

## Spreading the word

A Voice to the People case study | December 2015

### Introducing V2P to other communities



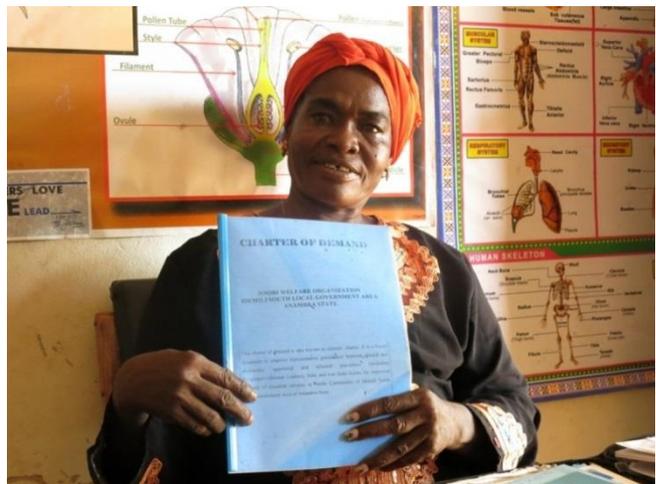
**CBM Ide Godwin Ezeh has spread the V2P message to other communities.** Credit: Christian Aid/Nneoma Anieto

In 2013, V2P partner the Justice, Peace and Development Caritas (JDPC) Onitsha introduced the project to Oba Community in Idemili South local government area. Ide Godwin Ezeh, as chairman of Oba's Community Empowerment Network (COMEN), an offshoot of the V2P project, and other community-based monitors in the area, have managed V2P in Idemili South. Ide Godwin and his fellow CBMs see themselves as the custodians of government projects in their areas, and responsible for presenting their communities' charters of demands to government officials at regular meetings.

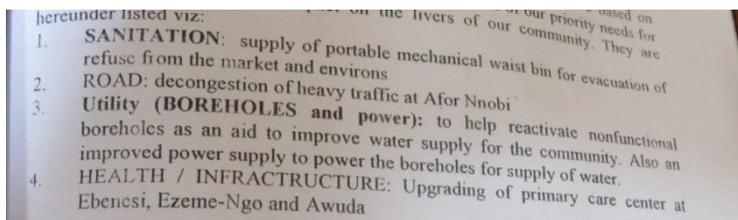
Since 2013, under Ide Godwin's guidance, Oba community has successfully achieved some of the demands listed in their charter. Energised by their successes, and by what Ide Godwin describes as 'the eye-opening message of V2P', he and other Idemili South CBMs decided to take the V2P message to three non-V2P communities in the area – Awka-Etiti, Nnobi and Alor.

They have had reasonable success in Awka-Etiti and Nnobi, although progress has not been entirely smooth.

Ide Godwin says the CBMs initially came up against challenges in Nnobi, where the leader of the community's town union resented the fact that their intermediary into the community was a woman. But they progressed rapidly after the same woman introduced them to the community's traditional ruler. CBMs also found they were routinely snubbed by government officials who refused to attend interface meetings.



**Comfort Ifezue introduced V2P CBMs to the traditional ruler in Nnobi.** Credit: Christian Aid/Nneoma Anieto



**Sanitation and roads top the list in Nnobi's charter of demands.**

Credit: Christian Aid/Nneoma Anieto

Comfort Ifezue, a school proprietress from Nnobi, says the community learned how to reach out to and present their needs to local government. Like V2P communities, they have selected community-based monitors and drawn up charters of demand which they have submitted to the local government, their

representative at the State House of Assembly and their traditional ruler.

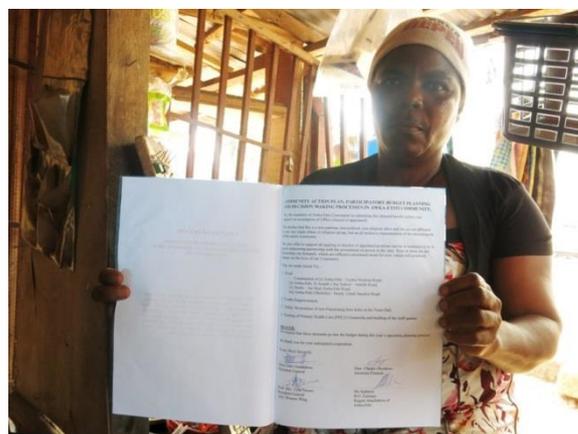
In Awka-Etiti, members of the community have also drawn up charters of demand and selected community-based monitors. Community member Imelda Nwabuzo, says they understand V2P to mean, 'Ifu ife na emebi emebi, ikwuo!' – 'When you see something going wrong, you call attention to it.'

In Alor, the CBMs made less progress, due to instability brought on by shifts in the leadership of the community's Town Union.

### Hoping to reap V2P benefits

CBMs in Idemili South local government are not the only group who have been spreading the V2P message to communities outside the project's target areas. CBMs in Idemili North have taken the project to Uke community, where they shared their success stories and found community members had a keen interest in being a part of the project.

Ezeoba Igboanua, the President General of Uke Town Union says they first heard about V2P through JDPC Onitsha and were disappointed to not be selected as a pilot community. But with the recent introduction of the project to Uke, Ezeoba says he hopes his community can still reap benefits seen by V2P communities.



**Ifeoma Okonkwo, from Awka-Etiti, displaying the community's charter of demand.**

Credit: Christian Aid/Nneoma Anieto

***Voice to the People (V2P) is a programme supporting vulnerable communities in Nigeria to hold state and local governments and their leaders to account, take part in making the decisions that affect their lives and raise their voices to demand the rights and services to which they are entitled.***

***The programme will reach 2.4 million people in the south eastern state of Anambra and directly build the capacity and confidence of citizens to hold duty bearers to account.***

***Voice to the People is funded by UK aid will be delivered by a partnership of state-level and national organisations led by Christian Aid and comprising Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development, Development in Practice, Civil Rights Concern, the Justice, Development and Peace Commission of Onitsha Archdiocese, the Justice, Development and Peace Commission of Awka Diocese, and the Justice, Development and Peace Commission of Nnewi Diocese.***

