



# 2022 Annual Report

THE  
**KUKAH**  
CENTRE  
FAITH • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC POLICY

[www.thekukahcentre.org](http://www.thekukahcentre.org)



# 2022 Annual Report



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# Content

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# Appreciation

The Kukah Centre wishes to sincerely thank all members of staff, consultants, donors and partners, as well as friends and well wishers for their immense support and contribution in implementing its various projects in 2022.

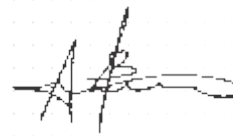
The Centre is deeply grateful to its local partners such as the Justice Development and Peace Commission in Kaduna, the Bakhita Initiative, Nigerian Governors' Forum, The Fountain of Life Church (TFOLC), the Independent National and Electoral Commission (INEC), the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) cluster made up of Civil Society Legislative and Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA), Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI), ElectHER, Institute for Media and Society (IMS), International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), Justice Development and Peace Initiative (JDPI), Justice Development and Peace Maker's Center (JDPMC), Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTf), Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), SOS Children Villages, The Albino Foundation (TAF) and Yiaga Africa.

With unalloyed delight, the Centre deeply appreciates the collaborative efforts of the European Union, the Swiss Embassy, Ford Foundation, Profuturo, the Hungarian

Government, Knights of Columbus, the Kofi Annan Foundation, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), religious and community leaders and stakeholders.

Worth mentioning is the freehearted commitment of all the members of The Kukah Centre Board of Trustees in keeping with the Centre's mission and vision. The Centre also sincerely recognizes the cooperation and support of all its local mobilizers, project beneficiaries and communities.

Lastly, the Centre deeply appreciates its Founder, Most Reverend Matthew Hassan Kukah for his exemplary leadership and immense contributions towards the growth and the success of the Centre. The achievements pulled off in 2022 underscores the need for more collaborations, support, dedication and commitment to attain greater strides in the coming years.



**Rev. Fr. Atta Barkindo, PhD**

*Director, The Kukah Centre & Head of Secretariat, NPC, Abuja*

# Introduction



**The Centre organised peace accord signings in the Ekiti and Osun off-cycle elections and the first national peace accord signing for political parties ahead of the general elections in 2023.**

**It also set up Independent State-based Peace Architectures in Enugu, Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba, Akwa-Ibom and Imo states.**

Known to be the penultimate year for the 2023 general elections in Nigeria, 2022 provided an opportunity for The Kukah Centre to station itself as an organisation with a response-driven approach in its engagements and interventions with stakeholders at the international, national and sub-national levels. Project activities were thus designed to support peaceful elections, promote good governance, improve security and digital education, manage conflicts and attenuate gender-based violence. Thanks to its multidisciplinary team of experts, the Centre was able to build on its existing approaches to project implementation with new ideas and innovative strategies which led to a remarkable feat coupled with some lessons learnt.

From its manifold project implementation activities in 2022, the Centre rounded off the Civic Space Engagement in Nigeria Project with the unveiling of an endline report that contained a compilation of policy briefs from the series of webinars and panel discussions organised by the Centre. Supported by Open Society Initiative West Africa (OSIWA), the project strengthened civic engagements through creating platforms for discourses that promoted human rights related issues, common identity and citizenship, and the promotion of national cohesion. With support from the Knights of Columbus USA, the Centre also finished off research and community-based intervention in communities affected by violence in Northern Nigeria.

Grants were also obtained from the European Union and the Swiss Embassy to lead off project implementation activities that promote peaceful elections in Nigeria and enhance internal democracy that will strengthen the political

party system in Nigeria's democracy. Similarly, the Fountain of Life Church has provided grants to the Centre for scholarship awards to 50 vulnerable children in Northern Nigeria. The scholarship will cover tuition fees and the provision of academic materials like books and uniforms to selected beneficiaries.

Furthermore, the Centre also forged ahead with its interventions under the Ford Foundation project which aims to create a national policy framework that combats violence against women and girls in Nigeria. In the areas of security and rights protection of religious minority groups, the Centre continued with its research and data collection under the atrocities documentation project supported by the Hungarian Government. The ProFuturo Digital classroom team has been undertaking supervisory visits to beneficiary states to monitor and evaluate the level of the project's impact. The project aims to equip children in vulnerable communities with technological skills to keep them in tune with modern skills in digital education.

In its capacity as the Secretariat of the National Peace Committee, the Centre provided administrative and technical support to the Committee in implementing its interventions. The Centre organised peace accord signings in the Ekiti and

Osun off-cycle elections and the first national peace accord signing for political parties ahead of the general elections in 2023. It also set up Independent State-based Peace Architectures in Katsina, Cross-River and Enugu states. A workshop was organised for key actors to discuss the role of digital technology in facilitating peaceful elections in Nigeria.

