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Perceived Impacts of Community and Social Development Projects in Rural Communities of Niger North Senatorial District, Niger State Nigeria

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Abstract

Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) was designed to improve the poor and vulnerable people particularly in the rural communities' access to social and natural-resource infrastructure. However, the extent to which CSDP interventions have actually transformed and impacted the socioeconomic and infrastructural conditions in rural communities specifically in Niger State is remain a major unresolved issue. This study was conducted on the perceived impacts of Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) on rural communities of Niger North Senatorial District Niger State, Nigeria. A cross-sectional mixed-method research design was adopted. Convenience sampling technique was used to administer questionnaire to 398 respondents from the beneficiary communities across eight LGAs, and in-depth interviews were conducted with community leaders. Secondary data on the various sectoral projects implemented was obtained from the Niger State Community and Social Development Agency. Descriptive such as frequency count, percentage, and mean score were used to analyse the data. Results showed that education (27.5%), health (26.5%) and water (25.5%) dominated the sectoral portfolio, while electricity and socioeconomic interventions each represented only 2.0%. It was found that all sectoral (water, transport, health, education, market, skills and social-infrastructure) projects had significant positive impact although it varied according to sector. For education, it was improve condition of school infrastructure with mean score difference of 2.40, reduced distance to health facilities with 2.51 (health), reduced distance for sourcing domestic water with 2.48 (water supply), improved physical access within and outside the community with 2.27 (road transportation), while for market sector, increased income from livelihood activities was identified with 2.54. The study concluded that the CSDP interventions, taking the community driven development approach, have positively significantly impacted all sectors in the study area. The study recommended regular maintenance and provision of security for the projects, sensitisation of the community leaders and members on sustainability of the projects,

and creation of more awareness for continuous participation of the various groups and stakeholders in community projects initiation, planning, and implementation.

Keywords: Impact; Niger-CSDA Project, Rural Communities; Sectoral; Niger State

1. INTRODUCTION

The prevailing circumstances of poverty and deprivation in rural areas led to the intervention of the World Bank in collaboration with the Federal government of Nigeria to embarking on a Community and Social Development Project [CSDP] to reduce rural vulnerability (Bako, 2025). According to World Bank (2021), the CSDP was flagged off in 2009, and was built on the success of the Local Empowerment and Environment Management Project [LEEMP] and Community-based Poverty Reduction Project [CPRP], which are previous World Bank's project structures. The Community and Social Development Project in the view of Adi et al. (2022) is an international intervention for rural communities-based development. It is designed as a poverty reduction project which seeks to empower the poor by giving them resources, as grants; to implement and supervise community initiated multi-sectoral projects. It will also improve partnership of Local Government Authority and communities on human development related projects, and build the capacity for effective delivery services to their people and communities (Adi et al., 2022). The World Bank Report cited in Bako (2025) indicated that the projects included infrastructure for education, health, rural electrification, transportation, water supply, skill acquisition, and environmental management.

In Niger State, the CSDP assumes particular importance because of the state's extensive rural population and the continuing need to improve access to basic social and economic infrastructure. The Niger State Community and Social Development Agency (CSDA) was established in 2009 through Niger State Legal Notice No. 26 of 2009 to coordinate implementation of the programme. The first phase of the project closed in 2013, followed by additional financing covering 2015-2020 (Niger State CSDA, 2026). The state's CSDP interventions have covered sectors including education, health, water, transportation, and environmental management, indicating the multidimensional nature of the programme. The Niger State CSDA has implemented several projects across the state. In 2024, the agency reported 204 planned projects across 101 communities in 24 LGAs, with 199 projects completed (Niger State CSDA, 2024).

However, despite the reported completed projects, their existence or positive perceptions by the beneficiaries does not necessarily establish the overall impact of CSDP on community development. Therefore impact involves determining the extent to which completed projects have produced measurable changes in the conditions of beneficiaries compared with their situation before the intervention. Arguably, existing empirical evidence confirms that CSDP has contributed to improvements in various aspects of community welfare in Nigeria, but there is insufficient comprehensive evidence to ascertain the magnitude, spatial variation and sustainability of these impacts in and within the Niger State (Ibrahim et al., 2021; Owolabi et al., 2019; Hassan et al., 2024; World Bank, 2021).

