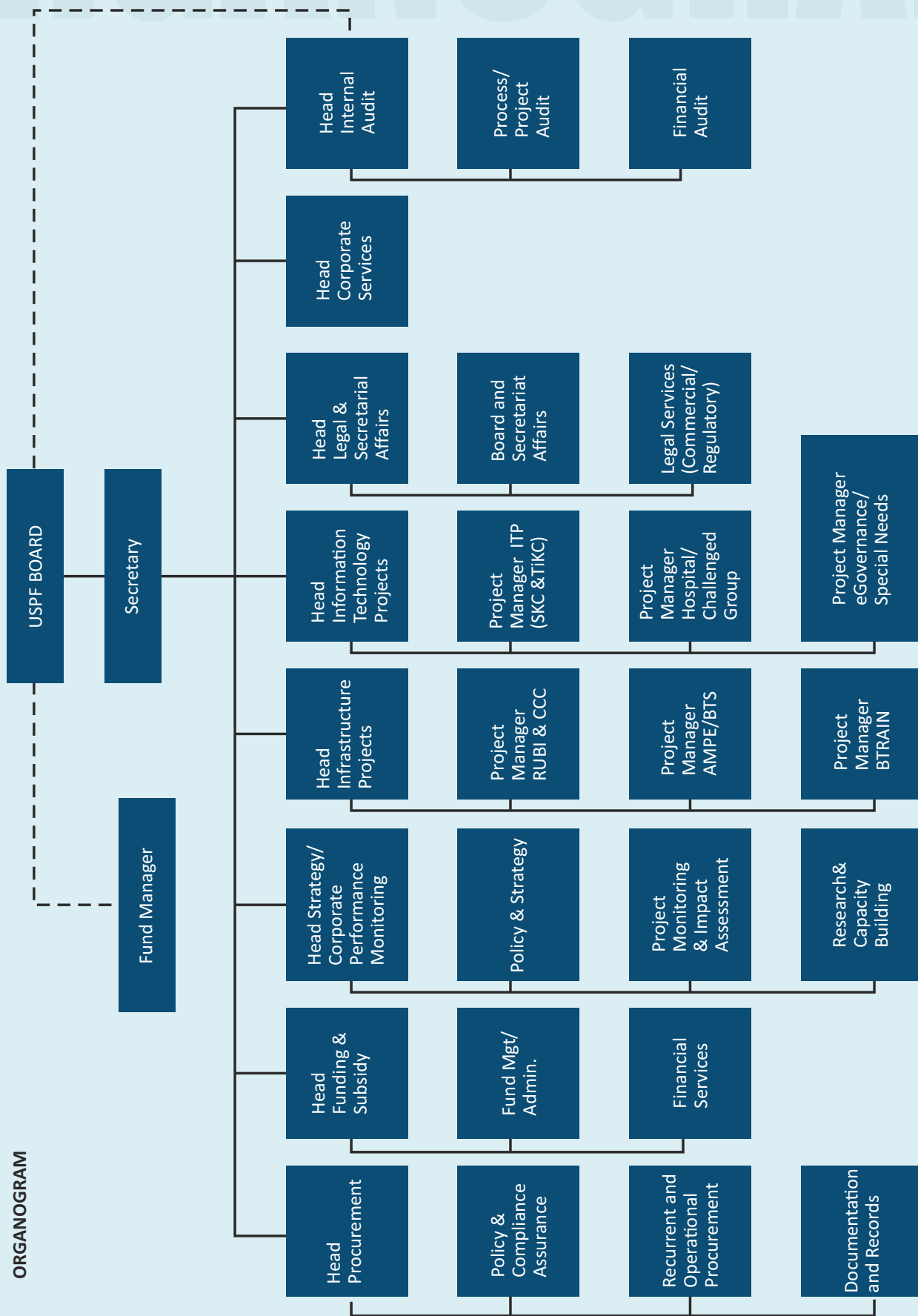
The major objective of the USP Fund is to ensure that public interest is attained in the provision of ICT applications and services in Nigeria. These are:

- Promote greater social equity and inclusion for the people of Nigeria

- Contribute to national economic, social and cultural development of Nigeria



# ORGANOGRAM

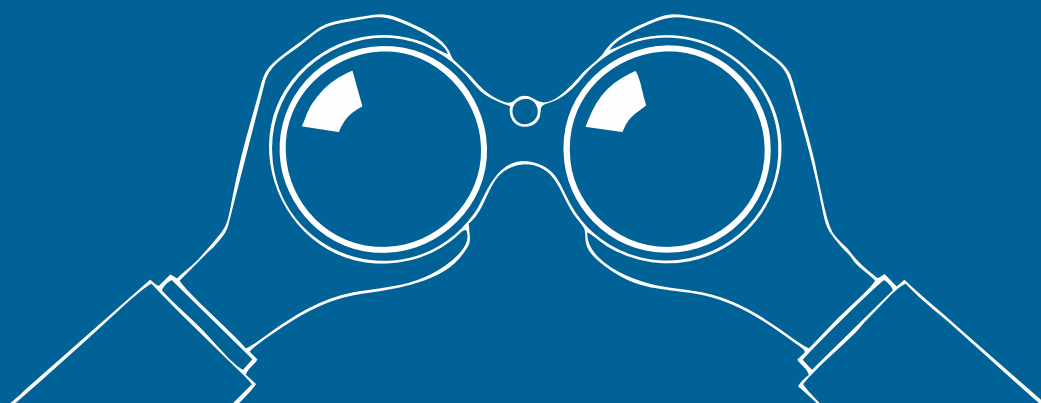


# The USPF Board

**In accordance with the provisions of Section 116 of the NCA 2003, the USP Board is constituted as follows:**

1. Chairman of USP Board and Minister of Communication and Digital Economy
2. Vice Chairman of USP Board and Chairman of NCC Board
3. Executive Vice Chairman of NCC
4. Executive Commissioner, NCC
5. Representative of National Planning Commission
6. Representative of Ministry of Finance
7. Representative of Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy
8. Representative of Private Sector
9. Representative of Private Sector
10. Representative of Private Sector
11. Representative of Private Sector

# Strategic Management Plan 2018 – 2022



**T**he Universal Access and Universal Service Regulation 2007, (Section 36) requires the USP Secretariat to prepare a Strategic Management Plan (SMP) for approval of the USP Board setting out its vision, mission and objectives and incorporating its long-term plans over a five

(5) year period. The Act also requires that the SMP be reviewed from time to time. The Strategic Plan 2013 – 2017 elapsed at the end of year 2017.

Consequently, the USP Secretariat set up a committee to review and develop the SMP 2018-2022.

## Strategic Goals

**T**he three (3) strategic goals identified by the USPF from 2013 to 2017 to drive the achievement of its mandate, were reviewed and found still relevant, and as such were adopted with modifications. USPF recognizes the need to place priority on

building the capacity of the USP Secretariat thus ensuring the possession of relevant, up-to-date information on the ICT industry to guide the design and implementation of USP projects. The other Two (2) strategic goals are geared towards achieving the USPF vision.

## Goal 1: Facilitate an enabling environment for sustainable ICT.

### Objective

Design incentives that would promote the rollout of sustainable ICT services in rural, unserved and underserved areas.

### Strategies:

- Carry out relevant studies to determine the demand indices for different categories of ICT services within the country.
- Continuous Consultation with Stakeholders in the telecommunications industry to identify the barriers/issues which prevent the market from functioning effectively.
- Continuous consultation and collaboration with the Nigerian Communications Commission and relevant government agencies to design, plan and implement incentives that will facilitate the reduction of market efficiency gaps.
- Facilitate programs that promote 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (ICT literacy, internet literacy, data interpretation and analysis, website and applications development).

## Goal 2: Promote universal access and universal service that facilitate ICT for development (ICT4D)

### Objectives

- Facilitate the availability and use of transmission infrastructure and connectivity to the national backbone in all Local Government Areas (LGAs).
- Drive increasing access to community-based ICT services on a shared basis and provide a platform for universal service.
- Explore opportunities to deploy a full suite of universal access and universal service initiatives to build utilisation and sustainability of ICT projects.
- Ensure the co-location and sharing of infrastructure subsidised by USPF.

### Strategies

- Provide subsidies or other forms of incentives to telecom operators and eligible service providers to extend ICT transmission infrastructure to identified un-served and underserved areas.
- Continuous Consultations and collaboration with government agencies, non-profit organisations, and community based organisations to facilitate connectivity for development initiatives.
- Encourage community ownership of universal service projects and consequently, promote entrepreneurship in target communities.

## Goal 3: Institutional Development

### Objectives

- Strengthen the USP Secretariat to effectively deliver on its mandate.
- Continuously update organizational processes, performance measurement systems and partnerships that allow the USP Secretariat to successfully monitor, evaluate and assess the impact of USPF programmes.

