

# CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT (CDD) AWARDED MACARTHUR FUNDS SUPPORTING AN EQUITABLE RECOVERY



Press Statement | FCT, Abuja July 28, 2021

[ABUJA,] July 28, 2021 – Centre for Democracy and Development has been awarded a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for its work to accelerate COVID-19 vaccine uptake in Nigeria by addressing disinformation and misinformation and building public confidence.

The grant is part of roughly \$80 million in awards MacArthur announced today in support of the foundation's Equitable Recovery initiative, centered on advancing racial and ethnic justice. The initiative is funded by MacArthur's social bonds, issued in response to the crises of the pandemic and racial inequity.

CDD was honoured to have been invited to submit a proposal for this worthy endeavour," said Idayat Hassan, CDD West Africa's Director. "We're humbled to be among the recipients of the funds. The work of combating widespread disinformation and misinformation around COVID-19 vaccines is lifesaving. We hope our contributions to this area of work stimulates meaningful discussions and counter negative narratives."

In its announcement, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation said "As we emerge from this moment of crisis, we have an opportunity to improve the critical systems that people and places need to thrive. Our systems and structures must be rebuilt," said MacArthur President John Palfrey. "We are committed to ensuring that our response to the pandemic is focused on supporting the reimagining of systems that create a more just, equitable, and resilient world."

Centre for Democracy and Development is one of the organizations receiving grants advancing the Public Health Equity and COVID-19 Mitigation and Recovery focus area of the Foundation's initiative. The grant will support CDD's work to advance accelerate COVID-19 vaccine uptake in Nigeria by addressing disinformation and misinformation and building public confidence.

To advance Public Health Equity and COVID-19 Mitigation and Recovery supports improving

access to resources for immediate health challenges while advancing new policies, models, and structures to support a more equitable and resilient public health sector in the future, MacArthur is supporting work in that focus, as well as three other areas:

- Racial Justice Field Support, with a focus on combatting anti-Blackness, supports building Black power by supporting Black-led and -focused philanthropic organizations. MacArthur also will take a leadership role in positioning reparations and racial healing as issues that philanthropy helps to meaningfully address.
- Self-determination of Indigenous Peoples supports uplifting Indigenous communities to enable autonomous pursuit of a recovery guided by their priorities, cultures, and practices.
- An Equitable Housing Demonstration Project supports restoring communities and reducing incarceration and housing instability by generating an array of housing solutions that can help to permanently end the use of jails and prisons as housing of last resort.

MacArthur identified the areas through a participatory process with a diverse group of external advisors, who informed its strategic approach. The participatory process aimed to center the voices of communities that are affected by the Foundation's decisions and have a stake in the grantmaking outcomes.

### **Equitable Recovery Initiative**

In the fall of 2020, MacArthur established a \$125 million Equitable Recovery Initiative. The Foundation deployed \$40 million of bond proceeds through 24 grants. Initial grants focused on strengthening voter mobilization and election protection, addressing anti-Black racism, and supporting Native Americans impacted by COVID-19. Grants also supported Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous arts organizations in Chicago, technology and justice, and a fund for social entrepreneurs advancing racial equity.

View [all Equitable Recovery grantees](#).

MacArthur media contact: Kristen Mack, [kmack@macfound.org](mailto:kmack@macfound.org)

CDD Media contact: Yeremi Akpan, [ayeremi@cddwestafrica.org](mailto:ayeremi@cddwestafrica.org), +2348063924205

Signed:

**IDAYAT HASSAN**

**Director, CDD-West Africa**