

Helping Plan a Better Future for Nigeria

Sadiq Gulma first came across JICA in Kenya while studying for his master's degree at the Pan African University, where JICA had established an Innovations Lab as part of a grant aid project. In 2014, after graduation, he was fortunate enough to be invited to join the Africa-ai-Japan Project as a research engineer. After returning to work for the government in his native country, Nigeria, he came across another attractive opportunity, this time to join JICA as a consultant working in the fields of WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) and environment. His experience in Kenya proved valuable for his application, and he has been working for JICA since 2016.

In the early stages of his work, he was primarily engaged in managing and implementing the WASH and solid waste management program in Nigeria's capital Abuja, as well as conducting ex-post evaluations of JICA's rural WASH grant aid projects in low-income communities. His work has increasingly focused on urban environments, most notably formulating a cooperation project for the review and improvement of the Integrated Abuja Urban Development Master Plan administered by the Federal Capital Development Authority. As the only city with a master plan, Abuja is experiencing rapid unsustainable urbanization, yet the master plan has never undergone a holistic review, and is

long overdue for an update that reflects present-day urban dynamics. Working as a part of this Master Plan's project team has been immensely satisfying for Gulma. "JICA's support for Abuja couldn't have come at a better time, exactly 40 years since the creation of the city, and I am delighted to be part of the development of such a beautiful city."

Gulma is motivated by the importance of the work JICA is doing, pointing to the organization's grant aid project for the provision of solar power to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Water Board as a prime case. JICA's provision of solar panels to replace diesel generators has not only overcome the problem of erratic water supply, but has also led the Board to have Nigeria's largest solar energy power generating facility. This has prompted a paradigm shift in the perception of large-scale power generation in the country, and has set a trend in power generation in Nigeria.

JICA's work is recognized by many Nigerians as highly impactful and beneficial. Gulma's hope for future JICA projects lies in innovative collaborations with all stakeholders, including the private sector, local NGOs, and start-ups. He expects that these will produce new forms of cooperation and provide the participatory collaboration needed to create sustainable cities.



Mr. Gulma (bottom right) makes visiting a low income area in Katsina State to meet the beneficiaries of JICA's grant aid project.



Sadiq Gulma
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