### Strategies

- **People**
  - Ensure alignment of the USP Board and Secretariat's structure and functions with the vision and strategic goals of USPF.
  - Identify and execute capacity building initiatives which will equip the USP Secretariat with the relevant skills

required to drive the achievement of the USPF's strategic goals.

efficient service delivery in the Secretariat.

- Identify, engage and work with world class organisations and individuals as strategic partners.

- **Process**

- Develop and implement processes which will drive Standardisation and

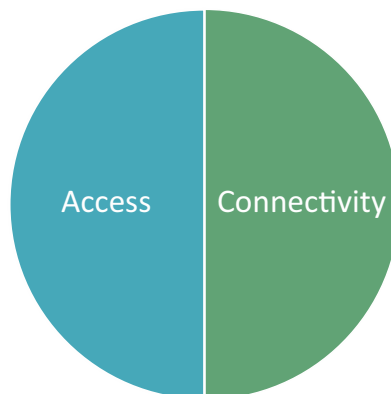
- Implement Performance Management Systems (Monitoring and Evaluation - including Audit) of USPF projects to ascertain if the objectives of the programmes and projects are being achieved.



USPF Project: SKC, Government Secondary School Gark, Abuja

# USPF PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

**T**he Programmes of the USPF were designed and streamlined to focus on two broad areas: **Access** and **Connectivity**. Under these broad programmes, there are projects and major events initiated and executed by the Universal Service Provision Secretariat in 2019. These are covered in the subsequent sections.



Two major components of USPF programmes



ACCESS





USPF Project  
Alawo Grammar School Awo Osun State

# ACCESS PROGRAMME

**P**rojects under the Access Programme are implemented through grants and are designed to create demand and promote usage of ICTs in unserved and underserved communities and groups. The projects involve the provision of end-user devices to complement the telecommunication infrastructure that are deployed under the Connectivity Programme. The following projects were implemented under the Access Programme:



School Knowledge Centre  
Government Secondary School Pyakasa,  
Maitama, Abuja

# School Knowledge Centres

# SKC

**T**he School Knowledge Centres (SKC) of the USPF is aimed at achieving “Connectivity for Developmental (C4D)” goals in line with the mandate of the Fund to promote the connection of government public schools to broadband internet. The aim is to facilitate digital lifestyle in public schools as well as in the school communities.

The objective of the project is to promote the use of ICT in teaching and learning in public secondary schools by providing them with adequate ICT, power and connectivity tools (Laptops/ Desktop, printers, etc)

#### **Project Description/Classification**

The implementation of the SKC project hinges on the level of the ICT infrastructure and knowledge in each of the beneficiary schools.

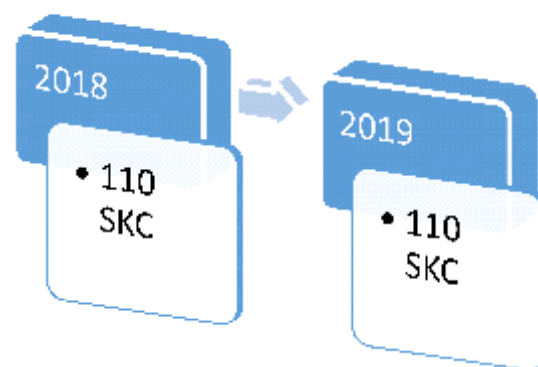
Accordingly, the Project is classified into two types as follows:

**Type A:** Target beneficiaries shall be public secondary schools in urban areas where the schools have adequate classrooms, modern infrastructures and facilities and most of the teachers and students have near adequate computer and ICT skills.

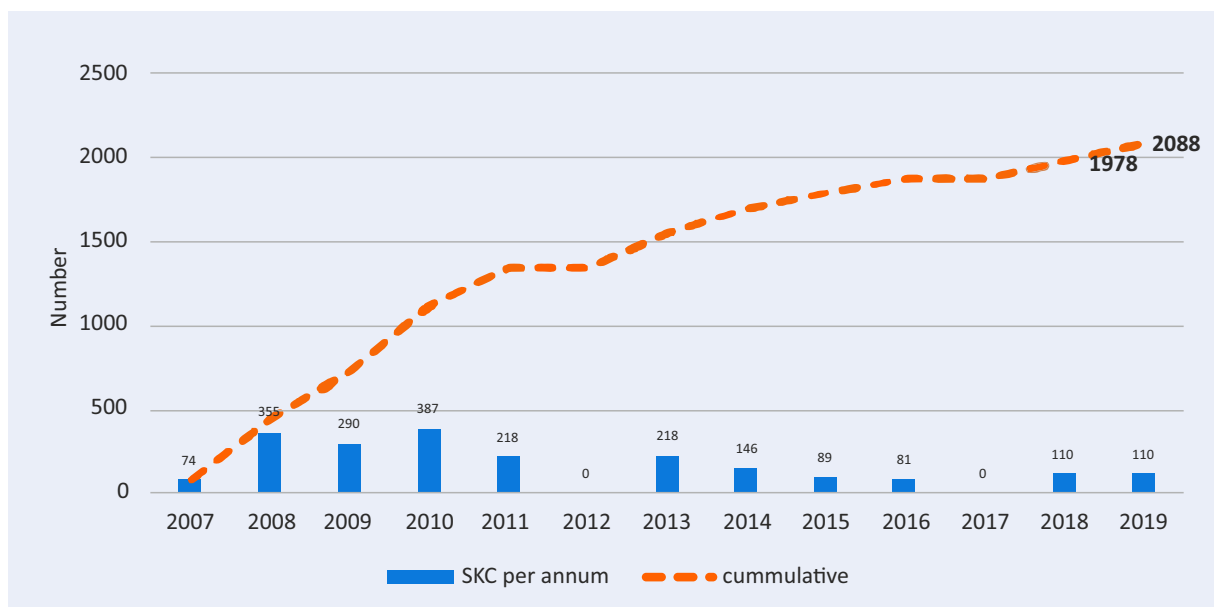
**Type B:** To be implemented in public secondary schools in rural and remote areas

where the infrastructure available at the schools are inadequate or unavailable to support the type of ICT equipment to be deployed.

In 2019 the USPF implemented one hundred and ten (110) SKC across the six (6) geopolitical zones including Federal Capital Territory Abuja (Figure 1). As a result, the total number of schools provided with knowledge Centre was 2,088 as at 2019, reflecting a growth rate of 5.6 per cent from 2018.



**Figure 1:** Number of Schools that have Benefited from School Knowledge Centres per Year  
Source: USPF Secretariat



**Figure 2:** Number of Schools Provided with Knowledge Centres, 2007-2019



## USPF Project

Alawo Grammar School  
Awo, Osun State





**USPF SKC Project:**  
Salamatu Hussaini College, Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State



**USPF SKC Project:** Dr. Amina College Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State



# TERTIARY INSTITUTION KNOWLEDGE CENTRES

**T**ertiary Institution Knowledge Centre (TIKC) is one of the initiatives of the USPF aimed at facilitating connectivity through deployment of optic fiber cable in order to provide bandwidth connectivity with an internet broadband speed of up to 2mbps for developmental goals and ensuring the extension of ICT facilities, through installations of ICT devices and its peripherals such as computers, printers, computers desks/chairs and power backup in some

selected tertiary institutions thus facilitating a digital lifestyle in the institution.

The objective of the project is to promote the use of ICT in teaching, research and learning in Tertiary Institutions as well as the institution communities, by providing the institutions with ICT tools, associated infrastructures and bandwidth connectivity.

**Table 1:** Tertiary Institution Knowledge Centre (tikc) 2019

S/NO.	PROJECTS AND LOCATIONS	STATE
1	Federal College of Education, Pakshin.	Plateau (NC)
2	Gombe State College of Education, Billiri	Gombe (NE)
3	Saadatu Rimi College of Education, Kumbotso	Kano (NW)
4	Ebonyi State College of Education, Ikwo	Ebonyi (SE)
5	Delta State University, Abraka	Delta (SS)
6	Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) Ibadan	Ibadan (SW)



