



CONNECTED  
ADVOCACY

Net-Zero Learning Brief - Nigeria No.2

# Incorporating Climate Justice Principles in Attaining Net-Zero Goals and the Role of Civil Society

September – November, 2023

## 1. Introduction

The Raising Awareness about Net-Zero in Nigeria Project (RANTZ Nigeria Project) stands at the forefront of advocating for net-zero, with a strong emphasis on community engagement and amplifying voices at the grassroots level. As the project gains momentum in Nigeria, civil society organizations are recognized as pivotal partners in supporting the country not only to achieve net-zero but also to guide the process by pin-pointing opportunities for amplifying voices and ensuring climate justice for those disproportionately affected by climate change impacts.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in safeguarding against potential infringements on citizens' rights and gender disparities, as well as protecting public health in the pursuit of net-zero actions. Through collaboration with communities, CSOs can provide feedback about the real effect on society of net-zero-related policies and hold the government accountable for actions and inactions that could negatively impact citizens during the transition.

## 2. RANTZ Project Activities

### 2.1 National CSOs Dialogue on Accelerating NET-Zero in Nigeria

The "National CSO Dialogue on Accelerating Net Zero in Nigeria," held on the 24th of August 2023, aimed to enhance the capabilities of climate-focused Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Nigeria. The primary focus was to facilitate a better understanding of the concept of Net Zero and empower these organizations to actively engage in climate change mitigation efforts.

The dialogue highlighted the pivotal role of CSOs in supporting Nigeria to achieve its net-zero targets, encompassing the country's Long-Term Vision for a low-carbon, climate-resilient, high-growth circular economy, and the reduction of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), including methane.

Furthermore, the discussions delved into the advocacy role of CSOs in championing climate justice as part of the broader endeavor to attain net-zero. The imperative to address the injustices faced by host communities affected by

oil spillage in Nigeria was emphasized, emphasizing that the transition to net-zero must be linked to principles of just transitions. It was underscored that if Nigeria is to transition away from fossil fuels, it is paramount to ensure that those impacted by the extraction and drilling of fossil fuels receive the justice they deserve before such a transition takes place.

The dialogue also articulated an action plan in different sectors of Nigeria 's economy where CSOs can engage and work to hold government accountable in the implementation of policies that are focused at achieving net-zero. A WhatsApp platform was created for CSOs to network, share ideas, opportunities and continue to engage on net-zero issues in Nigeria.



**National CSOs Dialogue on Accelerating NET-Zero in Nigeria**

## **2.1 Courtesy Visit to the Department of Climate Change, Federal Ministry of Environment**

One pivotal initiative within the RANTZ project involves conducting courtesy visits to key stakeholders. In August 2023, the RANTZ project team, in collaboration with selected CSOs in Nigeria, embarked on a visit to the Department of Climate Change, Federal Ministry of the Environment.

The primary objectives of this visit were to disseminate the outcomes of the RANTZ project, establish a collaborative partnership to advance net-zero goals in Nigeria, and explore potential synergies with Nigeria's LT-LEDS steering committee, which the department oversees.

Additionally, the visit served to underscore the potential for CSOs to collaborate with the government in ensuring that the Nigerian Ecological Fund is directed towards communities that are most impacted by climate-related challenges across the country.



**Courtesy Visit to the Department of Climate Change, Federal Ministry of Environment**

## Key Learnings

### 1. Achieving net -zero will involve climate justice and just transition

The CSOs dialogue brought to the forefront previously overlooked climate justice and just transition considerations, shedding light on crucial issues that were not previously addressed during community consultations. CSOs underscored the importance of vigilance in the establishment of Nigeria's LT-LEDS processes, the development of a just transition framework for Nigeria, and the imperative of embedding the principles of climate justice in these processes.

The dialogue discussed the interconnections between net-zero, circular economy, green economy, and low-carbon development, underlining the need for comprehensive elucidation of these concepts to foster a broad understanding among Nigerians. Additionally, they underscored the critical role of the government in facilitating a just transition, ensuring that the most vulnerable populations do not bear the brunt of endeavors to achieve net-zero. Furthermore, the CSOs emphasized the necessity of compensating communities that have endured the detrimental effects of fossil fuel extraction for extensive periods, highlighting the imperative of acknowledging and redressing the impact on their communities.

