

NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF SINOMA INTERNATIONAL AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Operating a conglomerate, SINOMA International has established a notable presence in Nigeria through various subsidiaries, including SINOMA Nigeria Company LTD, NJZC International Construction Nigeria LTD, FABCOM Structural LTD, and SINOMA Cargo INT'L NIG LTD. These subsidiaries, founded in 2008, 2008, 2016, and 2016, respectively, play pivotal roles in SINOMA International's engagement with Nigeria's economic landscape. This report provides a comprehensive examination and assessment of SINOMA International's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in Nigeria. Our assessment delves into the tangible impacts of the four subsidiaries on local communities, the environment, and stakeholders. The report further underlines the contributions made by these CSR projects to Nigeria's overall development. By examining the CSR projects, this report provides insights into the responsible business practices and sustainability efforts of SINOMA International in Nigeria, ultimately contributing to a deeper understanding of its role in shaping a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable future in Nigeria.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	Introduction	6
	Objectives of the Assessment	8
02	Methodology: Validation Strategy	9
	Data Collection and Research Methods	9
	Evaluation Criteria and Frameworks	10
03	Company Overview	11
	Mission	16
	Values	17
	Charting a Path to Responsible Business: CSR Goals in Focus	20
04	Overview of SINOMA International's CSR Initiatives in Nigeria	23
	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	26
	SINOMA International's CSR Initiatives Aligned with Sustainable Development Goals	32
	SDG 1: No Poverty	32
	SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	32
	SDG 4: Quality Education	33
	SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	33
	SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	34
	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	35

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	35
SDG 13: Climate Action	36
05 Overall Assessment of SINOMA International’s CSR Initiatives in Nigeria	38
06 Impact and Outcomes	39
Stakeholder Impact	39
Measurable Outcome and Results	42
07 Sustainability	44
Future Sustainability Plans	45
08 Stakeholder Engagement: Stakeholder Engagement in Decision Making: A Comprehensive Overview	47
A Commitment to Inclusivity and Collaboration	50
09 Compliance and Ethics	51
10 Recommendations	52
11 Conclusion	55
12 References	56

Appendices

INTRODUCTION

In the current global business environment, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) represents a fundamental principle guiding companies beyond the pursuit of profit (Wirba, 2023). It underscores their moral and ethical obligations to society, and this shift is propelled by several compelling factors (Corporate Finance Institute, n.d.).

Modern consumers, who evaluate products and services based on quality and price, now weigh their choices against ethical and social considerations (Rubach, 2022). Businesses committed to CSR tend to earn the trust and loyalty of these discerning consumers. Furthermore, the intricate web of business relationships with various stakeholders, including employees, communities, investors, and governments, necessitates effective CSR initiatives. These initiatives enhance relationships, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and mutual benefit.

Additionally, the escalating global challenges of climate change and resource depletion have brought environmental sustainability to the forefront of CSR (Allen, 2016). Companies are increasingly expected to minimise their environmental footprint and champion sustainable practices. Governments and international bodies have responded with regulations and guidelines that mandate or incentivise CSR practices. Non-compliance can expose businesses to legal and reputational risks (International Labour Organisation, 2012). CSR is a multifaceted concept encompassing four key areas, each reflecting a distinct facet of a company's responsibility to society. The first is economic responsibility, which dictates a company's obligation to generate profits for its shareholders while simultaneously contributing to economic development, job creation, and innovation within its operational sphere;

the second is legal responsibility, which necessitates that companies operate strictly within the boundaries of the law, adhering to all relevant regulations and obligations; the third is ethical responsibility, which extends to conducting business with unwavering integrity, honesty, and fairness (Stobierski, 2021). It encompasses ethical sourcing, fair labour practices, and the avoidance of unethical behaviours. Fourth is philanthropic responsibility. It encompasses voluntary actions and contributions aimed at supporting social and environmental causes. Philanthropic endeavours may include charitable donations, community development initiatives, and environmental conservation efforts (Stobierski, 2021).

Against this backdrop, SINOMA International Engineering Company Limited and its subsidiary, NJZC International Construction Nigeria Limited, have emerged as exemplary corporate entities that embrace the ideals of CSR. SINOMA International, founded in 2001, has embarked on a journey of innovation, unwavering dedication, and an unwavering commitment to sustainable development. It has earned a prominent place in the construction and engineering sphere, operating globally.

This report serves as an instrument for evaluating the tangible outcomes of SINOMA International CSR endeavours in Nigeria. It seeks to comprehensively assess the CSR initiatives undertaken by SINOMA Nigeria Company LTD, NJZC International Construction Nigeria LTD, and other affiliated subsidiaries. By delving into the measurable impacts of these initiatives on local communities, the environment, and stakeholders, this report demonstrates the alignment between SINOMA International's values and its actions. It underscores the company's pivotal role in fostering a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable future in Nigeria, all while making meaningful contributions to the nation's development. In the following sections, we will analyze these CSR initiatives in Nigeria, categorised under the four fundamental types of CSR, to gain deeper insights into their scope and impact.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSESSMENT

This assessment report presents findings on a thorough evaluation of SINOMA International's CSR initiatives in Nigeria by addressing several key areas:

Impact on Local Communities: The report presents findings on how SINOMA's community development projects have impacted the well-being and livelihoods of people living near its operational sites. This will include statistics on improved access to education, healthcare and clean water.

Environmental Sustainability: The report presents an analysis of the company's efforts to reduce its environmental footprint in Nigeria. This will encompass data on reduced emissions, successful reforestation initiatives, and waste management statistics.

Stakeholder Engagement: The report presents results following an evaluation of the effectiveness of SINOMA's stakeholder engagement strategies. It will include insights into communication channels, responsiveness to concerns, and the extent to which local stakeholders are involved in decision-making.

Compliance and Ethics: The assessment will address the company's adherence to ethical standards and compliance with Nigerian laws and regulations. Any instances of non-compliance or ethical concerns will be highlighted, if applicable.

METHODOLOGY: VALIDATION STRATEGY

Data Collection and Research Methods

The foundation of this assessment rests upon a meticulously crafted validation strategy that blends diverse data collection techniques and research methods. This holistic approach was instrumental in gathering accurate and reliable information regarding SINOMA International's CSR initiatives in Nigeria.

On-site Visits: Our team embarked on on-site visits across Nigeria. This hands-on approach allowed us to witness firsthand the company's CSR projects in action. We observed the impact of these initiatives on local communities, examined environmental sustainability practices, and engaged in direct interactions with stakeholders.

Interviews: Engaging with key stakeholders is paramount in comprehending the multifaceted dimensions of CSR. We conducted interviews with company representatives, local community leaders, employees, and government officials. These interviews provided valuable insights into the motivations, challenges, and achievements associated with SINOMA's CSR endeavours.

Data and Report Analysis: Extensive analysis of available data reports played a pivotal role in our assessment. We scrutinized financial reports, sustainability reports, and CSR documentation provided by SINOMA International. This process facilitated a deeper understanding of the quantitative aspects of the company's CSR initiatives, including financial investments and measurable outcomes.

Benchmarking Against Industry Standards: To ensure a robust and standardised analysis, we employed widely recognized CSR evaluation frameworks. The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards and ISO 26000 were integral to our assessment.

These frameworks served as essential yardsticks against which we measured SINOMA's CSR performance. By aligning our evaluation with industry-accepted standards, we ensured a comprehensive and credible assessment.

