



THE
KUKAH
CENTRE
FAITH • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC POLICY

www.thekukahcentre.org

2021 Annual Report

2021 Annual Report



www.thekukahcentre.org

Content

2021 © The Kukah Centre

All rights reserved.
No part of this publication may
be reproduced, stored in a retrieval
system, or transmitted in any form,
or by any means electronic, mechanic,
photocopying, recording or otherwise
without the prior permission of
the Kukah Centre

PART 1

Acknowledgement

Introduction

Fast Facts

Mission and Vision

About Bishop Kukah

About The Kukah Centre

PART 2

Programme Areas of the Kukah Centre

Our Partnerships in 2021

2021 in Perspective

PART 3

Bishop Kukah's Corner

Looking Ahead

ANNEXES

Design, Layout + Print in Nigeria by
www.virtualinsignia.com.ng
+234 (0)803 9564 442

Appreciation

The Kukah Centre wishes to express her deepest sentiments of gratitude and appreciation to all her staff, consultants, donors, partners, supporters and friends for their contributions, loyalty and commitment to The Kukah Centre ideals. The Centre would like to thank her local partners such as Afrigrants, Albino Foundation, American University of Nigeria (AUN), Caritas Nigeria, the Justice, Development and Peace Commissions, JDPC, in Kaduna and Yola, the Kaduna State Peace Commission (KSPC), Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI), National Democratic Institute (NDI), Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF), Policy and Legislative Advocacy Centre (PLAC), the Bakhita Initiative, the Fountain of Life Church (TFOLC), Women Interfaith Council (WIC), YIAGA Africa and all others for all the collaboration we have enjoyed over the past one year.

The Centre is equally grateful to the European Union, Swiss Embassy, the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES), International Republican Institute (IRI), Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, Ford Foundation, the Knights of Columbus, USA, Caritas

Germany, ProFuturo, MacArthur Foundation, Open Society Initiative West Africa (OSIWA), the Hungarian Government and all stakeholders and community members that collaborated with the Centre.

The Centre remains grateful to all the members of The Kukah Centre Board of Trustees whose commitment has guided and steadied the progress of the Centre. The Centre also wishes to express her profound appreciation to all those she has worked with on the field or at the administrative level for their commitment and cooperation. Finally, all the members of staff at the Centre wish to appreciate the leadership, vision and commitment of the Founder, Most Rev. Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah for his contributions. The successes recorded in 2021 gives us the drive to strive for higher as we begin the journey into the year 2022 and coming years.

Introduction



As the Secretariat of the National Peace Committee (NPC), the Centre supported the Committee in facilitating and implementing several of its interventions such as the organisation of peace conferences, facilitating stakeholder dialogue and engagement sessions, signing the Peace Accord in the Anambra state gubernatorial election and conducting training sessions for women and youths.

The adjective “unprecedented,” has been used to describe the reality of the past two years. A never-before-experienced time brought on by the COVID pandemic led to a new normal. Armed with lessons learnt from the previous year, the Kukah Centre adapted to these new changes and devised novel approaches to its programme implementation. Amid all these challenges and changes, the year 2021 rounded up nicely with huge milestones and successes recorded.

At the program level, the Centre successfully rounded up some of its interventions from the preceding year – the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) project aimed at mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria's vulnerable communities through key stakeholders, the Hungarian Government cash transfer programme to households affected by violent attacks in Southern Kaduna, the Caritas Germany Project for training local communities on building social cohesion and countering violent extremism and the Fountain of Life Church (TFOLC) project to support the economic and social resilience of women through skill acquisition training.

The Centre also obtained some grants to implement several of its activities. These include two-year funding from the Ford Foundation to utilise religion as a tool in combatting violence against women and girls

(VAWG) in Nigeria. By the end of the project, a National Policy Framework for the Deployment of Religion in combatting VAWG will also be developed. Also, the Open Society Initiative West Africa (OSIWA) is supporting the Centre in promoting and strengthening the Nigerian civic space and civic engagement through the creation and deployment of civic platforms that support conversations on national cohesion and common citizenship.

Alongside these new interventions, the Centre is continuing its work supported by the USA Knights of Columbus in conducting research on communities affected by violence and carrying out community-based interventions aimed at empowering the victims and survivors. It is also still in the process of cascading the monitoring and evaluation component of its ProFuturo Digital Classroom project as well as developing a sustainability strategy that is context-based and aimed at local resource mobilisation. As the Secretariat of the National Peace Committee (NPC), the Centre supported the Committee in facilitating and implementing several of its interventions such as the organisation of peace

conferences, facilitating stakeholder dialogue and engagement sessions, signing the Peace Accord in the Anambra state gubernatorial election and conducting training sessions for women and youths.

The Centre also ramped up its specific and homegrown initiatives such as the Campaign against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) led by the Centre's Gender Desk. It also carried out several lecture series. Some of these included a presentation at the Lagos State University on the Nigerian Counter-terrorism Programme. A second was delivered to the University of Islamabad in Pakistan on Africa in the Contemporary Global Order. The Centre also continued its lecture series on the Unveiling Africa Project.



MISSION

Believing that the pursuit of the Common Good of all citizens should be the basis for the existence of government, and that citizen participation in their own affairs should be at the heart of governance, we shall, through this Centre, aspire to set up a mediating institution for achieving this.

We shall seek to conceptualize, identify, design, clarify and articulate proactive mechanisms that will increase policy proficiency, effectiveness and efficiency, and public participation and input for the attainment of the Common Good and the pursuit of the ideals of good governance.

VISION

To aspire towards the attainment of a more humane, democratic and free society where citizens can live in real and true freedom, unencumbered by any structures of exclusion on the basis of ethnic, religious, social status, economic or gender differences.

Fast Facts



Our clay-footed fight against corruption has not moved the needle of transparency forward. Of course, being the poverty capital of the world comes with its rewards such as banditry, violence, death, sorrow, blood, poverty, misery, and tears.

Our cup of sorrow is permanently full; hence the exponential rise in the frustration curve across the country.

Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah

One of Nigeria's foremost public intellectuals, **Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah** has delivered numerous lectures and written over seven books and scores of articles on various aspects of governance, faith, and public policy in Nigeria. He is well-regarded across the country, and has been called "the conscience of the nation" and "Nigeria's spiritual guide," among other praise.

Born in Kaduna State in 1952, Bishop Kukah's background and experience have motivated his work to promote stronger Nigerian national unity through interfaith dialogue and promotion of economic and social justice for all citizens. Bishop Kukah has deep experience in mediation and conflict resolution and has been a long-standing champion of peace and nation-building in Nigeria. These are the values that lie at the core of the work of the Kukah Centre.

Throughout 2020, Bishop Kukah has been engaged in public speaking, policy debates and engagements as well as travels to engage with international audience on the social and political condition of Nigeria.

The Kukah Centre

The Centre was established by Bishop Kukah to enhance and encourage greater citizen engagement in Nigeria, The Kukah Centre is a non-profit organization that promotes an active and engaged citizenry by providing support for inclusive dialogue and advocacy initiatives.

The Centre treats political leadership as a collaborative exercise and aims to promote governance structures which incorporate multiple levels of engagement, including individuals, households, small businesses, the private sector, NGOs and government. Interfaith dialogue is at the core of the Centre's work and involves actively promoting conversations among Nigeria's faith communities, as well as between leaders in faith and public policy.

The centre has been transformed into a National-Regional Think Tank that formulates policies on issues of peace, social cohesion, development, political participation, diversity, leadership training and knowledge promotion.

Programmes Areas of the Kukah Centre

Throughout the year under review, the Centre treats political leadership as a collaborative exercise and aims to promote governance structures that incorporate multiple levels of engagement, including individuals, households, small businesses, the private sector, NGOs and government. Activities of the Centre fall into four major categories:



GOOD GOVERNANCE

Programmes seek to build an informed and active electorate that recognizes the value of a system organized to ensure equality of opportunity and social justice.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Programmes aims to mentor the next generation of Nigerian leaders and create accountability in current leaders from all works of Nigerian life to drive good economic and social policies and instil trust in communities



MEMORY PRESERVATION, ADVOCACY & KNOWLEDGE PROMOTION

Programme strives to raise awareness on critical issues of both historical and contemporary national importance with a view to promote active citizen engagement.



INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Interfaith Dialogue remains core at the Centre's work and involves actively promoting conversation among Nigeria's faith communities as well as between leaders in faith and public policy.

The Centre has succeeded in positioning itself as a global Research and Policy Think Tank. It intends to increase visibility in the areas of research, policy recommendation and engagement.

Our Partnerships in 2021

To implement these activities and to achieve the objectives of its mission throughout 2021, The Kukah Centre adopted a collaborative approach. The approach is designed to engage multiple stakeholders and consultants in project implementation. It also allows the Centre to maintain a lean and flexible core staff. The types of partners engaged include public engagement partners, advocacy partners, faith-based partners, programmatic partners, and funding partners. Some of the partners include:

- ▶ Afrigrants
- ▶ Albino Foundation
- ▶ American University of Nigeria (AUN)
- ▶ Caritas Germany
- ▶ Caritas Nigeria
- ▶ European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES)
- ▶ European Union (EU)
- ▶ European Union Support for Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Group
- ▶ ProFuturo
- ▶ Swiss Embassy
- ▶ Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- ▶ Ford Foundation
- ▶ Hungary Helps (Hungarian Government)
- ▶ Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)
- ▶ Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Management, Taraba State University
- ▶ International Republican Institute (IRI)
- ▶ Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC), Kaduna
- ▶ The Bakhita Initiative
- ▶ The Fountain of Life Church (TFOLC)
- ▶ Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC), Yola
- ▶ Kaduna State Peace Commission (KSPC)
- ▶ Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI)
- ▶ Knights of Columbus, USA
- ▶ National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- ▶ Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF)
- ▶ Open Society West Africa (OSIWA)
- ▶ Policy and Legislative Advocacy Centre (PLAC)
- ▶ Women Interfaith Council (WIC)
- ▶ YIAGA Africa

2021 Programme Partners and Activities



A thick and suffocating cloud of desperation, despondency, desolation, gloom, and misery hangs in the hot air. We have no message and have no idea how long this will last.

Our people seek solace and protection, but frustration and darkness threaten to drown them.

Is their government on AWOL?

Caritas Germany: In September 2021, The Kukah Centre successfully completed the implementation of the 2nd Phase of the Leaders for Peace in Nigeria project in Yola, Adamawa State. The project was an intervention tailored towards building social cohesion in communities divided by violent conflict and also included skills acquisition training for community members.

Ford Foundation: The Centre supported by the Ford Foundation is currently in the beginning stages of a two-year project aimed at developing a National Policy Framework for the Deployment of Religion in combatting violence against women and girls (VAWG). The project officially began in October 2021.

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO): The intervention supported by the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) officially ended in March 2021 with a public presentation of the project findings. The project aimed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable communities in Nigeria through the intervention of key stakeholders.

Hungarian Government: From Jan-Apr 2021, The Kukah Centre in partnership with the Hungarian Government, Caritas Nigeria and the Kaduna state Justice, Peace and Development Commission (JDPC) implemented the Project titled, “Emergency Food Aid to Vulnerable Households in Southern Kaduna.” This intervention provided resilience for social and economic recovery to vulnerable households in Southern Kaduna via the facilitation of a cash transfer programme (CTF) to two hundred and eighty-eight (288) households most affected by the incessant violent attacks.

Knights of Columbus: Since October 2020 and with the support of the USA Knights of Columbus, The Kukah Centre has been conducting research on communities affected by violence and carrying out community-based interventions aimed at empowering the victims and survivors.

National Peace Committee (NPC): The Kukah Centre, Secretariat of the National Peace Committee, facilitated all the activities of the Committee in 2021. Some of the most significant activities included the organisation of peace conferences, facilitating stakeholder dialogue and engagement sessions aimed at promoting electoral and constitutional reform in Nigeria, supporting peaceful governorship elections in Anambra state and conducting training sessions for women and youths on political participation and the mitigation of political violence and thuggery.

Open Society Initiative West Africa (OSIWA): This project, supported by the Open Society Initiative West Africa, kickstarted in May 2021 and adopted a joint partnership in its implementation. The project aims to promote and strengthen the Nigerian civic space and civic engagement by creating and deploying civic platforms that will support discourses and conversations on national cohesion and common citizenship. This project is co-

implemented by The Kukah Centre, Global Rights, Centre for Information Technology and Development, Yar'Adua Foundation and the Office of the Vice President (OVP).

ProFuturo: This is also an ongoing project in partnership with the Catholic Bishops Conference, the Northern Governors Forum and ProFuturo, a Spanish NGO. The project is a program of education that provides access to a digital form of teaching and educating children and young people. It is intended to keep children off the streets and refocus their minds on the acquisition of skills through technology. The 2021 project intervention was about monitoring and evaluating the project as it is being implemented. It is also centred on developing a sustainability strategy that is context-based aimed at local resource mobilisation.

The Fountain of Life Church Project: The Kukah Centre, with the support of The Fountain of Life Church (TFOLC), Lagos, implemented a community-based form of engagement that supports building the economic and social resilience of women by providing training to acquire basic handy skills to start up small businesses. This intervention was completed in May 2021.

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office Project – Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Nigeria's Most Vulnerable Communities Through Key Stakeholders

From August 2020 – March 2021, The Kukah Centre (TKC), with the support of the Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF) program in the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) implemented a rapid response project aimed at addressing pertinent issues occurring within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the intervention was to sensitise at-risk communities about COVID-19 and mitigate the impact on security and stability through key stakeholders. To achieve this goal, research and data collection was conducted documenting evidence of COVID-19, its impact on women, children and security. The data collected was then utilised for targeted sensitisation on COVID-19 via the use of new and old media as well as for advocacy at the various levels of government to contribute towards maintaining peace and security.

The project titled, **“Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Nigeria's Most Vulnerable Communities Through Key Stakeholders”**, was implemented in 72 local government areas (LGAs) across six northern

states (Adamawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Plateau, and Sokoto). In each of these states, twelve (12) local government areas (LGAs) were identified, with 2 local government field officers (LGFOs) in each of these LGAs conducting community engagement and sensitisation processes. The community engagement processes in each state were supervised by 1 state coordinator and 1 gender coordinator to manage the intervention at the state level. Consequently, the entire project implementation team consisted of one hundred and sixty-two (162) personnel, comprising 6 project staff, 12 state and gender coordinators and 144 LGFOs across the six states.

During the project implementation, the Kukah Centre leveraged the influence of the National Peace Committee and a network of religious and community stakeholders to drive advocacy. Media sensitisation was also carried out, to raise general awareness about the pandemic and general preventative measures, as well as issues affected by the pandemic such as gender and security. The sensitisation process involved the use of both old and new media – Television, Radio and Social media platforms - in the dissemination of awareness content on COVID-19 to local communities. The Centre also designed an online and offline communication framework that produced and countered the wrong narratives emerging from religious and community leaders and provided an expert understanding of what communities should do to limit the spread of the disease. To enhance the effectiveness of the sensitisation process, the local context of the communities

(and regions), in terms of perceptions, attitudes and behaviours was considered. Consequently, the media contents created were translated into 9 local languages apart from the English language such as Hausa, Pidgin, Fulfulde, Chamba, Bachama, Ham, Tyap, Sakwatanci, and Zabarma.