### 2. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are pivotal in advancing Nigeria's Net-Zero agenda

During the CSOs dialogue, their integral contributions to Nigeria's net-zero efforts were underscored. Several CSOs actively engaged in recycling, renewable energy, tree planting, dissemination of clean cook stoves, and the production of briquettes for clean cooking fuel were highlighted. An action plan outlining how CSOs can effectively implement various climate mitigation actions across Nigeria was developed.

### 3. Courtesy Visit by CSOs opened up opportunities to support Government Net-zero Initiatives

The courtesy visits by CSOs to government entities presented valuable opportunities for members of the RANTZ project Consortium to gain insight into government initiatives and actively engage in these activities. Notably, C21st, a consortium member, was invited to facilitate the distribution of urban briquettes to women in Abuja by the Department of Climate Change at the Federal Ministry of the Environment.

The distribution of urban briquettes aligns with the implementation of Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions, promoting a low-emission sustainable alternative for cooking and heating in urban areas. A key objective of the briquette distribution is to curtail greenhouse gas emissions and enhance air quality through the development and execution of strategies and programs aimed at augmenting the production and utilization of urban briquettes.



facilitated robust information sharing between CSOs and government entities, as well as amongst the CSOs themselves. Significant efforts and activities related to net-zero undertaken by CSOs were communicated to the government. Additionally, the dialogue fostered collaboration and networking among CSOs, enabling collective engagement in climate actions geared towards net-zero objectives.



The information imparted by CSOs to the government served as a valuable means for government entities to gain insights into the capabilities of various Civil Society Organizations and how best to involve them in net-zero initiatives and other climate change programs. Furthermore, the findings from the Community Perception Survey on net-zero provided the government with valuable insights on how to approach net-zero advocacy within communities, prompting support for the RANTZ project aimed at extending net-zero actions to additional communities.



### Providing enabling environment for CSOs interface with government

The CSOs dialogue provided the enabling environment for CSOs to discuss with government stakeholders and elicit information about government activities in achieving net-zero. Government stakeholders were the resource persons and they shared information about governments commitments and activities and this help CSOs to identify entries points where they can play their oversight roles effectively.

*Distribution of urban briquettes in Abuja*

## Success Factors

### Promoting Information Exchange on Net-Zero between CSOs and Government Stakeholders

The CSOs dialogue on net-zero and the subsequent courtesy visit to the Department of Climate Change at the Federal Ministry of the Environment

# Report of Community Perception Survey on Net-Zero in Nigeria

## Introduction

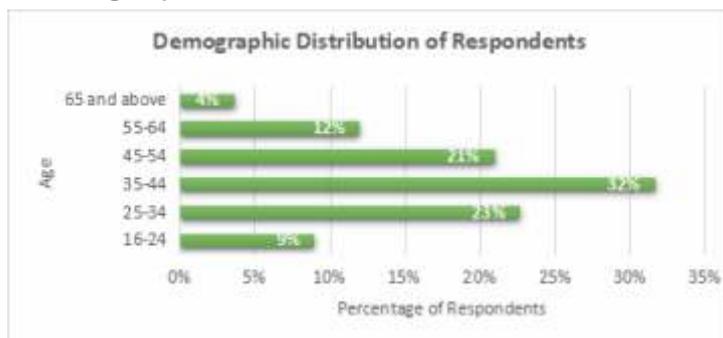
A perception survey was carried out as part of the Raising Awareness about Net-Zero in Nigeria (RANTZ Nigeria Project) to gain insights into Nigerians' understanding of net-zero. The purpose of the survey was to inform and shape awareness activities for the project. The survey took the form of an online questionnaire and was conducted in six communities where community consultations were held across Nigeria.

The questionnaire was administered by the net-zero consortium, which includes the Centre for 21st Century Issues, International Climate Change Development Initiative, and Connected Advocacy, using the collective efforts of officers and volunteers. The survey took place from June to August 2023.