Evaluation Criteria and Frameworks:

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards: The GRI standards are globally recognised guidelines for sustainability reporting. We utilised these standards to assess the comprehensiveness and transparency of SINOMA's CSR reporting. This framework enabled us to evaluate the company's commitment to disclosing its environmental, social and economic impacts.

ISO 26000: ISO 26000 is an international standard that offers guidance on social responsibility. We incorporated ISO 26000 principles to evaluate the ethical and social aspects of SINOMA International's CSR initiatives. This framework allowed us to assess the company's adherence to ethical standards, its engagement with stakeholders, and its contributions to the well-being of local communities.

The combined application of these research methods and evaluation frameworks ensured a rigorous and balanced assessment of SINOMA International's CSR initiatives in Nigeria. It enables us to provide a comprehensive and data-driven analysis of the company's contributions to sustainable development, community welfare and ethical business practice in the Nigerian context. This meticulous methodology forms the cornerstone of this report, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the findings.

COMPANY OVERVIEW

SINOMA INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED AND NJZC INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION LIMITED: A DYNAMIC DUO OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In the dynamic landscape of global business, few companies can claim the remarkable trajectory achieved by SINOMA International Engineering Company Limited (SINOMA International) and its subsidiary, NJZC International Construction Limited (NJZC). These two powerhouses are integral components of the China National Building Materials Group Company Limited (CNBM), a conglomerate with a distinguished legacy in the global building materials industry.

SINOMA International, as the parent company, is renowned for its global reach and impact, particularly in cement production and related engineering services. With operations spanning over 80 countries, SINOMA International boasts a diverse portfolio that includes production, operation, and maintenance services, localised investment, green energy initiatives, and environmental protection efforts. Leveraging its international intellectual property rights and innovative dry cement production technology, the company has completed over 300 cement production projects across the world, maintaining the leading market share for 15 consecutive years. SINOMA International is dedicated to promoting Chinese products, technologies, and standards globally, driving economic development and social progress in the regions it serves.

NJZC, a subsidiary of SINOMA International, is a testament to the group's commitment to diversification and expansion. NJZC has broadened its business scope beyond international engineering, venturing into various fields, including plant production and operation, manufacturing, trade and storage, customs clearance and logistics, and mining development.

These endeavours have culminated in four distinct business segments: cement engineering, diversified engineering, new industry investment, and logistics and trade. NJZC prides itself on delivering high-quality, efficient, and satisfactory products and services, making substantial contributions to Nigeria's and West Africa's construction and development.

Other subsidiaries under the SINOMA International and CNBM umbrella also play crucial roles in diverse industries. These include SINOMA Nigeria Company Limited, which specialises in a wide array of engineering fields, including building materials, power generation, water management, and environmental protection, contributing significantly to Nigeria's industrialisation since its establishment in 2008. Fabcom Structural Limited, founded in 2016, focuses on roofing manufacturing, specifically metal-coloured stone-coated roofing sheets, with operations in Abuja and Ogun State, boasting an annual production capacity of 3 million square meters. Additionally, SINOMA Cargo International Limited, established in 2016, concentrates on the transportation and distribution of engineering materials within Nigeria, employing nearly 150 individuals and operating an optimised logistics model featuring China-Nigeria logistics lines and Nigeria barge small transportation lines.

While the CSR initiatives of these subsidiaries will be considered as part of SINOMA International's CSR endeavours, the spotlight here is firmly placed on NJZC International Construction Limited, an embodiment of the group's commitment to excellence and innovation in the construction and engineering landscape. With a solid foundation of around 5,000 local employees, NJZC engages in large-scale engineering construction, smart industry initiatives, manufacturing, trade, customs clearance, logistics, and more.

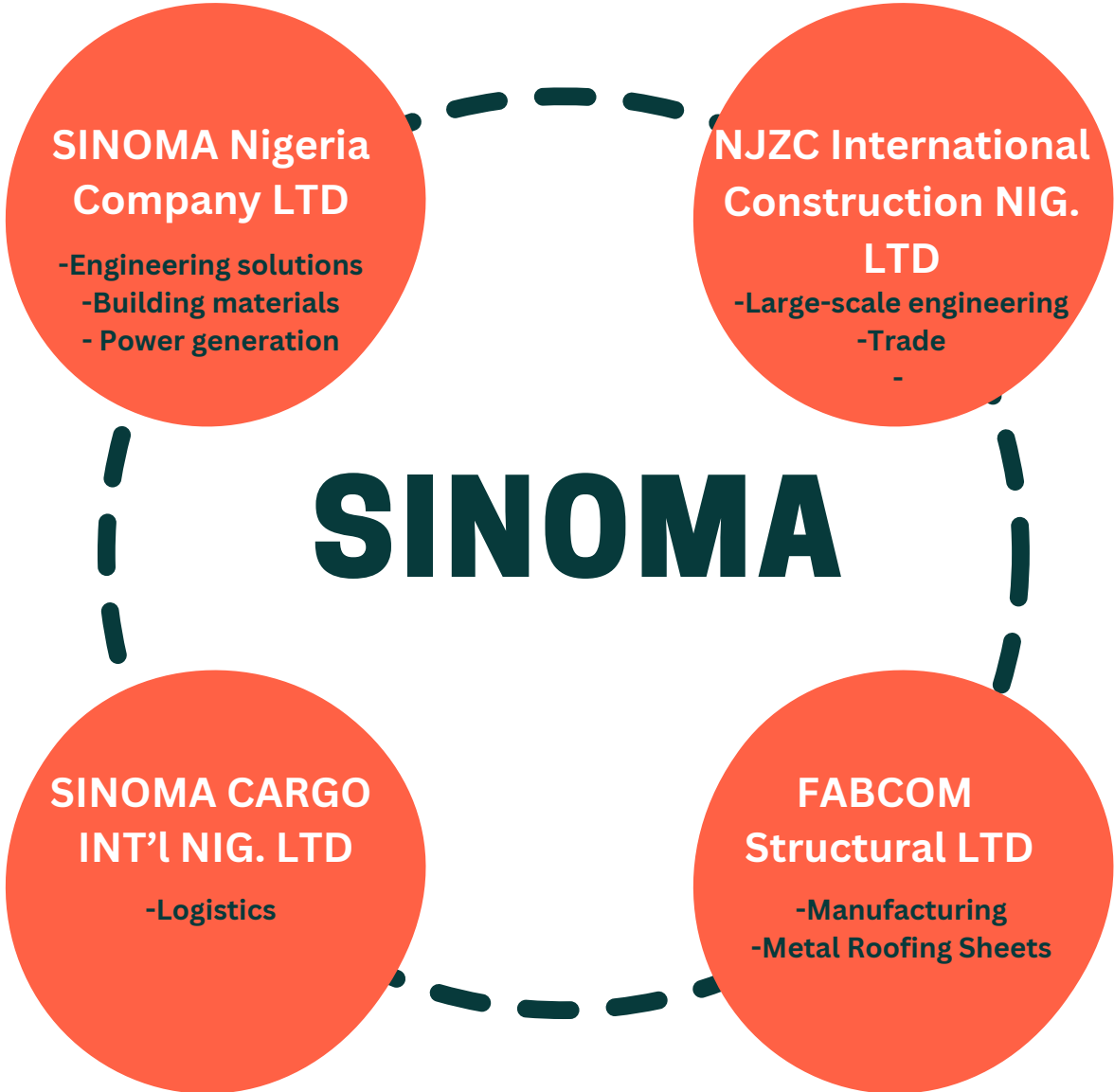
The company's evolution extends beyond traditional engineering, with a vision to encompass customer service, comprehensive engineering, low-carbon environmental protection, industrial investment, and more, ultimately striving to become a world-class comprehensive industrial development company.