Several studies have been conducted on CSDP. For instance, Ochepo (2019) revealed that corrupt attitudes of both development officials and the community elites, rural elite spear-heading projects as an avenue for self-enrichment and political gains, receiving gratification by community development officials, and poor maintenance of project facility were among the challenges confronting the implementation of CSDP in north central states of Nigeria. Dansabo and Gambo (2019) assessed the impact of CSDP in Damaturu LGA of Yobe State, Nigeria. The study found that the intervention positively impacted beneficiaries' lives regarding accessibility to social services and reduced people's expenditure on water and education. Similarly, Sidi et al. (2020) study showed that CSDP improved living standards, better community unity, higher school enrolment rates, decreased waterborne illnesses, and shorter distances to schools and health centres. In Taraba, Adi et al. (2022) demonstrated that CSDP positively impacted on the rural development and improved the living standard of the rural dwellers. However, in Niger State, Ibrahim et al. (2021) study demonstrated the positive welfare effects of CSDP interventions among the rural farm families. The study provides evidence of improvements in selected welfare indicators but does not comprehensively assess the multidimensional impacts of CSDP across the project sectors. Therefore, the present study is premised on the need to assessing the perceived impact of completed CSDP interventions on rural communities in. Niger North Senatorial District of Niger State. Such as assessment is considered important for establishing whether the objectives of the programme have been achieved, identifying variations in outcomes among project sectors, determining the sustainability of project benefits, and providing empirical evidence that could serve as a guide for future community-driven development intervention in Niger State and Nigeria at large.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 The Study Area

The study was conducted in Niger North Senatorial District of Niger State, North-Central Nigeria. The senatorial district comprises of eight (8) Local Government Areas (LGAs) namely; Agwara, Borgu, Kontagora, Magama, Mariga, Mashegu, Rijau and Wushishi. It between Latitudes 9°20′28″ and 11°22′17″ North and Longitudes 3°34′39″ and 6°14′10″ East. It shares borders with Kebbi and Zamfara States to the north, Mokwa, Lavun, and Gbako LGAs to the south, Kwara State and the Republic of Benin to the southwest, and Rafi and Bosso LGAs, as well as Kaduna State, to the east (Figure 1). The district covers an estimated land area of approximately 33,955.56 square kilometres (Niger State Bureau of Statistics, 2020; National Population Commission [NPC], 2009). The study area climate is characterised by a wet (rainy) season and a dry season which the annual rainfall ranges from approximately 1,200mm in the northern part of the state to about 1,600mm in the southern regions (Niger State Bureau of Statistics, 2020).