At the end of the project implementation, on 16th March 2021, the Centre had a public presentation of the project findings in a bid to promote policy engagements and discussions aimed at addressing some of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the project cycle:

118,202 persons across over **2,000 local communities** were polled via the online research and data collection component.

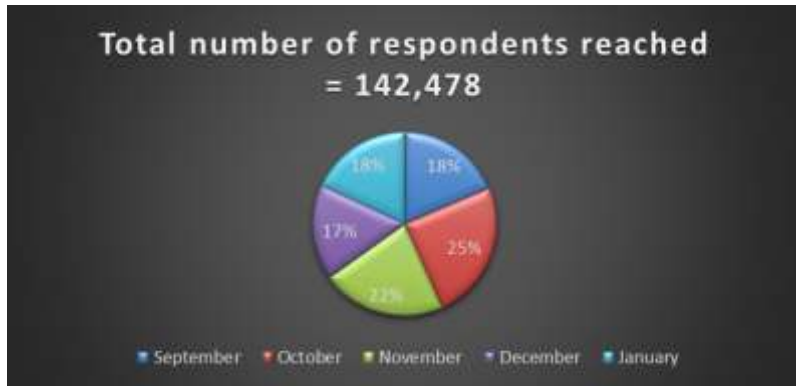
142,478 persons were reached via physical engagement with the **LGFOs**.

Over **1.8 million people** were reached via the social media sensitisation and

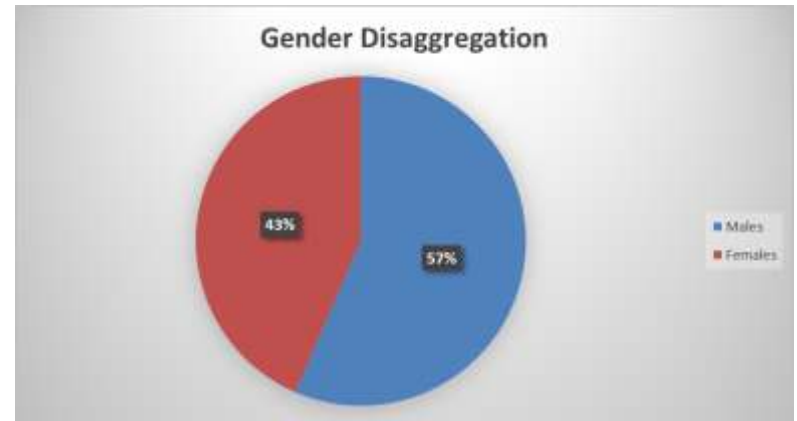
5 million viewers/listeners over radio and TV jingles (based on estimated communication outfit bandwidth coverage).

Some of the Key Findings include:

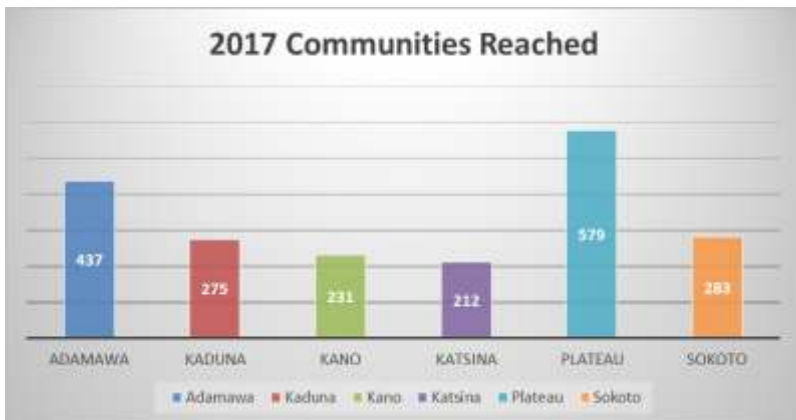
Total Number of Respondents reached



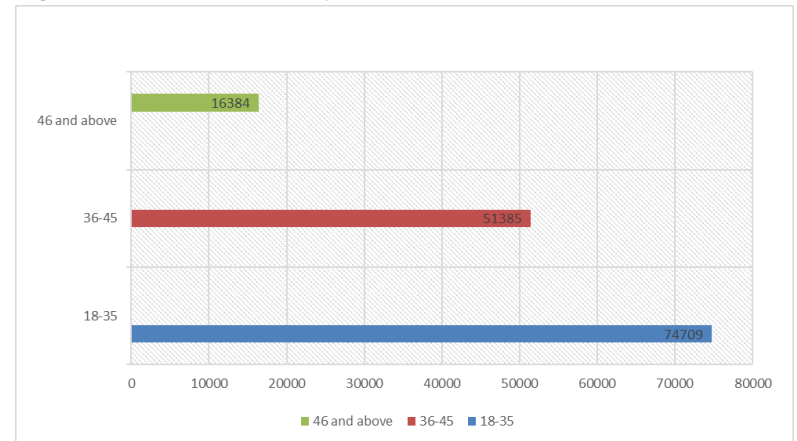
Demography



Number of Communities Reached

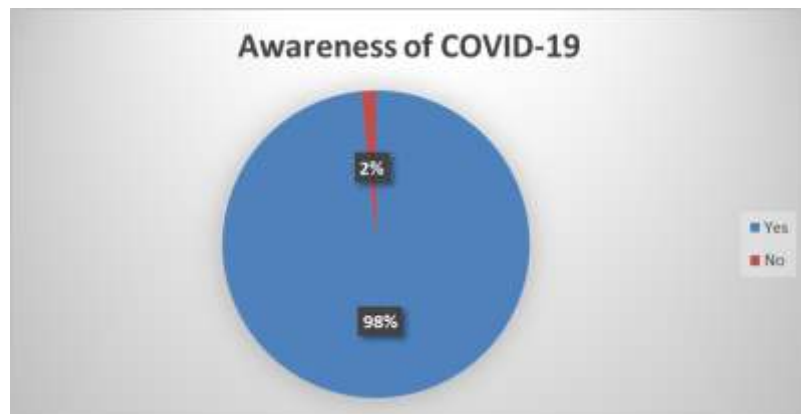


Age Distribution of Respondents

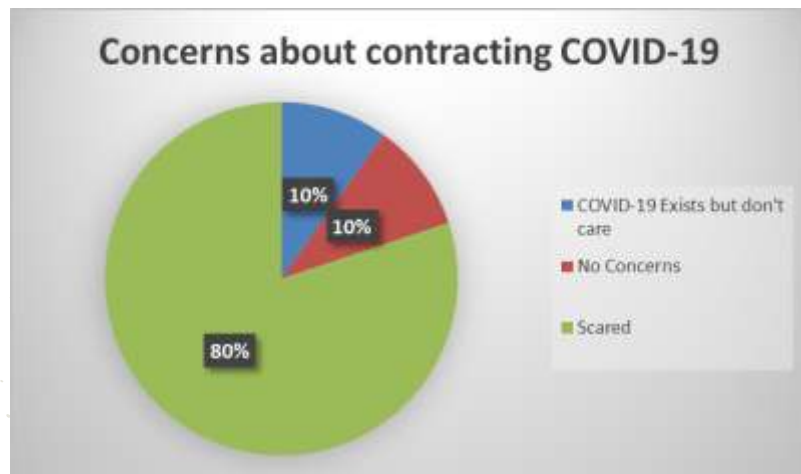


Findings from Survey

Awareness On COVID-19 Outbreak

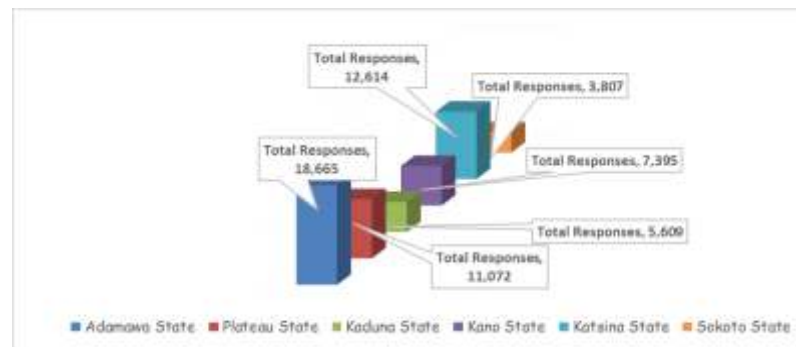


Concerns about Contracting Covid-19



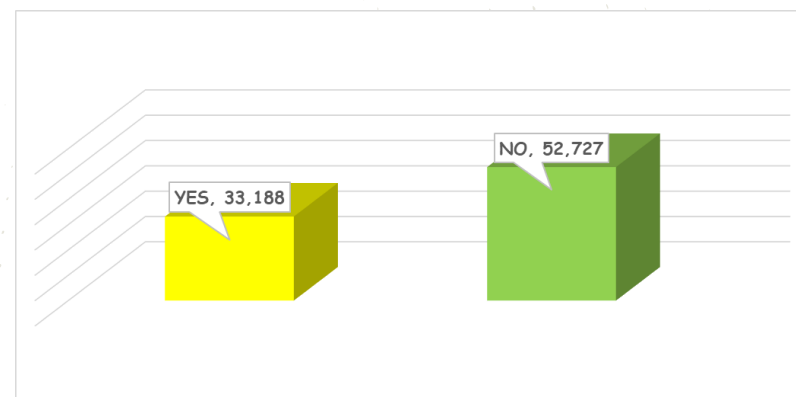
Issues of Gender:

Impact on Women (and Children) Several persons that had access to healthcare services since and during the lockdown in six (6) States from August 2020 to January 2021.



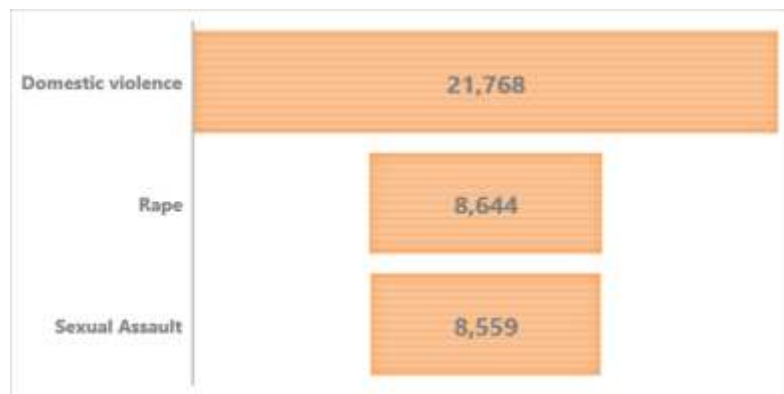
Issues of Gender:

Incidence of gender-based violence since and during the lockdown period in the local communities engaged



Issues of Gender:

Prevalent Forms of GBV Identified



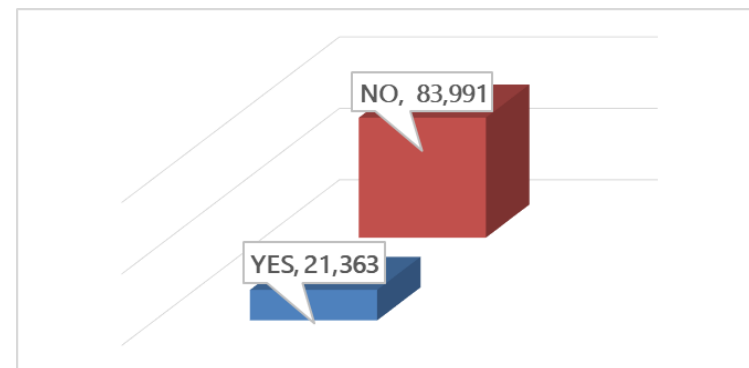
Women as Agents of Change

Number of women and girls involved in creating awareness and sensitising their communities on COVID-19



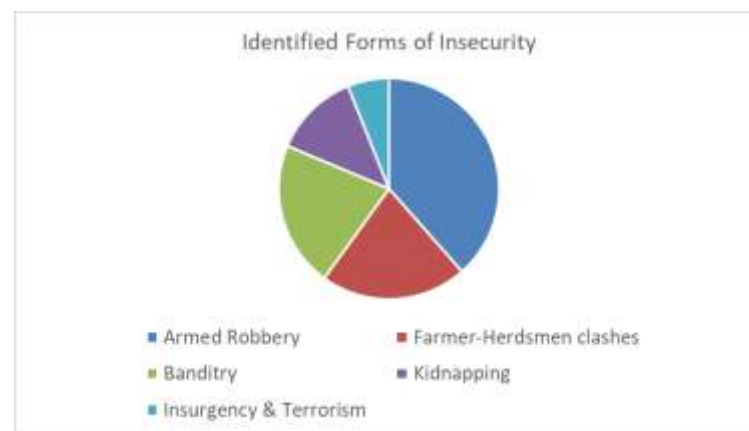
Women as Agents of Change

Women engagement in peace-building processes



Threats to Security

Identified Forms of Insecurity (The most prevalent forms of insecurity identified across the 72LGAs were)



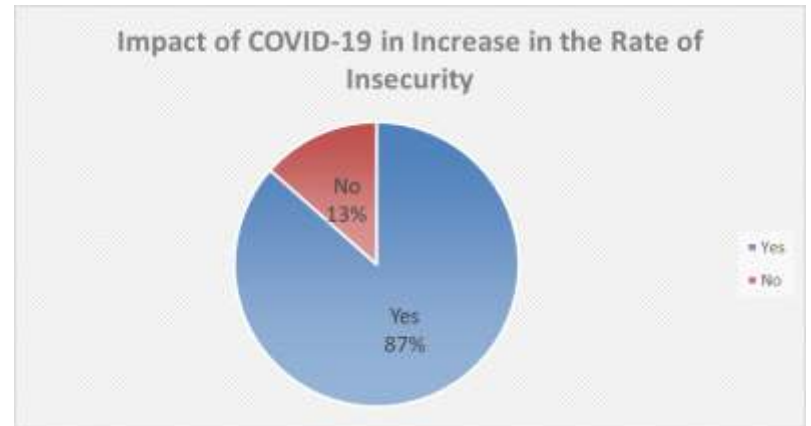
Other forms of Insecurity

#EndSARS protests and Looting of COVID-19 Palliatives
Farmer-Herdsmen Clashes

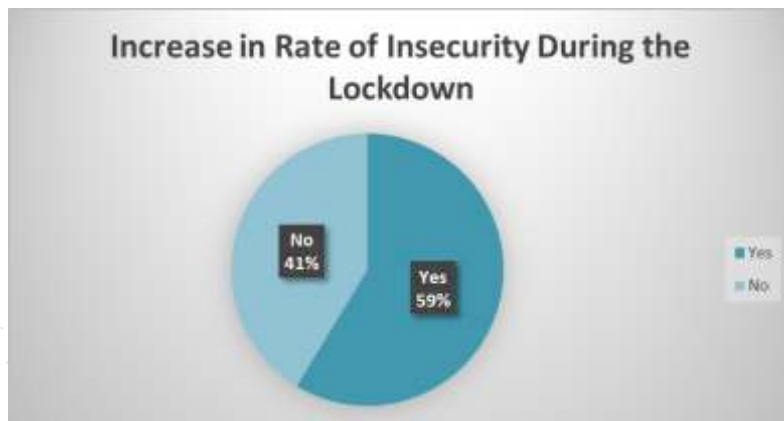
Identified Forms of Abuses on Human Rights (HR)