TIKC PROJECT: College of Education Pankshin, Plateau State



TIKC Project,  
NISER, Ibadan





**TIKC Project: Saadatu Rimi College of Education Kano**

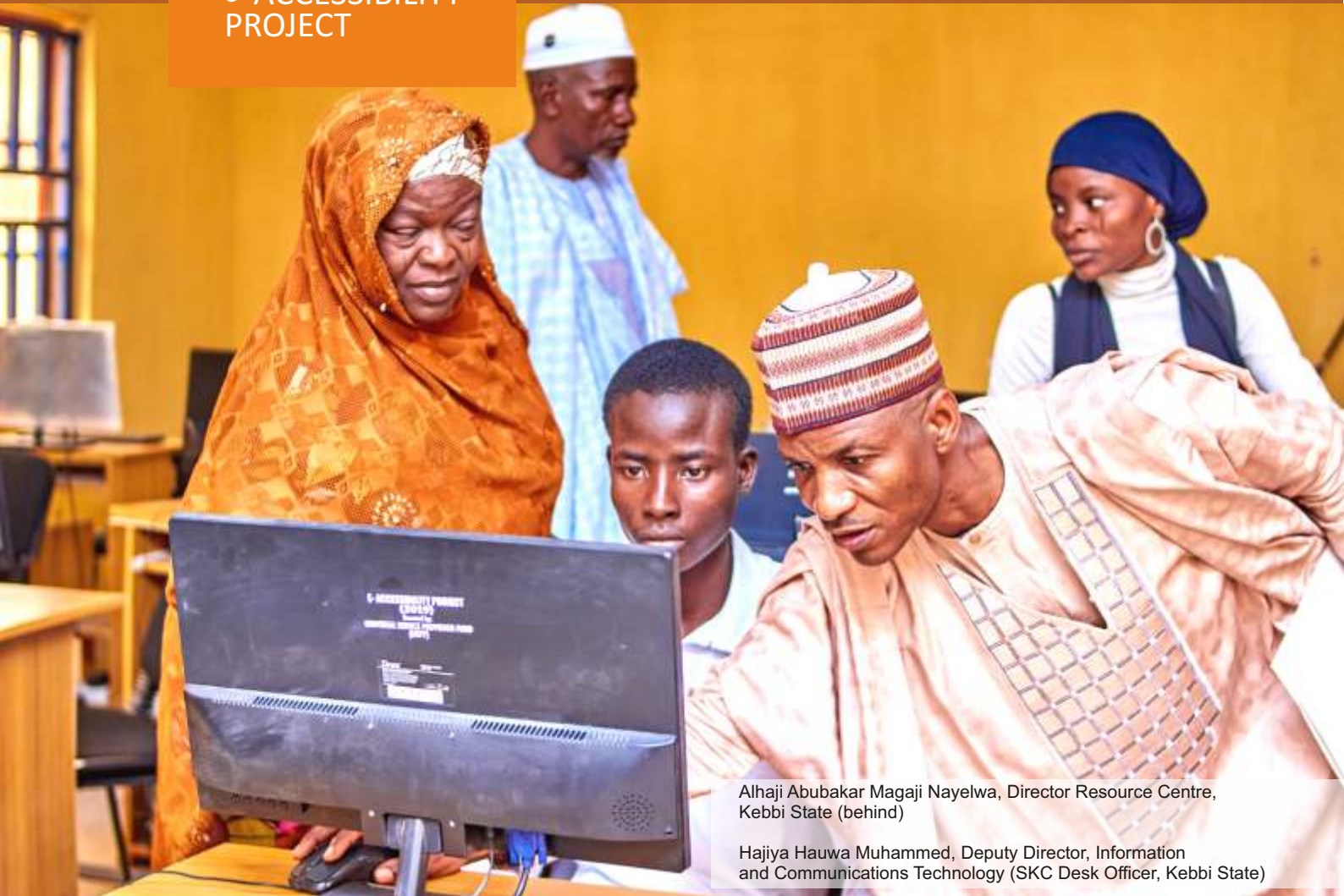




## e-ACCESSIBILITY PROJECTS



## e-ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT



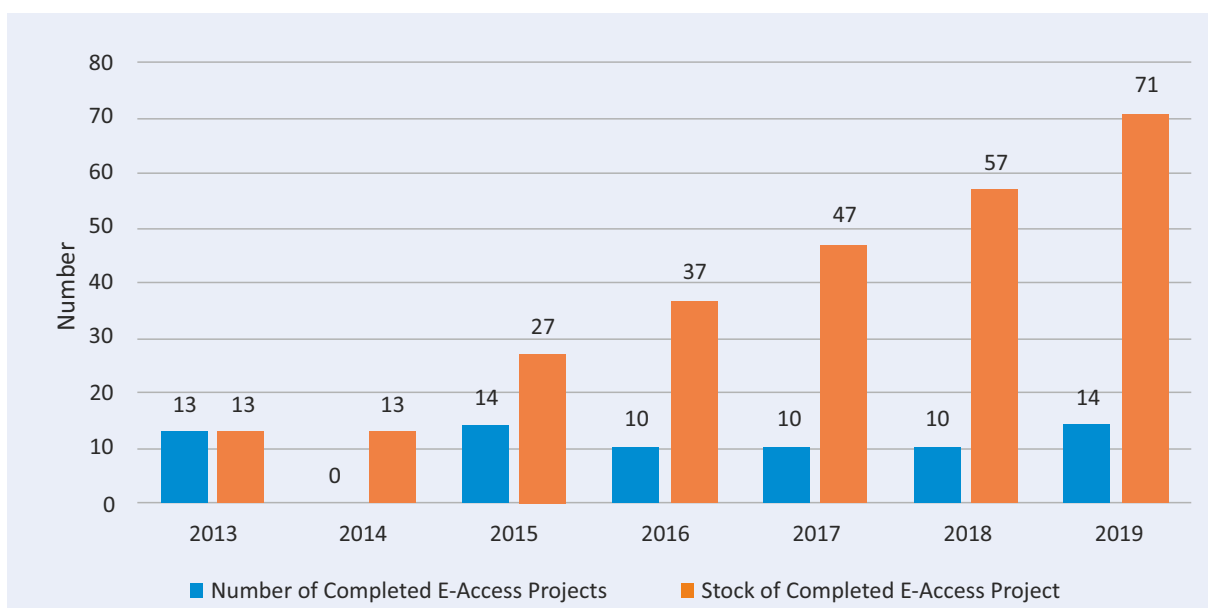
Alhaji Abubakar Magaji Nayelwa, Director Resource Centre, Kebbi State (behind)

Hajiya Hauwa Muhammed, Deputy Director, Information and Communications Technology (SKC Desk Officer, Kebbi State)

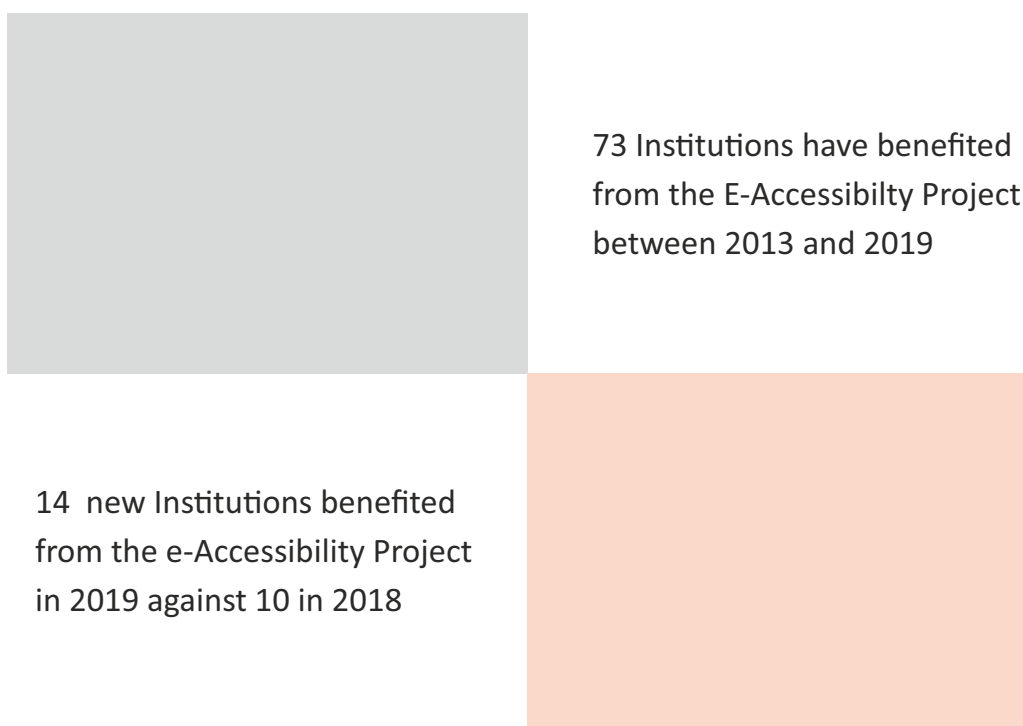
**T**he USPF through its project Implementers is providing ICTs and Assistive Technology solutions to institutions catering to the needs of different categories of persons living with disabilities.

The main objective of the project is to promote digital inclusion for the physically challenged through the provision of ICTs and Assistive Technologies to institutions and schools catering for their needs in line with the mandate of the USPF of social inclusion. Items being provided by USPF include hearing aids, Braille Embossers, Screen Reader, etc.

All the ten project sites, for the year were completed within the project time frame.