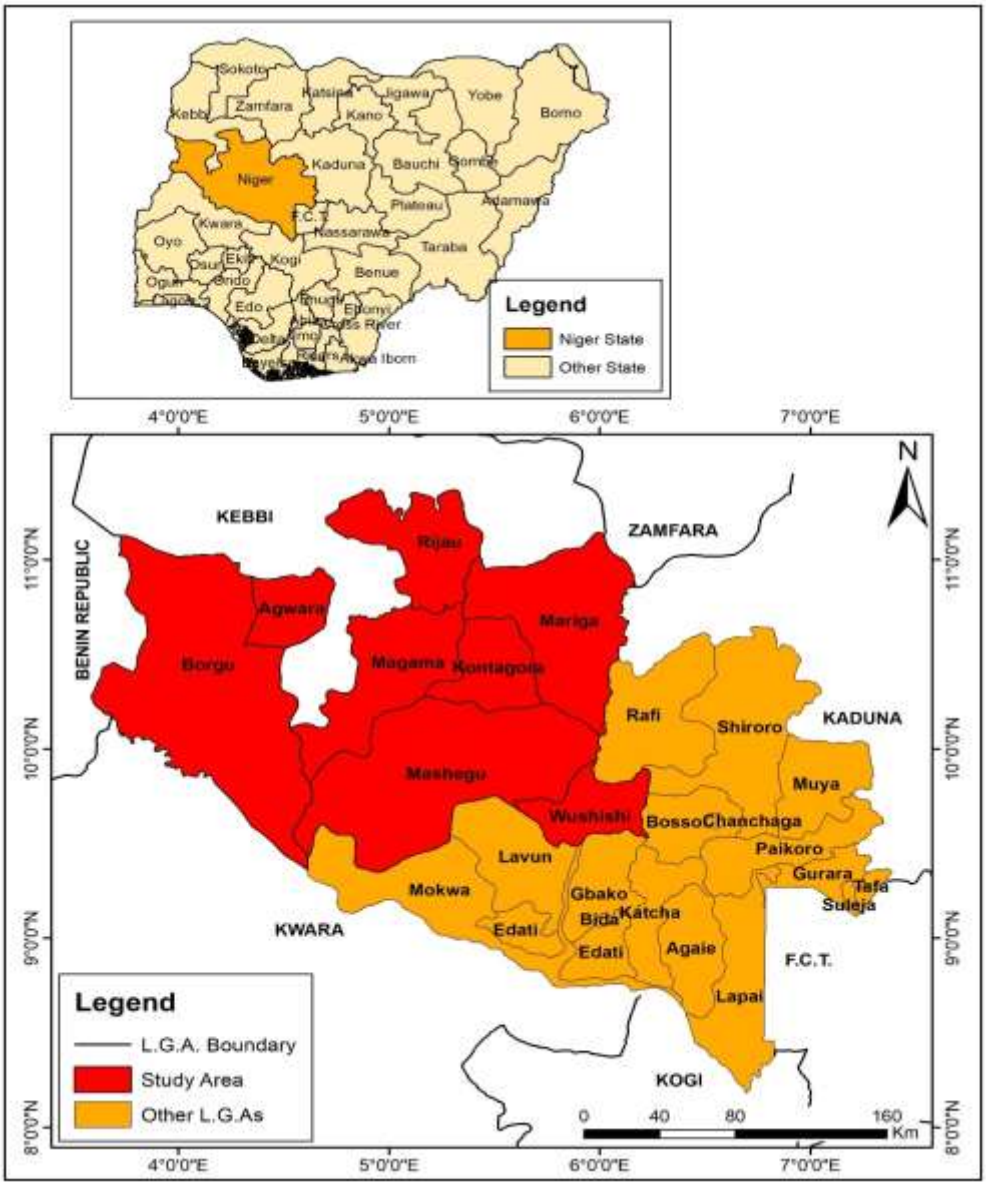


Figure 1: Niger North Senatorial District of Niger State.
Source: Adapted from Administrative Map of Niger State

The rainy season typically spans between 150 and 210 days, increasing in length from north to south (Ikusemoran et al., 2018). This seasonal pattern results in a wet season lasting around seven months and a dry season of about five months, during which rainfall is sparse or absent. Rainfall usually begins in late April and concludes in October, with the peak occurring in July (Idris-Nda et al., 2021). The average maximum temperature is about 36°C, while the minimum averages around 26°C (Nigeria Meteorological Agency [NiMet], 2021). The study area lies within the high plains of North-Central Nigeria, a region characterised by relatively uniform geological and relief features across Niger State (Adamu, 2016). According to the 2006

national census, the population of the LGAs within the study area was 1,236,372 (NPC, 2009). The population is ethnically diverse, predominantly comprising the Nupe people in the southern part of the state, the Gwari in the east, the Busa in the west, and the Kamberi (Kambari), Hausa, Fulani, Kamuku, and Dakarki (Dakarawa) groups in the northern regions, alongside various other non-indigenous ethnic communities (Yakubu & Ibrahim, 2020). Islam and Christianity are the major religions practised across the area (Eze & Bala, 2022). The economy is predominantly rural and is supported by crop farming, livestock production, fishing, trading, artisanal activities and public-sector employment.

2.2 Methods

A cross-sectional descriptive survey research design incorporating quantitative and qualitative methods was adopted. Primary data were obtained through questionnaire, and in-depth interviews (IDIs) with community leaders while secondary information on project type, beneficiary communities and implementation was obtained from Niger State CSDA records. The study population comprised 100,009 beneficiaries in 42 beneficiary communities. Yamane sample size procedure at a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error produced 398 respondents. Convenience sampling was used to administer the questionnaire to respondents at household levels in the beneficiary communities across the eight (8) LGAs. Descriptive statistics such as frequency count, percentages, mean score was used to analyse the data while the qualitative data from the IDI was analysed thematically. The quantitative data analysis was done using Statistical Package for Social Sciences [SPSS] version 21.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Sectoral Distribution of Community and Social Development-Supported Projects