NJZC's main business modes include engineering consultation, survey and design, EPC contracting, plant maintenance and operation, infrastructure development, housing estate construction, municipal public works, mining engineering, and municipal solid waste disposal. The company has an impressive track record of accomplishments, notably including the successful completion of major EPC projects like the Dangote Ibesse 4x6000t/d cement production line, Obajana 3x6000t/d cement production line the Nigeria Okpella 6000t/d clinker cement production line, all contributing significantly to the growth of the Dangote Group and Nigeria's industrialisation.

Beyond its core competencies in engineering and construction, NJZC has also ventured into the realm of new energy, showcasing its commitment to sustainability and innovation. The company has made significant strides in various new energy initiatives, including waste-heat power generation, thermal power generation, waste incineration power generation, solar power generation, power transmission and transformation projects, and wind power generation. These endeavours align with NJZC's vision to adopt forward-thinking practices that address the world's evolving energy needs while minimizing environmental impacts. NJZC's reputation for excellence extends beyond its core activities. Due to previous successful collaborations and the high regard that the Dangote Group holds for SINOMA International, NJZC was invited to participate in the Dangote Refinery project.

This pioneering venture in the petrochemical industry is located in the Lekki Free Trade Zone in Lagos, covering a vast area of 36 square kilometers. The refinery is designed for a daily processing capacity of 650,000 barrels of crude oil. Within this ambitious project, SINOMA International assumes a crucial role, overseeing the implementation of the main auxiliary process unit civil construction. This includes dynamic compaction, pile foundation, civil construction, grid frame construction, steel structure installation, electrical work, equipment installation, pipeline installation, and more. NJZC's involvement in such a significant undertaking underscores its expertise and versatility in managing complex, large-scale projects across diverse industries.

Together, SINOMA International and NJZC reinforce CNBM's position as a global leader in building materials and related industries, exemplifying a commitment to excellence, sustainability and innovation.



MISSION AND VALUES: SINOMA INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED AND NJCZ INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

The mission and values that define SINOMA International and NJCZ, driving their success are captured below.

Mission

“Promoting Green and Smart Development for a Better World”

At the heart of SINOMA International's mission lies a resolute commitment to promoting green and smart development for a better world. This mission encapsulates the company's dedication to environmental sustainability and innovation. SINOMA International recognizes that as a global leader in cement production and related engineering services, it holds a significant role in shaping the future of these industries. Therefore, the company's mission extends far beyond mere profitability; it's about creating a positive impact on the planet and communities where it operates.

Sinoma International achieves its mission through various means, including:

Global Reach and Impact: Operating in over 80 countries, SINOMA International has a global reach that allows it to influence and transform the cement and engineering landscape on a global scale. By leveraging its innovative technologies and intellectual property rights, the company has undertaken hundreds of cement production projects, consistently maintaining the leading market share. This impact on the industry contributes directly to the company's mission of fostering green development.

Promotion of Chinese Expertise: SINOMA International actively promotes Chinese products, technologies, and standards on the global stage. Through engineering construction and overseas investment, the company exports not just products but also the best practices and sustainability standards from China. This proactive stance fosters economic development in host countries while aligning with the mission of a better world.

Community Engagement: SINOMA International understands the importance of community engagement in its mission. By actively participating in local communities and adhering to ethical and sustainable practices, the company aims to improve the well-being of the people in the areas it operates. This engagement is crucial for achieving holistic and responsible development.

Values

Sustainability:

Sustainability is at the core of both SINOMA International and NJZC's values. These companies recognize the global imperative to reduce environmental impact and mitigate climate change. Through their operations, they strive to adopt sustainable practices, such as green energy initiatives and environmental protection measures. The commitment to sustainability underscores their dedication to creating a world where future generations can thrive.

Innovation:

Innovation is a driving force behind SINOMA International and NJZC's mission.

They understand that innovation is essential not only for staying competitive but also for addressing global challenges. By investing in research and development, adopting new technologies, and pioneering innovative solutions, they contribute to the advancement of their industries while minimising environmental footprints.

Responsible Development:

Both companies are deeply committed to responsible development. They recognise the importance of balancing economic growth with environmental and social responsibility. This commitment is reflected in their engagement with local communities, adherence to ethical business practices, and respect for local cultures. Their responsible development approach ensures that their operations benefit not only their bottom line but also the societies they touch.

Collaboration:

Collaboration is a fundamental value for Sinoma International and NJZC. They actively seek partnerships with local enterprises and communities, believing that collaboration fosters mutual growth and prosperity. These companies are keen on cooperating well with local enterprises, respecting local laws and market rules, and optimising production capacity operations for win-win outcomes.

Community Engagement:

Community engagement is an integral aspect of their values. They understand that success is not solely measured in financial terms but also in the positive impact they have on the communities they serve.

By engaging in charitable activities, community development initiatives, and job training for local employees, they strive to create and shape a better and more sustainable world.

CHARTING A PATH TO RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS: CSR GOALS IN FOCUS

Corporate social responsibility is a multifaceted concept that encompasses a company's commitment to ethical and responsible business practices across four primary areas: Economic Responsibility, Environmental Responsibility, Social Responsibility, and Ethical Responsibility. Within these areas, companies like SINOMA International Engineering Company Limited and NJZC International Construction Limited have set forth a series of CSR goals aimed at making a positive impact in the communities where they operate, fostering sustainable development, and upholding ethical standards. This section will delve into these CSR goals, categorized under the four main types of CSR, to provide a comprehensive understanding of the companies' dedication to responsible business practices in Nigeria.

Economic Responsibility

Goal 1: Contribute to Nigeria's economic development by promoting local industries, fostering industrial upgrading, and enhancing economic prosperity.

Goal 2: Participate in industry associations, conferences, and collaborations with local enterprises to share expertise, advance industry standards, and drive industrial growth.

Goal 3: Create high-quality projects, inject fresh impetus into Nigeria's cement production and manufacturing industries, and promote local economic development.

Environmental responsibility:

Goal 1: Minimise the environmental footprint of projects by adhering to Nigeria's environmental protection laws, regulations, and policies.

Goal 2: Implement eco-friendly practices throughout project planning, construction, operation, and maintenance to balance industrial development with environmental conservation.

Goal 3: Develop high-quality and green engineering projects that maximise local environmental protection and sustainability.

Social responsibility:

Goal 1: Support local communities by funding infrastructure projects, repairing roads, and improving living conditions for residents.

Goal 2: Prioritize education by donating school supplies, establishing scholarships, and building schools to contribute to the development of local talent and the growth of the education sector.

Goal 3: Provide critical support to local communities in times of crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Lassa fever outbreaks, through financial donations and necessary medical supplies.

Goal 4: Empower the local workforce by prioritizing the hiring and promotion of qualified local employees, steadily increasing the proportion of local staff year by year.

Goal 5: Nurture a harmonious workplace that values diversity and inclusion and invest in employee growth platforms to equip local professionals with the skills needed for socio-economic development.

Ethical Responsibility:

Goal 1: Abide by Nigerian laws and regulations, fostering a culture of integrity, and eliminating all forms of corruption in operations.

Goal 2: Emphasise open, fair, and transparent procurement processes while evaluating suppliers and establishing long-term partnerships with local suppliers.