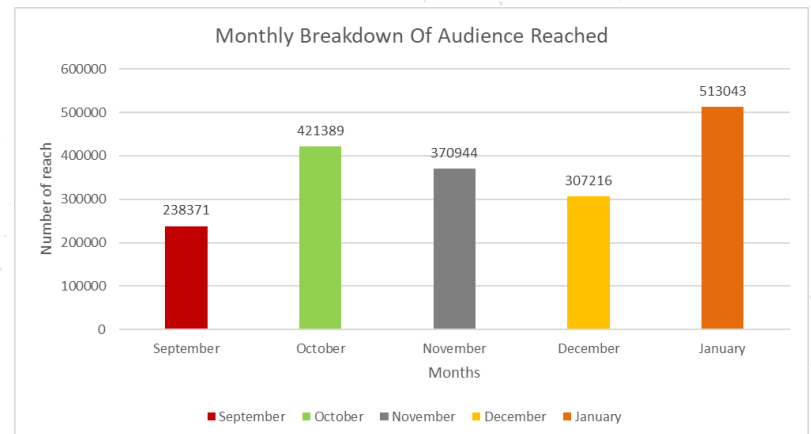
Impact of COVID-19 on Security

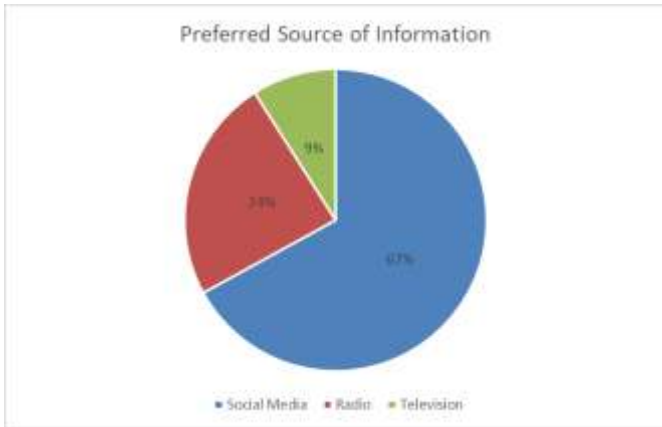


Impact of COVID-19 on Security



Media Engagement and Sensitisation





▼ Public Presentation of the project findings – 16th March 2021. ►





Open Society Initiative West Africa (OSIWA) Project – Civic Space Engagement in Nigeria

Conducive offline and online spaces for civic engagement are vital to nation-building and civil society engagements. In Nigeria, the government clampdown of these spaces is increasingly restricting civic freedoms, particularly the rights to freedom of expression and association, conscience, and thought. Civic spaces have as a result of all the government restrictive legislation, come under serious attack and scrutiny by government authorities, limiting citizens and civil society organisations (CSOs) from carrying out their advocacy for human rights and charitable operations. Despite this, CSOs and human rights activists are pushing back by refusing to be stifled. To promote the civic space and strengthen civic participation, The Kukah Centre is implementing the Civic Space Engagement in Nigeria project in partnership with the Yar'Adua Foundation, Global Rights, Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) and the Office of The Vice President. This initiative is proudly supported by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA).

The Civic Space Engagement project aspires to create a free, safe and inclusive civic space that provides opportunities for Nigerians to discuss and interrogate issues of national importance; issues that will promote national cohesion, social integration and common citizenship. It also aims to create a future generation of Nigerians whose loyalties transcend tribe, religion and sectional claims. So far, the project has been supporting Nigerians to develop a perspective based on human dignity, merit and respect, and creating a culture where common citizenship forms the basis for justice and peace.



Project Activities and Impact

To introduce the project and build momentum for the then proposed discourses to be held, engagement posters were shared on the various social media handles of TKC and its co-implimenting partners. Several TV and Radio houses were also mobilized to promote awareness of the project and its inaugural conference which was held on 28th July 2021. These included: Sunrise Daily on Channels TV, AIT for TV stations, Wazobia FM, Radio Nigeria and Nigeria Info 95.1 FM for Radio stations.

Estimates of Audience Reach, Viewership and Engagement before the Inaugural Conference

Media Platform	Audience Reach	Engagements
Sunrise Daily on Channels TV	> 1.72 million	5,900 engagements
African Independent Television (AIT)	> 382,000	289 engagements
TKC Facebook Page	> 1000	

Apart from the awareness carried out, some CSOs, Activists, Students, Youths and Nigerians on the streets were also engaged to discuss and get their opinions of the shrinking civic space and the way forward for national cohesion in Nigeria (these interviews were compiled into a video documentary).

At the inaugural conference titled, 'Civic Space: The Pathway to Social Cohesion and Integration in Nigeria', the nature, extent and reasons for the shrinking of the civic space in Nigeria were discussed and the sense of urgency for national cohesion and the significance of common citizenship to promoting peace, justice and national development was strongly advocated for. Besides from the guests/participants, 85 civic activists were engaged, with 13 media outlets participating in the conversation. These

outlets aired and/or published snippets of the dialogue session on their various platforms. They include 7 print media (News Net Global, The Punch, ThisDay, The Cable, The Sun, Premium Times and Daily Trust newspapers), 3 TV houses (TVC, AIT and Channels TV) and 3 Radio stations (Radio Nigeria, Wazobia Fm and Nigeria Info 95.1).

Estimates of Audience Reach, Viewership and Engagement after the Inaugural Conference

Media Platform	Audience Reach	Engagements
Sunrise Daily on Channels TV	> 1.72 million	5,900 engagements
African Independent Television (AIT)	> 382,000	289; 3,071 (YouTube)
TVC	> 485,000	168
TKC Facebook Page	>23,643	1,531

Following the inaugural conference, six (6) other discourses, both online and physical (hybrid), have been held, to keep the momentum alive and keep the conversation going.

List of Conversations So Far...

Topic	Type of Conversation	Date Held	Accessible via...
Civic Space: The Pathway to Social Cohesion and Integration in Nigeria	Inaugural Conference (Hybrid event)	28th July 2021	TKC Social Media platforms
Managing Diversity for National Integration in Nigeria	Live Discussion on ' <i>Issues of the Moment</i> ' on Radio Nigeria	31st August 2021	Radio Nigeria Archives
	Webinar	23rd Sept. 2021	TKC Social Media platforms
The Media and the Defence of the Civic Space	Hybrid event	29th Sept. 2021	
Old Guards or New Actors: Whither Nigeria at 61	Webinar	19th Oct. 2021	
Women and the Civic Space In Nigeria: The Role of Women in Political and Economic Participation towards Nation Building	Webinar	12th Nov. 2021	
The Role of Nigerian Youths in Nation Building	Hybrid event	24th Nov. 2021	

What Has Worked Well: Lessons Learned

Gender Mainstreaming as a crosscutting issue: For clarity and inclusivity, sex-disaggregated information on the project activities were carried out. The conversations recorded good participation of men, women, youths and persons with disabilities (PWDs). Also, particular attention was paid to the role of women and girls. Subsequently, in November 2021, a virtual conversation titled **'Women and the Civic Space In Nigeria: The Role of Women in Political and Economic participation towards Nation Building'**, was held.



The multilevel stakeholder nature of the conversations: To have diverse opinions during the conversations, individuals were engaged from across the various sectors of society - the government and public service, interfaith groups and CSOs, media, youths, private citizens and so on. The different views went a long way in contributing to an in-depth discourse.

Media advocacy and audience reach across Nigeria: By way of awareness on the need to promote the civic space and its importance towards nation-building, The Kukah Centre and partners utilized various social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and Instagram, as well as traditional media outlets to re-engineer the urgency and the need to promote and strengthen the civic space.

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) also do not feel underrepresented or marginalised as the project ensures all dialogue sessions and conversations are inclusive.

After each conversation, policy recommendations are articulated into reports and communiquees.

Going Forward

At the end of the project, they will be assembled into a coherent document containing strategic policy recommendations for the government as well as development partners. A public presentation will also be held in the coming year to amplify the progress made.



Ford Foundation Project – To Support the Development of an Ethical Framework and Religious Intervention Towards Combating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Nigeria

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is violence directed against women and men based on their status in a particular society or situation. It includes any act by male or female-dominated social institutions and structures that inflict physical or psychological harm on men, women, or children because of their gender. It is violence intended to establish or reinforce gender hierarchies and perpetuate gender inequalities including harmful traditional practices targeting women such as honour killings, acid throwing, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. With the outbreak of the pandemic, women and girls have become especially defenceless against physical abuse and exploitation, rape and human trafficking.

Over the years, responses to gender-based violence have always been examined from cultural, traditional, and socio-economic perspectives.

The religious strategy in confronting gender-based violence is most times undermined or neglected. Importantly, the role religion has played in certain aspects to facilitate gender-based violence has not been examined. Furthermore, how religion can be deployed in mitigating gender-based violence is also neglected.

Consequently, The Kukah Centre in partnership with The Bakhita Initiative and supported by Ford Foundation is implementing this project aimed at developing an ethnical framework that deploys religion as an instrument for combatting GBV. The two-year project (from October 2021-September 2023) involves developing an inclusive national religious policy framework for preventing and combatting gender-based violence in Nigeria. To achieve this objective, religious scholars, faith-based organisations, key stakeholders and women groups will be engaged from the six (6) geopolitical zones to help develop strategies that will translate into a National Policy Framework for Preventing and Combatting Gender-Based Violence. This engagement will, among other issues, include identifying extremist ideologies in religion that justify the exploitation of women by extremist groups and how to provide counter and alternative narratives that support the integral human development of women and girls.

This project has therefore been designed to highlight and include the role of religious leadership in this cause in collaboration with women leaders. These religious leaders

will be drawn from the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN State Chapters) and Jamatu Nasril Islam (JNI State Chapters). The challenges that will be highlighted and discussed fully would include, but are not limited to:

- a) Countering extremist ideologies that justify violence against women.
- b) Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Sexual/Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).
- c) Girl Child Education.
- d) Early and Forced Marriage for girls.
- e) Negative social norms that exacerbate VAWG and promotes a culture of silence.
- f) Psychological support for victims of gender-based violence.
- g) Other discriminatory and traditional practices like FGM, widowhood rites, etc.

The voices of religious scholars and leaders will be deployed to counter ideological narratives that justify violence against women and girls. The approach will also work with women groups to sensitize communities and key stakeholders on the increasing levels of violence against women post-COVID 19 and how to mitigate it using religious instruments.

The project will also invite and engage two (2) key stakeholders from each state in each region. This means that a total of 72 stakeholders, that are representative of each geopolitical zone, will be engaged across the country. These stakeholders are expected to work closely with the project consultants who are experts in the field of law, GBV and religion to develop the ethical framework.

By the end of the project, three conferences will be held: two regional conferences (one in the north and one in the south) and a national conference to present the ethical framework developed. However, the project is currently at the level of strategic meetings and capacity development for the project staff and consultants.

TKC Campaign on Gender Issues:

Considering the rising cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), the Centre, throughout 2021, continued its massive and aggressive campaign to create awareness and sensitise the general public on gender issues. One of the first tasks of the Gender Desk in 2021 was to educate the populace on the concept of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), the various forms of GBV, and the perpetrators. Consequently, in February 2021, staff of The Kukah Centre led by the Gender Desk Officer, created a short video to kickstart the 2021 Campaign against GBV.

The Desk also ensured gender mainstreaming across all the projects and activities implemented by the Centre throughout the year, and partnered with several ongoing projects such as the Civic Space Engagement project aimed at strengthening civic participation in Nigeria. This collaboration led to the organisation of the online conversation titled, 'Women and the Civic Space: The Role of Women in Political and Economic Participation Towards Nation Building.' This webinar held on Friday 12th November 2021.

From 16th November – 10th December 2021, the Centre also participated in the 16 Days Of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), an annual international campaign for the elimination of violence against women. The theme for the year 2021 was, 'Orange the World: End



Violence Against Women And Girls Now!' Interestingly, 2021 marked the 30th anniversary of the campaign and The Kukah Centre lent its voice to other civil society groups and organisations to advocate for:

- ▶ **The elimination of violence against women as provided under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5.2 and 5.3.**
- ▶ **Inclusive, clear long-term strategies, platforms, and resources to end gender-based violence against women and girls.**
- ▶ **Free, equal, and compulsory basic education and adult literacy education for women and girls.**
- ▶ **The provision of a legal framework that deters offenders and protects women and girls from violence but provides opportunities for their political and economical participation in a nation's growth.**
- ▶ **A conducive atmosphere even at workplaces for young girls and women to express and interrogate issues that affect them.**

National Peace Committee (NPC)

Over the past year, the NPC Secretariat developed the NPC Road Map for the future. The draft of this roadmap was reviewed and transformed into a 15-Month proposal that formed the central content of the no-cost extension application that was later approved by both the EU and the Swiss Embassy for implementation. Following the approval of the application for a no-cost extension by the European Union and the Swiss Embassy in October 2020 to support the continuous activities of the National Peace Committee (NPC), a series of engagements were carried out by the NPC in line with its mandate to intervene in both electoral and non-electoral matters to reinforce peace and stability in Nigeria.



Strengthening the NPC and its Secretariat

All the activities proposed in the NPC's roadmap for the future have been reviewed and accepted. To complete the NPC process of registration, membership review and support the ongoing mobilisation for state-based peace architectures, the Committee through its Secretariat, The Kukah Centre, drafted a new Corporate Governance and Policy Framework to support the running of the Committee. This framework includes policies on Code of Conduct, Terms of Reference, financial management systems and other policies related to the conduct of both members of the NPC and its secretariat staff. Also, the registration process is underway, with the review of membership completed but not yet made public. The training of youths and women, including the mobilization for state-based peace architectures is also in motion.

Training for women and youths in Jos, Plateau state ▶



2021 Electoral Interventions

The NPC intervened in the governorship elections in Anambra state to support free, fair and credible elections. This was done through a partnership with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), a conference on peaceful elections, and the signing of the Peace Accord. Strategic meetings were held with key stakeholders, including media engagement and a conference on peaceful elections that culminated in the signing of the Peace Accord. There was also fair compliance with the principles agreed upon in the Accord.

Additionally, the NPC, through its Secretariat, was part of a consortium of INEC, the International Republican Institute (IRI) and Political Parties set up to outline initial challenges in the electoral reform process and identify strategies to be deployed by the NPC in support of CSOs that are involved in the electoral reform process. The meeting was held in December 2020 and had in attendance members of INEC, Political parties and CSOs. To follow up on the process, in June 2021, the NPC organised a three-day electoral reform and constitution review with key stakeholders to support the electoral reform process in June 2021. The review process outlined strategies that will be used by the members of the NPC in support of the electoral reform and constitution review process.