The survey collected responses from a total of 640 individuals across six locations in the six geological zones of Nigeria. The gender distribution of the total respondents shows 315 males (49%) and 325 females (51%). To ensure equal representation across survey locations, a random sample of 100 respondents was selected from each location, resulting in a total of 600 samples for analysis, with 296 males (49%) and 304 females (51%)

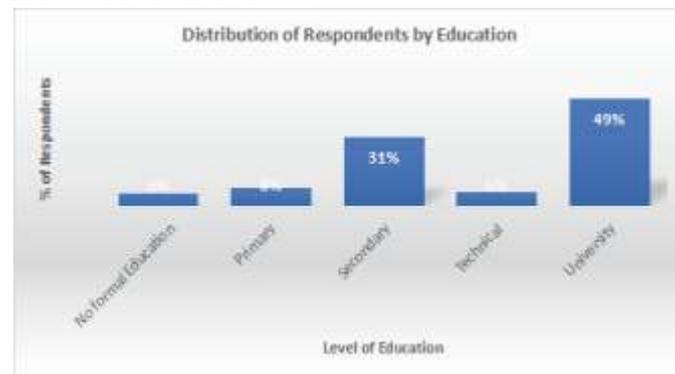
## Distribution of Survey Respondents

### *Distribution of Respondents by Demographic Factor*



The highest percentage of respondents are in the age bracket 35-44 and the least percentage of the respondents are in the age 65 and above, representing 4% of the total survey respondents.

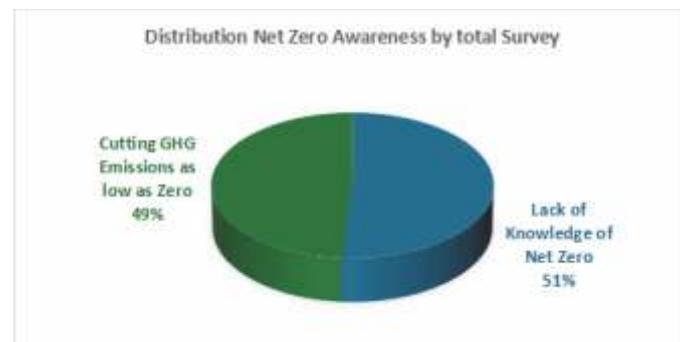
### *Distribution of Respondents by Educational Factor*



49% of the respondents have university education while only 6% have no formal education.

## Net-Zero Awareness

### **Respondents familiarity with the term net zero in the context of Climate Change:**

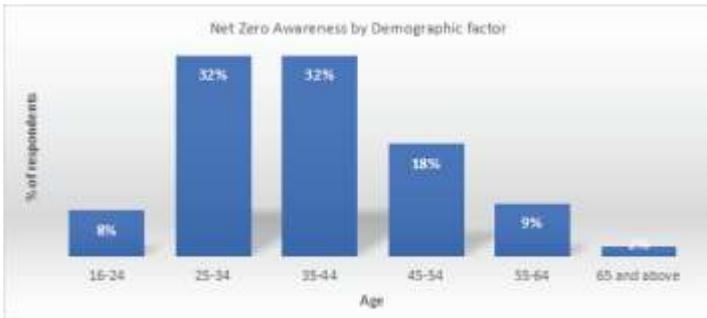


Out of the 600 survey respondents, only 49% understand the term net-zero correctly to mean cutting of GHG Emissions for as low as zero, while 51% of the respondents do not have a correct understanding of the term.

## Distribution of Survey Respondents

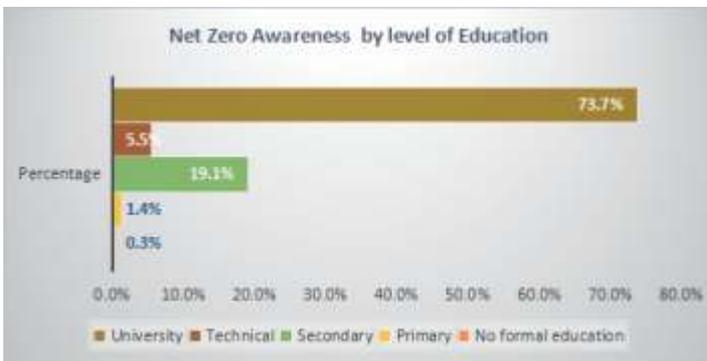
293 survey respondents representing 49% that are familiar with net-zero are identified and distributed across demographic, education, and occupational factors.