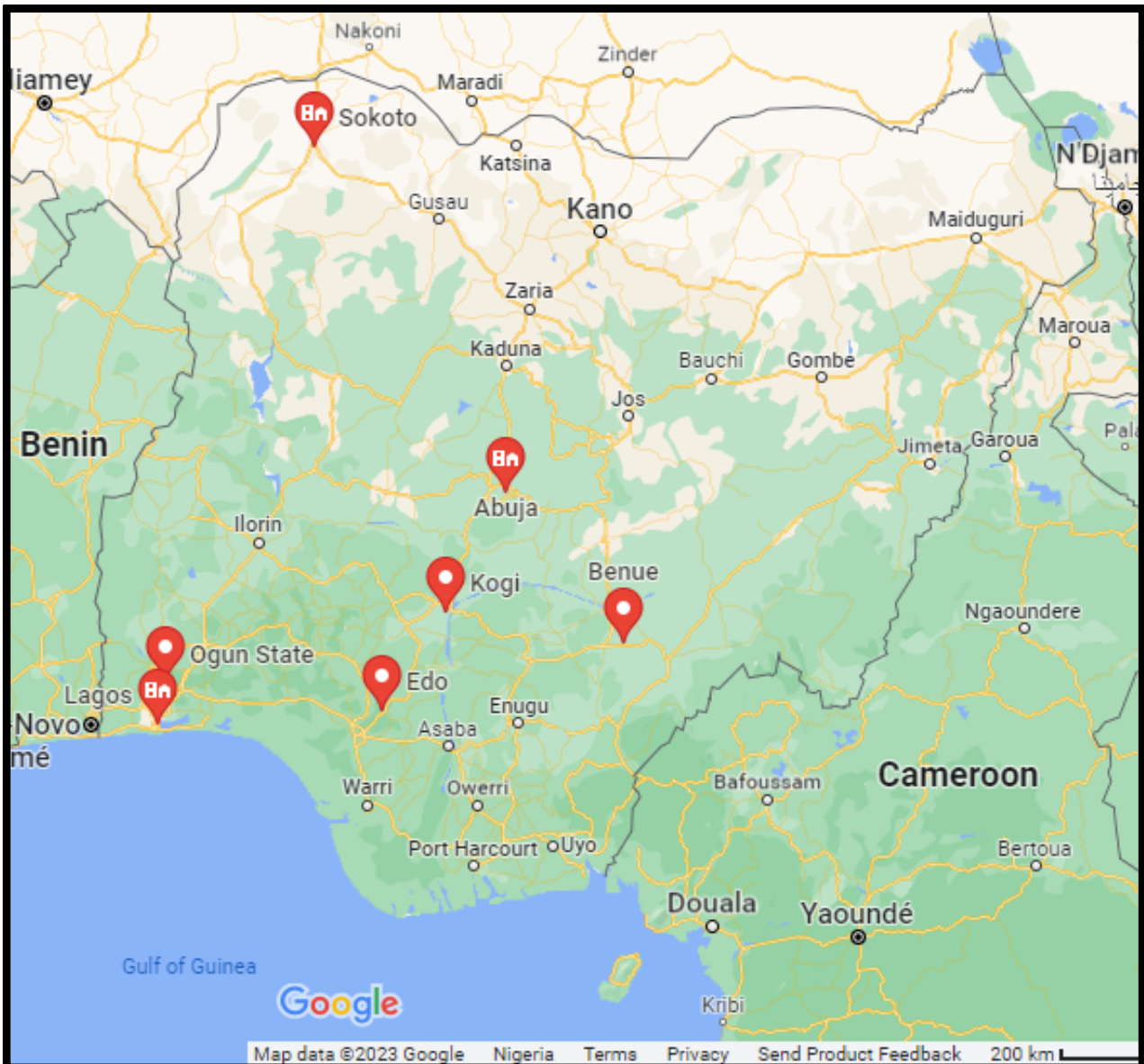
These CSR goals reflect SINOMA International and NJZC International Construction's commitment to responsible business practices in Nigeria. They strive to contribute positively to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the communities they serve while upholding the highest ethical standards in their operations.

In the following, an outline of the CSR initiatives of SINOMA International and NJZC International Construction in Nigeria is presented, focusing on the categorization of these initiatives under the four types of CSR. By examining their economic, environmental, social, and ethical responsibilities, we gain insight into how these companies are actively contributing to Nigeria's development and embracing their roles as responsible corporate citizens.

OVERVIEW OF SINOMA INTERNATIONAL'S CSR INITIATIVES IN NIGERIA

SINOMA International is a conglomerate comprising four Nigerian subsidiaries: SINOMA Nigeria Company LTD, and NJZC International Construction NIG. LTD, Fabcom Structural LTD, and SINOMA Cargo INT'L NIG. LTD. Founded in 2008, NJZC International Construction NIG. LTD engages in extensive operations spanning large-scale engineering, trade, and logistics. SINOMA's strategic trajectory involves evolving into a globally recognized comprehensive industrial developer, emphasizing customer-centric service and sustainability practices. Established in 2008, SINOMA Nigeria Company LTD specializes in engineering solutions within the domains of building materials, power generation, and environmental stewardship. Fabcom Structural LTD., founded in 2016, is a distinguished manufacturer of metal-coloured stone-coated roofing sheets. SINOMA Cargo INT'L NIG. LTD, established in 2016, orchestrates optimized logistics for engineering material transportation. SINOMA International has enhanced development in Nigeria through the conglomerate's corporate social responsibility in 6 states of Nigeria and Abuja, the Federal Capital of Nigeria.

MAPPING OF CSR CLAIMS IN NIGERIA



The Map of Nigeria Highlighting States Benefiting from SINOMA International's CSR Initiatives

1. Benue State
2. Edo State
3. Kogi State
4. Lagos State
5. Ogun State
6. Sokoto State
7. FCT Abuja

DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the 25th of September, 2015 was collectively agreed upon by nations of the world, as a successor to MDGs (Jaiyesimi, 2016). The universality of the goals is seen in their relevance to both developed and developing nations, comprehensive and however, setting explicit and requiring country-explicit activities. The United Nations spearheaded it and ratified it by all its member states as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (The United Nations General Assembly, 2015). As a mechanism to address the challenges of worldwide difficulties of neediness, imbalance, environmental change, ecological debasement, harmony, and equity, the 17 distinct goals and 169 targets in the SDGs take into cognizance holistically difficulties faced with development, especially in developing countries, accentuating the basic drivers of a practical turn of events and not simply quantifiable results. These aspirational objectives with 169 targets represent a broader scope of developmental objectives expected to guide the actions of governments, international agencies, civil societies, and other institutions for 15 years (Akinlolu, 2017). The 17 sustainable development goals with its 169 targets of the UN are expected to animate activities in territory of basic significance for humankind. The SDGs have received a comprehensive methodology, accepting difficulties faced by all countries and advancing the collaboration between the private and public areas in the execution of the objectives.