Table 1 showed that the largest share of projects was concentrated in the education sector (27.5%), followed closely by health (26.5%) while 25.5% represented water supply. This emphasis on foundational services demonstrates a deliberate effort to enhance human capital and address essential needs such as education, healthcare, and access to clean water. These sectoral projects priorities align with global and national development objectives, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to reduce inequalities and improve quality of life in underserved areas (National Planning Commission, 2020 cited in Bako, 2025). The transportation sector having 16.7% reflects the importance of physical connectivity in rural areas. Investment in transportation sector such as roads re-surfacing, construction of bridges, and culverts helps communities access markets, schools, and health facilities, thereby increasing the overall effectiveness of interventions across other sectors. Electricity and socio-economic infrastructure were significantly underrepresented, with each accounting for only 2.0%. This suggests a critical gap in support for infrastructure that drives economic growth and daily functionality in rural communities. Reliable electricity is therefore essential for running schools, clinics, and small businesses, while socio-economic facilities such as skill acquisition centres and markets are necessary for income generation and local enterprise development. The results is a reflection of the uneven distribution in the Niger-CSDA sectoral projects in the study area. This imbalance in sectoral distribution of projects calls for a more integrated approach to project initiation, planning and implementation. While addressing immediate social needs is vital,

combining these efforts with investments in electricity and socio-economic infrastructure projects that stimulate economic productivity would create more holistic and sustainable development outcomes. A shift toward broader support for economic infrastructure could significantly strengthen community resilience and reduce rural poverty.

Table 1: Sectoral Distribution of Niger-CSDA Projects

Sector	No. of Projects	Percentage (%)
Education	28	27.5
Transportation	17	16.7
Health	27	26.5
Water	26	25.5
Electricity	2	2.0
Socio-economic	2	2.0
Total	102	100.0

Source: Authors' Analysis (2025) From Niger-CSDA Document

3.2 Impact of Education Sectoral Niger-CSDA Project

As indicated in Table 2, the most significant impact of education sectoral projects was the improvement in the condition of school infrastructure with mean difference of 2.40. This reinforces the importance of physical learning environments in fostering effective education. This was followed by notable improvements in access to functional classrooms and school capacity to admit more pupils with mean difference of 2.20 each. It found that education sectoral projects made more available learning materials (2.00) and improved school safety and learning environment (1.95). This finding suggest that educational infrastructure does not merely increase physical access to education but can also improve the quality of learning and human capital development in rural communities. This partly agrees with Johnson et al. (2026) finding that the availability and maintenance of adequate school infrastructure had a significant positive effect on students' academic achievement and learning outcomes. However, despite physical improvements as observed in this study, changes in academic performance and motivation of pupils were more modest with mean score difference of 1.58 each, suggesting that learning outcomes may require more than just infrastructural investment. This gap underscores the need to complement infrastructural projects with human capital development, including teacher training, pedagogical support, and improved curriculum content (Adesida & Okunlola, 2015; Okunlola & Mafimisebi, 2013). However, improvements in the learner-teacher ratio (1.42) showed the least. This points to a growing demand for qualified educators as enrollment expands. The results affirm that community-driven, infrastructure-led education interventions have the potential to elevate educational standards in underserved areas. However, for such changes to be transformational and sustainable, they must be embedded within a broader ecosystem of educational reform. The participatory approach of the Niger-CSDA has fostered a sense of community ownership, a key factor in sustaining these gains over time (Yusuf et al., 2020; Abiona, 2009).

Table 2: Impact of Education Sectoral Niger-CSDA Projects

Indicator	Mean Score Before	Mean Score After	Mean Score Difference ($\bar{D}$)
Enrollment of school-age children	2.30	4.21	1.91
Access to functional classrooms	2.15	4.35	2.20
Availability of learning materials	2.05	4.05	2.00
Improve condition of school infrastructure	1.88	4.28	2.40
Better academic performance of pupils	2.42	4.00	1.58
Motivation and morale of pupils	2.34	3.92	1.58
The capacity of the school to admit more pupils	2.00	4.20	2.20
Good learner-teacher ratio	2.48	3.90	1.42
School safety and learning environment	2.20	4.15	1.95

Source: Authors' Analysis (2025)