▲ The signing of the Peace Accord ahead of the Anambra state gubernatorial election

2021 Non-Electoral Interventions

The onset of the interventions of the NPC in non-electoral issues was tied to the increasing levels of violent attacks in the country which threatened the security and stability of Nigeria. In this regard, the Chairman of the NPC, with logistics support provided by the NPC Secretariat, held a series of consultations with key officials of the federal government to prepare for a multilayer stakeholder engagement. The meeting was intended to express the concerns of the NPC members and obtain the buy-in of the federal government for the NPC to convene a stakeholder engagement. The purpose was to obtain an elite consensus and de-escalate the tension. This occurred on the back of the growing agitation for secession in the southeast as well as the differences in stakeholder opinions regarding the strategy to be adopted to deal with increasing levels of insecurity in the land. The NPC Chairman obtained the buy-in of the federal government for stakeholder engagement. The meeting was held at two levels:

- The Peace Committee convened a meeting of senior government officials—President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, National Security Adviser, Minister of Defense, Service Chiefs, Chairmen of



- ▲ 1. Three-day stakeholder engagement on Electoral Reform and Constitution Review
- 2. Stakeholder engagement with the American University Nigeria (AUN)/ Adamawa Peace Initiative

the Nigerian and Northern Governors Forum, Chairman of Inter-party Advisory Council, Chairmen of APC and PDP. The meeting centred on designing strategies of support to mitigate the growing levels of insecurity and agitations for regional secession. It also focused on de-escalating the tension and anxiety in the country and ensuring that there is an elite consensus on a common approach on how to deal with the issues of insecurity in Nigeria. By the end of the meeting, an elite consensus was agreed upon which outlined key priority areas for short- and medium-term approaches to the problem of insecurity. A report of this consensus was presented to the President and all those who attended the security meeting. Some of the recommendations, which included the issue of deregulation of the oil sector so that the extra funds can be used in creating jobs and fighting insecurity led to the recent passage of the Petroleum Bill by President Buhari.

- The second meeting was held with Civil Society Organisations, Traditional Rulers and Non-governmental Organisations. This was intended to understand the standpoint of civil societies and traditional rulers, who are in touch with the people at the grassroots daily, and what should be done. During this meeting, a bottom-up approach was adopted, calling for clarity on the government's strategic communication, greater inclusive community engagement and partnership of the NPC at the local level.

During these engagements, the NPC strengthened its partnerships with INEC, the NGF and groups such as YIAGA Africa, the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES), Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI) and others. These partnerships were necessary to make the interventions of the NPC more impactful and effective.

The NPC also worked with the Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF) to support the governors' Peace and Inclusive Security Initiative (PISI) in Nigeria. This Initiative aspires to facilitate sub-national peace architectures that will help mitigate violence and conflicts in Nigeria. Since the initiative relates very strongly with the mandate of the Peace Committee, the NPC established a collaborative partnership to work together with the NGF to support peace and stability as part of its intervention in non-electoral matters. The partnership also supports the NPC efforts in the ongoing mobilisation for state-based peace architecture in Nigeria.

Additionally, the NPC was part of the public presentation of the report on Electoral Violence and Peace Interventions published by Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI). The event highlighted the growing acceptance of the role of the NPC nationally and reinforced the need to institutionalise the group.

The NPC is also currently conducting training for women and youths on political participation and the mitigation of political violence and thuggery respectively across the six(6) geopolitical zones. This is happening alongside the mobilisation for state-based peace architectures, where the Committee is working with the respective state governors to mobilise for the state-based peace architectures. This is currently piloted in 9 nine states – Adamawa, Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Gombe, Taraba, Bauchi, Kano and Enugu states. So far, Adamawa, Gombe and Bauchi states have been mobilised and the key stakeholders engaged have accepted to work with the NPC at the national level to support peacebuilding initiatives in their various states.



Impact of the NPC Interventions

The interventions of the NPC in electoral issues has deepened the culture of democracy in Nigeria, and in non-electoral issues, provided some form of stability and called the attention of the government to the real concerns of Nigerians in a way and manner that ordinary citizens may not be able to have access to the government. For example, the interventions of the NPC in the Anambra gubernatorial election contributed immensely to the outcome of the vote, and equally consolidated the partnership between the NPC, INEC and Traditional Institutions. The success of the elections and the role played by the NPC reinforced the position of the members regarding interventions in issues of national importance. The Peace Accord signed in Anambra state was between 11 out of the 18 political parties contesting the elections. A significant number of the NPC members were present at the event. The success of the Anambra elections once again brings to the fore the necessity of staggered elections. It provided the platform for the NPC

members to devote their time and energies to Anambra state, and their presence reinforced the need for peace. It also allowed INEC, the security agencies and all key agencies involved in the elections to focus on the success of the elections despite the fears and tensions.

The NPC participation in the electoral reform process also created some impact. The three-day electoral reform process identified the gaps and challenges in the current electoral reform and constitutional reform process. It clearly articulated the short term and medium-term strategies to be used by the Committee in engaging key policymakers at the highest level of government to support the electoral processes. The NPC members made use of these strategies to intervene with key actors. There were secret meetings, back-channel negotiations and engagements to provide the opportunity for the NPC members to lay before key members of the National Assembly, the concerns of Nigerian citizens and the urgency of

including electronic transfer of results as part of the electoral reform process. This resulted in the controversial passage of the reform bill where the lower house agreed on electronic transfer and the upper house domesticated such powers in the Ministry of Communications.

The partnership with Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI) also generated an important impact on the work of the NPC. KDI analysed the impact of the NPC interventions in the Anambra elections. It collated public views and key stakeholder perspectives on the NPC interventions. The findings from KDI's assessment indicate that there is overwhelming support for the institutionalization of the NPC, and particularly the signing of the Peace Accord. Despite legal requirements, NPC's role as a moral authority remains relevant to achieving peaceful elections in Nigeria.

Partnerships

During this period of NPC interventions, several partnerships and collaborations were generated. These partnerships strengthened the engagements of the NPC and provided leeway for the group to reach a wider audience and become more effective in its interventions. So far, the NPC has established partnerships with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI), Policy, Legal and Advocacy Centre (PLAC), YIAGA Africa, European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) and Religious and Traditional Rulers and the Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF). For each partnership, there is a significant objective of collaboration. Generally, these groups are all working towards achieving free, fair, credible and peaceful elections in Nigeria. However, the objective of each group is related to the work of the NPC.

The NPC collaborates with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) because INEC has the power to enforce laws and adjudicate on issues of elections, compliance and violations. For this reason, the NPC adds the moral voice that is needed to facilitate peaceful elections and also support the aspirations of INEC.



Kimpact Development Initiative supports the research arm of the NPC. It conducts evidence-based research before, during and after elections. It identifies flashpoint areas, indicators of violence, provides incisive analysis and makes recommendations on strategies for interventions of the NPC.

The NPC partners Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) in the area of electoral reforms and how best to engage key stakeholders at the national level to facilitate the process of the reform and ensure that they become part of Nigerian laws. The NPC helps to carry out heavy lifting by knocking on doors that ordinarily other CSOs may not be able to knock on.



The NPC also works with YIAGA Africa and the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) in terms of providing further logistics and media strategy during state-based elections. This has proven very effective and impactful especially during state-based interventions such as during the governorship election in Anambra state.

The partnership with the Nigerian Governors' Forum is to further the cause of peace at the state level. More importantly, it is intended to deepen the creation of state-based peace architectures with the knowledge of the governors.

Traditional rulers, like religious leaders, are some of the most respected key stakeholders in Nigerian societies. Working with them has helped foster peaceful elections. An example is the NPC intervention in the Edo elections where the NPC worked closely with the Oba of Benin, and that partnership facilitated the peaceful conduct of the election in Edo state.

The relationship between The Kukah Centre, the European Union (EU), and the Ministry of Budget and National Planning has been cordial. The EU constantly provided technical and advisory support throughout the implementing period under review. It was on hand to provide contacts, make available its network of partners and friends to help facilitate the success of the implementation. Also, the Ministry of Budget and National Planning was informed and kept abreast of the activities being implemented. The relationship between the National Peace Committee and the state authorities have been cordial and respectful. The NPC is in constant communication and partnership with different state agencies as it carries out its mandates. Every request of the NPC for meetings, engagements, partnerships, and collaboration has been acceded to. This has resulted in the peaceful conduct of the Anambra state governorship election and consolidated the position of the NPC as a credible institution for election intervention.

Challenges

Despite the successes recorded by the interventions of the NPC, some challenges were encountered and need to be recognised. There were challenges at the general and specific levels. At the general level, the increasing levels of insecurity in the states substantially affected the implementation of some of the activities. For example, on the training of youths and women, including mobilisation for state-based peace architectures, the NPC Secretariat had to cancel the events in states such as Plateau, Sokoto and Benue due to sudden violent attacks.

Also, due to the trust deficit in state-aligned institutions, there is a growing expectation of the NPC way beyond its mandate. The NPC Secretariat has become a warehouse of requests for interventions in different issues of national importance.





Recommendations

As a way forward, it is necessary that the NPC intervenes more in the areas of security and stability for Nigeria. This means proactively working with the government, particularly the governors to see what help can be rendered in mitigating the current situation. Since the NPC has expanded its mandate to include intervention in non-electoral matters, the increasing levels of violent conflict across the country make it necessary for the NPC to review its logic of intervention.



ProFuturo Digital Classroom Project

The take-off of the ProFuturo Digital Classroom project currently being implemented in 12 pilot states of Northern Nigeria was initially rocky, as it was faced with several challenges. Fortunately, it has surpassed most of these obstacles and it is worthy of mention to say that it has gained tremendous acceptance by and support from all stakeholders. The various state governments through their State Universal Basic Education Boards [SUBEB] as well as the Catholic Dioceses, through their Education Secretariats, have provided the needed enabling environment for the project to thrive. Some schools lacking certain aspects of the stipulated preconditions were helped to rectify the noticed inadequacies and these partners have exhibited high degrees of commitment by assisting the schools in keeping to the set standards. Other stakeholders such as the School-Based Management Committees [SBMC] and Parent Teachers Associations [PTA] have also been supportive with various interventions/supports, understanding the importance of the project on the future of their children. The project is currently in its 4th year and all of the 116 benefiting primary schools are utilising the devices, though not to their fullest.

Activities by State

STATES	REG. USERS	ACTIVE USERS	Users With Activities 2021
Adamawa	4542	3344	1767
Bauchi	4068	2946	1691
Benue	6169	3855	2431
Borno	6136	3058	1797
Kaduna	3616	2616	1203
Kano	6890	6833	3906
Katsina	1030	918	685
Kebbi	7535	6625	3031
Nasarawa	4351	2694	2205
Niger	4968	4153	989
Plateau	4514	4235	1649
Sokoto	7293	5162	3006
Taraba	5881	3977	2719
	66993	50416	27079
			53.70%

From the table

- About 24.75% of all those registered on the e-learning platforms of the 116 benefitting primary schools have either graduated or dropped out of school. About 20% have completed their primary education, while 4.75% of this population discontinued schooling due to their inability to afford tuition fees and their associated costs.
- A little above 27,079 pupils [53.7%] out of the Active Users [50,416] have used the device for learning in 2021.

Achievements (Teacher, Student, Regulators)

- Over 65% of ProFuturo schools now use the devices for Computer Based Examinations and tests. Pupils in terminal classes have written exams with the devices, while other classes [primary 3, 4, and/or 5] write tests or learn to use the devices.
- More teachers are now able to convert the contents in their lesson notes to digital formats for normal class activities.
- A lot of ProFuturo schools have witnessed increased enrolments of pupils.
- Partners have indicated interest to extend the program to involve other schools.

- Pupils are improving on their knowledge and use of Information Communication Technology [ICT] tools.
- Head Teachers and teachers are becoming more aware of the immense benefits of the intervention.
- More community interest and involvements as both SBMCs and PTAs intervene to help sustain the project. They have procured generating sets for the schools, hired teachers specifically for the project, and so on.
- Parents are delighted to see the positive impact on their children/wards, believing that these children will be able to square up to their peers.
- Some teachers are desirous of learning new things and improving on their ICT capacity.
- Students are always excited to learn using ProFuturo Digital devices.



Areas of Improvement:

- The ProFuturo project needs local visibility in terms of media engagements etc.
- Some of the social media materials should be in English so we can also adapt here in Nigeria. They usually produce text, audio-visual content in Spanish.
- As part of the sustainability plan, equipment should be sourced locally.
- Also, a mini donor's conference to showcase the project to donors and elicit their buy-in should be organised.

SWOT Analysis of Current Projects

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>The Pupils in the benefiting States have new learning and teaching experience.</p>	<p>The lack of incentives to teachers involved in the project tends to reduce their interest in committing more time to its progress.</p>	<p>The project is replicable, scalable, and sustainable.</p>	<p>The risk of politicisation and derailment arising from a change in leadership. The context of political uncertainty, particularly when dealing with key policy makers who are political appointees.</p>
<p>The quality of education has improved for thousands of children living in vulnerable environments through the introduction of digital learning skills.</p>	<p>Inadequate training of teachers in Digital education.</p>	<p>The project is based on a public-private partnership model to ensure the long-term socio-educational intervention of the program, taking into consideration the institutional, pedagogical, social, financial, evolutive, and environmental dimensions.</p>	<p>The introduction of Digital Education in schools by other Non-Governmental Organisations.</p>
<p>Pupils and teachers are excited about the project.</p>	<p>Delay in the payment of remuneration to teachers, snowballing into series of strikes and protests leading to the shut-down of educational activities in most of the States [by the Government].</p>	<p>Digital Education skills have become necessary in every facet of society thus the need to leverage the ProFuturo solution.</p>	<p>The transfer of teachers [especially those who are equipped with digital skills and trained by ProFuturo] tends to threaten the progress of the project in most of the schools.</p>
<p>The project has enhanced teachers' pedagogical and digital skills.</p>	<p>The language barrier, per the assessment of some of the contents in the ProFuturo device and curriculum.</p>	<p>Most of the exams in Nigeria are gradually becoming computer-based. This also places the ProFuturo solution as a lead project in this regard.</p>	<p>The socio-cultural and religious context where some of the project interventions will take place. The sustainability strategy should counter any narrative that the project is western propaganda.</p>
<p>There is a meaningful student learning and experience.</p>	<p>The outbreak of the pandemic was a setback for learning.</p>	<p>Many international and local organisations are open to funding opportunities for organisations with specialisations in education. They are also ready to partner with innovative education specialists.</p>	<p>Inadequate teaching and learning facilities</p>

SWOT Analysis of Current Projects Cont..

STRENGTHS

There is an improvement and increase in the level of the enrolment of children in ProFuturo schools, thus making school and learning more interesting.

WEAKNESSES

The number of ProFuturo Suitcases is limited compared to the number of pupils enrolled in the selected schools.

OPPORTUNITIES

Following our engagements, Parents, Community/Religious Leaders, the Union of teachers, Local Government Education Authorities, State Ministries of Education, are open to partnerships for the sustainability of the e-learning solution in Nigeria.

THREATS

The poor motivation of teachers.

The State Government, State, Universal Basic Education Board, and Catholic Mission in the various States are supportive of the project in the selected Schools.