**Figure 3:** Number of Institutions provided with completed E-Accessibility sites per annum



**Table 2: New E-Access Project Beneficiaries and Locations in 2019**

S/N	Region	Institution	Location
1	North -East	Government Blind Workshop	Mubi, Adamawa
2	North East	Blind Workshop School	Damagum, Yobe
3	South East	Basden Memorial Special Education Centre	Isulo, Anambra
4	South East	Government Secondary School	Ogbete, Enugu
5	South South	Bayelsa State Children School With Special Needs	Opolo, Bayelsa
6	South South	Benin School For The Blind	Ukhegie, Edo
7	South South	The Child Special School	Port Harcourt, Rivers
8	North West	Blind School	Jahun, Jigawa
9	North West	Special Education School	Tudun Maliki, Kano
10	North West	Kebbi State School For Special Needs	Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi
11	North Central	John Abah Memorial Special School	Ojuwo-Igah, Kogi
12	North Central	Centre For Supportive Services For The Deaf	Fate, Ilorin, Kwara
13	South West	Pacilli School For Blind Children	Surulere, Lagos
14	South West	School For The Deaf	Akure, Ondo



USPF e-Accessibility Project  
School for Special Needs, Birnin Kebbi



 **-ACCESSIBILITY  
PROJECTS**

Kebbi State School  
for Special Needs  
Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State.









## e-LIBRARY PROJECT



## e-LIBRARY PROJECT



Information Resource Centre under USPF Electronic Library (e-Library) Project. The objective of the e- Library Project is to provide a platform for a wholly online searchable portal for displaying library documents and educational database. This will ensure that users have unlimited access to wealth of knowledge, educational materials, developmental issues and on a wide range of subjects with international standard.

**Table 3:** e-Library Projects Implementation Status

SN	Project name/location	Lot	State	Status
1	State Library, Akwanga	1	Nasarawa (NC)	completed
2	Taraba State College of Health Technology, Takum	2	Taraba (NE)	completed
3	Gombe State Polytechnic, Bajoga	3	Gombe (NE)	completed
4	Federal College of Education (Technical), Bichi	4	Kano (NW)	80%
5	Ebonyi State University	6	Ebonyi (SE)	completed
6	Cross River State Library, Ogoja	7	Cross River (SS)	completed
7	College of Education Igueben	8	Edo (SS)	completed
8	Osun State Polytechnic Library, Iree	9	Osun (SW)	completed
9	National Museum Library, Onikan	10	Lagos (SW)	completed



USPF e-Library Project

# e-Health Project



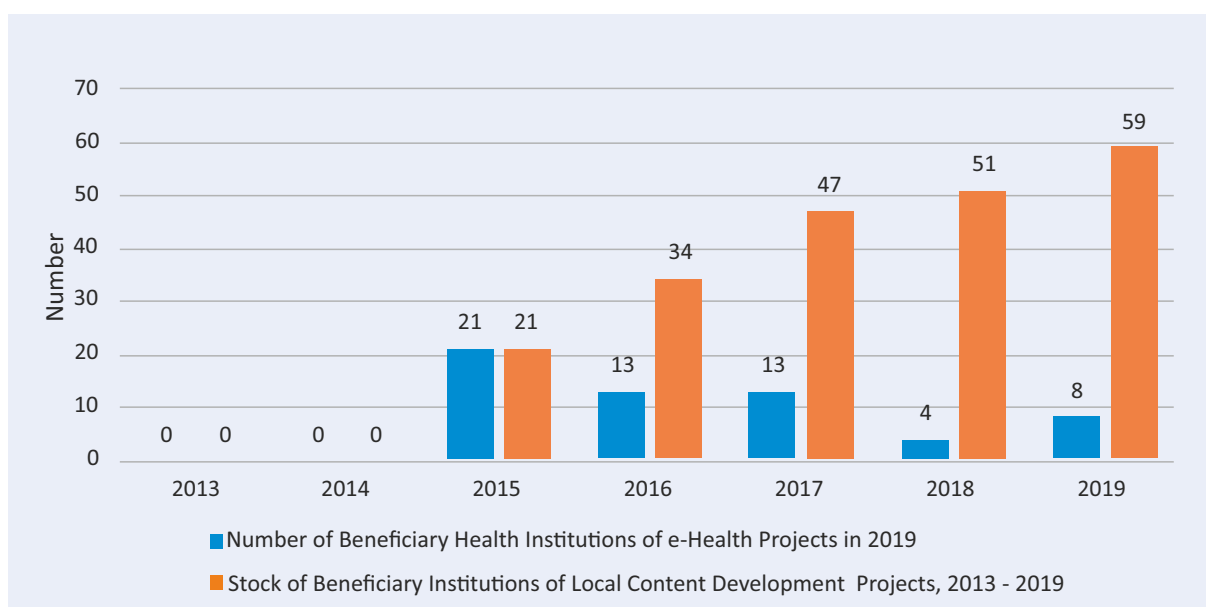
## e-Health Project



The USPF in fulfilling its mandate, has identified the use of ICT to improve access to healthcare service delivery in public secondary healthcare facilities across the country and funds have been appropriated for the provision of ICT and Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems to such institutions in Nigeria.

The objective of the project is to use ICTs to significantly improve access and delivery of healthcare services in public secondary healthcare facilities across the country. It is expected that the USPF e-Health Project would lead to a general improvement in the turnaround time, quality, and scale of healthcare service delivery in public health institutions throughout Nigeria.

Figure 10 and Table 14 present highlights of the number of beneficiary institutions from the e-Health Project. In 2019, Eight (8) health institutions benefitted from the e-Health Project against four (4) in 2018. Cumulatively, 59 Health Institutions have benefitted from the project across the country.



**Figure 4:** Number of Beneficiary Health Institutions from e-Health Project

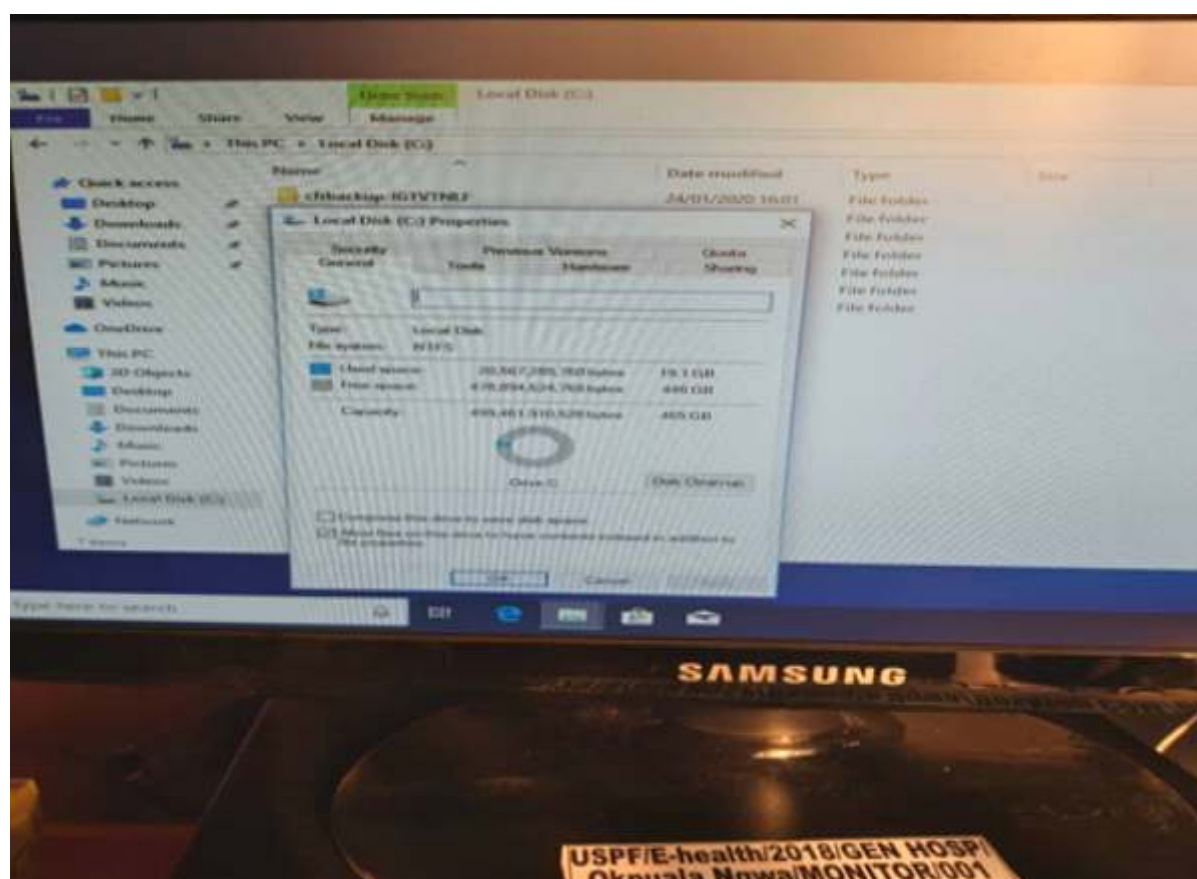


**Table 4:** e-Health Project Implementation Status

S/N	PROJECT LOCATION	STATE	Status
1.	General Hospital, Keffi	Nasarawa (NC)	80%
2.	Federal Medical Centre, Yola	Adamawa (NE)	completed
3.	General Hospital, Okpuala Ngwa, Isiala Ngwa	Abia (SE)	completed
4.	Ijebu Igbo General Hospital	Ogun (SW)	completed

