

OKOWANOMICS FACT SHEET SERIES (2015 TO DATE)

- ✓ Job & Wealth Creation & Social Investments
- ✓ Transformation of Education & Health Systems
- ✓ Support for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- ✓ Peace and Security
- ✓ Transformation of the Agricultural Value Chain
- ✓ Development of Roads & Urban Renewal
- ✓ Development of Sports & Entertainment Industry

Driven by critical thinking, clear foresight, sound planning, effective execution, smart coordination, political wisdom and executive intelligence.

*Okowanomics Fact Sheet Series is prepared by
Delta State Job & Wealth Creation Bureau*



**His Excellency
Sen. Dr. Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa
Governor of Delta State**

THE LEGACY OF A SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

Okowanomics Fact Sheet No. 11, December-A 2022

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Okowanomics Fact Sheet Series is a semi-monthly [twice-a-month] bulletin of evidence-based “Fact Sheet” showing Governor Okowa’s spectacular achievements of job and wealth creation, development of infrastructure, urban renewal, transformation of education and health systems, peace and security, social harmony and overall economic development. The Series is a journal of Governor Okowa’s legacies and footprints in the geopolitical entity of Delta State. It is a tracker dashboard that mirrors the unique developmental strides in Delta State under the leadership of Governor Okowa.

The Fact Sheets are developed and published by Delta State Job & Wealth Creation Bureau, using verified information and data from the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

2.0 THE CONCEPT OF OKOWANOMICS

Okowanomics is the brand identity representing the gamut of Governor Okowa’s political shrewdness, developmental philosophy and governance ideology defined by his people-centred policies, mission-oriented approach, economic prudence and social intelligence. Underlying Okowanomics is Governor Okowa’s exceptional assortment of personality and character virtues notably critical thinking, clear foresight, sound planning, clever coordination, effective execution, humility, self-discipline, people-skills and executive intelligence. These sterling qualities and attributes are manifest in the excellent leadership and exemplary governance of Delta State from 29th of May 2015 to date.

3.0 FOCUS OF 11th EDITION

Okowanomics Fact Sheet No. 11 presents facts and figures which demonstrate the social inclusiveness of economic prosperity of Delta State, under the leadership of His Excellency, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa. The purpose is to show evidence that Governor Okowa’s economic development policies and programmes mainstream poor and vulnerable persons and groups, such that no one is being left behind in the march to prosperity.

4.0 MEANING OF SOCIAL INCLUSION

Social inclusion is an indispensable ingredient of sustainable development. Hence, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] adopts “Leave No One Behind” as one of its universal values or principles. By “social inclusion” or “leave no one behind”, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development prescribes goals, benchmarks and approaches for eradicating discrimination, marginalisation, exclusion as well as tackling inequalities, poverty and vulnerabilities.

5.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS [SDGs]

The Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] enshrine the principle of social inclusiveness of economic progress in its objects and benchmarks as specifically illustrated by the following SDGs:

- SDG 1 is “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”.

- SDG 2 is “End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”.
- SDG 3 is “Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all ages”.
- SDG 4 is “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.
- SDG 5 is “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”.
- SDG 8 is “Achieve sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”.
- SDG 10 is “Reduce inequality within and among countries”.

Like United Nations SDGs, the development policies and programmes of Delta State Government under the leadership of Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa deliberately ensure that no individual, family or group of people is marginalised, excluded or suffers discrimination. Rather, today, economic and social development policies and programmes mainstream social groups such as old

persons, women, girl child, students, Persons with Disabilities [PwDs] in planning and execution.

6.0 EVIDENCE OF SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Since assuming office in 2015 as Governor of Delta State, His Excellency, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa has consistently applied the principle of social inclusiveness of development policies and programmes, in line with his vision “Prosperity for All Deltans”. As evidence of this principle, cross-sector economic and social policies are designed and implemented to cover every socioeconomic class and segment of society, including students, the poor, vulnerable, girl child, unemployed youths, old persons, widows and Persons with Disabilities. Each of these peculiar social groups has been impacted upon significantly in the past seven and half years through intentional targeting and application of policies and programmes.

Below is an array of existing development policies and programmes which show the intentional targeting and inclusion of diverse socioeconomic class and segments of society.