3.3 Impact of Health Sectoral Niger-CSDA Project

As demonstrated in Table 3, the most observable due to health sectoral Niger-CSDA project was reduction in distance to health facilities with a mean difference of 2.51. This suggests that the intervention significantly improved physical accessibility to healthcare services for rural dwellers. This is consistent with Bappi et al. (2017) findings which indicated a remarkable reduction in average distance to the health centres from different sections of the community due to health sectoral project of CSDA in Gombe State. The evaluation revealed an average distance of 1km after intervention as against an average of 4.5km recorded before intervention. Also, there was reduction in the time spent accessing healthcare facilities and services (2.15) and increase in children immunisation coverage (2.07) due to health sectoral Niger-CSDA projects implemented. A significant number of the respondents reported enhanced personal health status (1.86) and improved access to healthcare services (1.95), implying that health facilities became more functional and responsive. These findings collectively underscore the effectiveness of the Niger-CSDA's health interventions in enhancing healthcare delivery, improving health outcomes, and reducing the vulnerability of rural households to health-related shocks. Reduced cost of treatment of diseases with mean difference of 1.81 represented the least impacted of various health sectoral Niger-CSDA projects implemented.

Table 3: Impact of Health Sectoral Niger-CSDA Projects

Indicator	Mean Score Before	Mean Score After	Mean Score Difference ($\bar{D}$)
Reduced distance to health facilities	1.99	4.50	2.51
Improved access to healthcare services	2.18	4.13	1.95
Increase children's immunisation coverage	2.11	4.18	2.07
Improved personal health status	2.16	4.02	1.86
Reduced cost of treatment of diseases	2.27	4.08	1.81
Reduced rate of pre-natal and post-natal death	2.10	4.05	1.95
Better health education on disease prevention	2.11	4.01	1.90
Reduced time spent accessing healthcare facilities and services	2.02	4.17	2.15

Source: Authors' Analysis (2025)

3.4 Impact of Water Supply Sectoral Niger-CSDA Project

Table 4 highlighted the most positive impact of Niger-CSDA water sectoral projects implemented was reduction in the distance to access domestic water with mean difference score of 2.48, followed by availability of water throughout the day (2.14). Other notable positive impact included increased access to clean water for livestock (2.09), greater quantity of water for household use (2.05), and improved sources of domestic water supply (2.05). These results demonstrate that the Niger-CSDA micro-projects effectively addressed key water-related challenges, leading to better health, time management, and resource allocation for vulnerable households. Buttressing this, an excerpt from the in-depth interview reveals:

> we had a difficult time getting water during the dry season, but now we would have had to go to a hand pump recently constructed at the village head house, which is much closer to us. So, we see that it has helped us by reducing the distance we trek to fetch water (Mal. Adamu, Tungan Salama Community Leader, Agwara LGA).

Also, during one of the IDIs, a 48-year-old recounted the inconvenience and hardships that community members experienced when the hand pump had not been constructed, saying it worse the already difficult economic conditions in the community. He was particularly thankful that the community now have a hand pump:

> We become stressed out when this water [hand pump] was not here... If this water had not been provided, probably, we would all have migrated to a nearby community with water .... Imagine, we will walk past two communities before getting to the stream; before you fetch one bucket or one basin, what can you do with it? You cannot use it for anything meaningful! Meaning that it is

> barely enough to meet a family's domestic water needs (Community Leader, Yelwa Usalle Community in Kontagora LGA)

Evidently, the implementation of water-related Niger-CSDA micro projects is said to have improved water quality for domestic consumption in rural communities. This finding disagrees with Nkwede and Samuel (2014) that the efforts of CSDP to provide communities with a safe water supply were not realised because despite the intervention project, people trek long distances and spend much time fetching water. Table 4 revealed that reduction in water-related diseases (1.92) and amount of money spent on water (1.85) were the least perceived impacts of Niger-CSDA water sectoral projects in the study area. This implies that the people perceived that providing water sectoral Niger-CSDA projects has not significantly reduced the incidence of water-borne diseases in rural communities.