The 17 UNSDGs encompass nearly all fields of human endeavour. For emphasis, the 17 SDGs are as follows:

- End poverty in all ramifications all over the place;
- Eliminate hunger, accomplish food security, improve sustenance, and advance maintainable agriculture;
- Guarantee healthy lifestyle and advance prosperity for all at all ages;
- Guarantee comprehensive and impartial quality education and advance deep-rooted learning openings for all;
- Accomplish gender fairness and enable all women and young ladies;
- Guarantee availability and accessibility of water and sanitation for all;
- Guarantee admittance to moderate, dependable, reasonable, and modern energy for all;
- Advance sustained, comprehensive, and sustainable economic development, full and gainful employment, and decent work for everyone;
- Establish a strong framework, advance comprehensive and sustainable industrialization, and cultivate innovation;
- Diminish disparity inside and among nations;
- Make urban areas and human settlements comprehensive, protected, versatile and sustainable;
- Guarantee sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- Make an earnest move to battle climate change and its effects;
- Engage in conservative methods of using the seas, oceans, and marine assets for sustainability;
- Secure, reestablish, and advance sustainable utilization of land environments, battle desertification, sustainable way of overseeing the forest, and land degradation and end biodiversity misfortune;

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Source: United Nations

Advance peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainability, give admittance to equity and justice for all, and develop responsible and inclusive institutions for everyone;

- Encourage implementation by strengthening global stakeholders and partners for sustainable development.

The preamble for the 2030 Agenda summarizes the goals into 5 Ps, namely (United Nations, 2023):

- People: The sustainable Development 2030 agenda is geared towards the totality of eradicating poverty and hunger in all ramifications and with the understanding everyone can fulfil his or her potential with every sense of pride in a healthy environment where everyone has equal opportunity.

- Peace: The 2030 agenda provides a template where peace and justice are guaranteed to all and society where there is no fear or violence of any sort. Because sustainable development will be elusive in any society that is characterized by violence.

- Planet: The SDGs are determined to protect the planet against degradation and environmental pollution by encouraging sustainable consumption and production, as well as employing sustainable ways of managing its natural resources and embarking on initiatives on climate change that will be beneficial to both present and future generations.

- Prosperity: Among the goals of sustainable development is to ensure that every human enjoys a prosperous and fulfilling life and to ensure that economic, social, and technological development is in harmony with nature.

- Partnership: The SDGs believe that for these goals to be attainable and implementable, it requires collective efforts, hence, one of its goals is to ensure that there is a global partnership for sustainable development, based on the spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

- Categorization of initiatives

Meanwhile, in developing nations sustainable development encourages economic advancement that will eliminate poverty, promote inclusive growth, and increase environmental resources (Appelgate & Aman, 2001). One can be puzzled about how a business corporation domiciled in Africa with the sole objective of profit maximization and accumulation of positive return on investment, will now take an active part in implementing policies that will help in eliminating poverty in Africa. A common strategy is for business corporations in Africa to include CSR as part of their vision, mission, value, or policy. For this to be actualized, there may be the need for a broad sustainable business model. To address this, (Bocken & Ors, 2014) established a classification of sustainable business model archetypes to demonstrate the different mechanisms and strategies that could be used to help build up business model innovation for long-term sustainability. The model is grouped based on technology, society and organization. The archetypes are explained in terms of maximizing material and energy efficiency, generating value from waste, substituting with renewable and natural processes, providing functionality rather than ownership, adopting a stewardship position, promoting sufficiency, and developing scale-up solutions.

Therefore, building a sustainable business model aids in the incorporation of corporate social responsibility from the outset of a company's development; it also aids in the reduction of resource constraints on achieving sustainability in terms of operating costs and future risks from externalities. Both stakeholders' interests (society and the environment) are considered in the development process. As a result, CSR activities are well established as part of the business process rather than as a consequence of business operations; CSR is now an input to business enterprises' strategic objectives. This large model for sustainability benefits businesses, society, and the environment, thereby making CSR an integral part of long-term sustainability.

SINOMA'S CSR INITIATIVES ALIGNED WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDG 1: NO POVERTY

The Company SINOMA International has underscored its unwavering commitment to addressing SDG 1. A notable manifestation of this dedication is witnessed through the establishment of The Dream Realisation Program by its subsidiary, Fabcom. This program adeptly imparts financial literacy to local employees, fosters a culture of prudent savings, and facilitates asset acquisition. The tangible outcomes of these endeavours are evidenced by a discernible reduction in local poverty rates and a commendable enhancement of livelihoods within the community.



SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

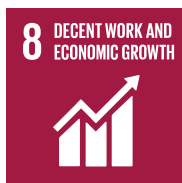
SINOMA International CSR initiatives aimed at SDG 3 encapsulate a comprehensive approach to health enhancement within local communities. These endeavours include substantial donations totalling 5,533,600 Naira dedicated to disease prevention and control efforts in Nigeria. Furthermore, the company has extended its support by providing essential medical supplies to the Nigeria Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital. Beyond material contributions, SINOMA International has fostered a dynamic medical exchange program that facilitates the exchange of ideas between Chinese and Nigerian doctors, focusing on innovative approaches to infectious disease prevention and treatment. Notably, these commendable initiatives are orchestrated under the adept leadership of the Edo Project Department.

As a result of these collective undertakings, discernible progress is evident in the form of improved health outcomes within local communities, paralleled by a discernible enhancement of the well-being of its employees.



SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Demonstrating its steadfast commitment to SDG 4, SINOMA International has initiated a range of education promotion measures. This includes offering scholarships to under-served community members and donating essential school supplies through Fabcom Structural Ltd. Notably, the company contributes to educational infrastructure by donating 330 square meters of metal-coloured stone tiles to the Abuja Government Girls' School, as well as providing furniture and stationery to a local primary school, courtesy of The Sokoto Project Department. SINOMA International's Engagement extends to sponsoring educational events such as community-wide sports activities, where SINOMA International Cargo provides sportswear for local schools. In addition to sponsorship, SINOMA International provides practical training opportunities for local technical school graduates at the Nigeria Ogun Industrial Park. These efforts have yielded tangible results, evident in rising literacy rates and enhanced access to quality education, firmly establishing SINOMA International as a dedicated advocate for educational advancement within the community.



SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SINOMA International exhibits a robust commitment to advancing SDG 8, through a plethora of strategic initiatives designed to foster an environment of productive employment and sustainable economic development. Central to this commitment is SINOMA International's commendable approach to local talent empowerment. By embracing key projects such as the Edo Project, Lagos Refinery project, Sokoto

Project, and Obajana/Ibese project, the company has generated substantial employment opportunities, benefiting an impressive total of 94,000 individuals. Additionally, SINOMA International's proactive engagement with Ogun State University and tailored one-on-one training for local staff underscores its dedication to nurturing career growth. In parallel, SINOMA International upholds a stringent ethical labour framework. This includes adhering to essential principles such as "No child labour" and "No forced labour," ensuring "Equal pay for work of equal value," and guaranteeing punctual compensation to employees. The company further establishes a secure working environment by implementing comprehensive safety measures. The "Workplace Safety Initiatives," which incorporate safety training sessions, provision of protective equipment, creation of safety corridors, prominent display of safety signage and role-based safety management, epitomize the company's dedication to employee well-being. Through these concerted efforts, SINOMA International effectively reduces local unemployment rates, elevates the quality of life and well-being of its workforce, and exemplifies a steadfast commitment to the core tenets of SDG 8 and its associated objectives.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SINOMA International's Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives led by the Edo and Sokoto Project Departments contribute to social infrastructure through pivotal endeavours such as road construction, road repairs and philanthropic provision of road construction equipment. Tran-border infrastructure, supports economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.



SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SINOMA International's astute dedication to Corporate Social Responsibility finds resonance with the ideals of SDG 11, as evidenced by its strategic focus on bolstering citizen safety. A testament to this commitment is the establishment of two advanced booths at the Abuja Kuje military checkpoint, underscoring the company's resolute effort to enhance security measures. They notably contribute to the deterrence of criminal activities, thus fostering a safer environment. Furthermore, the initiatives significantly elevate surveillance capabilities and expedite emergency responses, resulting in a tangible enhancement of safety measures and urban livability.



SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Notably, SINOMA International's commitment to responsible sourcing is exemplified by its policy of acquiring vital materials through localized subcontractors. This practice not only bolsters the local economy and promotes economic diversification but also indirectly contributes to other SDGs. By advocating for local sourcing, SINOMA International curbs the environmental impact associated with transportation, fostering sustainable consumption patterns.

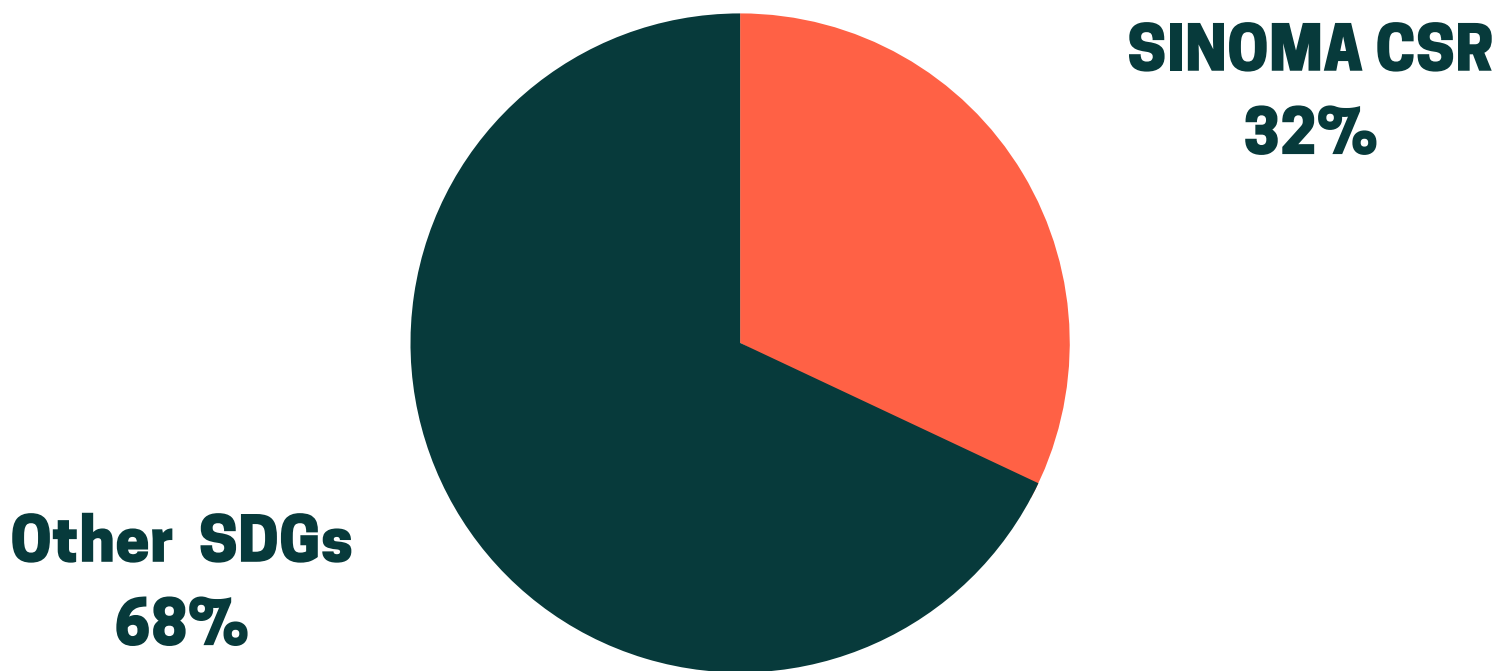
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

SINOMA International is committed to combating climate change and all its impacts through green innovations and strict implementation of green operations for environmental sustainability.

SINOMA'S CSR AND SDGS



SINOMA's CSR aligns with 8 out of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Hence, contributes to the realisation of 32% of the SDGs in Nigeria.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF SINOMA INTERNATIONAL'S CSR INITIATIVES IN NIGERIA

SINOMA's Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, targeted towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13 exemplify an unwavering commitment to fostering sustainable development. These initiatives have yielded noteworthy and transformative outcomes, notably spanning poverty alleviation, advancements in health and wellbeing, education, urban sustainability, and enhanced security measures. It is unequivocally acknowledged that SINOMA INT'L., through all its Nigerian subsidiaries, diligently adheres to its foundational principles of; "contributing to local economic development, fostering productive collaborations with local enterprises, and wholeheartedly serving the local populace." This steadfast commitment resonates as a pivotal cornerstone of the company's overarching ethos. It is evident that SINOMA remains resolutely dedicated to advancing its contribution towards the sustainable development of Nigeria, consistently aligning with the principles enshrined within the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

Stakeholder Impact

SINOMA International's CSR initiatives in Nigeria have yielded substantial benefits for various stakeholders, ranging from employees to communities and the environment. These initiatives, driven by a commitment to sustainable development and responsible business practices, have produced measurable outcomes that underscore their positive influence on these stakeholders.

Employee Empowerment and Growth: Sinoma's emphasis on employee well-being and development has had a profound impact on its workforce in Nigeria. The company's dedication to local employment has translated into tangible job creation and skills enhancement. As a result, both direct and indirect employment opportunities have significantly improved the economic conditions in local communities.

One notable outcome is the career advancement of local employees through SINOMA's training and development programs. Many employees have experienced personal growth and increased their contributions to the company, as exemplified by Anthony Ebuka Ekewensi, a local college student trained by SINOMA, who won the African championship and secured fourth place in the global finals of the 17th "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students.

Furthermore, SINOMA's "dream realisation" program has had a lasting impact by helping employees plan for their futures effectively. This program offers financial literacy education and support for savings and investments. The result has been visible improvements in employees' living standards, with many achieving their life goals, such as home ownership. As John Kennedy, a local employee, expressed, "It's like a dream coming true. I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to receive higher education. My thanks go to SINOMA for helping me realize my dream".

Community Upliftment and Support: SINOMA International's CSR initiatives extend beyond its corporate boundaries to positively impact the communities in which it operates. These initiatives have led to improved living conditions, enhanced access to essential services, and better educational opportunities for local residents.

One noteworthy outcome is the company's investment in healthcare, infrastructure, and education. For instance, SINOMA has donated medical supplies to local communities, funded the repair of roads, and even constructed facilities like schools. This commitment to education includes not only financial support but also scholarships and school supplies for local students. These efforts have contributed to the development of local talents and improved educational outcomes. Gambo Dimka, SON FCT Coordination, expressed his gratitude, stating, "CBMI has provided us with a brand-new standard, which is good because the market will no longer be chaotic".

Environmental sustainability: SINOMA International's dedication to environmental sustainability has led to concrete results in reducing its environmental footprint.

The company's adoption of eco-friendly technologies and green production practices, such as recycling wastewater and promoting energy efficiency, has contributed to a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

Moreover, SINOMA's involvement in setting industry standards, particularly in metal-coloured stone-coated roofing sheets, has played a pivotal role in improving product quality and environmental impact. These standards, submitted to the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON), will become the first of their kind in Nigeria. This demonstrates SINOMA's commitment to promoting green and responsible supply chains, ultimately benefiting the environment. As Gambo Dimka noted, "We hope that one day, this Nigerian standard will be applicable in West Africa, Africa, and even the world".