The uncertainty that comes with insecurity and emerging threats to peace and stability.



The Fountain of Life Church Project (TFOLC) – Building the Resilience of Christian Women Victims of Violent Conflict in Kaduna State

The Kukah Centre, with the support of The Fountain of Life Church (TFOLC), Lagos, examined the different levels of interventions provided by the Nigerian government and International Development Partners for women affected by violent conflicts. The Centre undertook this research not just to highlight the challenges, gaps, and limitations of these interventions, but more importantly, to analyze how these conflicts have affected women, girls and children, and how they have been neglected by these interventions. The essence of this background was to develop strategies that would lead to an effective peacebuilding initiative that supports the social and economic resilience of women affected by conflict.

Based on its findings, The Kukah Centre recommended a more robust community-based form of engagement that supports building the economic and social resilience of women by providing training to acquire basic handy skills to start up small businesses. For a pilot phase, Christian women from Southern Kaduna in Kaduna state were selected as the project beneficiaries. This is because ethnic minority tensions and conflicts in southern Kaduna have engendered more serious violence than any other form of communal instability in recent Nigerian history. Moreover, these conflicts and tensions have deep roots in the history of northern Nigeria and have left women and girls more



vulnerable, and remaining at the receiving end of any form of gender-based and sexual violence.

The goal of this project was to build the resilience of Christian women who face daunting challenges in rebuilding their lives as victims of violence in Southern Kaduna. To achieve this, the project trained women on a skill that gave them the basic know-how and provided them with the relevant capacity to build economic resilience with start-ups to support their social and economic recovery. Consequently, the project:

- Identified, selected, and trained 25 Christian women and girls that were victims of violent conflict in Southern Kaduna.
- Trained these women and girls on particular skills to develop their capacities and build their resilience in achieving economic and social recovery.
- Provided strategies for psycho-social support and healing of trauma due to the atrocities they have experienced and gone through via training sessions on trauma healing and peace.

Criteria for the Selection of the 25 Beneficiaries

Twenty-five (25) Christian women that are indigenes of local governments in southern Kaduna, and who have been directly affected by the conflict in southern Kaduna and have either migrated to the Kaduna metropolis in internally displaced camps (IDPs) or living with relatives or friends. The criteria for selection included:

- Households headed by a widow or woman.
- Households with a physically challenged person(s)/PWDs.
- Households with an internally displaced person(s) either squatting or occupying an entire household/IDPs.
- Households headed by a minor (18 years and above) including orphans.
- Households with cases of malnutrition in children (5 years and below).
- Households occupied by persons with no means of livelihood.

The Training Procedures-In-Brief.

The entire training occurred over eight (8) days and had two components: the first component involved entrepreneurship training and vocational training (practical sessions on skill acquisition training). The entrepreneurship training was centred on training participants to understand local market dynamics, business partnerships, and profit-making innovations that will boost their investment, including the facilitation of allocation into community development initiatives. This component also included some further support given on understanding the intricacies of building social and economic resilience in their recovery process.

During the vocational training, a handbook was developed, providing a clear breakdown of all the items and steps required to produce the various household items. A total of eight (8) household products were taught to the project beneficiaries and produced. These

Recorded Successes

products included Liquid soap, Toilet wash, Shampoo, Hair cream, Vaseline, Conditioner, Dettol, and IZAL. The facilitator put the participants in various groups, based on the products to be produced. Each group deployed a particular production process following the handbook to test their learning and knowledge on the production process.

The second component included training sessions on peacebuilding, mental health, and post-conflict trauma to provide mental health awareness to the participants as well as equip them with the basic skills to handle larger crises as well as distress that may be occasioned by the impact of the conflict they have experienced.

It is safe to say that huge successes have been recorded, with a significant impact on the beneficiaries. The impact of the project can be assessed at two levels: strategic and programmatic. From the strategic point of view, the project provided The Kukah Centre team with the platform to undertake research and highlight the nature of neglect suffered by women and girls during the conflict in southern Kaduna. Additionally, it has provided information on assessing how state-based interventions in general, and Kaduna state in particular, have become a source of conflict. This is because government response is most times selective and exclusionary, reinforcing the raging ethno-religious divide that has derailed social cohesion and peaceful co-existence. The project also succeeded in highlighting the growing culture of the peacebuilding economy, where donor funding meant for victims of conflict is lost in project implementation bureaucracy and logistics. This means that the victims are left short-changed by the vision of project interventions.

From the programmatic point of view, this FOLC supported project has exposed the significance of direct victim engagement with less emphasis on implementation bureaucracy. Importantly, the programme presented a huge opportunity for partnership and direct victim engagement with skills and cash. Thus, the project indicates that training on skills and direct material support to victims is the way to go.

The project recorded more than 80% buy-in of the project from the participants. The level of interest and commitment from the participants was very commendable as they were very open to learning and increasing their level of productivity to support their families and communities. Furthermore, community leaders and men/women of influence also supported the project. This endorsement means that unlike before, women and girls have been allowed to undertake roles that would have hitherto been considered taboo.

Increasing Awareness of the Relevance of the Project

The project increased the level of awareness regarding the nature of the conflict faced in the region and its impact on women who have become widows as a result of the conflict. It has provided the platform for the women and girls who have been impacted by the conflict in southern Kaduna to design strategies and ways to build their economic and social relevance to take up breadwinning responsibilities in their respective families and their communities as they tend to the growing needs of their families. The intervention has also attracted the attention of both local and international media as the project team has been sought for media interviews and engagements on the project. One of such instances is the Association for Catholic Information in Africa (ACAIAFRICA) who conducted an email interview with the project manager. This interview was published on 25th April 2021.

Additionally, the recorded successes, as well as the awareness generated by the project, led to an increase in funding from TFOLC and the expansion of the intervention to Benue and Nasarawa states in 2022.

Challenges

The successes recorded were not without a few challenges such as the increasing levels of insecurity remaining a threat to national stability, community cohesion, and peaceful coexistence. This affected the timeline for the project implementation. Moreover, the prejudices, biases, and intolerance produced before and during the violent conflicts in Kaduna state are unlikely to be solved by a few days of training and the few women trained. This means that the training offered is a drop in the ocean compared to the atrocities committed during the conflicts and the glaring social and economic consequences victims and affected communities are living with. Additionally, the resources needed to undertake a noble project of this nature were limited, and so, the number of beneficiaries was also limited. Consequently, because of limited resources, the time to conduct the training and the number of beneficiaries to include had to be cut down.



Recommendations

Following the challenges highlighted, the recommendations outlined below will go a long way in addressing the issues of women victims of violent conflict, in Kaduna state in particular, and Nigeria in general.

- The Nigerian government should provide alternative measures to end the conflict besides military offensives. One of such involves, in collaboration with religious authorities, designing a strategic regional approach centered on religion and the articulation of alternative narratives to violence and extremist ideologies. Platforms should also be created for victim-perpetrator reconciliation and forgiveness. Key community stakeholders should be selected as entry points into the communities. Communities should be made aware of the nature, history, and extent of this conflict. Any strategy for reconciliation should be the outcome of community engagement and consultation. The process itself should be inclusive, gender-sensitive, and with a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation strategy.
- Beyond national peacebuilding approaches, a strategy for addressing the issue of gender, particularly for women and girls should be addressed. This includes the skills acquisition and building the resilience of women for economic and social recovery.



The Kukah Centre (TKC) Webinar on Security Tips for Priests, Religious and Administrators of Catholic Schools

With the increase in crime rate and levels of insecurity in the country as well as targeted attacks on missionaries and their places of work especially in Kaduna state, The Kukah Centre deemed it essential to provide security tips for Priests and Religious in the state, so they can take measures to protect themselves and that of their various institutions.

Priests' vocation entails travelling to any location at any given time irrespective of the distance and challenge(s) prevalent in the area. Nowadays, priests are considered 'endangered species' operating in a volatile environment.

To that end, the Centre enlisted the services of Captain Umar Aliyu - a retired National Security Resource and Solution-Options Consultant, former Military Intelligence Officer, and member of the 40th Regular Course, - who presented a seminar on crucial security tips to employ while operating in their respective jurisdictions. This seminar was delivered via Zoom on Friday, 2nd July 2021, and had 196 participants – comprising priests, Religious, and Administrators of Catholic schools - in attendance.



Goal and Objectives

The goal of this activity was to provide security tips for Priests and Religious to take measures to protect themselves and that of their various institutions.

Objectives

1. Enlighten Priests and Religious on the security challenge(s) prevalent in the country.
2. Discuss the issue of insecurity and how it affects Priests, Religious and managers of Catholic schools.
3. Provide safety tips for Priests, Religious and administrators of Catholic schools while operating in their various jurisdictions.
4. Proffer policy recommendations on how criminality, banditry and kidnapping and other forms of insecurity can be addressed.

Key Takeaways:

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) – designing buildings, facilities and environments in a manner that becomes difficult for strangers to gain

entrance. In other words, it is crime protection through environmental design. The Catholic Church being universal, should use her network to come up with a form of security.

Going forward, religious communities need to put in more effort to protect their lives. Crime is dangerous and criminals hate delay. Your defensible space is your environment so until you are able to see through the eyes of a criminal, you will not be inclined to properly protect yourself. Borrow the eyes of a criminal. To act like a Monkey, you need to adopt the mind of a Monkey.

Capt. Umar Aliyu (rtd)

Formidable Intelligence – formidable intelligence deals with thinking faster than your adversaries/opponent i.e., doing certain things in certain ways. It is important to have proper knowledge

of your environment and people living within your vicinity. Having formidable intelligence reduces crime and gives you edge over your abductors.

Your adversaries will fear you once you are able to preempt how they think and what they will do in the next second. Have a skeletal template of your environment (security intelligence). This will enable you stay ahead of them. Bandits have superior reasoning; so only superior reasoning can scare them away.

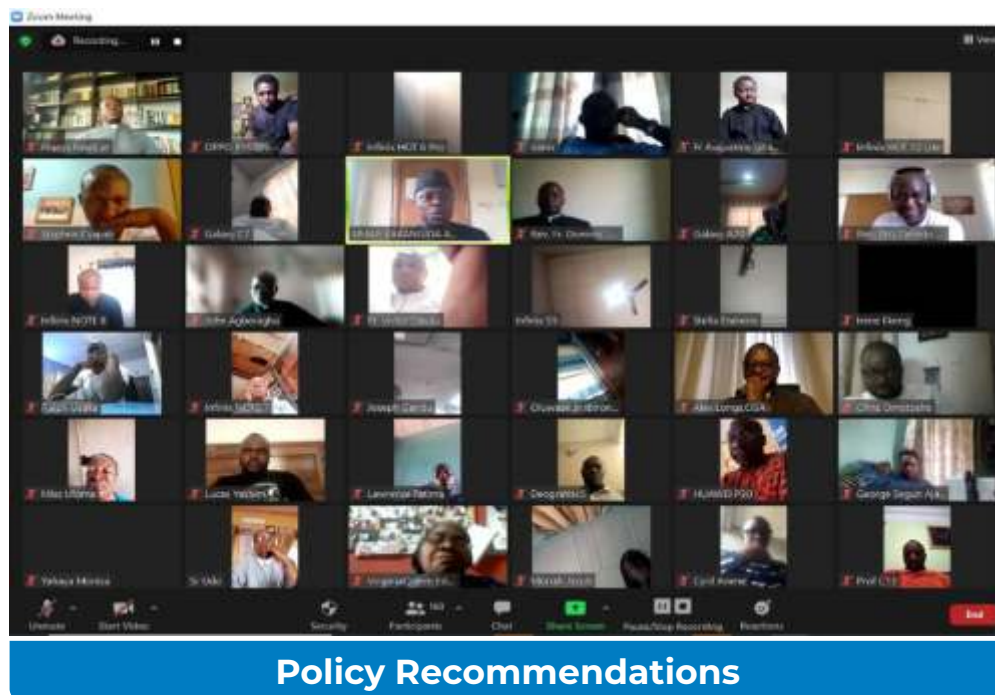
Capt. Umar Aliyu (rtd)

Defendable Space – ensuring that your environment is safe and unexposed for strangers to majestically walk in and out. Territorial defense begins by placing certain restrictions and avoiding certain people from entering your territory. As Religious people, we

tend to trust all who come into our facility and many are taking advantage of it. Henceforth, we are to **TRUST** and **VERIFY** not **TRUST** and **UNVERIFY**. It is important to create cordial relationship with community key stakeholders and traditional leaders to keep you informed.

Security is key to everything we do. Until there is ample security, nothing will work. Ensure you are circumspect both in your parish and on transit. Know those locations that people are constantly attacked or kidnapped and avoid those areas. The moment you begin to notice the frequency of attacks within your environment, leave that vicinity. There is nothing wrong in employing security personnel for your protection. Employ a machinery that sees everything, hears everything and says nothing. You can equally adopt parishioners who are security personnel for your security.

Capt. Umar Aliyu (rtd)



From the summary of the webinar above, The Kukah Centre proposed the following recommendations:

Government

1. **Improved Border Security** – the federal and state government should work unanimously to address the challenge of border penetrability. Efforts should be made to recruit, train and equip more security agents, immigration and custom officers to boost security and prevent the movement of migrants and arms across the border.
2. **Improving Citizenry Security** – more security personnel should be deployed to communities for the safety of citizens. Such personnel should be properly equipped with sophisticated weapons to enable them repel attacks when needed.

- 3. Security Surveillance Cameras** – security surveillance cameras should be installed in strategic locations across the country for proper monitoring of individuals and ward off strangers from penetration.

Security Agencies

- 1. High Security Technology** – security operatives should constantly update and invent new technology for their security patrols both in communities and LGAs. The usage of outdated security gadgets should be discontinued and efforts should be made to update all personnel in order to meet up with the current advance criminal intelligence.
- 2. Community and Joint Task Force (JTF) Liaison Services** – security agencies should work closely with JTF and community members to protect lives and arrest perpetrators of crimes in community and LGAs.

Local Communities

- 1. Joint Task Force** – community leaders should encourage more youths and able-bodied men and women to join the task force and protect the lives of their people. There should be budgetary allocations for the purchase of guns and other local equipment for their patrol.
- 2. Intercommunal Engagement** – communities should organize social activities that bring together members of different communities for dialogue and social functions. This will go a long way in establishing intercommunal trust and relationship.
- 3. Security Intelligence** – for security purposes, communities should be conscious of their environment. Some community members should be saddled with the responsibility of identifying strangers who enters and exit a community at will.

Religious Organisations

- 1. Security Know-how** – religious institutions should organize trainings for their priests/pastors to enable them acquire security intelligence for the protection of their lives and property. Information and extracts from such trainings should be kept top secret to avoid slipping into the hands of criminals.
- 2. Organize Security Seminars for their Pastors** – development cannot thrive in the midst of insecurity, hence the need of security awareness for citizens (including pastors/priests). Knowledge acquired can be applied and imparted on trusted and verified people.
- 3. Roundtable Dialogue** – to address the security challenge in the country, government and Religious leaders should be on constant roundtable dialogue on the way forward.