**Table 5: e-Health Beneficiary Institutions in 2019**

SN	Region	Institution	Location
1	South East	General Hospital	Uburu, Ebonyi
2	South West	Federal Medical Centre	Ado Ekiti, Ekiti
3	North East	General Hospital	Kashere, Gombe
4	North West	General Hospital	Kafanchan, Kaduna
5	North Central	General Hospital	Minna, Niger
6	South South	General Hospital	Okomoko, Etche, Rivers
7	South East	General Hospital	Enugu, Enugu
8	North West	General Hospital	Danbatta, Kano



e-Health Record System

# LCD

## LOCAL CONTENT DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT (LCD)



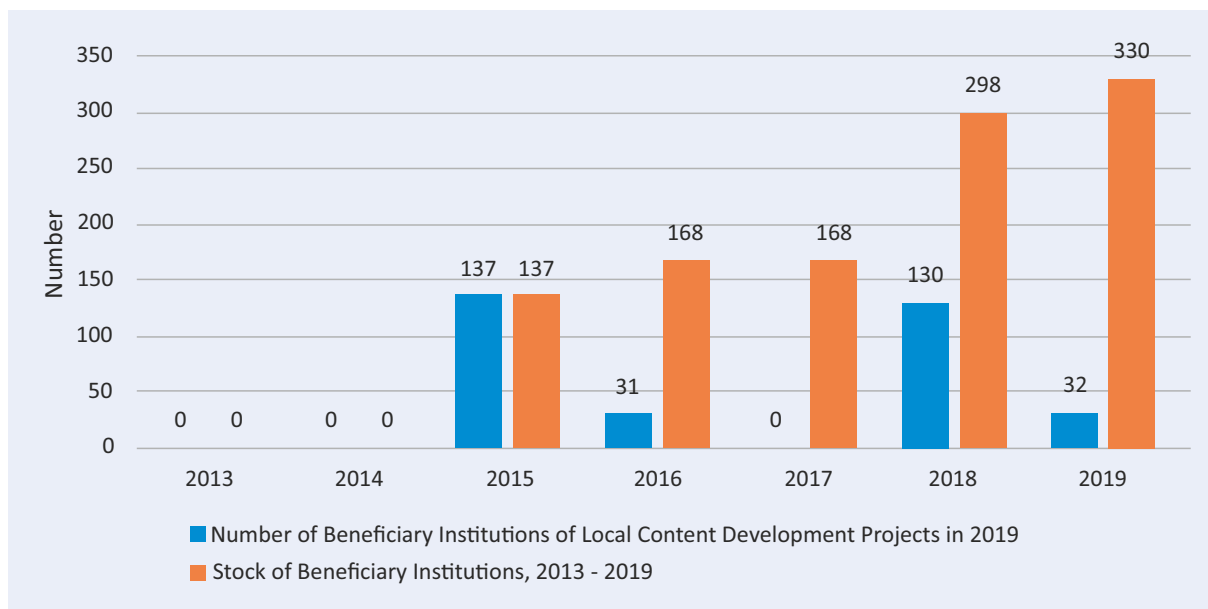
# LOCAL CONTENT

## DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT (LCD)



**T**he objective of the Local Content and Deployment project is to create a sustainable open e-learning technology content (software) that promotes innovation, flexibility, and choice in both teaching and learning. The software enhances teaching and provides a multi-user local content instructional materials aimed at helping students to understand faster the key educational concepts in Mathematics, Sciences and other subjects. The projects with eighty (80) locations in North and fifty seven (57) locations in South were awarded in March, 2019 and completed September, 2019.

Table 15 presents the beneficiary institutions of the Local Application/Content Development Projects in 2019. It shows that 32 new institutions across the country benefited from the Local Application/Content Development Projects in 2019 against 130 institutions in 2018. On cumulative basis, about 330 institutions have benefited from the projects from 2013-2019 (Figure 11)



**Figure 5:** Number of Beneficiary Institutions of Local Content Development Projects

330 Institutions nationwide benefited from Local Content Development Projects from 2013-2019

32 Institutions Benefited from the Local Content Development Projects in 2019 against 130 in 2018.



**Table 6:** Beneficiary Institutions of the Local Application/Content Development Projects in 2019

SN	Region	Institutions	Location
1	South East	Igbere Sec Sch. Onu Ibina Igbere	Bende, Abia
2	South East	Mbutu Ngwa Sec. Sch. Isiala Ngwa	Isikwuato, Abia
3	South East	Okongwu Memorial Grammar School	Nnewi North, Anambra
4	South East	Unity Comprehensive Secondary School. Okpoko	Ogbaru, Anambra
5	South East	Girls Sec. Sch. Uga	Orumba North, Anambra
6	South East	Community Sec Sch Ekwetekwe	Ezza North, Ebonyi
7	South East	Imoha Comprehensive Sec. Sch. Achiagu	Ezza North, Ebonyi
8	South East	Federal Govt. Girls College Ezzamgbo	Ohaukwu, Ebonyi
9	South East	Secondary Technical College, Obodoukwu, Ideator	Ideato, Imo
10	South East	Bonus Pastor Seminary Osina	Ideato, Imo
11	South East	National High Sch. Arondizuogu	Ideato North, Imo
12	South East	Isiekenesi High Sch. Isiekenesi	Ideato North, Imo
13	South East	Ihitenansa Sec. School Orsu	Orlu/Orlu East, Imo
14	North East	Hayatu Iyawa Sec. Sch. Yola	Yola North, Adamawa
15	North East	General Murital Moh. Coll, Yola	Yola North, Adamawa
16	North East	Aliyu Mustapha Sec. Sch. Yola	Yola South, Adamawa
17	North East	Federal Gov. College Azare	Azare, Bauchi
18	North East	Govt. Girls Sec. Sch. T/Balewa	T/Balewa, Bauchi
19	North East	Community Sec. Sch.	Biu, Borno
20	North East	Css Miringa	Biu, Borno
21	North East	Arqam Sec, School Gombe	Gombe, Gombe
22	North East	Govt. Sec. School Tongo	Tongo, Gombe
23	North East	Mohammed Sambo Memorial Sec. Sch. Gashaka	Gashaka, Taraba
24	North East	Govt Day Sec Sch. Karem Lamido	Karem Lamido, Taraba
25	North East	Vakude Govt Sec Sch. Sardauna	Sardauna, Taraba

SN	Region	Institutions	Location
26	North East	Bukar Ali Jnr Day Sec. Sch Gujba Rd, Damaturu	Damaturu, Yobe
27	North East	Govt Sec. Sch. Kukar-Gada	Fika, Yobe
28	North Central	Ugboju-Icho Community Sec. Sch, Ipom, Ugboju	Otukpa, Benue
29	North Central	Louisville Girls Sec. School Gwagwalada	Gwagwalada, FCT
30	North Central	Govt. Junior Secondary School	Ado, Karu, Nasarawa
31	North Central	Federal Govt Girls College, Bida	Bida, Niger
32	North Central	Govt. Sec. Sch. Daffo Bokkos	Daffo Bokkos, Plateau