Table 4: Impact of Water Supply Sectoral Niger-CSDA Projects

Indicator	Mean Score Before	Mean Score After	Mean Score Difference ($\bar{D}$)
Reduced distance for sourcing domestic water	1.84	4.32	2.48
Adequate clean water for livestock	2.14	4.23	2.09
Increased domestic water quantity	2.06	4.11	2.05
Reduction in water-related diseases	2.14	4.06	1.92
Availability of water all day	2.05	4.19	2.14
Longer time spent sourcing water	2.03	4.02	1.99
Reduced water expenditure	2.19	4.04	1.85
Improved personal hygiene	2.01	4.02	2.01
Better sources of domestic water	2.12	4.17	2.05

Source: Authors' Analysis (2025)

3.5 Impact of Road Transportation Sectoral Niger-CSDA Project

Table 5 depicts that the implementation of road transportation sectoral Niger-CSDA projects, such as the rehabilitation of roads and the construction of bridges has significantly improved physical access both within and outside the community. This was closely followed by increased income earnings from livelihood activities with mean score difference of 2.16 and improved market value of farm produce and other commodities (2.09). This is a reflection of road transportation contribution to the improvement of livelihood activities and access to the market for the rural dwellers. This finding agrees with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (2011) that improving rural roads, transportation facilities, and services increases rural women's mobility and can increase their productivity and income by easing access to markets and reducing post-harvest loss of perishable goods. Also, reduction in the cost of transportation and enhanced ease in the conveyance of farm produce to the market were

among the highly positive significant impacts of the implementation of road and transportation-related Niger-CSDA projects in the study area with mean score difference of 2.07 for each. This supports Bappi et al. (2017) findings that CSDP intervention in the transport sector showed positive impacts as established in the communities of intervention given that an average of 73% and 70% reduction in travel time and cost were recorded after intervention accordingly. Similarly, Fakeye (2012) reported that CSDP has greatly contributed to improving the living standard of rural dwellers with agriculture as their major livelihood activity by increasing their access to infrastructures. As indicated in Table 5, access to different modes of transportation (1.99), and an increase in the number of livelihood activities (1.90) were the least felt impacts of road transportation sectoral Niger-CSDA projects implemented. The findings is consistent with previous empirical evidence road infrastructure improves mobility, market accessibility, agricultural productivity, and household income (Aderamo & Mudasiru, 2014; Fato et al., 2023; Ogundele & Akintola, 2025). Plate I and II shows a road before and after Niger-CSDA transportation sectoral project implemented.

Table 5: Impact of Road Transportation Sectoral Niger-CSDA Projects

Indicator	Mean Score Before	Mean Score After	Mean Score Difference ($\bar{D}$)
Improved physical access within and outside the community	1.98	4.25	2.27
Increased income earned from livelihood activities	1.93	4.09	2.16
Easy access to the market	2.13	4.11	1.98
Reduced cost of transportation	2.08	4.15	2.07
Enhanced ease in conveyance of farm produce to the market	1.98	4.05	2.07
Reduced travel time	2.07	4.11	2.04
Access to different modes of transportation	2.13	4.12	1.99
Reduced farm wastages	2.04	4.05	2.01
Increase in the number of livelihood activities	2.10	4.00	1.90
Increased social contact and relations with community members	2.08	4.09	2.01
Improved market value of farm produce and other commodities	2.07	4.16	2.09

Source: Authors' Analysis (2025)



Plate 1: Community Road before Niger-CSDA Project in Alala, Kontagora LGA
Source: Adopted from Niger-CSDA Document, 2023



Plate II: Community Road after Niger-CSDA Project in Alala, Kontagora LGA
Source: Authors' Analysis (2025)

3.6 Impact of Community Hall and Viewing Centre Niger-CSDA Project

Table 6 illustrated that the most remarkable improvement due to the Niger-CSDA construction of community hall and viewing centre was is the reduction in distance to social meeting venues, which recorded the highest mean score difference of 2.43. This indicates that the provision of a central meeting space significantly enhanced convenience and encouraged community gatherings, particularly for those previously facing challenges accessing such venues. Other indicators with significant positive impact were improved access to information on communal activities (2.29) and enhanced innovation awareness (2.27). This suggests that the community hall and viewing centre served as key platforms for knowledge dissemination and awareness-raising within the rural communities. Collectively, these outcomes demonstrate the importance of social infrastructure in fostering community engagement, enhancing communication, and promoting psychological well-being in rural settings. It was found that improved self-worth among residents (2.03) was identified as the least positively impacted due to Niger-CSDA community hall and viewing centre projects.