Policies and Programmes	Targeted Socioeconomic Class or Segment of Society	Total No. of Persons Covered to Date
Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Programme [STEP]	Unemployed youths aged 18-35 years who desire to learn, start-up, own and run vocational enterprise	5,051
Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme [YAGEP]	Unemployed youths aged 18-40 years who desire to learn, start-up, own and run agricultural or agribusiness enterprise	1,670
Graduates Employment Enhancement Programme [GEEP]	Fresh graduates who desire to become more job ready, more employable and career-oriented through guidance, mentorship and internship	120
Rural Youth Skills Acquisition Programme [RYSA]	Youths in rural areas aged 18-35 years who possess initial vocational skill but desire skill improvement to start-up, own and run an enterprise	2,430
Tertiary Institutions Entrepreneurship Programme [TIEP]	Business development training and seed grant or working capital support to students in state-owned universities and polytechnics who already own and run their enterprises	170
Girl Entrepreneurship and Skills Training [GEST] Programme	Girls aged 18-30 years who possess initial vocational skill but desire skill improvement to start-up, own and run an enterprise	1,850
Women Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition Programme [WESAP]	Women aged 30-50 years who possess initial vocational skill or enterprise but desire skill improvement and business support for survival and growth	1,031
Women Petty Traders Support Scheme	Small support grants for women petty traders of diverse age groups	2,600

Policies and Programmes	Targeted Socioeconomic Class or Segment of Society	Total No. of Persons Covered to Date
Information and Communication Technology Youth Empowerment Programme [ICT-YEP] and Technology Skills Acquisition Programme [TSAP]	Youths aged 18-35 years who desire to learn and improve ICTs capabilities and specialised technologies/skills in order to own and run technology-based enterprises, provide better ICTs services or become more employable	943
Widows Welfare Scheme	Widows are profiled and supported with monthly stipends to reduce poverty and sustain livelihoods	10,000
Widows Skills Acquisition and Empowerment Programme	Younger widows are profiled, given skills refresher training, equipped and supported to ensure survival and growth of micro-enterprises	565
STEP and YAGEP for Persons with Disabilities [PwDs]	STEP and YAGEP have quota for the inclusion of PwDs [visually impaired, deaf, dumb, physically challenged]	150
Training at Vocational Skills Acquisition Centres	Open to unemployed and employed persons who desire and enrol to learn vocational or hands-on skills at the state government-subsidised vocational skills acquisition centres	14,938
Business grants and microcredit support to boost working capital and cope with financial and economic challenges	Existing microenterprises, artisans, traders and small enterprises	34,192
Cash [social] transfers for livelihood support to poor, challenged and vulnerable persons	Extremely poor, vulnerable, aged, sick and physically challenged persons as profiled in the social register	1,650
Paid jobs in public works for unemployed youths under SEEFOR project	Unemployed youths who are willing to take part in public works projects for monthly stipends for a given period of time	9,515
Paid jobs in public works for youths under Delta CARES programme	Poor and vulnerable youths aged 18-45 years and mined from Delta State social register	1,303
Students Special Assistance Scheme [SSAS], that is, bursary payments to students of tertiary education institutions	All Delta State students in universities, polytechnics and other higher education institutions in Nigeria. Payments have covered 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 & 2021/22 with a cumulative total of 1 10,885 payments.	1 10,885
Skills acquisition, start-up support and empowerment programme for youths in oil-producing areas of Delta State implemented by DESOPADEC	Youths from across the six ethnic nationalities covered by Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission [DESOPADEC].	1,096
Women business support programme in oil-producing areas of Delta State implemented by DESOPADEC	Short training and business support cash for rural women across the six ethnic nationalities covered by Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission [DESOPADEC].	1,200

Policies and Programmes	Targeted Socioeconomic Class or Segment of Society	Total No. of Persons Covered to Date
Support grants for Persons with Disabilities [PwDs] in Oil-Producing Areas of Delta State implemented by DESOPADEC	Persons with Disabilities [PwDs] from across the six ethnic nationalities covered by Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission [DESOPADEC].	400
Establishment of Equity Health Plan [EHP], Free enrolment and payment of annual premium for vulnerable groups under the Contributory Health Scheme coupled with establishment of Delta State Contributory Health Scheme Fund sourced from among others, equity fund contribution of not less than 0.5% of the consolidated revenue of the state government on behalf of vulnerable persons	"Vulnerable groups" is defined to include poor persons [duly verified], pregnant women, children aged under 5, persons with disabilities and elderly 65 years and above	1,042,752

7.0 CONCLUSION

The alignment between Governor Okowa's socially inclusive development policies/programmes and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is an excellent example of good governance. Specifically, the fact that economic and social policies are deliberately formulated and implemented to accommodate every socioeconomic class and segment of society including the poor,

vulnerable, unemployed, students, widows and Persons with Disabilities, signifies best practices in social inclusive development. This mainstreaming of social inclusiveness in programme design and implementation merits emulation by other states. Also, it provides an empirical benchmark and lesson for social inclusion at the national level.