# CONNECTIVITY





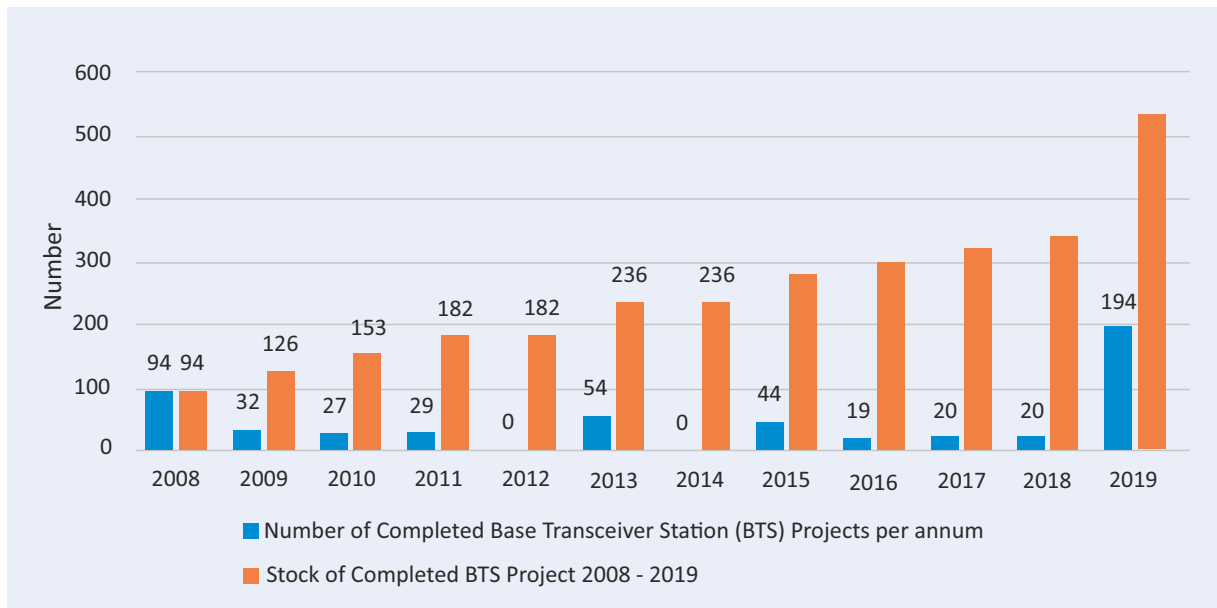
# Connectivity Programme

**C**onnectivity programme comprises of telecommunication infrastructure projects that are implemented through the Public Private Partnership model. They are subsidized by the USPF but implemented, owned and operated by Operators and Service Providers. They provide the platform on which the access projects thrive. The projects implemented under this programme include:



# BTS BASE TRANSCIVER STATION

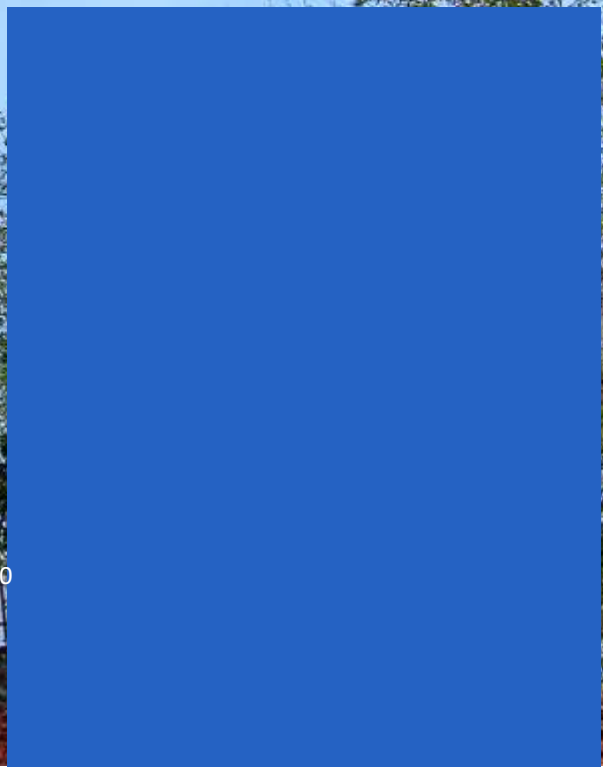
**T**he objective of Base Transceiver Station (BTS) project is to facilitate the achievement of the Accelerated Mobile Phone Expansion Programme (AMPE) which targets the achievement of full voice coverage. This project is implemented through subsidy. The subsidies are determined and awarded through a competitive bidding process by which operators compete for the available subsidies to deploy and operate the stations. In the year 2019, the Secretariat implemented a total of One Hundred and Ninety-Four (194) BTS against 20 projects completed in 2018 (Figure 12). The stock of completed BTS projects from 2008-2019 stood at 533.



**Figure 6:** Number of Completed Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Project

**533 BTS projects  
completed from  
2008-2019**

**194 BTS projects  
completed in 2019  
against 20 in 2018**





# RURAL BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE (RUBI) PROJECT

**R**ural Broad Band Infrastructure (RUBI): The project seeks to provide a sustainable wireless broadband network in the under-served or un-served area that will serve as an enabler of fast and reliable internet services catering for commercial, residential, educational, government, healthcare and other agencies and groups. Twenty-four (24) locations were completed in 2019.

This initiative will provide both wired and wireless high-speed broadband internet in the rural areas at wholesale and at the same time serve as a catalyst for the uptake of

other technologies centered on the internet hub for those locations. Similarly, existing USPF initiatives e.g. e-library, e-health, e-government, e-commerce, etc. can also leverage on the bandwidth infrastructure for operations

So far, 8 Public Access Venues (PAVs) have been completed in Bajoga, Damaturu, Mubi, Maiduguri, Otukpo, Offa, Nasarawa & Kabba, while civil works are ongoing in the outstanding 4 PAV's i.e. Aba, Afikpo, Ogurute & Okigwe. Similarly, connection & integration to remote sites are ongoing in 8 States.

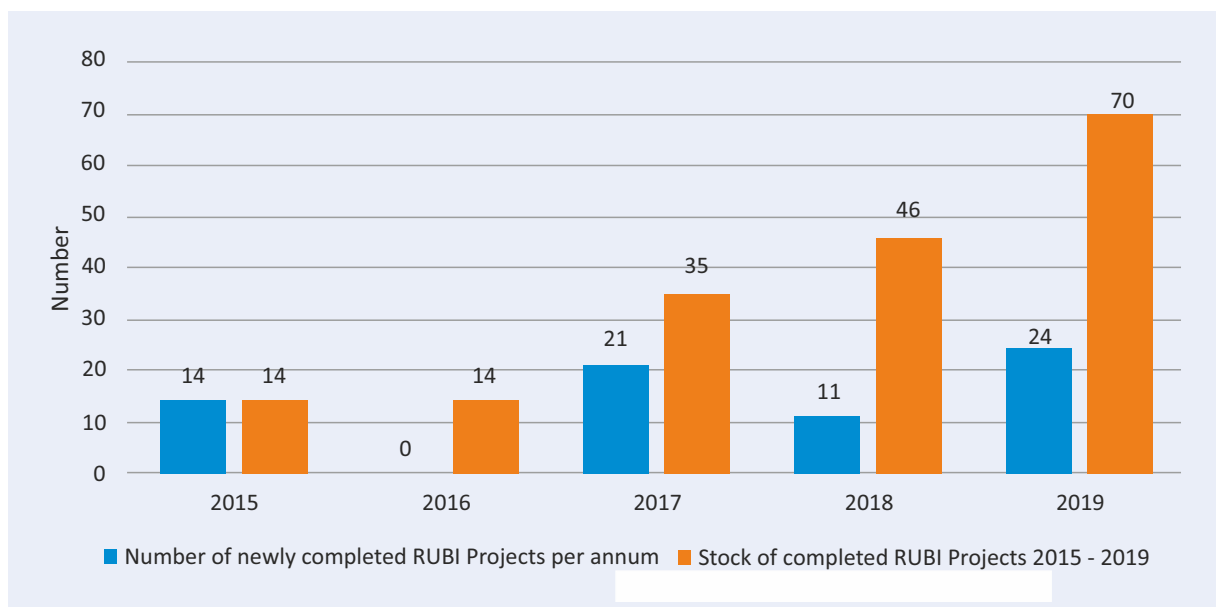


Figure 13: Number of completed RUBI Projects

72 RUBI Projects were completed from 2015-2019

24 RUBI Projects were completed in 2019 against 11 in 2018

**Table 7: Completed Rural Broadband Projects in 2019**

SN	Region	Location
1	South East	Ohafia, Abia
2	South South	Oku-Iboku, Akwa Ibom
3	South East	Nnewi, Anambra
4	North East	Azare, Bauchi
5	South South	Yenagoa, Bayelsa
6	North East	Biu, Borno
7	South South	Ogoja, Cross River
8	South South	Auchi, Edo
9	South West	Efon Alaye, Ekiti
10	South East	Agbani, Enugu
11	North Central	Abaji, FCT
12	North East	Gombe, Gombe
13	South East	Mbaise, Imo
14	North West	Zaria, Kaduna
15	North West	Funtua, Katsina
16	North West	Gwandu, Kebbi
17	North Central	Ajaokuta, Kogi
18	North Central	Lafiagi, Kwara
19	North Central	Lafia, Nasarawa
20	South West	Akure, Ondo
21	South West	Ilesha, Osun
22	South West	Saki/Isenyan, Oyo
23	North East	Potiskum, Yobe
24	North West	Gusau, Zamfara

