A one-day workshop, organized by the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing in conjunction with the Power Sector Communication Team (PSCT) was held on January 31, 2018 at Power House, Abuja to inform civil society organizations on the PSRP objectives. Speaking at the PSRP Civil Society Engagement Workshop, the Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola SAN, stated that the PSRP was designed to address the core challenges in Nigeria’s Electricity Supply Industry and is an integral part of the Government’s Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP).

The workshop was an interactive session with the power sector interest groups who engaged with the Honourable Minister and Minister of State for Power, Works and Housing and the NERC Commissioner for Consumer Affairs. Some of the issues discussed at the workshop include the role of civil society in the power sector, needed grassroots engagement by Government as well as the need for aggressive engagement with electricity consumers. Video: PSRP CSO Event

PSRP PROMOTES GOOD GOVERNANCE WITH GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENTS
WORLD BANK APPROVES US$486M FOR NIGERIA’S ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION EXPANSION

As part of its financial support to boost Nigeria’s power sector through the Power Sector Recovery Programme (PSRP), the World Bank has approved a credit of $486 million for the implementation of a Transmission Expansion Plan by the Nigeria Electricity Transmission Access Project (NETAP). NETAP will also finance the deployment of a functional SCADA, an Electricity Management System which is critical for grid stability. “The Nigeria Electricity Transmission Project will help address key bottlenecks in the transmission network and improve access to affordable and reliable electricity service to citizens,” said Rachid Benmessaoud, the World Bank Country Director for Nigeria. World Bank Press Release

DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT FOR CUSTOMER SENSITIZATION

The Power Sector Recovery Programme (PSRP) Communications Technical Team (CTT), in collaboration with the World Bank, is finalizing communications creatives in support of educational and outreach initiatives for Distribution Companies (DisCos).

A one-day workshop was held at the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) headquarters on January 26, 2018, to discuss the proposed communications support from the Programme and present draft communications materials that would enhance customer relations. This support aligns with the PSRP’s intervention initiatives to improve (customer) service delivery.

The outcome of the workshop resulted in the identification of key consumer and DisCo issues like bill payment, metering, reporting electricity theft, consumer rights & responsibilities, energy conservation and energy efficiency, to name a few. These core messages have been included in the development of communication materials comprising of television, radio and print materials in preparation for the nationwide public awareness campaign.

The PSRP Communications Team, supported by a public relations firm, will be working closely with all the distribution companies during the course of the programme.
WORLD BANK MEET CSOs ON THE PSRP ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT

On January 25, 2018, the World Bank met with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to discuss the World Bank’s proposed support to the Power Sector Recovery Programme (PSRP) with a Performance Based Loan (PBL) of US$1 billion. World Bank Energy Team Lead, Kyran O’Sullivan, spoke about how the PBL will promote the sustainable performance of the power sector in three key areas: reliability of electricity supply, financial sustainability, governance and efficiency.

The Bank also unveiled the Environmental and Social Systems Assessment (ESSA) for the PSRP which examines the Federal Government’s existing environmental and social management systems along six core principles: environment, natural habitats and cultural resources, public and worker safety, land acquisition, vulnerable groups and social conflict. The objective of the ESSA is to define measures to strengthen Nigeria’s environmental and social systems, and integrate these measures into the overall Programme.
OPEN MARKET FOR SALE OF POWER DECLARED

On February 13, 2018, the Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola SAN, at a meeting with the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) in Abuja, encouraged MAN to embrace the Federal Government’s Eligible Customers policy as a means to achieve the long sought after industrial revolution in the country.

Alongside NERC, TCN and other power sector executives, the Minister emphasized that the 2005 Electric Power Sector Reform Act (EPSRA) approved the sale of power to the Nigerian Electricity Bulk Trader (NBET), Distribution Companies (DisCos) and the Eligible Customer. He informed MAN that the market was now open to all willing buyers adding that the access to power for manufacturing and production (as provided by the policy) was the big bridge towards diversification of the Nigerian economy.

This public adoption of a free market stance by the Government is in line with the PSRP aim to strengthen availability and access to power while ensuring the sanctity of effective bilateral contracts across the power sector.
ENERGIZING ECONOMIES PROGRAMME: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S OFF-GRID ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME COMMENCES

As part of delivering on the Federal Government’s Energizing Economies Programme (EEP) for markets and business clusters, the Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Fashola SAN and the Managing Director of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Mrs. Damilola Ogunbiyi, on March 10, 2018, commissioned the first phase of the solar electrification of the 12,000 shops in Sabon Gari Market, Kano. The occasion was a milestone in the initiative to electrify selected markets and business clusters across the country. This policy intervention is part of the PSRP objective to increase national access to electricity by deploying renewable off-grid systems. It is also one of the ways by which the Federal Government intends to boost Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) activities as well as increase access to power to the unconnected and underserved communities.

All identified locations under the EEP will be electrified before the end of 2018. Over 500 traders have already been connected with about 3,000 others signed on for connection by contract while 120 technicians are currently engaged as EEP contractors. Video: Energizing Economies
A two-day capacity building seminar on the DisCo Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) under the PSRP was held on March 21-22, 2018 under the auspices of the Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Programme (CaBTAP) developed by the French Development Agency (AFD) and European Union. It aimed to ensure DisCos development of PIPs for submission to the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) as part of the applications for the next tariff period, 2019-2023.

The seminar was necessitated by the PSRP requirement that all DisCos are to develop and implement a PIP. Discussions were designed to empower DisCo board members with information on the relevance of elaborating reliable and solid PIPs according to NERC’s guidelines on ATC&C losses reductions plans, customer service improvement plans, improving quality of supply, network rehabilitation, modernizing and expansion plans, etc. The seminar was attended by representatives from the PSRP Implementation Monitoring Team, World Bank, REA, BPE and NERC.

The 20-year Transmission Expansion Master Plan developed by the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), in collaboration with Fichtner GmBH and Co.KG, a German Engineering Consulting firm, was launched in Abuja on January 28, 2018 by the Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Fashola SAN. The development of the master plan began in 2016. Its objective is to complement the transmission rehabilitation and expansion plan within the Power Sector Recovery Programme (PSRP) by establishing the long-term generation and transmission plan that meets the forecasted national electricity demand at the lowest economic cost. The Honourable Minister commended the report which will facilitate the future development of improved power system delivery for the next 20 years.