Win-win partnerships and ethical business practices:

SINOMA International's commitment to win-win partnerships and ethical business practices has reinforced its reputation for integrity and responsible operations. The company's adherence to Nigerian laws and regulations, transparent procurement processes, and the elimination of corruption have contributed to an ethical business environment.

The engagement with local suppliers and subcontractors has resulted in long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships that stimulate local economic growth. SINOMA's dedication to localized procurement has further supported the development of local enterprises, reinforcing its commitment to the communities it serves.

Response to health crises: SINOMA's CSR initiatives have also played a vital role in responding to health crises, particularly during the outbreak of COVID-19 and Lassa fever. The company's swift actions, including donations of funds and medical supplies, as well as the dissemination of health information to employees and communities, have been instrumental in containing the spread of diseases and supporting healthcare efforts. These efforts have not only safeguarded the health and well-being of employees and communities but have also underscored SINOMA's commitment to social responsibility during challenging times.

Measurable Outcomes and Results

Sinoma International's CSR initiatives have yielded the following measurable outcomes:

Job creation: SINOMA's projects have created thousands of direct and indirect job opportunities, improving local employment rates and livelihoods.

Employee advancement: Numerous local employees have progressed in their careers and achieved personal growth through SINOMA's training and development programs.

Improved living conditions: Investments in infrastructure, education, and healthcare have enhanced the living conditions of communities surrounding SINOMA's projects.

Enhanced education: Funding for schools, scholarships, and donations of school supplies have improved educational opportunities for local students.

Environmental impact: The adoption of eco-friendly technologies and green production practices has reduced SINOMA's environmental footprint.

Ethical business practices: Compliance with Nigerian laws and regulations, along with transparent procurement processes, has reinforced SINOMA's reputation for integrity.

Disease prevention: SINOMA's rapid response to health crises, including COVID-19 and Lassa fever, has contributed to the containment of diseases and supported healthcare efforts in Nigeria.

In summary, SINOMA International's comprehensive CSR initiatives in Nigeria have had a far-reaching and positive impact on various stakeholders. These initiatives, backed by tangible outcomes and measurable results, underscore the company's commitment to responsible corporate citizenship and sustainable development. SINOMA's efforts serve as a testament to its role in building a better future for Nigeria and its people while contributing to a shared future aligned with global sustainability goals.

SUSTAINABILITY

Several key factors underpin the long-term sustainability of SINOMA International's CSR initiatives in Nigeria:

Local capacity building: SINOMA has made significant investments in the training and development of local employees. This not only ensures a skilled and capable workforce but also fosters a sense of ownership and commitment among local communities. As these local employees grow in their careers, they become valuable assets to both the company and the region, contributing to the long-term sustainability of operations.

Community engagement: The company has established positive relationships with local communities by actively engaging with them, addressing their needs, and supporting their development. This approach builds trust and goodwill, creating a solid foundation for long-term cooperation and collaboration.

Environmental stewardship: SINOMA's commitment to environmental sustainability through green practices and adherence to industry standards reduces long-term environmental risks and liabilities. By adopting eco-friendly manufacturing processes and sustainable resource management, the company contributes to the preservation of natural resources and ecosystems.

Compliance and integrity: SINOMA International operates in accordance with Nigerian laws and regulations while promoting ethical business practices. This commitment to compliance and integrity helps build trust with government authorities, regulators, and stakeholders, ensuring the sustainability of its operations in the country.

Partnerships: Collaborating with local partners and stakeholders enhances the sustainability of CSR programs. These partnerships often result in shared responsibilities and resources, further promoting the long-term success of initiatives.

Future Sustainability Plans

SINOMA International has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to sustainability across various facets of its operations, aiming to align its corporate practices with global sustainability goals and Nigeria's economic development needs. The company's overarching sustainability framework suggests a continued focus on several key areas:

Environmental stewardship: SINOMA International is likely to persist in its efforts to minimize its environmental footprint by enhancing energy efficiency, reducing emissions, and adopting innovative green technologies. The company will likely explore further opportunities for renewable energy integration, waste reduction, and resource conservation, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and 13 (Climate Action).

Community engagement and upliftment: Sinoma International is expected to maintain its strong community engagement initiatives, with a focus on educational support, healthcare, and infrastructure development. By continuing to collaborate with local communities, the company will contribute to the achievement of SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Employee empowerment and development: The company will likely sustain its commitment to employee growth and empowerment. This may involve expanding training and skill development programs, promoting diversity and inclusion, and fostering a safe and inclusive workplace. These efforts align with SDGs 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 10 (Reduced Inequality).

Ethical business practices and partnerships: SINOMA International will probably continue to prioritize ethical business practices and win-win partnerships. This includes responsible procurement, transparency, and compliance with international standards. These practices support SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Measuring and reporting progress: To ensure accountability and transparency, SINOMA International may expand its use of sustainability reporting frameworks like the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and ISO 26000. By providing comprehensive data on its CSR efforts and their outcomes, the company will contribute to tracking progress towards numerous SDGs. SINOMA International recognises that long-term sustainability is essential for its continued success and the well-being of the communities it operates in. While the provided text does not offer specific future plans, the company's ongoing dedication to CSR and sustainability principles implies a commitment to addressing evolving challenges and opportunities in line with global sustainability goals in Nigeria's development agenda.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING: A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW

SINOMA International, operating in Nigeria, places a significant emphasis on stakeholder engagement as a fundamental element of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) framework. Recognising that effective engagement with stakeholders is essential for informed decision-making and the overall success of its sustainability initiatives, the company has established a robust and comprehensive approach to stakeholder engagement.

Diverse Communication Channels

SINOMA International maintains a diverse range of communication channels to facilitate robust engagement with its various stakeholders:

Regular meetings and consultations: The company conducts regular face-to-face meetings and consultations with local communities, government authorities, and business partners. These interactions serve as essential platforms for sharing information, exchanging include:

- Local communities living near the company's operations.
- Government authorities at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Business partners and suppliers.
- Employees and their representative groups.

Online platforms: SINOMA International leverages its official website and active social media channels to disseminate information about its CSR activities. This online presence extends its reach to a broader audience, including the public and investors, enabling them to stay informed about the company's sustainability efforts.

Direct contact point: Recognizing the importance of accessibility, the company provides dedicated contact points, including email addresses and phone numbers, for stakeholders to reach out directly. This direct communication mechanism ensures responsiveness to specific inquiries, suggestions or concerns.

Effective Feedback Mechanism

SINOMA International actively seeks feedback from its stakeholders to inform its CSR initiatives and decision-making processes

Surveys and questionnaires: The company conducts surveys and distributes questionnaires to employees, local communities, and other relevant stakeholders. These instruments are designed to capture valuable insights regarding the effectiveness of CSR programs, satisfaction levels, and areas for improvement.

Community consultations: For projects that have a direct impact on local communities, SINOMA International engages in formal consultations. These consultations aim to understand community needs, expectations, and concerns comprehensively. As a result, mutually agreed-upon initiatives are often developed to address community-specific challenges effectively.

Collaborative decision-making: SINOMA International values the inclusion of stakeholders in decision-making processes related to CSR initiatives. This collaborative approach ensures that projects align with local priorities and values, ultimately enhancing their impact and relevance.

Responsiveness to stakeholder concerns

The company demonstrates a proactive and responsible approach to addressing stakeholder concerns:

Timely response: SINOMA International places a high priority on responding promptly to stakeholder inquiries, complaints, or suggestions. This commitment to responsiveness reinforces trust and demonstrates the company's genuine dedication to stakeholder interests.