As a globally recognised research and policy think tank, the Centre efficiently made its research-based contributions at workshops, conferences and round table discussions at the international, regional and national levels. Notably, the Centre was part of the workshop organised by the Africa Borderlands Centre (ABC) in Kenya, and it was also a key presenter at the round table discussion organised by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and PAX in Switzerland. At the desk level, the Gender and Social Inclusion team organised an online chat to mark World Menstrual Hygiene Day and spearheaded the donation of sanitary pads to Every Girl Initiative as part of the Centre's corporate social responsibilities. These activities were successfully carried out in line with the Centre's four key program areas.



## 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



**Clearly, in almost every department and with all indicators, our nation has become a tale of two cities. We have wars between the rich and the poor, men and women, across generations, along party lines, social classes, religion, ethnicity and so on.**

**The centre has given up in almost every department. Fixing our country and getting it back requires courage, honesty, truth, humility, trust and firm commitment. Lies and blackmail are no substitute.**

### 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



### 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 2022

A critical thread that interweaves various activities and engagements of The Kukah Centre is the adoption and deployment of a collaborative approach in project implementation which ensures an inclusive engagement with multiple stakeholders across board - public engagement partners, advocacy partners, faith-based partners, programme partners, and funding partners. In 2022, the Centre partnered with international, regional, national and sub-national partners:

### DONORS

- European Union
- Ford Foundation
- Fountain of Life Church
- Hungarian Government
- Knights of Columbus, USA
- Open Society West Africa (OSIWA)
- Swiss Embassy
- ProFuturo
- Bradford University

### PARTNERS

#### ■ EU-SDGN Cluster:

Civil Society Legislative and Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPP), Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI), ElectHER, Institute for Media and Society (IMS), International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), Justice Development and Peace Initiative (JDPI), Justice Development and Peace Maker's Center (JDPMC), Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF), Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), SOS Children Villages, The Albino Foundation (TAF) and Yiaga Africa.

#### ■ Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Management, Taraba State University

#### ■ Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

#### ■ Justice Development and Peace Commission in Kaduna (JDPC)

#### ■ The Bakhita Initiative,

#### ■ Nigerian Governors' Forum

#### ■ Coventry University, United Kingdom

#### ■ Nigerian Civil Society Situation Room

#### ■ Religious Freedom Institute (RFI)

#### ■ The Kofi Annan Foundation

## 2022 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?**

**Bradford University Livelihood Project** - The Kukah Centre in conjunction with an interdisciplinary team of experts from University of Bradford, University of Teesside, Taraba State University and Playback - a performing arts organization - is undertaking a research which seeks to develop a network that combines participatory drama, research, risk management and stakeholder engagements to contribute to the inclusive development of culturally informed livelihood recovery measures for Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria. The project will be rounded off in March 2023

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**EU-SDGN Support to Political Parties:** The Kukah Centre with the support of the European Commission, EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria Project (EU-SDGN): Component 3 – Support to Political Parties is implementing an action aimed at supporting the strengthening of democratic institutions. The five-year project will adopt a multi-stakeholder approach in supporting political parties, especially their internal mechanisms.

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**Ford Foundation:** With the kind support of Ford Foundation, The Kukah Centre in partnership with The Bakhita Initiative, is implementing a two-year project that utilizes religion in combating violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Nigeria. The outcomes from the research conducted on the drivers and causes of GBV along with the series of workshops held across the six geopolitical zones will form the basis of creating a national policy framework for preventing gender-based violence in Nigeria.

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**Hungarian Government:** This is a one-year project that is devised to support local faith-based networks in documenting atrocities against their communities and others across selected localities in Northern Nigeria. This data will serve as early warnings for these targeted areas in rural northern Nigeria, and will also be used for analysis, reporting by a range of religious and

secular actors, and policy formulation both within and outside Nigeria. It officially started in February 2022 and will end in January 2023.

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**Knights of Columbus USA:** The Kukah Centre was supported by the Knights of Columbus to conduct research and collect video testimonies of victims of violent conflict in parts of Northern Nigeria. Findings from research are being used to contrive community-based interventions that will empower the survivors of the conflict. In July 2022, the Centre officially rounded off the project activity with the editing and translation of video testimonies.

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**National Peace Committee:** The Kukah Centre, Secretariat of the National Peace Committee, facilitated all the activities of the Committee in 2022. Some of the most significant activities were the signing of the peace accord to support peaceful off-cycle governorship elections in Ekiti and Osun states, and the signing of the first national peace accord to support peaceful campaigns ahead of the general elections in 2023.

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**Open Society Initiative West Africa:** The Civic Space Engagement in Nigeria Project officially ended in June 2022 with a public presentation which focused on the presentation of the project's overview, some key project findings, and a panel discussion on the theme 'Enabling the Civic Space in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects'. Specifically, the project aimed to widen Nigeria's civic space which has shrunk due to certain restrictive laws and policies that hinder inclusivity for

Nigerian youths, women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and citizens in the affairs of the government. The Kukah Centre implemented the project in partnership with the Yar'Adua Foundation, Global Rights, Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) and the office of the Vice President.