Memory Preservation and Knowledge Promotion

Knights of Columbus Project – Hope for Victims of Violent Conflicts in Nigeria

The history of violent conflicts in Nigeria has resulted in devastating outcomes as well as the deaths of thousands of people. Many of the victims and affected communities are often overlooked. Furthermore, strategies for research are designed and policy recommendations are articulated but victims remain in abject poverty, neglect, and lack. The Kukah Centre, therefore, identified this as a gap that needs to be bridged by moving beyond securitised and humanitarian responses to a more holistic approach that emphasises and focuses on peacebuilding, societal reconciliation, social cohesion, reintegration, transforming relationships in society, sustained livelihood and dealing with the legacies of violence. Consequently, the Kukah Centre birthed this project to carry out Research and Intervention on the empowerment of communities affected by violence. This intervention kickstarted in October 2020 and is supported by the United States of America (USA) Knights of Columbus.

Activities and Results

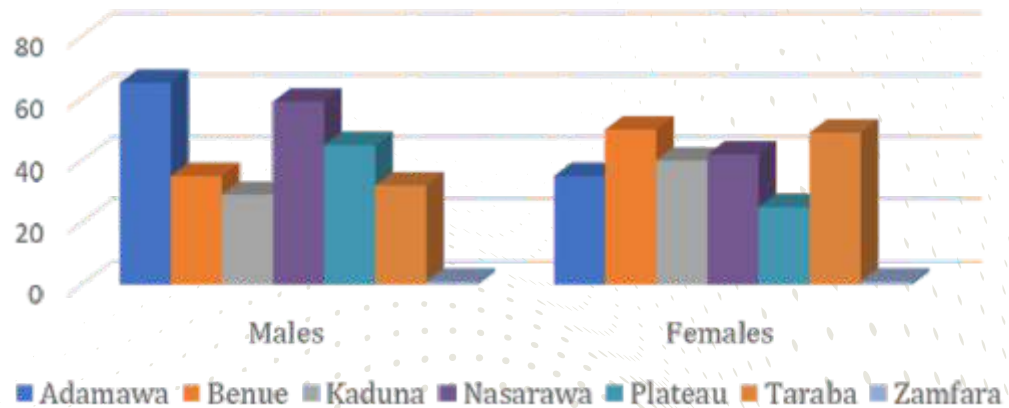
Collection of Video Testimonies

So far, video testimonies in the form of short interview clips were collected from 573 victims and survivors across 7 states – Kaduna, Plateau, Zamfara, Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba and Adamawa states.



▲ Across the 7 states from September 2020 – June 2021:

State Breakdown



▶ **State Breakdown:**
The total number of responses gathered were disaggregated by gender according to their respective states.

Categories of Attacks Identified:



▲ **Identified Categories of Attacks:** The most prevalent forms of attacks identified by the respondents were:

Visits of Mr Stephen Rasche

Mr Stephen Rasche, a representative of the United States Knights of St Columbus visited the office of the Kukah Centre in Abuja on two different occasions. The first visit was from 23rd August – 5th September 2021, while the second occurred from 11th – 30th November 2021.

The purpose of his visit was twofold: to gain a firsthand experience of the nature and contexts of the various types of conflict prevalent in Nigeria and to provide technical support that will enhance the project implementation. The following events/activities occurred over the course of both visits:

- Strategic meetings with the project team to discuss the project implementation process, the schedule of Stephen's visit to different

targeted communities, and the outcome of the project.

- One-day engagement between Mr. Rasche and the students and staff of Veritas University, Abuja, to share his experiences working with the Knights of Columbus, its work in Iraq and its engagement in Nigeria.
- Visits to New Kuchingoro, Durumi, and Karamajiji IDP camps to speak with IDPs living in different parts of Abuja. Mr. Rasche and the team also paid a visit to the Karamajiji colony for disabled persons. Most of these IDPs are victims of ongoing Boko Haram attacks in the northeast. The various camp coordinators noted that the victims were in immediate need of relief materials such as food and medicines. They also advocated for school rooms to educate the children resident in the camps. The colony for disabled persons also requested wheelchairs for the camp residents. The existence of camps with Nigeria's seat of power clearly exposes the deep level of corruption in managing the humanitarian response to the conflict in Nigeria. It also indicates the level of government negligence and raises the potential for reprisal attacks from victims of violence. It shows that lots of work needs to be done and the intervention of the Knights of Columbus via The Kukah Centre will bring both succour and stability to the plight of most of the IDPs.
- Engagements with stakeholders from Plateau and Kaduna states to speak with key stakeholders and have a general idea of the nature of conflict in these two states.

- Two-day conversation on Media and International Messaging to discuss international messaging and the importance of crafting the right narratives. By the end of the event, the participants alongside the project team formed a working committee that will drive the project implementation going forward.

Visit to Yola, Adamawa state

This activity occurred during both visits. During the first visit, the project team and Mr. Rasche met with the Catholic Bishop of Yola Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Dami Mamza. Together with the Bishop, they paid courtesy visits to:

- St. Theresa's Catholic Church Yola, where internally displaced persons (IDPs) were first camped and taken care of by the Church.



- Salama Housing estate, freely accommodating 86 Christian and Muslim family IDPs. The land for the estate was donated by the Adamawa state government while the building of the estate was carried out by the Catholic Diocese of Yola with support from various international organisations.
- St Stephen of Hungary College, Gombi: The school was built by the Hungarian Government through the Catholic Bishop of Yola and will be formally opened ahead of a new school year in September 2021. Like the Salama housing estate, the school will admit both Christian and Muslim students.
- The Cathedral Training Center Gombi, where practising Catholics who wish to become Catechists in the church are trained.

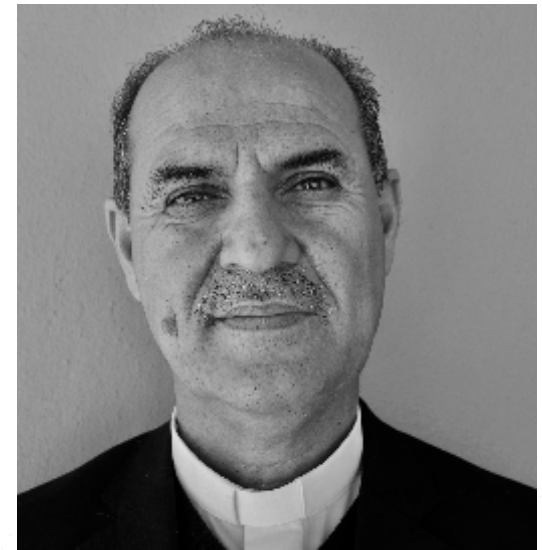
The second visit came at the request of the Catholic Bishop of Yola Diocese. During this trip, the team visited St Peter's minor seminary and St Francis hospital, both in Yola, to determine in what capacity the project could provide aid. The team also climbed the Atlantica mountain in Sugu, Ganye LGA, where they visited and interacted with the members of Dagborum village. Dagborum village is one of three villages atop the Atlantica mountain and is in dire need of a school and clinic.





Intervention in Kuchingoro IDP Camp

On 14th December 2021, the project team visited the Kuchingoro camp for internally displaced persons and distributed food items to 50 families. This initiative was carried out on behalf of the Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil, Iraq by Father Shwan Kakona



- **Father Shwan Kakona**
He organized the donation for our intervention in Kuchingoro IDP camp. He is a Parish Priest in Ankawa, Erbil, Iraq. He was one of the most important priests in holding the IDP communities together during the war in Iraq.

Visit to Kaduna state

From 16th – 18th November 2021, the team was in Kaduna state. During this time, they visited the Kaduna office of The Kukah Centre and the Good Shepherd Seminary, both of which have suffered attacks. The latter led to the kidnap of the Seminarian Michael Nnadi who was eventually slain by his kidnapper. The team also paid a courtesy visit to the Vicar General of Kaduna state, Fr (Dr) Philip Gaiya, and the Catholic Bishop of Kafanchan Diocese, Most Rev. Julius Kundi. The team also attended a priestly ordination ceremony held in Kafanchan diocese.

Challenges

So far, the most prevalent challenges identified during implementation include:

- Rising insecurity and impact on the safety of the project team: Security remained a challenge as there were increasing reports of insecurity. Moreover, some states had certain forms of insecurity more peculiar to them or were more affected than others. Nonetheless, all seven states reported some form of insecurity or the other. This impacted the freedom of movement of the project team in collecting the testimonies.
- Difficulties reaching target beneficiaries: Due to the ongoing insecurity in many of the local communities, many of the villagers had fled from their hometowns for fear of their lives. On some occasions, whole villages had been dispersed and relocated to camps for internally displaced persons (IDP camps). This was seen in Shinkafi LGA in Zamfara state where one of the villages visited had been emptied and overtaken by the Nigerian military.

Looking Ahead...

Going forward, the project plans to:

- Increase documentation of the facts and motivations behind violent crimes and atrocities committed in local communities across Nigeria. This process will contribute to larger literature and data on the persecution of minority groups in the country.
- It also plans to positively impact conflict victims and survivors by alleviating some of the beneficiary difficulties via direct and indirect compensation and reparation.

Hungarian Government Project – Emergency Food Aid to Vulnerable Households in Southern Kaduna

Kaduna State in Northwest Nigeria has experienced a near tripling of violent incidents involving armed groups in the past year. Over the last year, Kaduna has recorded the highest number of episodes of political violence and fatalities in northern Nigeria. Kaduna's security crisis revolves around three different but overlapping threats. The first threat relates to the farmer-herder conflict that involves growing tensions over access to land and its use between communities. The second threat comes from armed gangs engaged in criminal activities, including kidnapping for ransom, arms dealing, cattle rustling, and highway robbery. A similar spike from criminal gangs has afflicted neighbouring states, including Katsina where over 300 schoolboys were kidnapped and later freed in December 2020. The final threat is violent extremism. This threat reemerged in 2020 when Ansaru, a militant Islamist group thought to be defunct, carried out an elaborate ambush, followed by a series of other attacks. Southern Kaduna, in the recent past, has become the epicenter of deadly violent conflicts mostly inflicted by herdsmen on farming communities. As a result, many communities have

been displaced and many farmers are unable to plant and harvest for years. Consequently, hunger and poverty have risen and the economy has deteriorated by the day. Victims affected by these violent conflicts are offered little or no assistance in terms of financial and social wellbeing. In Southern Kaduna, specifically, violent crises have often led to deadly religious, ethnic and sectarian divisions. Attending to the basic needs of victims helps to prepare the ground for reconciliation and facilitate peaceful co-existence. To create an immediate impact on victims of violence, particularly women, it was necessary to explore ways by which the basic and immediate needs of these survivors could be reached. One of such ways was through Cash Transfer Programming.

The Kukah Centre (TKC) therefore saw the need and opportunity for intervention to lessen the impact of the conflict on the most vulnerable individuals. TKC, with the support of the Hungarian Government, Caritas Nigeria and the Kaduna state Justice, Peace and Development Commission (JDPC) implemented the Project titled,

➤ Community Mapping

“Emergency Food Aid to Vulnerable Households in Southern Kaduna.” The intervention covered (3) three Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Southern Kaduna - Zangon Kataf, Kachia and Kajuru. The intervention provided resilience for social and economic recovery to vulnerable households in Southern Kaduna via the facilitation of a cash transfer programme (CTF) to two hundred and eighty-eight (288) households most affected by the incessant violent attacks.

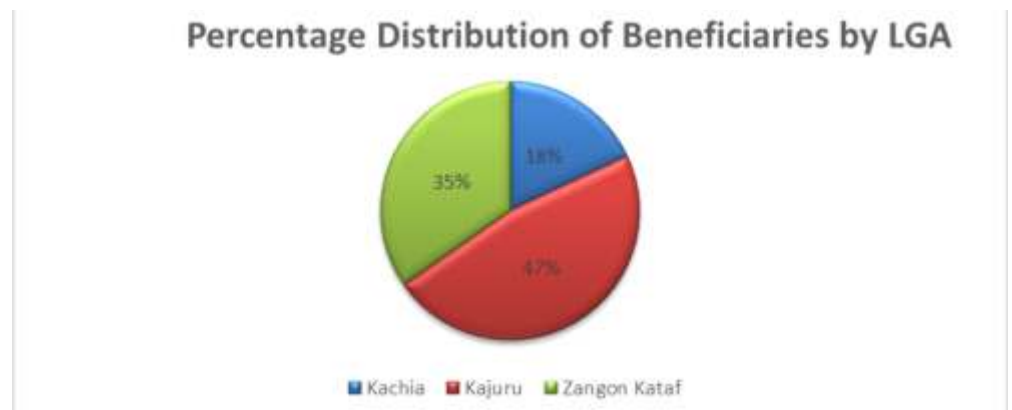
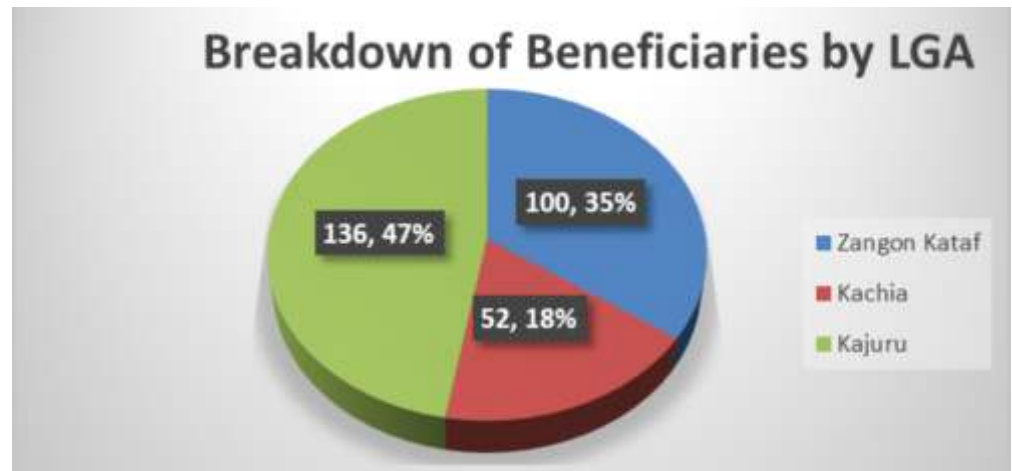
Motivation for the Selection of Beneficiary LGAs

At the time of the project intervention, Kajuru, Kachia and Zangon Kataf LGAs had respectively recorded 20, 2 and 8 communities adversely affected by violent conflicts.

Methodology and Results

The intervention was based on 3 key activities: (a) Community Mapping, (b) Selection, Identification and Mobilisation of Beneficiaries, and (c) Card Production and Distribution.

At this stage, communities were identified, representatives were selected and community needs assessed. There were laid down criteria necessary for the selection of communities and Beneficiaries. After the selection had been completed, a community needs assessment was conducted to identify the gaps between current conditions and desired conditions and to develop the criteria for the selection of the target beneficiaries.