*Distribution of Net-Zero Awareness across Demographic Factor:*



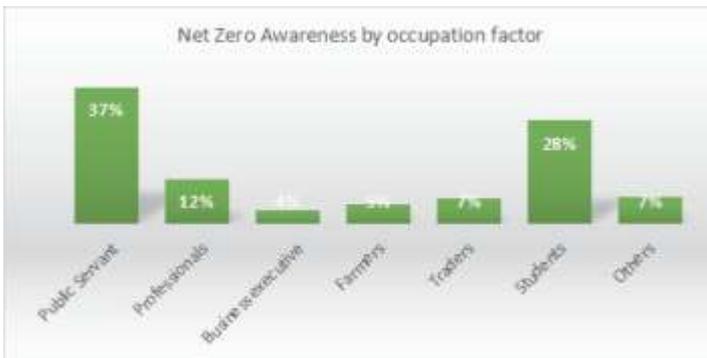
82% of survey respondents that indicated understanding of the term net-zero lies in the age 25-54 years.

*Distribution of Net-Zero Awareness across Educational Factor:*



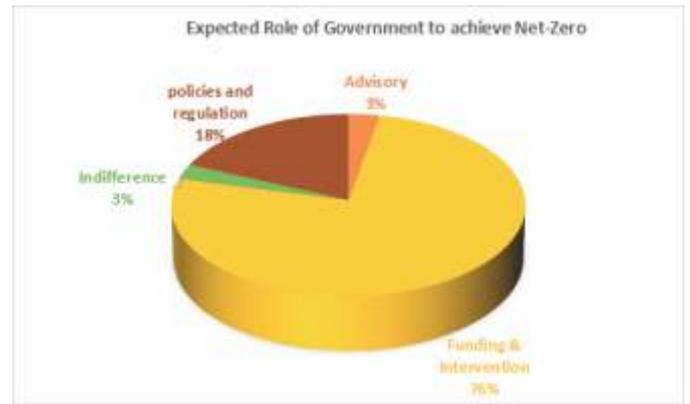
73.7 % of survey respondents that indicated understanding of the term Net-Zero have university education.

*Distribution of Net-Zero Awareness across Occupational Factor:*



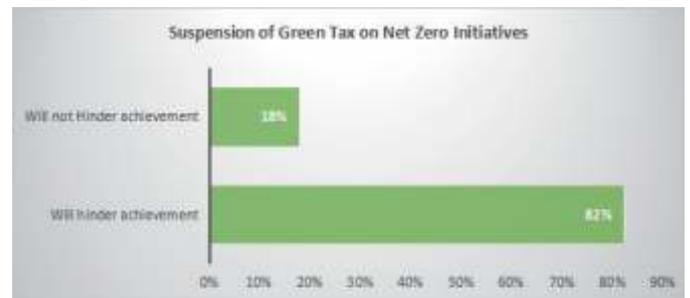
Public servants and students account for a total of 65% of the survey respondents that indicated an understanding of the Net-Zero term in the context of Climate Change.