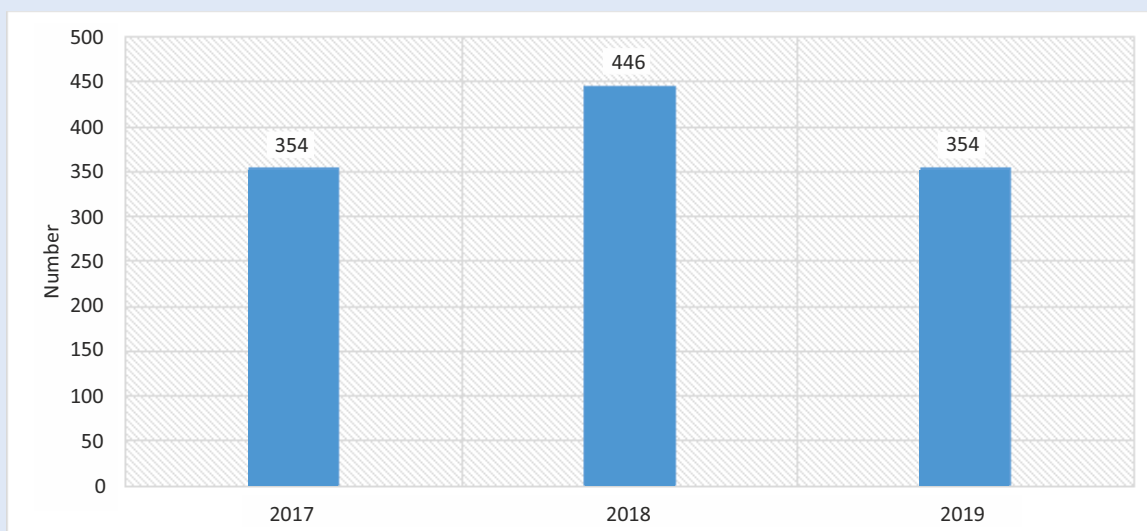






# Bandwidth Aggregation

The Bandwidth Aggregation (BA) project involves the Purchase of bulk bandwidth that can satisfy the connectivity requirement of USPF projects such as SKC's, TIKC's, E-Health, E-Accessibility, E-library, etc. across the 109 Senatorial Districts of the Country. Each location must have a minimum guaranteed broadband internet speed of 5120kbps downlink and 1024kbps uplink for a dedicated subscription period of 12 months. A total of 354 locations benefited in the year 2019.



**Figure 7:** Number of Sites/Institutions that Benefitted from completed Bandwidth Projects

354 locations benefited from Bandwith Aggregation Projects in the year 2019



**T**he project is expected to align and synchronize existing V-SAT equipment deployed in various locations with the various Implementer's primary Network Operating Center (NOC) and subsequently integrated into the secondary NOC established by the USPF: The NOC is expected to provide an avenue for effective management of the network. The expectation is to achieve effective distribution models of the bulk bandwidth to each of the Center's.

**T**he Bandwidth Aggregation Project has ensured that the USPF have a common and visible connectivity platform for all its projects that require bandwidth connectivity for maximum utilization and proper sustenance going forward.

# PROJECTS AND MAJOR EVENTS OF THE USPF IN 2019





# USPF CHANGEMAKER CHALLENGE 2019

**T**he USPF Changemaker Challenge is a nationwide competition opened to young aspiring innovators, software developers, techpreneurs and other ICT enthusiasts from the six (6) geographical zones of Nigeria. The major objective of the competition is to identify young talents offering modern ICT ideas and solutions to some identified problems in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as they apply to Nigeria. The finals of the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF)

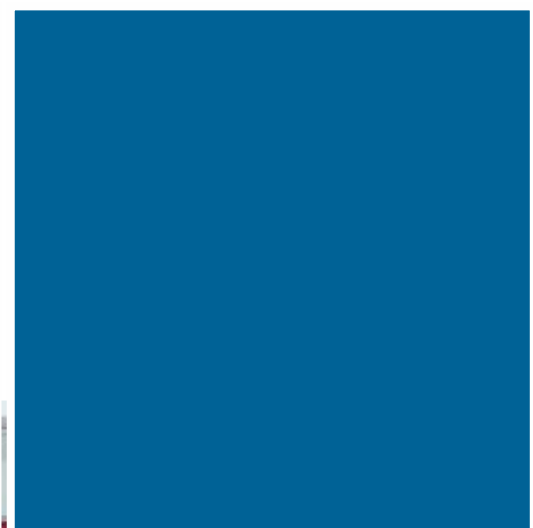
Changemaker Challenge 2019 held at the Digital Bridge Institute, Oshodi, Lagos State from 2 – 4 August, 2019 and Grand Central Hotel, Kano State from 23 – 25 August, 2019. Twenty (20) out of the initial 60 teams scaled through the pre-qualification stage and competed at the Changemaker Challenge 2019 events. The best Three (3) teams from each of the zones emerged to claim various prizes plus acceptance into incubation programme. Below are the winners for each zones:



# USPF CHANGEMAKER CHALLENGE for Southern Zone

Winners	Team Name	Solution Name	Description
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize Winner	Food Prime	Food Prime solution	Electronic smart device solution that increases farmer's yield by reducing losses and damages caused by pest using sensors, perimeter detectors, counter-sound etc.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize Winner	Grow by TechHut	Bench Box	A self-learning platform designed to teach 11-18 years old the relevant soft and hard skills needed for a future career within the digital industry
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize Winner	Sell Trash Online	Sell Trash Online	A web and mobile application that enable users to search and contact recycle agents nearest to them for trash and get paid based on trash computation







# USPF CHANGEMAKER CHALLENGE for Northern Zone

Winners	Team Name	Solution Name	Description
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize Winner	BC Scan	BC Scan	A cancer detection device using brazier
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize Winner	Aid card	Aid card	Automate process of aid delivery
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize Winner	Blood donor	Blood donor App	A platform for blood donation, requesting and tracking









# CAPACITY BUILDING OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS

**T**he absence of requisite capacity of local entrepreneurs/business and community-based organizations to own, manage and operate the ICT service and applications has somewhat limited the adoption of ICTs as well as the sustainability of Universal Service and Universal Access projects. This project is designed to build entrepreneurial capacity of stakeholders in the use of ICT in everyday life processes while developing capacity to effectively participate in the ICT driven world (maximize business opportunities). The workshop created an avenue for consultation with stakeholders across the country with a view to enrich the experiences and receive feedback from implementing partners especially the CRC

Managers/Implementers and SKC desk officers as well as teachers and students that have benefited from this initiative. Other stakeholders like ICT Innovation Hubs, Community Based Organisations/ Civil Society Organizations and various schools and Tertiary Institution) are also beneficiaries of this project to deepen the penetration of ICT4 Development in under-served and un-served communities.

In the period under review, about One Hundred and Fifty (**150**) participants were trained in the South - South zone of the country, through the Capacity Building Workshop held at Port Harcourt, Rivers State on 9 & 10 December, 2019.







# CLUSTERS OF ICT GAP

**T**he Universal Service Provision Secretariat (USPS) in 2013 carried out a study to identify and establish clusters of voice telephony and network transport gaps in the country. The outcome of the study has assisted the USPF in designing the strategies to cover these gaps to ensure no one is left unconnected in the 21st century Nigeria.

Based on the outcome of the study, a total of 207 clusters were established with an estimated population of about 36.8 million people. The clusters are grouped according to five population density ranges and are represented in different colours, while serviced areas are represented in white as shown in the map.