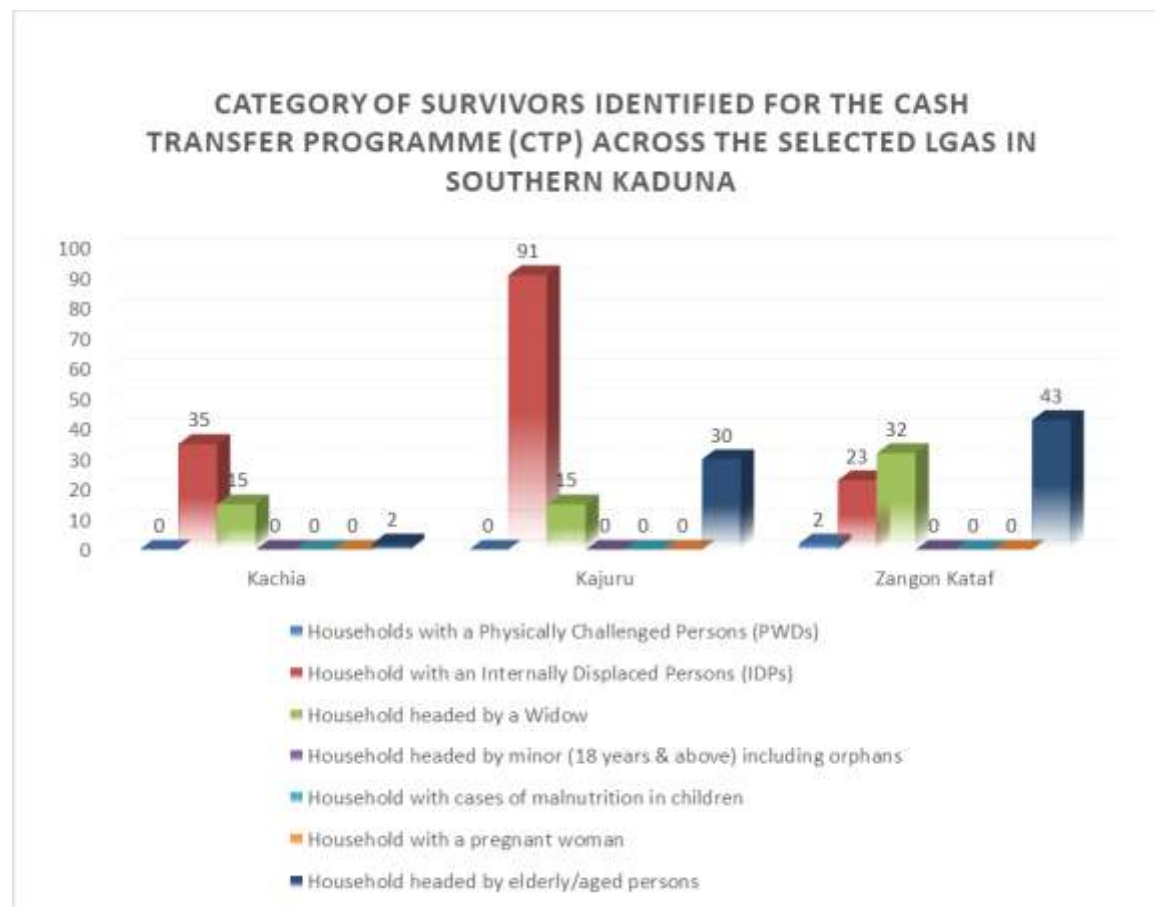
➤ Selection, Identification and Mobilisation of Beneficiaries

To ensure that the basic and immediate needs of victims of violent conflicts are reached, potential beneficiaries were identified by key community representatives in collaboration with the Project Team. Some of the criteria for the mobilisation and selection process included:

Households with:

- physically challenged person(s)/PWDs,
- internally displaced person(s) either squatting or occupying an entire household/IDPs, households headed by widows, minors (18 years and below), pregnant women and elderly/aged persons.

288 families across the three LGAs were then identified and registered. The allocation given to each LGA was largely dependent on the number of victims and casualties recorded.



The above figure shows the various categories of survivors identified for the Cash Transfer Programme (CTP) across the selected LGAs.

➤ Card Production and Distribution

Once all beneficiaries had been registered, Zenith Bank Plc, a leading multinational financial service provider based in Nigeria was contracted to create accounts and produce debit cards for the beneficiaries in the selected LGAs. Each of the beneficiaries' accounts was then credited and the debit cards were distributed to the beneficiaries by the project team.



A widow being registered at Kasuwan Magani, Kajuru LGA

Challenges

Each stage of the intervention process had its associated challenges. Examples included the high levels of illiteracy among the beneficiaries. This slowed down the registration process and affected their ability to utilise the debit cards that were given to them to access their funds. However, there were other challenges that encompassed all phases of the project intervention such as:

Rising Insecurity in Local Communities: For example, prior to the identification and registration of beneficiaries, minor attacks were reported in neighbouring communities. In Kachia LGA, communities like Daganaji and Katul Gida were under attack. In Kajuru LGA, Kujeni and Kaso were unreachable due to the incessant attacks going on where farmers were continually attacked and kidnapped in their farms. The insecurity also affected many institutions, banks included; some branches had to be shut down in communities that had been attacked. This meant that the beneficiaries often had to travel long distances just to gain access to their monies, further putting them at the risk of potential attacks.

Perceived psychological and emotional trauma of the victims and survivors: In all three LGAs, all the beneficiaries were victims of various degrees of psychological and emotional trauma, having been survivors of the attacks on either themselves, their loved ones and/or their communities. For instance, some widows who were recently bereaved found it difficult to come physically to the registration centres. It was also quite challenging for some individuals who had obvious disabilities to move freely around. For these survivors who were unable to show up physically, they were represented by a member of their household and such persons were registered on their behalf.

Recommendations

From the intervention process, it is evident that a lot remains to be done. More attention must be paid to reducing and eliminating biases that promote interreligious and ethnic violence. Also, structural issues such as poverty, employment and insecurity must be addressed at various levels by the various security agencies, respective state agencies and the federal government. Furthermore, attention must be paid to including counselling sessions in interventions dealing with beneficiaries that have gone through one or more forms of physical and psychological trauma.

TKC Lecture Series

As part of its commitment to raise awareness on critical issues through knowledge promotion and sharing, The Kukah Centre undertook several lectures in 2021. These lectures were delivered on behalf of the Centre by Fr. Atta Barkindo, PhD, the Executive Director. The lectures undertaken include:

The Fulani Jihad in West Africa and the Emergence of the Sokoto caliphate CMS missionaries in Northern Nigeria - this paper was delivered as part of the Decolonize Nigerian History Project, in partnership with Unveiling Africa (UVA). The Decolonize Nigerian History Project, which began in July 2020, aimed to contribute to nation-building by providing African centred and social justice perspectives on global Black history, African history, and Nigerian history in the Nigerian education, political and policymaking systems.

The Quest for Independence: Willinks Minority Commission Report – In 1957, the colonial government convoked a commission to ascertain the facts, and thereupon, recommend measures of assuaging the fears of minority ethnic groups in Nigeria. The Kukah Centre, therefore, in its paper, explored the implications of the Willinks Minority Commission Report on Nigeria's Struggle with Citizenship and National Integration, to proffer recommendations on building common citizenship and promoting meritocracy in Nigeria.

Lectures for Students and Partners at the University of Islamabad, Pakistan - The Centre delivered two virtual lectures to some students and staff of the University of Islamabad, Pakistan. The first seminar on ***Terrorism and Insecurity Challenges in Nigeria***, held in May 2021 and aimed to familiarise the students with the conflict situation in Nigeria;

highlight counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency efforts so far and engage them on strategic policy recommendations for ending the conflict in Nigeria. The second lecture, delivered in July 2021, was titled, '***Africa in the Contemporary Global Order.***' The aim of this presentation was to explore the role of Africa in the emerging global order viz-a-viz fighting terrorism, confronting COVID-19 and its impacts, and Africa's capacity for decision-making.

The Challenge of Terrorism for Evangelization in West Africa: Contemporary Issues and the Response of the Church – this paper was delivered virtually on 7th July 2021 to the Sokoto state congregation of the Evangelical Church Winning All, previously known as the Evangelical Church of West Africa, and popularly known as ECWA. ECWA is one of the largest Christian denominations in Nigeria, and easily possesses one of the largest Christian congregations in Northern Nigeria. The lecture examined the current trends in terrorist activities in West Africa, its impact on the Church's (Christian community's) evangelization drive and strategic recommendations on what the Church should urgently do to reverse the trend.

Nigeria's Counter-Terrorism Programme: Perpetrator Rehabilitation or Victim Negligence? – also in July 2021, the Executive Director of the Centre, Fr Atta Barkindo, PhD, presented a paper on Nigeria's Counter-Terrorism Programme. The paper, delivered at the Lagos State

University, analysed the different DDDR programmes in Nigeria, as well as the various implications and consequences for victims and perpetrators alike.



Inter-Faith Dialogue

Caritas Germany Project – Leaders for Peace in Nigeria: Promoting Peaceful Coexistence and Social Cohesion for Communities Affected by Extremism and Violence (Wauru Jabbe, Yola, Adamawa state)

The Leaders' for Peace Nigeria project is an offshoot of its pilot phase – Leaders for Peace in Nigeria: Supporting Religious Leaders Against Violent Extremism – a five-month pilot project implemented by The Kukah Centre (in partnership with The Development Initiative of West Africa (DIWA)) and supported by Caritas Germany. The intervention focused on the Wauru Jabbe community in Yola/Adamawa State in northeast Nigeria. It was implemented between May 1 and October 31, 2019. The successes and challenges of the pilot phase made it necessary to rework the project and title it – Leaders' for Peace in Nigeria: Promoting Peaceful Coexistence and Social Cohesion for People affected by Extremism and Violence in Wauru Jabbe Community, Yola, Adamawa State between August 2020-July 2021 – for greater impact, peace and social cohesion in the communities. The central focus of the project is to 'Strengthen peaceful co-existence and social cohesion through countering extremism and social empowerment schemes, with the support of community leaders. It builds on the premise that to achieve peace and social cohesion in communities, approaches that counter extremist narratives, support

the economic and social recovery of communities affected by violence and violent extremisms are adopted.

Generally, the goal of the project is to strengthen peaceful co-existence and social cohesion in communities affected by conflict, with Wauru Jabbe, Adamawa state, as a case study. Therefore, the main objective behind the training workshop was to get the participants to gain knowledge and be better informed on essential factors that can hinder peaceful coexistence and social cohesion in the community. The training was meant to build community resilience against violent extremism and promote a culture of social cohesion. The participants were trained to understand the following topics:

- Extremism, the structures of extremism, ideology, methods of recruitment and processes of radicalisation to create community awareness and build resilience.
- Negative narratives of extremists and how to provide alternative narratives to support social cohesion in the long term.
- Introduce them to the skills for a sustainable lifestyle, as a strategy for supporting social cohesion, peaceful co-existence, and an approach to strengthening resilience against extremist and violent narratives.
- Provide the platform for community leaders and members, especially women, to decide to be trained to apply creative problem-solving skills, handle tensions in the group, especially in their respective families for supporting peace and social cohesion.

To achieve the goals and objectives of the project which includes facilitating social cohesion and peaceful co-existence in Wauru Jabbe, two-level activities were designed: the pre-implementation activities and the implementation activities.

Pre-Implementation Phase

The pre-implementation phase had three components: Community Mobilisation, Research and Conflict Analysis, Strategic Meetings and Project Team Capacity Training sessions.

Community Mobilisation: The community mobilization was conducted in Wauru Jabbe by the project coordinator and the community consultants. During the mobilisation, key community actors (leaders and members of the community) were duly informed about the project. The nature, objectives and expected outcomes of the project with the funding limits of the donors were clearly explained to them. The goal of this was to achieve community buy-in.

Research and Conflict Analysis: The research and conflict analysis using a simple research methodology of focus group discussions and interviews with community leaders and members, security personnel, religious leaders and different community groups was adopted. The conflict analysis identified the nature and drivers of conflict in Wauru Jabbe. It also outlined the actors involved, the underlying motivations and methods of operations. The analysis highlighted the conflict dynamics and the perceptions and interpretations of various groups about the nature of the conflict.

Strategic Meetings: This component consisted of different strategic planning meetings of the project team. Some of these meetings were informed by the findings of the conflict analysis that was carried out. These strategic meetings were then followed by training sessions for the project team, consultants and facilitators on the project.

Implementation Activities

In line with all the findings from the community mobilisation, research and conflict analysis, the strategic meetings, the project team designed an implementation framework that guided the implementation activities. This framework was based on three types of training sessions: Training on violent extremism and social cohesion; Training on the implementation of the Joint Community Action Plan (JCAP) and Skills Acquisition Training. The implementation concluded with the presentation of start-ups, research on the Shila Group and the Endline Evaluation. The training on Violent Extremism and social cohesion was carried out from November 2020-September 2021 over three (3) sessions. The training was coordinated by project facilitators who are experts in the field and the Programme Manager.

Training session with project participants on countering violent extremism ▶



Training and Implementation of the Joint Community Action Plan, JCAP

To ensure that the project was community-led and centered where community members take full ownership for the various project implementation phases, it was key that the project develops the capacity of community members to work closely together to strengthen social harmony and social cohesion. To achieve this, the JCAP methodology was adopted and implemented, to encourage community members to take ownership of the project and deploy their creativity in implementing the joint community action plan. Thus, community members were part of the conceptualization, implementation and evaluation of the project, with complete community ownership. In this way, the community members were able to identify community problems, analyze them and come up with solutions to these problems.



Community Scorecard with the community youth group ▲
Community Scorecard with the community leaders' group ►

Interface Implementation with Participants on the LPN project

The interface phase is a central part of the JCAP process. Without holding an interface meeting, the entire JCAP approach is incomplete. During this phase, a platform was created where community members discussed issues affecting their community as identified. The issues were scored, and reasons were given. The platform also became a validation session where community members agreed to adopt the best strategies in tackling issues bedeviling their community. It was during this discussion that a collective response to the challenges was developed and agreed on by the community members. During these sessions, three key issues were identified as critical to the community; crimes committed by a local militia known as the Shila Group; Domestic violence, and religious intolerance and mutual suspicion. Most of these issues are linked to structural problems of poverty, the culture of impunity, parental neglect

and religious prejudices. To address these issues, the community identified two important strategies; Skills acquisition training to build the social and economic recovery of the beneficiaries and continuous training on religious tolerance and social cohesion.

Livelihood Training: An Approach to Promote Social Cohesion

The deployment of livelihood skills training as an approach for promoting peaceful co-existence and social cohesion processes was partly based on the findings from the conflict analysis, community consultations/ engagements, and the CSC/Interface with different groups within the Wauru Jabbe community. From the findings, it was clear that there was a need to create platforms for community members to engage on for better interactions, communications which will create social harmony for participants irrespective of religious or ethnic differences. Hence, livelihood trainings created the platform and opportunity for such engagements to happen to consolidate social relations.

Consequently, livelihood training provided a way of how communities can deflect energy from violence and to build social harmony. It enabled beneficiaries to become economically empowered to establish petty businesses as well as take charge of processes that contribute to a sense

of community ownership in the intervention processes. It became an effective approach that defined the range of measures that will likely transform Wauru Jabbe towards a sustainable and a peaceful community.