**Net-Zero Initiative Efforts  
Role of Government Initiative in Net-Zero Achievement**



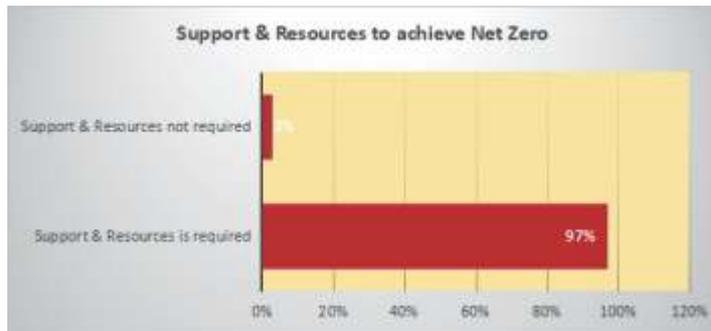
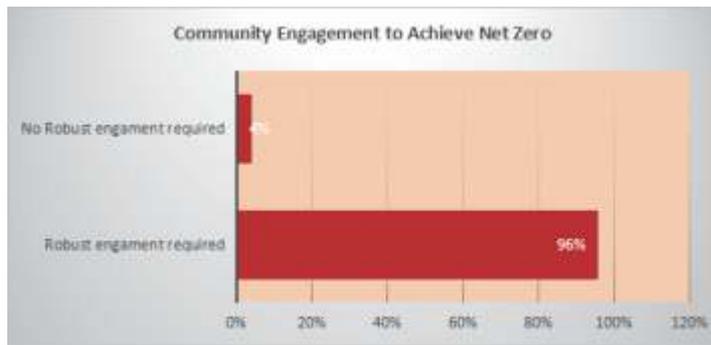
The highest percentage of the respondents representing 76% believed that funding and intervention at the instance of the Government is most required to ensure achievement of net-zero.

*Suspension of Green Tax on Net-Zero Initiatives:*



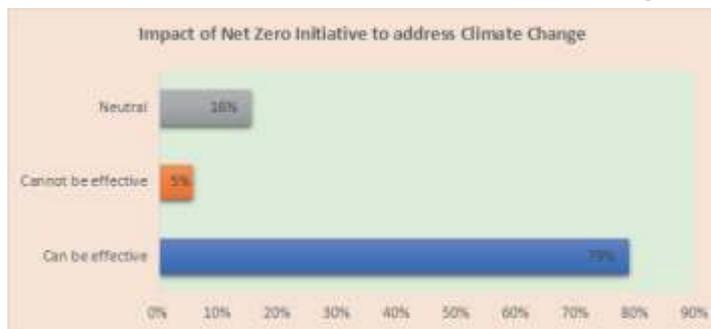
From the survey results, 82% of respondents believe that the suspension of the Green Tax will impede the achievement of the Net-Zero Initiative, while 18% expressed the view that it will not hinder the initiative. The suspension of the Green Tax came as a response to the removal of fuel subsidy, aimed at alleviating potential hardship resulting from the subsidy removal. Nevertheless, this removal has spurred a renewed emphasis on renewable and clean energy in Nigeria, reflecting efforts to seek more affordable alternatives to counteract the increased cost of fuel due to the subsidy removal.

## Community Engagement, Support, and Resources for Net-Zero Achievement:



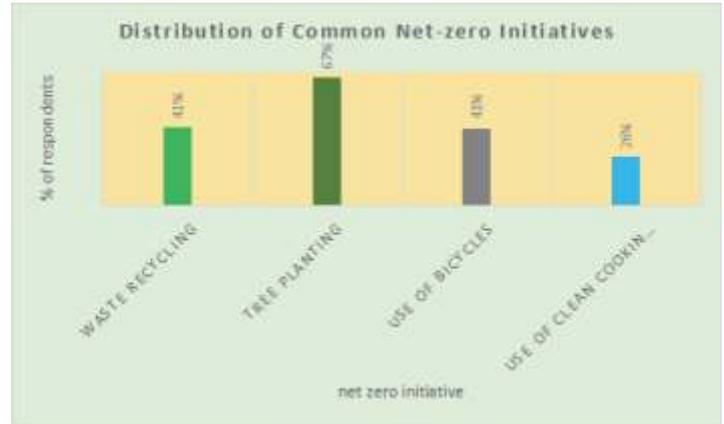
The survey revealed that 96% of respondents emphasized the critical need for robust community engagement to successfully achieve Net-Zero initiatives, while 97% stressed the necessity of providing support and resources to empower the community in driving these initiatives forward. The significance of community stakeholders in achieving net-zero cannot be overstated, as their involvement is essential for fostering a just transition and integrating the voices and concerns of marginalized, youth, women, and other vulnerable groups.

