

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT 2015

From his early years, the well-being of the needy and vulnerable has always been his heart beat and it continuous to be so. Even when he had very little, he supported many needy persons in diverse ways both in cash and kind. As his businesses grew and the Lord continued to bless him, he expanded his benevolence and continued to support more people in need as well as the church. With time, these benevolent activities placed increasing demand on the time and life of the Chairman of the Tobinco Group of Companies, Mr Samuel Amo Tobbin. It was obvious that this aspect of his life needed to be more structured and formalized to enable him reach out to more people in need. The Tobinco Foundation was set up as a non-governmental, not for profit organisation to fulfill this need.

The first year of the foundation was used to establish the systems and structures required to make it a fully established and highly accountable institution. A five-member Board of Directors (BoD) which is functioning has been established. An Executive Director, a Programmes Officer, an Accountant and a Logistics Assistant have been recruited to manage and implement the Foundation's activities. In addition to the governance and management systems, critical operational systems and structures, such as accounting systems and reporting routines have been put in place to ensure effective and efficient utilization of funds and general accountability. Again, with the help of the Chairman, an office was set up for the operations of the Foundation. The year also saw the initiation of a process to develop a strategic plan for the foundation.

Regarding programming, the Tobinco Foundation teams, with strategic direction from the Board of Directors identified four main thematic areas of work thus health, education, social protection and safety, as well as livelihood and economic empowerment. Programme activities in the first year of operation focused on formalizing what the Chairman had been doing informally to support the poor and the needy. This involved establishing a scholarship scheme, a micro-finance scheme, a health support system, skills training and livelihood support systems.

The first year of the Foundation was mainly funded personally by the chairman of the Tobinco Group of companies. The Foundation also received funding support from three of the subsidiary companies of the Tobinco Group of Companies (Tobinco Pharmaceutical Limited, Abii National and D'or Events). Going forward, the Tobinco Foundation is putting together a fundraising strategy that will enable us expand our sources of funding to meet the increasing demand for support and to ensure the sustainability of the Foundation's programmes