Table 6: Impact of Community Hall and Viewing Centre Niger-CSDA Project

Indicator	Mean Score Before	Mean Score After	Mean Score Difference ($\bar{D}$)
Reduced distance to social meeting venues	1.91	4.34	2.43
Improved access to information on various communal activities	1.93	4.22	2.29
Created better group interaction and dynamics	1.98	4.13	2.15
Improved self-worth	2.12	4.15	2.03
Enhanced level of innovation awareness	1.96	4.23	2.27

Source: Authors' Analysis (2025)

3.7 Impact of Skill Acquisition Centre Niger-CSDA Project

Observable was access to information on various income-generating activity skills with a mean score difference of 2.34 as the most notable improvement due to Niger-CSDA skill acquisition centre (Table 7). This was followed by enhanced innovative thinking (2.18) and increased creativity in income-generating activities (2.07), reflecting the centre's role in fostering entrepreneurial development among the rural dwellers. Other indicators such as increased income earning (2.04), knowledge of farm produce processing (2.02), further confirm that the facility provided beneficiaries with practical skills applicable to both agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods. Overall, the intervention contributed meaningfully to individual empowerment and economic diversification within the community. Improvement in vocational knowledge (1.99) represent the least positively impacted.

Table 7: Impact of Construction of Skill Acquisition Centre

Indicator	Mean Score Before	Mean Score After	Mean Score Difference ($\bar{D}$)
Improved access to information on various income-generating activity skills	2.01	4.35	2.34
Enhanced vocational knowledge	2.10	4.09	1.99
Improved level of innovative thinking	1.99	4.17	2.18
Enhanced increase in income earning	2.03	4.07	2.04
Improved knowledge of the processing of farm produce	2.07	4.09	2.02
Increased level of creativity in income-generating activities	2.09	4.16	2.07

Source: Authors' Analysis (2025)

3.8 Impact of Construction and Rehabilitation of Market Niger-CSDA Project

Table 8 revealed that the most remarkable positive impact due to Niger-CSDA construction and rehabilitation project was increase income from livelihood activities with the mean score difference of 2.54. This suggests that enhanced market infrastructure has created better trading opportunities, ultimately boosting earnings for community members. Decrease of farm produce wastages (2.28), better location for storage of goods and farm produce (2.15) and increase access to customers (2.09) were other indicators identified to be significantly impacted positive the rural dwellers. The findings of this study suggest that market infrastructure is an important component of rural economic development because it connects producers with buyers and facilities the movement and exchange of agricultural commodities. This partly with Avanenge (2015) finding that adequate market infrastructure can substantially improve the ability of rural farmers to market agricultural products. Also, observed was that reduced distance in purchasing goods and farm produce (2.01) showed to be the least indicator positively impacted due to Niger-CSDA construction and rehabilitation of market. These improvements not only enhanced economic returns for farmers and traders but also contributed to food security by minimising spoilage. Overall, the results confirm that market construction and rehabilitation initiatives under the Niger-CSDA have significantly strengthened rural commerce, bolstered livelihood sustainability, and mitigated vulnerabilities associated with inadequate market access and infrastructure.

Table 8: Impact of Market Construction and Rehabilitation Niger-CSDA Project

Indicator	Mean Score Before	Mean Score After	Mean Score Difference ($\bar{D}$)
Increased income from livelihood activities	1.86	4.40	2.54
Access to more customers	2.07	4.16	2.09
Reduced distance in purchasing goods and farm produce	2.10	4.11	2.01
Better location for storage of goods and farm produce	2.13	4.28	2.15
Decrease of farm produce wastage	2.09	4.37	2.28

Source: Authors' Analysis (2025)

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, Niger State Community and Social Development Agency had implemented several sectoral projects in the rural communities of Niger North senatorial district. Among which were education, health, transportation, water supply, market, and socio-economic facilities. This implies that through CSDP the rural communities have access to social infrastructure such as school facilities, health facilities, road network, water supply, market facilities and so on. Observed was that the CSDP sectoral projects have positively improved the living standard of the rural communities and impacted on rural development. This positive impact cut across all sectors particularly the increase in access of community members (mainly the poor) to improved social and natural resource infrastructure services with high hopes of the capability of sustenance. The study concludes that the CSDP interventions, taking the community driven development approach, have positively significantly impacted all sectors in the study area. The recommendations that were made include; the communities with the assistance of local government should ensure regular maintenance and provide security for the projects, the CSDA should continue to sensitise the communities on the need to engage their members for sustainability of the projects, and community leaders should create more awareness targeting the continuous participation of the various groups (youths, women, physically challenged) and other stakeholders in community projects initiation, planning, and implementation.

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