## Net-zero Initiatives on Climate Change



A significant number of respondents, representing 79% held that net-zero Initiatives can be very effective in addressing climate change challenges.

## Common net-zero Initiatives in the Community:



Tree planting was indicated as the most common net-zero initiative in within communities, then followed by waste recycling and the use of bicycle to reduce GHG emissions. Only 26% across respondents indicated the use of clean cooking solutions.

## Survey Findings

1. A significant proportion of 51% among the total respondents lack familiarity with the term "Net Zero," highlighting a concerning lack of awareness regarding this crucial climate change initiative.
2. Merely 49% of the total respondents, amounting to 293 individuals, demonstrate familiarity with the concept of "Net Zero" within the context of climate change.
3. Among the 293 respondents familiar with "Net Zero," a notable 73.7%, totaling 216 individuals, possess a university education. This suggests that awareness of the Net Zero initiative is largely influenced by exposure to university-level education, rather than deliberate and comprehensive sensitization efforts aimed at reaching all members of the populace, regardless of educational attainment.
4. Within the cohort of respondents familiar with "Net Zero" (293 individuals), public servants and students account for 37% and 28%, comprising 108 and 82 participants, respectively. This further reinforces a potential correlation between awareness of net-zero initiatives and exposure to higher education.



5. Of the respondents familiar with "Net Zero" (293 individuals), a significant 82% fall within the age bracket of 25 to 54, representing a total of 241 individuals.

6. The prevalence of a large proportion (80%) of respondents holding secondary or university education, with 49% possessing university education and 31% with secondary education, is to be expected, providing context for the aforementioned findings.

7. An overwhelming 96% of respondents expressed the belief that robust community engagement is essential in achieving Net Zero initiatives.

8. Similarly, a striking 98% of respondents emphasized the necessity for community support and resources in driving the achievement of Net Zero initiatives.

9. A notable 83% of respondents voiced concerns that the suspension of the Green Tax could hinder the successful realization of Net Zero initiatives.

10. While the government's roles in policy-making and advisory capacities for Net Zero initiatives are acknowledged, 76% of respondents underscored the critical importance of funding and intervention as the foremost priorities.

11. A substantial 79% of respondents have faith in the effectiveness of Net Zero initiatives in addressing climate change.

12. Among the respondents, a modest 26% indicated clean cooking solutions as a prevalent net-zero initiative in their community, whereas a notable 67% identified tree planting as a common practice supporting Net Zero efforts.

## Conclusion

The survey results underscore the necessity for greater awareness about net-zero initiatives throughout Nigeria, emphasizing that the groundwork for this awareness must begin at the community level. Breaking down the concept of net-zero to align with the daily lifestyles of communities is crucial for ensuring resonance and understanding. This approach will serve to mobilize essential actions aimed at reducing carbon emissions and establishing a climate-resilient future for all.

## About RANTZ Nigeria Project

The "Raising awareness about Net-Zero in Nigeria (RANTZ Nigeria Project)" is a collaborative initiative being implemented by international climate change Development Initiative (ICCDI), Centre for 21st Century Issues (C21st), and Connected Advocacy (CAD) in Nigeria. The project aims to educate, empower, and mobilize to the media, communities and the Civil Society in Nigeria to contribute to sustainable and environmentally conscious practices that support emission reductions, climate change mitigation, and the overall transition to net-zero carbon emissions. This learning brief highlights the key insights and outcomes derived from the implementation of the Raising Awareness about Net-Zero in Nigeria (RANTZ Nigeria) project. It offers valuable insights into the process, outcomes, and lessons learned, shedding light on the project's impact and contribution to sustainable development and climate change mitigation efforts in Nigeria.



 [ClimateWed](#)  
 [climatemwed](#)



Centre for 21st Century Issues  
Reporting on the challenges of the century

 [c21st\\_org](#)  
 [c21st\\_org](#)



 [Connected\\_Ad](#)  
 [ConnectedAdvocacy](#)

SCAN ME



## Authors

1. Titilope Ngozi Akosa
2. Olumide Idowu
3. Prince Israel Oreka
4. Aminat Davies
5. Rukayat Odebiyi
6. Ezi Chidiebere Nelson