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**ProFuturo:** This is an ongoing programme that is being implemented in partnership with the Catholic Bishops Conference, the Northern Governors Forum and ProFuturo, a Spanish NGO. It provides access to a digital form of teaching and education to children in vulnerable communities. The project is designed to refocus the attention of school children on the acquisition of skills through technology, which in turn helps keep them off the streets. The digital classroom project kick started in June 2017 and is currently being implemented in 12 Northern states - Kebbi, Benue, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba, Kano, Kaduna, Niger, Nasarawa, Bauchi, Borno, and Adamawa states.

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**The Fountain of Life Church Project:** With the support of The Fountain of Life Church, The Kukah Centre kicked off this intervention with the aim to mitigate the adverse effects of conflicts on Christian widows in Kaduna and Benue states. An identified strategy deployed during the implementation of the project was the skill acquisition training of widows designed to equip them with different skills for the purpose of building their economic resilience and enhancing their social recovery.

## National Peace Committee (NPC)



▲ Members of the National Peace Committee during a strategic meeting in Minna, Niger State.

Throughout 2022, the National Peace Committee, made up of eminent elder statesmen and women, supported good governance and promoted citizen involvement in democratic affairs through its engagement with Nigerian leaders at the highest levels of government. These interventions revolved around both electoral and non-electoral issues. Worthy of mention is the series of high-level strategic meetings it had with key international and national actors, the facilitation of the signing of peace accord at the state and national level, and the setting up of Independent State-based Peace Architectures (ISPAs) to promote peaceful elections

## Strategic Meetings and High-level Engagements

Ahead of the 2023 general elections, the National Peace Committee organised a series of high-level meetings with members of the diplomatic society as well as heads of organisations to identify strategies that will be deployed to support good governance and the entrenchment of democracy in the electoral process.

The Committee led by the Chairman, His Excellency General Abdulsalami Abubakar held a strategic meeting in Minna, to discuss substantive and dynamic issues bothering the upcoming 2023 general elections. The meeting took place at the heels of preparations for the signing of the first National Peace Accord on the 29th of September 2022 by the presidential candidates and political parties, committing them to peaceful rallies, devoid of incitement, personal attacks, insults and fake news but with a focus on issue-based campaigns that will ensure Nigeria's collective political development and progress and the overall success of the 2023 electioneering process.

On the 3rd of March 2022, The Convener of NPC, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, together with the Head of Secretariat, Fr Atta Barkindo (PhD), received members of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria at the NPC Secretariat. The delegation comprised Amb. Samuela Isopi (the EU Ambassador to Nigeria), and the EU's 2019 Nigeria Election



▲ R-L NPC Members: Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar (Chairman), Gen. Martin-Luther Agwai and Ms. Idayat Hassan (Members)  
▼ INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu with some NPC Members: Femi Otedola and Aliko Dangote at a strategic meeting in Minna, Niger State



Observation Mission team (headed by Ms Marie Arena). The visit followed a series of meetings lined up by the delegation to assess the progress made in electoral reforms since the delivery of the Final Report of the 2019 EU Elections Observation Mission.

Similarly, on the 23rd of March 2022, the Head of Secretariat of the National Peace Committee (NPC), Fr Atta Barkindo (PhD), on behalf of the Chairman of the NPC, General Abdulsalami A. Abubakar GCFR, led a delegation from the Kofi Annan Foundation and the Swiss Embassy to the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC. The delegation, made up of Mr Sebastien Brack (Kofi Annan Foundation), Nicolas De Torrente (Swiss Embassy) and Ms Rahel (Swiss Embassy), was received by the INEC Chairman, National Electoral Commissioners, and other members of the Commission. The meeting centred on deepening the partnership between INEC and the NPC in facilitating peaceful elections both at the national and sub-national levels. The Swiss Embassy and the Kofi Annan Foundation pledged to support the consolidation of the partnership between INEC and the NPC that will fine-tune strategies needed to mitigate the negative impact of social and traditional media on transparent and peaceful elections in Nigeria.



**The event was organised to promote healthy debates and issue-based campaigns as countermeasures to online and offline engagements capable of fueling violence.**

The Kukah Centre, Secretariat of the National Peace Committee, in partnership with the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, NILDS, organised a high-level forum on the 19th of September 2022, at the International Conference Centre in Abuja. The event was organised to promote healthy debates and issue-based campaigns as countermeasures to online and offline engagements capable of fueling violence. Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah delivered a keynote address on “Political communications, campaigns and the 2023 elections- Issues, Challenges and Recommendations.” Other guests who spoke were the President of the Senate, His Excellency, Ahmad Lawan, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Femi Gbajabiamila and many others.

Additionally, some members of the National Peace Committee (NPC); His Eminence Alhaji Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar III, the Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence John Cardinal Onaiyekan, Cardinal Emeritus of the Catholic Archdiocese of Abuja, and Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah Convener of the National Peace Committee, hosted a delegation from the United Kingdom All Parliamentary Group at NPC's secretariat in Abuja on 2nd June 2022. The diplomatic visit aimed to discuss some critical issues regarding the upcoming 2023 elections and to gain a further understanding of the strategies employed by the National Peace Committee in promoting peace and reconciliation in the country. It was as well an opportunity for the National Peace Committee to explain to the delegation the impact of the Committee's interventions in previous elections, and how it was exploring other viable means of strengthening Nigeria's electoral process through its interventions Highlights of other meetings of the NPC are as follows:



- Members of the National Peace Committee led by the Chairman, His Excellency General Abdulsalami Abubakar held a strategic meeting with the Service Chiefs of the Nigerian Armed Forces at the Defence Headquarters in Abuja, to discuss substantive and dynamic issues bothering the security of the upcoming general elections.

- The National Peace Committee met with a delegation from the diplomatic community led by the Ambassador of the European Union to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Samuela Isopi to discuss strategies of the Committee ahead of the elections as well as issues pertaining the credibility and security of votes and citizens in the country. The Committee also identified the trend of vote-buying that was witnessed in off-cycle elections in Ekiti and Osun and underscored the need for INEC, and relevant stakeholders to educate Nigerian voters on the consequences of vote-buying.

- The National Peace Committee met with a delegation from the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) on the 29th of September 2022 at the International Conference Centre to discuss possible collaboration with the NPC in supporting the electoral process in Nigeria.

- The National Peace Committee paid a courtesy visit to President Muhammadu Buhari at the Presidential Villa on the 29th of September 2022 to brief him about the Committee's engagements ahead of the 2023 general elections. While receiving the Committee members, President Muhammadu Buhari appreciated their intervening strategy that has supported peaceful elections in the last three election circles.



NPC Convener, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah (middle) and Head of NPC Secretariat, Fr Atta Barkindo (far right) with EU Delegation to Nigeria headed by Amb. Samuela Isopi (Middle Right).



Head of NPC Secretariat, Fr Atta Barkindo led a delegation from the Kofi Annan Foundation and the Swiss Embassy to INEC Headquarters, received by INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu and some INEC Commissioners

## Signing of Peace Accords

Beyond just the recognition of the signing of the peace accord at state and national levels, it has become an intervention that entrenches democratic governance in Nigeria. In 2022, the national peace committee successfully organised three peace accord signings.

The Committee was in Ekiti on 15th June 2022 to conduct the signing of the Peace Accord for political parties ahead of the off-cycle governorship elections in the state. During the event, NPC admonished candidates and their political parties to abide by the peace accord's letter and spirit to promote peaceful elections in the state and in Nigeria. Governorship candidates were called upon to recourse to lawful actions in the event of any dissatisfaction arising from the results of the elections. The Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu who was at the event pledged that INEC would work within the provision of the law to ensure free, fair, and credible elections in Ekiti and Nigeria. He pointed out how important the intervention of the Committee has been in promoting the statutory activities of the elections, especially in the 2015 and 2019 general elections.



▼ Signing of the Peace Accord by Ekiti State Governorship candidates in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti state.



Similarly, the National Peace Committee was in Osogbo, the Osun state capital, for the signing of the peace accord to support peaceful and credible governorship elections in the state. The event was supported by INEC, the Nigerian Police Force, traditional leaders, candidates and chairmen of political parties, Civil Society Organizations, diplomats, representatives from agencies and other stakeholders. The Committee tasked candidates to conduct themselves peacefully throughout the election exercise. The candidates were urged to abide by the letter and spirit of the accord and to promote the course of good governance in Nigeria's politics to address the myriad of problems facing the citizens of the state.

▼ Signing of the Peace Accord by Osun State Governorship Candidates in Osogbo, Osun State.



▼ Signing of the 1st National Peace Accord by Presidential Candidates and Party Chairmen of Political Parties at the International Conference Centre (ICC) Abuja.

At the national level, the Committee successfully organised the signing of the first national peace accord on the 29th of September 2022 by the political parties committing them to peaceful and issue-focused campaigns. Out of the 18 political parties, 15 presidential candidates and chairmen signed the peace accord in the presence of the members of the National Peace Committee, INEC Chairman Prof Mahmood Yakubu and INEC Commissioners, the Inspector General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba, members of the diplomatic corps, top government officials, civil society organisations and representatives from key commissions and institutions.



## Independent State-based Peace Architectures

A significant strategy that the National Peace Committee deployed in 2022 is the setting up of more Independent State-based Peace Architectures in some states in Nigeria. The Committee, through the Centre, established new Independent State-based Peace Architectures in Nasarawa and Akwa-Ibom states. The first meeting with the newly appointed members of the Nasarawa Independent State-based Peace Architecture held on Tuesday 18th October 2022, and the meeting with the new ISPA in Akwa-Ibom held on the 25th of October 2022. Similar meetings were held in Imo on 4th November, in Oyo on the 11th of November and in Katsina on the 29th of November 2022. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss issues around the upcoming general elections, and the dynamic strategies to be deployed in curbing electoral offences and to underscore the need to promote peace, stability, and security through the established peace architectures.

As part of its commitment to support peaceful elections and power transitions at the state level, The National Peace Committee visited four states to follow up on the Independent State-based Peace Architectures (ISPAs). The

▼ Members of the newly set-up Independent State-based Peace Architecture (ISPA), Cross River State after a meeting The Kukah Centre in Calabar.



▼ Members of the Independent State-based Peace Architecture (ISPA), Nasarawa State after a meeting with The Kukah Centre in Lafia.

states visited include Enugu, Kogi, Kwara Gombe, and Bauchi. The meetings held with members of the state-based peace architecture in these states centred on the new Electoral Law, the offences, and penalties. More so, conversations were held on the importance of fostering peace, stability, and security in the states as the 2023 general elections draw near.



Participants at the training on peacebuilding for women youths and PWDs in Akwa-Ibom, South-South Nigeria. ▲

## Peace Building Engagement Training for Women, Youths and Persons with Disabilities

The Kukah Centre, Secretariat of the National Peace Committee organized training for women, youths and persons with disabilities (PWDs) across the six geo-political zones on peace building and the need to fully participate in the 2023 general elections in Nigeria.

The aim of the training was to familiarize participants with the electoral laws of Nigeria and their application, and to equip them with relevant knowledge and skills to engage and operate in the political space. Considering the high rate of fake news, participants were trained on the right ways to

disseminate information about the electoral process to their various communities.

Overall, 453 participants were trained in Akwa-Ibom, Kano, Taraba, Oyo, Imo and Abuja, FCT between October 2022 and December 2022. With the skill and knowledge acquired from the

training, participants will form part of the state-based early warning systems for the National Peace Committee that will provide information on compliance of political parties and their candidates to the peace accord and the New Electoral Act before, during and after the 2023 general elections and subsequent off-cycle elections.

▼ Participants at the training on peacebuilding for women youths and PWDs in Imo, Southeast Nigeria.





## IMPACT

The signing of the peace accord and the back-channel negotiations, dialogues and reconciliations NPC has facilitated among the political parties in 2022 has deepened the electoral process especially the off-cycle elections in Osun and Ekiti state.

Among other things, the intervention of the Committee imprinted in the hearts of politicians and the electorate the need to observe and promote peaceful elections in Nigeria.

The continuous collaboration of the Committee with INEC and other civil society organisations provides a synergetic drive for the consolidation of the electoral process, especially with the signing of the new Electoral Act 2022.

## CHALLENGES

Sequel to the impactful engagement of the National Peace Committee at both the national and the state levels, there are higher expectations from the public for the Committee to entrench democratic processes. However, as a Committee operating within the ambit of moral propriety, it lacks the authority to prosecute those who contravene the letter and spirit of the peace accord.

Another major challenge has been the rising levels of insecurity across the country. There are growing concerns about whether or not the elections will hold in certain LGAs with increased levels of insecurity and violence. This is compounded with campaigns of ethnicity and personal attacks, vile comments on social media, misinformation and the spread of unchecked and unverified information are abating the chances of having peaceful elections in Nigeria. The continuous incitement makes violence likely and the credibility of the polls questionable. The effects of violations of the Peace Accord outweigh the compliance.

**Picture 1:** Participants at the training on peacebuilding for women, youths and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Oyo **Picture 2:** Participants at the training on peacebuilding for women, youths and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Kano, Northwest Nigeria. **Picture 3:** Participants at the training on peacebuilding for women, youths and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Taraba, Northeast Nigeria.



## **EU-SDGN Support to Political Parties- Enhancing Pluralism, Internal Democracy and Equality of Opportunity for Political Parties to Strengthen the Political Party System for Democratic Growth in Nigeria**

Despite the evidence of democratic consolidation in Nigeria in the past 23 years (1999 – 2021), including the peaceful transfer of power from a ruling political party to the opposition party in 2015, serious concerns remain on how to best deepen democratic culture through political parties' engagement. The first worry is associated with the absence of internal party democracy in political parties which impacts the mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which leaders emerge. The role of elites in deciding who gets what, when and how is largely driven by their individual and collective vested interest. The reality of Nigeria's democratic experience since 1999 has been affected by the near absence of internal party democracy in the structure and operations of political parties which has created dysfunctional systems acting with impunity. Such acts of impunity are manifested through the process of leadership recruitment within the



▲ Participants at the sensitization workshop on issues of party administration and the knowledge of the New Electoral legal frameworks co-organized by The Kukah Centre, DAI and INEC in Akwa-Ibom state.

parties, resource mobilisation as well as the emergence of flag-bearers for elective positions. In fact, a lot of conflicts and crises witnessed with elections in Nigeria are associated with fallouts from party conventions and primaries.

Furthermore, although the Constitution enjoins the Nigerian State to take steps to promote their full participation in all spheres of political life, there is an unprecedented lack of social inclusion for women, youth, and Persons With Disabilities (PWDs). These categories of persons who constitute the majority of the Nigerian population, represent the most marginalised, both in terms of their participation in the political process, as well as governance,

being excluded and on the fringes. This has been largely attributed to the vested interests of a few elites who instrumentalise religious and socio-cultural fault lines.

It was for this reason that The Kukah Centre with the support of the European Commission, EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria Project (EU-SDGN): Component 3 – Support to Political Parties is implementing an action aimed at supporting the strengthening of democratic institutions, including political parties in Nigeria. The project will complement several related national and EU initiatives. First, the project will work directly with the National Peace Committee and leverage on its contacts, networks and

influence. The action will innovatively create a platform of engagement between political parties and the judiciary in terms of highlighting all constitutional provisions and necessary regulations that will deepen democratic growth in Nigeria. Political parties and the NPC will review the content of all Peace Accords to be signed and draw up a modality for compliance and accountability. The project will also work closely with the NPC state-based peace architectures in mediating intra and inter party political disputes towards ensuring peaceful elections.

Beyond EUSDGN II, the project will work closely with the Centre for Democracy and Development whose project on the impact of fake news on electoral processes is being implemented in partnership with the Kofi Annan Foundation. This project supports the training of political parties on the dangers of fake news and propaganda to the electoral process. Finally, this component will partner with other EU initiatives led by other EU cluster members to drive forward EU-SDGN II six thematic areas of support: i) the Electoral

Management Body (EMB); ii) the National Assembly; iii) the Political Parties; iv) Media; v) Women, Youths and Marginalised Citizens; (vi) Civil Society Organisations and other Non-State Actors.

This action will aim to address institutional weaknesses of political parties and the party systems in Nigeria. It will design and implement policy recommendations that facilitate and enhance party leadership accountability to members. It will also provide processes, skills and capacities required by political parties to constructively and impactfully engage with the entire political process, as well as enhancing partnerships with key agencies whose constitutional duty it is to conduct elections in Nigeria. Most significantly, it will provide mentorship to youths and women who are members of different political parties. This mentorship will extend to executives of the political parties. The Kukah Centre will deploy its neutrality, towards deepening the culture of synergy, collaboration, and partnership, creating equality of purpose and vision for Nigeria's political parties' development. The activities for the action have been designed to promote dialogue and linkages among political parties and party leaders to promote the involvement of women, youths, PWDs and other marginalised groups in the country.

The five-year funding period (August 2022 – May 2027) of the action falls within the Electoral Cycles of 2023 and 2027, including all off-cycle elections of 2023, excluding off-cycle elections that come after the 2027 General Elections. The long period of the action makes it possible to measure

impact, mitigate risks and challenges as well as assess progress on the electoral process and the growth of political parties.

The Centre kicked off implementation activities in November 2022 with the expectation that through its action plan, pluralism, tolerance, internal democracy and equality of political parties and the political party system will be promoted. On the 17th of November 2022, the Centre and DAI - Implementers of Components 3 (Support to Political Parties) and 1 (Support to INEC), respectively, alongside INEC, organised a sensitisation workshop for Political Party Leaders on issues of Party Administration and knowledge of the Electoral Legal Frameworks, amongst other party matters in Akwa-Ibom, South-south Nigeria. The workshop featured an overview of the Electoral Legal Framework presented by INEC's Director of Litigation and Prosecution, Tanimu Inuwa (SAN), an overview of INEC's regulations and guidelines for political parties presented by Ogbodu Emmanuel, INEC's Administrative Secretary in Akwa-Ibom on behalf of Dr Nwachukwu Orji. Registration and deregistration of political parties, conduct of political campaigns and rallies were also topics for discussion.

## MOVING FORWARD

In the coming years, the Centre will continue its engagements with political parties, INEC, IPAC, the Judiciary, CSOs and other stakeholders to enhance internal democracy and respect for rules in political parties; strengthen the adherence to legal requirements on party funding and campaign finance, promote engagement among IPAC, INEC and other relevant stakeholders, and enhance the involvement of women, youths and persons with disability in political parties and the political process.

Overall, the project seeks to strengthen commitment by political parties to the provisions of their Code of Conduct and the adherence to rules, tolerance and inclusivity.



## OSIWA - Civic Engagement in Nigeria



▲ The unveiling of the Civic Space in Nigeria Policy Document in Abuja

The Civic Space Engagement in Nigeria project was concluded in 2022 with the unveiling of a document that contains strategic policy recommendations and a public presentation on the project's overview, some key project findings, and a panel discussion on the theme 'Enabling the Civic Space in

Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects' with the aim to widen Nigeria's civic space which has shrunk due to certain restrictive laws and policies that hinder inclusivity for Nigerian youths, women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and citizens in the affairs of the government.

During the event which took place on 8th June 2022 at the International Conference Centre, discussants explained that the widening of the civic space rests on two important pedestals: the government's commitment to the promotion of human liberty through its laws and policies, and the propriety and responsibility of citizens in exercising their fundamental human rights. These identified pedestals can accelerate the level of accountability in governance, promote equity and justice in society, and facilitate leadership development and quality education in Nigeria.

Supported by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), the project was implemented in partnership with the Yar'Adua Foundation, Global Rights, Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) and the office of the Vice President.



## ProFuturo Digital Classroom Project

The ProFuturo project, implemented by The Kukah Centre in Nigeria, was borne out of the need to provide a qualitative education for the disadvantaged children, with the deployment of Information Communication Technology (ICT), particularly for children in vulnerable and difficult situations across the world. The project also has the mandate to provide equal education for male and female children, equipping them with relevant and cognitive 21st century skills to square-up to their peers in more fortunate climes.

Also the project understands that teachers are the key figure in the education system. For this reason, it seeks to train them in the use of various digital tools that are proven to be essential for 21st century



education, in addition to empowering them with the capacity to apply these skills in the classrooms.

The crisis generated by Covid-19 and the disturbing state of insecurity may have halted learning activities in schools in Nigeria, but child education could not wait. As a global solution, the ProFuturo project made learning easy by providing well-tailored educational contents freely available for teachers, students and institutions of learning.

Currently being implemented in 13 States of Northern Nigeria, the project is a response to the quest for digital child education. The overall objective of the project is to reduce the digital and social gap between children in vulnerable environments through the improvement of the quality of education. It also focuses on the enhancement of teachers' skills, methods, and competencies, leveraging digital technologies.

## Partners and target beneficiaries

With ProFuturo Foundation as the Donor, the project predominantly enjoys the tripartite relationship between The Kukah Centre, Northern Government Forum, and the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria.

The State Government through her State Universal Basic Education Board [SUBEB] and the Catholic Dioceses, through her Education Secretariat, have provided the needed enabling environment for the project to thrive. Other key stakeholders are the local coordinators (champions), teachers, pupils, PTA, and SBMCs.

S/N	STATES	TOTAL
1	ADAMAWA	3,853
2	BAUCHI	4,006
3	BENUE	8,283
4	BORNO	5,274
5	KADUNA	4,001
6	KANO	14,304
7	KATSINA	2,525
8	KEBBI	10,964
9	NASARAWA	7,857
10	NIGER	2,742
11	PLATEAU	6,299
12	SOKOTO	7,261
13	TARABA	7,848
<b>Total no of schools: 116</b>		
<b>Total no of teachers trained: 348</b>		
<b>Total No of students registered in ProFuturo tools and resources [85,177]</b>		

## Supervisory Visits:

The project team embarked on several supervisory visits to the 116 benefitting schools. This is part of the Monitory and Evaluation processes with the intention of:

- Assessing the impact of the Project in the benefitting States.
- Ensuring that the suitcases and their contents are intact and in good condition.
- Discussing ProFuturo Project sustainability plans as designed by The Kukah Centre [TKC] with key stakeholders in the benefitting States.
- Assessing and consolidating the cordial relationship between TKC and the key stakeholders and promoting a professional and smooth working relationship between local coordinators, the beneficiaries, and the lead implementing partners [The Kukah Centre].

## Learning Kit



## Financial Education Training:

In a bid to incorporate financial literacy/management into the curriculum of beneficiary schools, the project commenced the pilot phase of teaching Financial Education in Taraba State and the 3 [three] state coordinators [Champions] underwent initial training on financial education. The 4-day online training sessions were to build the capacity of these state coordinators by empowering them with the right knowledge on financial education. Information about savings, budgeting, profit and loss and other ways of making financial decisions were also learned. Upon completion, the training of these coordinators was cascaded to over 30 teachers from the 11 benefitting primary schools in the state. The approach for the step-down training was in-person.

## Monitoring and Evaluation System:

The monitoring and evaluation component is crucial to effectively measure the project in terms of process and impact evaluation. The ProFuturo project has been implemented successfully in Nigeria for 4 years, which is enough time to conduct an analysis of its operation in the country.

The monitoring and evaluation system of the program was able to ascertain if the Nigerian project met yearly targets while measuring the 2022 progress in relation to the timelines set. For instance, the Nigeria project exceeded all its targets in 2021 for pupils learning with the devices [**target: 37,000**] and teachers creating learning content [**target: 348**] by 10% and 28% respectively.

### **Other measurement parameters include:**

- Teachers improved competence

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- Percentage of teachers modifying their educational activities with technology because of participation in the project

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- Number of teachers creating learning content

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- Number of teachers registered on the ProFuturo platform

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- Number of teachers registered in the ProFuturo tools and resources

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- Monthly Percentage of active students

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- Number of monthly activities carried out per student

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- Percentage of activities by content areas

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- Number of damaged, unused, or stolen devices

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- Percentage of solutions with updated software etc

▼ Class Simulation at Kuyabana Primary School, In Minna - Niger State



▼ Primary School Pupils of LEA Shiekh Gumi, Kaduna State, using the Profuturo Tablets for their Continuous Assessment

▼ The lead consultant Hon. Mike Magaji [R] speaking with the Head Teacher of St. Patrick Primary School Illela, during a School Inspection Visit



▲ Class simulation at LGEA Science Primary School, Demekpe - in Makurdi Benue State