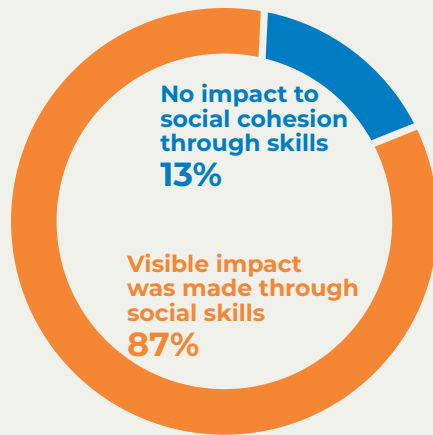
The skills acquisition component of the project was carried out in partnership with Small Medium Scale Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC). The livelihood training was divided into three components – the entrepreneurship (training which is also the theoretical) part, the vocational training (which is the practical part of the training) and the Savings Internal Lending. The Centre provided seven (7) skills training to 100 project beneficiaries in Wauru Jabbe. The figure below shows the skills participants were trained on:

S/N	List of Skills selected	Number of Participants	Skill training duration
1	Tailoring	18	24 working days across 8 weeks
2	Shoe Making	5	12 working days across 4 weeks
3	Household Training	10	12 working days across 4 weeks
4	Beauty and Makeup	5	8 working days across 4 weeks
5	Baking and Confectioneries	17	10 working days
6	Fish Farming	11	10 working days across 4 weeks
7	Poultry	34	10 working days across 4 weeks

At the end of the skills training, start-ups were presented. Additionally, savings and internal lending communities (SILC) was set up so that income from these skills can be used to support community-based projects and initiatives.



SKILLS IMPACT TO SOCIAL COHESION



Impact of the Skill Acquisition Training

Following the Skill Acquisition training, a questionnaire was issued to the project beneficiaries to ascertain the impact of the skills learned in promoting social cohesion. An overwhelming 87% of the respondents registered their pleasure and indicated that the skill learnt helped improve their relations with other community members and overall social cohesion.

“Following the Skill Acquisition training, a Muslim community member that had an interest to become a fish farmer approached me to train her and her friends on the basic knowledge that I got from the LPN Fish farming Skill Class. I agreed to train them despite their religion. I am a Christian and I have never foreseen Muslims coming to my house nor asking for a favour from me. The LPN Project has tremendously transformed my understanding and the way I perceive Muslims. The relationship is gradually spreading into the community”. – A Respondent from the fish farming group.

“I was a tailor prior to the LPN project. My customers were only Muslims because Christians will not come close to me nor even allow me to sew for them. Following the LPN project training and skills class, both religions are now more receptive to each other. Now more Christians are coming closer to me now to sew for them and even refer their friends. I have both Christians and Muslims as customers now and currently have three trainees under me. I am encouraging my fellow participants to appreciate the start-up they have and make use of it judiciously. Thank you TKC and Caritas Germany.”- A respondent from the Tailoring group.

“I have already cascaded the training I got from poultry skill class to two other community members who were never part of the LPN Project. The two trainees have already started their own business with 15 birds each.” - A respondent from the Poultry group.

Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC)

The Savings and Internal Lending (SILC) methodology is a holistic, savings-led microfinance approach that provides a safe place for poor households to save and borrow to increase their income. The goal is to help members better manage their existing resources by teaching them basic financial management skills. This methodology was reviewed to fit into the LPN project, with the aim for community members to work together to agree on a joint action plan. The SILC social funds savings would then be directed to achieving the JCAP resolution from the pilot phase as agreed by all Wauru Jabbe community members - which is to build a community healthcare facility.

For this project, the various community groups as identified during the conflict analysis and workshop were organised based on the identified skills which directly form the SILC groups. Each skill group was tasked with adopting the investment strategy in line with their business strategy and agree on the percentage to save into the social funds. Investment incomes would then be sent back to the community, which would be monitored by the Community Skills Acquisition Committee.

Successes and Impact

It is safe to say that several successes were recorded. The project increased the level of awareness regarding the nature of the conflict faced by the community. It also provided the platform for the community to design strategies and ways of building social cohesion and mutual respect. The intervention deepened the participatory attitude of community members towards designing problem-solving strategies, offering an inclusive process and working with the enthusiasm and the capacities of the community itself. This created ownership and led to high levels of commitment from the project participants as well as the wider community.

Another significant impact is that the project facilitated changes on the individual level, especially with regards to confidence, self-belief, understanding self-worth and how they relate to one another. In an environment that is founded traditionally on gender identities, age categories and class affiliations, the project reinforced the understanding of how to overcome these transactional identities for the sake of community progress and peaceful co-existence.

There were also evidence-indicated changes in attitudes of community leaders, both traditional and religious, towards community members. By the end of the project, they were seen to be more open, more willing to listen and more appreciative of the views of others than before the project began. A participant commented that *'there is no discrimination in this project; there is no discrimination among us here in the meeting'*. Participants at various levels of engagement also reported personal changes with regard to additional skills and knowledge acquired.

The project remains locally appreciated by participants and the wider community for building social cohesion around the nexus of community development work on the one hand and aspects of conflict transformation and peacebuilding work on the other.

Project Challenges and Recommendations

Despite the successes recorded, it must be recognised that these were not achieved without some challenges. The project was implemented in a context where conflict was still ongoing. This added a bit of a burden on working with the community in promoting social cohesion. Again, there was a high level of expectation generated by the project. Dealing with the expectations of the community was sometimes distracting and disruptive for the project team and the programme implementation. Halfway through the implementation, the COVID 19 pandemic struck, and this affected the entire programme of implementation and led to delays in achieving some of the



outputs. Also, the project was implemented during the rainy season; this proved challenging as the group of beneficiaries were predominantly subsistent farmers. It was, therefore, a bit disruptive to the programme as some of the participants needed to attend to their farms.

Considering these challenges, it is important to make some brief recommendations. First, a comprehensive conflict analysis should always be carried out to highlight the nature of the conflict and design adequate mechanisms for addressing insecurity during conflict implementation. Additionally, a framework to manage the expectations of participants should be drawn up, and if possible, be included in the curriculum of training. In terms of the pandemic, adequate measures should be adopted, and the government guidelines should strictly be followed both for the project team, consultants, and trainees. Finally, the social context of the community and beneficiaries should be considered while implementing the project so that the seasons that are convenient to the community should be adopted.

Bishop Kukah's Corner



An erudite scholar and intellectual, Most Rev. Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah, is also the esteemed founder of The Kukah Centre. This part of the report showcases some of the achievements and interventions of Bishop Kukah in 2021.

45th Priestly & 10th Episcopal Anniversaries

The year 2021 marks His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah's 45th year as a Catholic priest and 10th year as the Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese.

In commemoration of both events, the Bishop has pledged to alleviate the sufferings of five thousand (5,000) families by providing each family with a commercial tricycle (Keke Napep) to support their economic wellbeing.






The Priests, Religious and entire Laity of the **Catholic Diocese of Sokoto** congratulate His Lordship,

Most Rev. Dr. **Matthew Hassan Kukah**

on his

45th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination and 10th Episcopal Anniversary

as the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Sokoto

Ad Multus Annos!!!

Help me take 5000 families

OUT OF POVERTY

in honour of my

45th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

19th of December

Help, Join me to start with

50 Keke (Tricycles)

@N1,000,000.00 each




Account Details Zenith Bank // Keke Account // 122055264

Admission into the Honorary Fellowship of the Nigerian Academy of Letters

On 12th August 2021, Bishop Kukah was admitted as a fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters at the J.F. Ade-Ajayi auditorium of the University of Lagos, Lagos state.





NIGERIAN ACADEMY OF LETTERS

National Secretariat:
No. 33, Arinwa Way,
University of Ibadan,
Ibadan, Nigeria.

Lagos Office:
88, Ransome Kuti Road,
University of Lagos, Lagos.

Tel No: President: 08034700393
E-mail: foebokhare@yahoo.com
Secretary: 08035024246
E-mail: ayobamikehinde2000@yahoo.com
NAL E-mail: nigerianacademyofletters@gmail.com
URL: http://nal-org.ng
Twitter: https://twitter.com/nal_ng
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/nalorg

05 July 2021

Most Reverend, Bishop Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah,
Roman Catholic Diocese of Sokoto,
Sokoto.

Your Eminence, My Lord Spiritual,

ADMISSION INTO THE HONORARY FELLOWSHIP OF THE NIGERIAN ACADEMY OF LETTERS: HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

The President of the Nigerian Academy of Letters, Professor Francis Egbokhare, FNAL, with much delight, hereby congratulates you on your admission into the Honorary Fellowship of the Nigerian Academy of Letters (NAL). This followed the confirmation of your nomination on Thursday, 17 June, 2021 by the Executive Committee of the Academy in recognition of your sterling exemplary character, stake-holding of inter-faith dialogues, unceasing obligation to soul-healing, advancement of knowledge and education, outstanding leadership instinct, crusade for good governance, as well as your laudable outstanding commitment to national development (national patriotism).


In the main, your impressive stance as a humanist devoted to the crusade for human freedom, social justice and equity—attributes that run in tandem with the commitment of our Academy to deploy the humanities for social and national reconstruction— have informed your well-deserved appointment as an Honorary Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters.

The investiture of the new Regular Fellows and the only Honorary Fellow for this Convocation will take place on Thursday, 12th August, 2021, at the J.F. Ade-Ajayi Auditorium of the University of Lagos at 11.00 a.m.

Kindly keep the date open as admission into the Fellowship of the Academy is not validated and confirmed until investiture is done. It is still an offer until there is investiture.

Congratulations Sir.

Yours Sincerely,



Professor Ayobami Kehinde
Secretary, NAL

Executive Committee: Prof. Francis Egbokhare - President, Prof. Duro Oso - Vice President, Prof. Olu Otufesha - Immediate Past President, Prof. Emeritus Ayo Bamgbose - Foundation President, Prof. Emeritus Ayo Baki - Past Emeritus Ben Egiebor, Prof. Emeritus Dan Izevbaye, Prof. Ishag Olayinka, Prof. Ayobami Kehinde - Secretary, Prof. Sunday Ododo - Assistant Secretary, Professor Turaj Oyedele - Treasurer, Prof. Ayodeji Oluwalana, Prof. Folake Osoyemi, Prof. Jonathan Alimu, Prof. Joseph Olorun, Prof. Abubakar Raheem, Prof. Andrew Haturu, Prof. Festus Adesanya - General Editor, Prof. Uwanwan Edehin - Honorary Solicitor, Prof. Rotimi Babajide - Newsletter Editor.

International Eucharist Congress in Budapest, Hungary

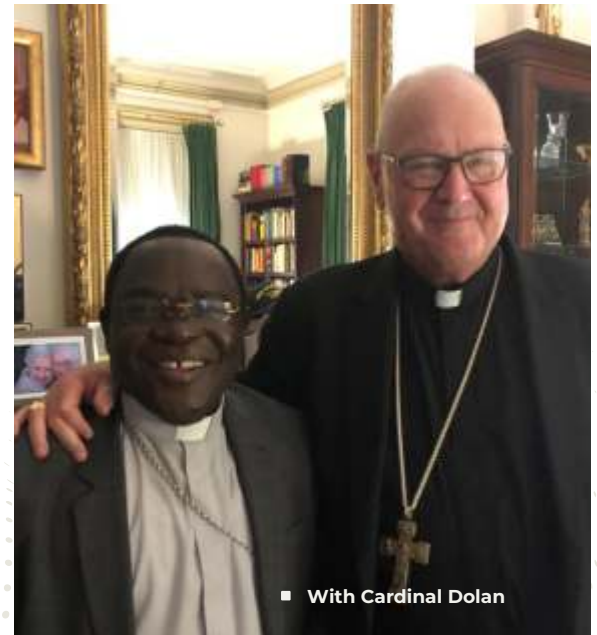
The 52nd International Eucharistic Congress took place from September 5-12 in Budapest, Hungary. The congress, originally scheduled to take place in 2020, was postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The one-week event celebrates the Real presence of Christ in the Eucharist according to the teaching of the Catholic Church.



■ Congratulations from Cardinal Sarah



■ After Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral, Budapest



■ With Cardinal Dolan

Conference on Interreligious Dialogue, United States of America

On 13th July 2021, Bishop Kukah testified on the state of religious freedom in Nigeria before the United States Congress in Washington DC.

During his time in the US, His Lordship met with the Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations (UN), Archbishop Gabriele Giordano Caccia. Bishop Kukah also visited the State Department in Washington where he engaged with top specialists on Nigeria in the State Department.



Financial Report

INFLOW TO THE KUKAH CENTRE IN THE YEAR 2021

S/N	DONORS	US Dollars (\$)
1	OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE WEST AFRICA (OSIWA)	40,000.00
2	KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, USA	54,994.00
3	PROFUTURO	115,735.73
4	FORD FOUNDATION	200,000.00
TOTAL		\$410,729.73

S/N	DONORS	Euros
1	EUROPEAN UNION (EU)	169,985.60
2	SWISS EMBASSY	50,000.00
3	CARITAS GERMANY	43,508.00
TOTAL		EU 263,493.60

Financial Report

INFLOW TO THE KUKAH CENTRE IN THE YEAR 2021

S/N	DONORS	NAIRA (N)
1	THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE CHURCH	3,801,050.00
2	PROFUTURO	50,417,559.00
3	HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT	11,142,500.00
4	INDIVIDUALS/GENERAL PUBLIC	19,558,400.21
TOTAL		N84,935,643.00

S/N	DONORS	POUNDS
1	FOREIGN COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (FCDO)	16,133.79
TOTAL		16,133.79



Looking Forward

The beginning of 2021 was aimed at overcoming the various impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and functioning effectively within the new normal. The Centre made significant progress in its programme implementation processes. It also prioritized its staff capacity in terms of training and development. By the end of the year, The Kukah Centre recorded several achievements, however, the Centre also came away with lots of lessons and takeaways to guide our activities in the coming years.

Come 2022, it is the plan (and hope) of the Centre to further expand the scope of our interventions. The Centre also intends to revitalize some of our pet projects (Kukah Centre Specific Interventions) such as the Justice Delivery Program.

And lest we forget to share this with you, On 17th December 2022, **The Kukah Centre Will Be Ten!!!!**

The Centre knows you can't keep calm. The Centre can't either. And so we promise to keep you updated on every activity and step of our journey next year.

Welcome to 2022!

THE KUKAH CENTRE

OSIWA

PRESENTS:

CIVIC SPACE

THE PATHWAY TO SOCIAL
COHESION AND INTEGRATION



THE
KUKAH
CENTRE
FAITH • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC POLICY

HEAD OFFICE:

Flat C1, American Specialist
Hospital Complex, (opposite
Rockview Royale Hotel),
1, Luanda Crescent, Wuse 2,
Abuja - Nigeria.

+234 810 9531 981

info@thekukahcentre.org,
tkc.abuja@gmail.com,
kukahcentre@gmail.com

REGIONAL OFFICE:

#10 North Road, Abakpa,
Kaduna - Nigeria.

www.thekukahcentre.org