Issue resolution: When challenges or conflicts arise, the company actively engages with stakeholders to find mutually beneficial solutions. This collaborative approach emphasizes conflict resolution and promotes a positive working relationship.

Continuous improvement: SINOMA International acknowledges that stakeholder engagement is an evolving process.

To this end, the company continually seeks ways to enhance its communication strategies, feedback mechanisms, and overall responsiveness. This commitment to improvement reflects a dedication to maintaining effective stakeholder relationships.

Alignment with the SDGs

SINOMA International's stakeholder engagement practices align with various SDGs:

SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions): The company's commitment to transparency, fairness, and ethical business practices reinforces the principles of good governance and justice within the regions it operates.

SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals): Through stakeholder engagement, SINOMA International forges partnerships with local communities, government agencies, and business partners to collectively work toward shared sustainability objectives. These partnerships are instrumental in driving meaningful progress in areas aligned with the SDGs.

A commitment to inclusivity and collaboration

In summary, SINOMA International recognises the pivotal role of stakeholder engagement in the development and implementation of its CSR initiatives. By actively and comprehensively engaging with stakeholders through diverse communication channels, feedback mechanisms, and responsiveness to concerns, the company ensures that its CSR programs are effective and aligned with its diverse stakeholders' needs and expectations. This commitment to engagement not only contributes to informed CSR decision-making but also fosters positive, mutually beneficial relationships with stakeholders, ultimately enhancing the impact of its sustainability efforts.

COMPLIANCE AND ETHICS

Compliance means that a company adheres to the applicable rules and laws. This includes both country-specific laws and requirements from the regulatory authorities as well as internal company directives.

In respect of compliance, SINOMA International conducts thorough assessments of Nigerian laws and regulations related to environmental protection, labour and human rights. They make sure their CSR initiatives align with these legal requirements.

Ethical standards refer to a set of values that the institution's founders developed to guide the organisation's conduct. Decision-making can be aided by referencing the code provided here.

Organizational culture relies heavily on these norms. They define the expectations of owners and top executives in terms of employee and supplier behaviour, at the very least in the context of the relationship between two parties.

SINOMA International adheres to a code of ethics that sets clear guidelines for ethical conduct in all aspects of its operations. This includes principles such as transparency, honesty, and respect for local customs and traditions.

In summary, based on our findings Sinoma International ensures compliance with laws, policies and ethical standards in their CSR initiatives in Nigeria. Furthermore, there are no instances of non-compliance or ethical concerns.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Expansion of Initiative Outreach:** Amidst these commendable achievements by SINOMA International, there exists a promising potential for further amplification through the expansion of initiative outreach. We recommend a scale-up of programs and initiative replication in other geopolitical zones.



— Expansion of Reach

Scale up programs by replicating them in other geopolitical zones that have not been reached, adapting them as needed to suit local needs and conditions while strengthening community engagement.

Sustained Transparency: SINOMA International should continue to proactively communicate and share its CSR progress with stakeholders, fostering trust and transparency.

Expand Local Partnerships: Collaborate with local organisations and governments to further enhance the impact of community engagement initiatives.

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Continuous Improvement: A continuous cycle of evaluation and refinement of CSR initiatives is recommended to address evolving environmental and social challenges effectively.

CONCLUSION

This report evaluates the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) endeavours of SINOMA International, aligning them with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11 and 13. As a conglomerate, SINOMA International operates through four subsidiaries in Nigeria: SINOMA Nigeria Company LTD, NJZC International Construction NIG. LTD, FABCOM Structural LTD, and SINOMA Cargo INT'L NIG. LTD, all of which were established in 2008, 2008, 2016, and 2016, respectively. This report presents a comprehensive overview of the company's conscientious initiatives, notable accomplishments, and identified areas with potential for enhancement within the purview of these specified SDGs.

SINOMA International stands as a shining model for responsible corporate citizenship, and its comprehensive CSR efforts underscore its commitment to ethical, sustainable, and community-centric business practices.

Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA)

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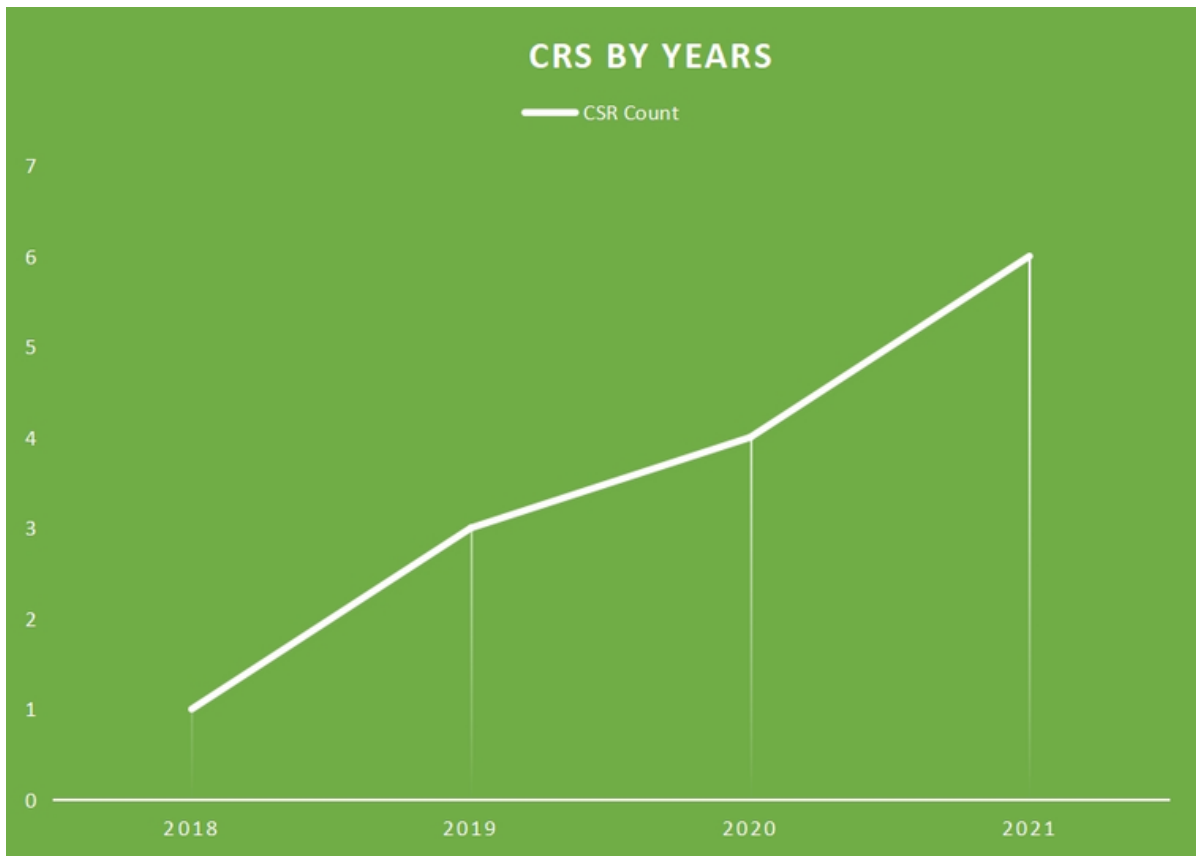
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APPENDICES



Graph Showing the SINOMA CRS Count from 2018 to 2021



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