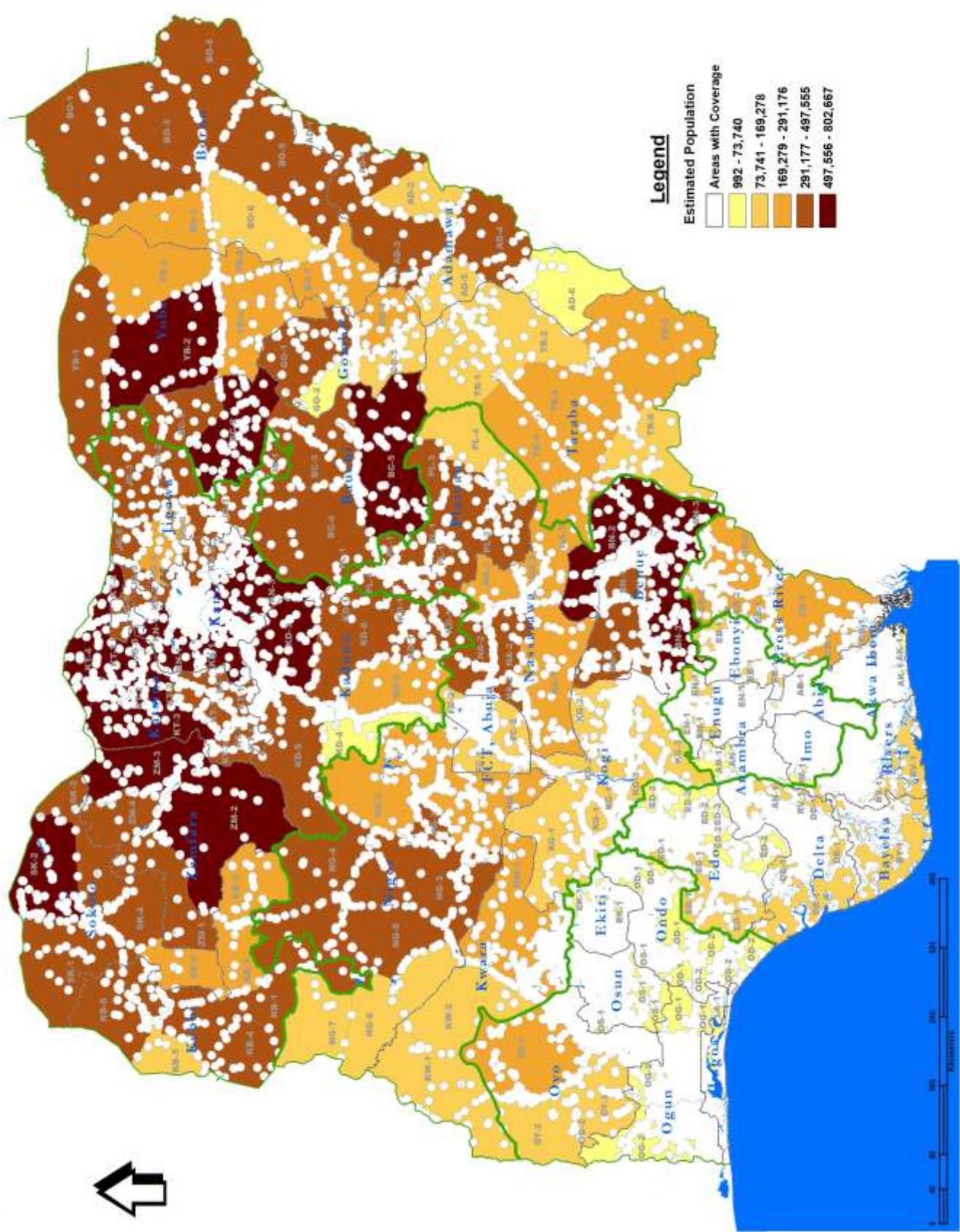
An update of the report was carried out in 2019.

The highlights of the report are as follows:

- The estimated number of people living in the unserved and underserved areas has dropped from 33.7 million in 2015 to 31.16 million in 2019. This therefore, means that an estimated 2.54 Million Nigerians were provided with telephony coverage during the period.
- The number of clusters reduced from 207 in 2015 to 114 in 2019.

The USPF deployed an Interactive ArcGIS map of the whole study available on the USPF's website; [www.uspf.gov.ng](http://www.uspf.gov.ng).

Figure 10 USPF deployed an Interactive ArcGIS map



**Table 8: Summary of USPF Projects**

S/N	USPF PROJECT	BENEFIT
1	Local Content Development	Easy learning for beneficiaries
2	School Knowledge Centres	Improves interschool competition Significant increase in pass rate of students in all major secondary school examinations
3	e-Health Project	Improve access and delivery of healthcare services in public secondary healthcare facilities across the country
4	e- Accessibility Projects	Enhances the school status and exposes beneficiaries to ICT knowledge. Enhances academic pursuits and skill acquisition through e-access
5	e-Library (Information Resource Centres)	Improves reading and learning experience of knowledge seekers and users
6	Innovative ICT Solution and Services	Afford interaction and foster social relations between people from various part of the country
7	RUBI Project	Provides both wired and wireless high-speed broadband internet in the rural areas
8	Base Transceiver Station	Provides a better communication means with loved ones within the communities. Increases access to information, market, business opportunities, and employment , education and health facilities in the communities.
9	Bandwidth Aggregation for All USPF Projects	Ensures that the USPF have a common and visible connectivity platform for all its projects.

# CAPACITY BUILDING FOR STAFF



USPF Staff in a cross section photograph with Staff of GSS Garki

**T**he human resource goal 3 is to strengthen the capacity of the USPF Secretariat to effectively deliver on its mandate.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, the Secretariat of USPF had a total staff strength of 36 permanent employees. The organizational structure has Three (3) levels of Management, including USPF Board, Fund Managers and the Secretariat. Under the Secretary USPF are Eight (8) Heads of Departments.

In line with the objectives of goal 3 of the USPF Strategic Management Plan (SMP) which is to strengthen the capability of the USPF Secretariat to effectively deliver on its mandate, every year, the Secretariat engages in staff capacity building programmes to ensure that staff are adequately equipped with the necessary trainings to aid service delivery. A total number of Thirty-Six (36) USPF staff participated in various capacity building programmes.



# MAJOR LIMITATIONS/CHALLENGES

In spite of a well-structured operational plan for the year under review, the Department is faced with a number of challenges in carrying out its mandate:

**a) Lack of Critical Infrastructural Facilities:**

The lack of access to network connectivity, suitable buildings in some selected institutions to house network infrastructures and the non-availability of adequate public infrastructure such as accessible roads in rural areas has been an impediment for successful project delivery over the years.

**b) Non-availability and Inadequate Public Power Supply:**

Incessant power outages in most locations have over exerted pressure on the generator and solar power solutions provided in some sites which has led to break down of the power source and ultimately power cut to the ICT tools. This has led to the facilities in some locations not being optimally utilized.

**c) Security Concerns:**

Safety of lives of personnel of operating companies and network equipment is a concern that hampers the extension of telecommunication and ICT services to some

parts of the country. Civil unrest and banditry in some parts of the country are great hurdles preventing Implementers and USPF staff from carrying out their activities. This has led to implementation delays and project over run in those locations. Another major concern is theft and wanton destruction of ICT equipment in some sites leading to total collapse of the project and inoperative to beneficiaries.

**d) Lack of Co-operation from Relevant Stakeholders:**

The absence of support and co-operation from some relevant stakeholders such as the host States, representatives of the beneficiary institutions and communities have been responsible for delays or the lack of project execution in some selected project locations.

**e) Deficiency in Basic ICT Knowledge:**

The level of ICT knowledge of the beneficiaries is very low or absent in some communities/schools, this impedes the proper use of the ICT tools provided and, in most cases, affects the transfers of needed skills for the effective implementation of USPF

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

**Table 9:** USPF Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2019

	2019	2018
	₦	₦
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	21,214,488,503	17,163,861,690
Receivables	5,164,356,154	5,881,824,734
Prepayments	2,593,878	1,843,000
Inventories	16,156,773	12,849,877
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b><u>26,397,595,308</u></b>	<b><u>23,060,379,301</u></b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	29,146,327	37,706,037
Technical Library Books	8,885,250	8,885,250
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b><u>38,031,577</u></b>	<b><u>46,591,287</u></b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>26,435,626,885</u></b>	<b><u>23,106,970,588</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Unremitted Deductions	-	110,564,164
Payables	15,503,455,717	15,345,093,596
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b><u>15,503,455,717</u></b>	<b><u>15,455,657,760</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>15,503,455,717</u></b>	<b><u>15,455,657,760</u></b>
<b>Net Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<b><u>10,932,171,168</u></b>	<b><u>7,651,312,828</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS/EQUITY</b>		
<b>Accumulated Fund/(Deficit)</b>	<b><u>10,932,171,168</u></b>	<b><u>7,651,312,828</u></b>

**Table 10:** USPF Statement of Financial Performance for the Year Ended 31st December 2019

	2019	2018
	₦	₦
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Fees	3,450,000	12,350,000
Interest Earned	155,290,335	136,087,599
Domestic Grants	<u>13,428,028,242</u>	<u>16,743,161,673</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>13,586,768,577</u></b>	<b><u>16,891,599,272</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Grants & Subsidies	8,737,373,194	6,238,169,695
Personnel Costs	687,023,688	780,413,358
Overhead Cost	315,833,522	365,295,224
Repairs and Maintenance Services	5,217,440	4,359,636
Consulting & Professional Services	23,864,789	373,541,145
Financial Charges	2,503,564	2,172,834
Depreciation Charges	9,187,561	10,637,511
Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) Revenue Remittance	<u>3,357,007,061</u>	<u>6,185,790,418</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>13,138,010,819</u></b>	<b><u>13,960,379,821</u></b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) from Operating Activities for the period</b>	<b><u>448,757,758</u></b>	<b><u>2,931,219,451</u></b>
<b>Non-Operating Revenue/(Expenses)</b>		
Gain/(Loss) on Foreign Exchange Transaction	59,215	193,484
Gain/(Loss) on Disposal of Asset-PPE	<u>-</u>	<u>1,378,070</u>
<b>Total Non-Operating Revenue/(Expenses)</b>	<b><u>59,215</u></b>	<b><u>1,571,554</u></b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) from Ordinary Activities</b>	<b><u>448,816,973</u></b>	<b><u>2,932,791,005</u></b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period</b>	<b><u>448,816,973</u></b>	<b><u>2,932,791,005</u></b>

# USPF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES





