

Press Release
December 13, 2016
For Immediate Release

Contact: Anna Titulaer
Director of Development and Communications
atitulaer@pfd.org
+1.301.608.0426

Partners for Development to Improve and Expand Water and Sanitation Services in Nigeria with support from USAID and Coca-Cola

Partners for Development (Pfd) announces the launch of The Water and Development Alliance (WADA) Project in Nigeria which will improve and expand access to safe, affordable, sustainable and reliable water and sanitation services in Abia and Cross River states, Nigeria. WADA is a unique partnership between Coca-Cola and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) that addresses community water needs in developing countries around the world and is managed by the Global Environment and Technology Foundation (GETF).

Washington, DC --- Partners for Development (Pfd), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving health, agriculture and economic development initiatives in rural communities around the world, has entered into a two year agreement in furtherance of the MOU signed earlier this year between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) under WADA program, to improve and expand access to safe, sustainable and reliable water and sanitation services in Abia and Cross River states, Nigeria. Access to clean water and improved sanitation facilities is a daily challenge for many Nigerians.

According to WaterAid, 57 million people in Nigeria don't have access to safe water. Over 130 million people don't have access to adequate sanitation in Nigeria, which is two thirds of the population. In Nigeria, around 45,000 children under five years old die every year from diarrhea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation. WADA wants to change this. The lack of clean potable water contributes to the high prevalence of waterborne diseases, threatens the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, and contributes to low levels of school enrollment, especially among girls. Improving and expanding water and sanitation services in these communities while focusing on engaging all stakeholders and members of the community will improve livelihoods and wellbeing for those impacted.

Pfd will build on its experience working in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) with UNICEF in Bauchi, Delta, Edo and Ekiti states. Working with the Tulsi Chanrai Foundation (TCF), Pfd will collaborate with government and private entities including the state Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA) and Local Government Areas (LGA) to: increase

access to and utilization of improved water sources; improve sanitation; and promote appropriate hygiene education in rural communities, schools and health facilities within the selected communities. The project will reduce gender disparity by involving male and female both as artisans/mechanics for sanitation and water facilities. Priority will be given to active women as caretakers at water collection points where they can also establish their small kiosk for petty businesses.

Involvement of local partners and communities is key to the success and the sustainability of WADA. Pfd aims to establish and/or strengthen the capacity of the water, sanitation and hygiene committees (WASHCOMs) to drive the implementation of WASH services in their respective communities and to provide training and support to community groups in WASH facility maintenance, repairs, and management independent of outside assistance. With support from local partners and community groups, Pfd will construct or repair water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities at schools and health care facilities in 20 rural communities in order to reach at least 80,000 beneficiaries in Cross River and Abia states.

Pfd will build on its success implementing projects funded by USAID, UNICEF and others on water sanitation and hygiene projects that have ranged from supporting local participants in constructing latrines, hand-pump wells and household water filters to developing various water sanitation and hygiene training programs and school curricula. Pfd has been working in Nigeria since 1999, using a local partnership approach to collaborate and build the capacity of over 40 local organizations to create sustainable solutions to the urgent economic, health, and social development challenges. Pfd envisions similar success for WADA.

Pfd remains committed to supporting USAID and TCCAF's vision for WADA and supports the strategic objectives of increasing the level of access to sustainable, improved sources of water and sanitation in communities around the world. To learn more about Partners for Development, please visit the organization's [website](#), [blog](#) and [Twitter](#) page. Please contact Anna Titulaer, Director of Development and Communications at atitulaer@pfd.org with any questions.

###