



Echoes of Empowerment: Triumph Through Local Revenue Boost



VOICES

"When the August rains descend, the collapsed bridge becomes a traveller's nightmare."

In Alhaji Bala Danbaba's village in Birnin Yero Ward, the bridge connecting Danbaba village to other settlements in the Igabi Local Government Area was no longer usable when the downpours began. Each year, as the August rains descended, so would the anxiety of residents. The rickety bridge, submerged under rising water levels, would make it hard for residents, especially farmers like Alhaji Bala to transport their crops to markets. The ordeal was not just about a bridge, it was a severed economic lifeline. *"The only alternate route is a den where bandits wait to attack and rob us of our motorcycles and farm produce"* Alhaji Bala shook his head with dread, as he recalled sad incidents.

In Rigasa, near Danbaba village, the public school was in dire condition. With a mere 18 classrooms and 23 makeshift tents, the 250 students accommodated in each class with insufficient chairs far exceeds the 30-40 pupils per class recommendation. Many students had to sit on floors and even those who scrambled and managed to grab a chair sat in a less-than-ideal arrangement facing each other instead of the blackboards.

The funds received from the government were barely sufficient to cover running costs, so equipment and training for teachers

seemed like a far-fetched idea. *"I needed training, as I was a school support officer managing several schools under my cluster. This was especially critical for lesson planning and professional development. It was overwhelming!"* Mrs Aminatu sighed as she explained the challenges that hindered the smooth running of the schools in her cluster.

In 2015, the Kaduna State Government (KDSG) started transformative reforms, strengthening revenue mobilisation efforts to raise resources for crucial social services and infrastructural development. Over the years, PERL has focused on identifying institutional gaps and strengthening internal systems to enhance domestic revenue mobilisation through an inclusive process that brings together government actors across sectors and citizens.

"We reviewed the existing Corporate Plan as well as the organogram to ensure that the mandates we set for ourselves were fulfilled. We brought in new technology, manpower and skillsets for the staff. This assisted in ensuring that the reform process continues." - Dr Zaid Abubakar



A building block at LEA Primary School Rigasa

This involved working with the Kaduna Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS) and was consolidated through a Medium-Term Revenue Strategy (MTRS), job descriptions, a service charter and a corporate plan to establish systems to boost revenue in the state. Dr Zaid Abubakar, the former Executive Chairman of the KADIRS, emphasised how these interventions helped the state increase local revenue.

In 2019, the government gave the Local Education Authority (LEA) Primary School Rigasa a remarkable makeover. The primary school is now one of the largest and best-equipped schools in the state, with about 163 teachers. Today the dilapidated structures at the school are nothing but a distant memory. For Alhaji Bala Danbaba and his fellow local farmers, it is that they can now transport their produce across a rehabilitated bridge. Their earnings are higher, and their increased income is bridging age-old worries.

The increased revenue played a critical role in funding educational and infrastructure improvements. Kaduna's progress is a symphony of connected journeys, distinct stories across communities, yet connected notes woven into the fabric of time. The boost from internal revenue growth, combined with strategic support from PERL, showcases the transformative power of coordinated reform efforts. It is more than fiscal achievement; it is the echoes of impact on people, communities, and lives through more targeted spending.

Contact Address:

- 📍 10 Bobo Street
Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria
- ✉ info@perlnigeria.net
- 🌐 www.perlnigeria.net
- 📺 Find us on Facebook
- 📘 www.facebook.com/perlnigeria



The Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL) is a five-year public sector accountability and governance programme, funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. The programme provides support to governments in the core areas of policy development and implementation towards delivering public goods and services; supports citizens to engage with these processes and facilitates evidence-based learning and advocacy.

The opinions expressed in this leaflet are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.