

## JIGAWA STATE



**Geographical Profile:** Jigawa State is one of the thirty-six states that constitute Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is situated in the north-western part of the country between latitudes 11.00°N to 13.00°N and longitudes 8.00°E to 10.15°E. Kano State and Katsina State border Jigawa to the west, Bauchi State to the east and Yobe State to the northeast. To the north, Jigawa shares an international border with Zinder Region in The Republic of Niger which is a unique opportunity for cross-border trading activities. Government readily took advantage of this by initiating and establishing a Free-Trade Zone at the Border town of Maigatari.

**Population:** The socio-cultural situation in Jigawa State could be described as homogeneous: it is mostly populated by Hausa/Fulani, who can be found in all parts of the State. Kanuri are largely found in Hadejia Emirate with some traces of Badawa mainly in its Northeastern parts. Even though each of the three dominant tribes has continued to maintain its ethnic identity, Islam and a long history of inter-marriages have continued to bind them together. About 4,988,888 people inhabit Jigawa State. Life expectancy as at 2001 was about 52 years with a total fertility rate of about 6.2 children per woman of childbearing age (a little above the national average). Although population of the State is predominantly rural (90%), the distribution in terms of sex is almost equal between male (50.8%) and female (49.2%). This pattern of population distribution is same across various constituencies in the State and between urban and rural areas. In terms of age distribution, the 2002 CWIQ Survey indicated that 45.2% of the population was made up of young people below the age of 15; 49.0% between the ages of 15 and 59 while 5.8% were people aged 60 and above. This survey reveals a dependency ratio of almost 1; meaning that there is almost one dependent to every economically active person in the population

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**Government:** Jigawa State—created out of the old Kano State on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1991—is one of the 36 States in Federal Republic of Nigeria. By the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, the state comprises 27 Local Government Councils, which are divided into 30 State Constituencies, grouped into 11 Federal Constituencies and 3 Senatorial Districts. In line with the democratic setting in the country, the governments at both the State and Local Government levels are elected, and comprise an Executive with a unicameral legislature. The State legislature has 30 elected members each representing one of the State Constituencies. The political landscape showed that PDP is the leading party in the state. Though the state government was controlled by the ANPP from 1999 to 2007, the PDP took charge following the defection of the then governor to the PDP. As at now, the state executive council, all member of the national assembly and twenty nine members of the state assembly are from the PDP. Only one state house of assembly member represents APC. To complete the State governance structure, there is an independent State Judiciary as the third arm of Government.

**Political Economy:** The Economy of Jigawa State is largely characterized by informal sector activities with agriculture as the major economic activity. Over 80% of the population is engaged in subsistence farming and animal husbandry. Trade and commerce are undertaken on small and medium scale, especially in agric goods, livestock and other consumer goods. Other informal sector activities include blacksmithing, leather-works, tailoring services, auto repairs, metal works, carpentry, tanning, dyeing, food processing, masonry etc. Even though modern industrial sector is yet to gain a solid footing, the seed for their development was planted through establishment of small-scale industries particularly in areas of food processing and other agro-allied activities.

The State of infrastructure for economic development such as roads, electricity, telecommunication and information technology have recently witnessed tremendous improvements through massive rehabilitation and expansion works. With massive road rehabilitation projects already undertaken throughout the State during the last five years, coupled with efforts made towards power generation via Independent Power Platforms, and the Internet Broadband Project, investment climate in Jigawa State in terms of economic infrastructure is quite promising.

**Relation with Multilateral Agencies:** Government of Jigawa State relates very well with multilateral agencies in the country particularly the World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF, DFID and other international donor agencies and NGOs. Multilateral agencies have been a veritable

source of development funds and technical assistance to State Government. Presently, the State partners with DFID, UNDP, UNICEF, IBRD, IFAD, ADF and some other International Development Agencies in pursuit of several development projects and programmes, particularly in the sphere of pro-poor growth, poverty reduction, education, and positive reform programmes such as Public Expenditure Management, Health Systems and Justice System Reforms.

Though the state government relates very well with these development partners, there are still some areas that require improvement. For instance, the state government has not domesticated the freedom of information bill and this poses risk to accessing some vital information from the public offices. Some of these statutory MDAs such as the budget office, accountant's general office and the auditor-general's office are skeptical in making information public at least at some points.

## **FINDINGS**

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### **Public Access to budget documents**

Jigawa state scores 44 out of 100 on the State Budget Transparency Index. The State Budget Call Circular and State Budget Appropriation Law are all publicly available on request while the State Draft Budget Estimates are available online. Citizens have access to all documents in the formulation and approval of the budget cycle that can serve as a basis to monitor how the government spends public funds. Both the Accountant General's and Auditor General's Reports are produced for internal use only while the Citizen's Budget, Quarterly Reports, and Mid-Year Review are not produced at all.

### **Public participation in the budget**

Citizens and CSOs in Jigawa state have moderate spaces to be involved in the budget process with a score of 47 out of 100. During the **budget formulation** stage, the Jigawa state Economic Empowerment Program hosts the Talakawa Summit to solicit inputs from the disabled community for the State Draft Estimates. The Jigawa House of Assembly opens all committee hearings on the **budget approval** process to citizens. Both the **budget execution** and **auditing** process have no open spaces for public scrutiny.

## **Public access to procurement information**

With a score of 70 out of 100, citizens have significant access to procurement information in Jigawa state. The Jigawa Due Process & Project Monitoring Bureau Amendment Law of 2012 regulates the entire procurement process and established the Jigawa State Government Due Process & Project Monitoring Bureau. Tenders in Jigawa state are publicly opened after the bidding process is closed. Procurement awards are published online. The Jigawa State Government Due Process & Project Monitoring Bureau publishes quarterly reports on the implementation of projects including the contractor, amounts disbursed, and project completion rate.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

CIRDDOC recommends the following to improve budget transparency, public participation in the budget process, and transparency in the procurement process:

### **Budget Transparency**

The government can increase budget transparency in Jigawa state by timely publishing, online the following documents online that are already produced:

- Accountant-General's Report
- Auditor-General's Report

The Jigawa State Directorate of Budget & Economic Planning should do the following:

- partner with CSOs in the state to develop a Citizen's Budget.
- produce and publish the Quarterly Reports and a Mid-Year Review on time.

### **Public Participation**

To effectively take advantage of knowledge of CSOs and citizens, the government in Jigawa state should do the following:

- Open the budget formulation process to all constituencies; establish effective mechanisms to solicit the public's inputs on what should be included in the State Draft Estimates; and clearly articulate what the government expects to do with these inputs.
- publish a list of beneficiaries of projects, subsidies, social plans and other targeted spending from MDAs.
- establish practical mechanisms for the public to provide inputs on how the budget is being implemented and publish reports on how these inputs are used.

Similarly, the Jigawa State House of Assembly should do the following:

- publish reports on committee hearings.

Lastly, the Auditor General should do the following:

- establish practical mechanisms for the public to submit inputs on what should be audited.

### **Access to Information**

To improve access to information in the state, the government should do the following:

1. Domesticate the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011.
2. Establish Freedom of Information (FOI) Agency in the state