▲ Teacher Training at Kobi Pri School in Bauchi

## CHALLENGES

- Many primary school teachers are underpaid and the working environment lacks teachers. The lack of incentives and motivation for teachers involved in the ProFuturo Project tends to reduce their interest in committing more time and support to its progress.
- The uncertainty that comes with insecurity and emerging threats to peace and stability has shortened the school calendar at some point. The 3rd schooling activities were disrupted due to terrorist threats, government [Federal and State] ordered the abrupt closure of schools.
- The project has struggled with the issue of theft of devices deployed to some schools, as the security in these schools, which is one of the major prerequisites for selection, is unsustainable or cannot be provided.
- Almost 1000 tablets are deformed [swelling] due to the hot weather in Northern Nigeria.
- The frequency of usage by pupils is quite low, considering the huge gap between the number of tablets [over 5,800] and the pupils [almost 90,000].
- A lot of the teachers trained on the project either seek transfer due to proximity to their homes or the young N-power Volunteers leave once their services are terminated/discontinued. A few others leave the schools for further studies.
- The low level of literacy among pupils, is a barrier. They often forget their login details and have difficulty understanding and comprehending the tongue/language in the ProFuturo content.

## PLANS AND ACTIVITIES AGAINST NEXT YEAR

- School Supervisory Visits
- Donor Conference
- Training for Champions
- Monitoring and evaluation systems
- Continuous Stakeholders engagement for project visibility and sustainability
- Introduction of Financial Education as learning content across all benefitting schools.

While there are certain fundamental challenges discovered in the process of implementing this e-learning project, surprisingly the success rate has been unprecedented. Increasingly, teachers on the project are converting their teaching materials into digital forms and they are excited about the new opportunities afforded by the project, especially in the coming years. To a large extent, their ICT skills have improved, compared to the pre-project era and there are signs of more improvements with schools pledging their readiness for scale-up.

## The Fountain of Life Project - Building the Resilience of Christian Women Victims of Violent Conflict project in Benue State

The middle-belt region of the country constitutes the region with the highest involvement of women in socio-economic developmental activities. The region is hugely impacted by the growing violence and communal conflict with women, children and people living with disabilities falling major victims of these conflicts. Women have played a significant role in socio-economic and political sectors that have facilitated and supported the development of different facets of the Nigerian nation. For instance, women are said to constitute 60% of the

▼ Beneficiaries showing off their certificates after their skill acquisition training in Benue state.



smallholder sustenance farmers in Nigeria. Women are equally engaged in peacebuilding initiatives, care for the family and the provision of psycho-social support to victims of violence.

Women and girls are active in both the agricultural, social and political life of Benue. Over 60% of the active farming activities are led by women. They make a substantial contribution to social and family life. The state thus possesses the potential for the development of viable forest and wildlife reserves. It is this fertility and rich natural endowment of the state that continues to attract herdsmen to the region.

The victims of armed violence in Benue State include students, farmers, women, children and the elderly. However, most of those who have suffered have been women and girls. Many are displaced, raped, and sexually assaulted. Large areas of Benue farmland belonging to women have been abandoned with consequences for the local area as well as the rest of Nigeria. These attacks have traumatised many, especially women and girls with no attendant support from the Nigerian government. It has led to early marriage for girls, many have been widowed at their young ages and others left to cater for a large number of family members with no support from relatives.

Consequently, it has become increasingly necessary to build the resilience of women and girls as major victims of violence across northern Nigeria. This is more significant for Christian women who have been discriminated against by the government, non-





▲ The Kukah Centre Staff with Training Facilitators

government interventions and are hugely impacted by these conflicts. It is for this reason that The Kukah Centre with the support of The Fountain of Life Church (TFOLC), aims at implementing the project from March to August 2022 as the second phase and an extension of the pilot phase that was implemented in Kaduna State. This phase implementation targets fifty (50) Christian women as project beneficiaries.

Furthermore, successes recorded at the pilot phase made it necessary to expand the project beyond Kaduna state and to include more women/girls' beneficiaries across other locations where women are vulnerable. After careful deliberation and assessment and considering both the objectives of the project and the immense impact of the project on the lives of vulnerable Christian women in the middle belt. The Kukah Centre project team selected Benue State to implement the second phase and targets fifty Christian women.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

After successive strategic meetings by the project team, fifty (50) Christian women (widows, victims of conflict and those living with disability in conflict situations) were identified and selected for training based on laid down selection criteria. The project team was in the state from 22nd - 24th of March 2022 to conduct a verification exercise for the fifty (50) prospective beneficiaries of the project.



## TRAINING SESSION

On 7th July 2022, beneficiaries were trained on peacebuilding and mental health awareness. Whilst for the skill acquisition, they were trained in household production, baking and confectionery. The training was conducted based on the particular skill chosen by the fifty (50) women in the state. The training on peacebuilding, mental health and building social resilience provided a platform for the women to:

- Share their stories and ventilate their grievances to be followed by training on psycho-social support
- Acquire skills for the project beneficiaries to be peacebuilders.
- Be trained on the different selected livelihood skills to build their resilience and economic recovery

At the end of the training, cash relief packages were given to the project beneficiaries to build their resilience and for economic recovery. The Media was engaged for project visibility.

## CHALLENGES

A major challenge faced during the implementation was the language barrier between beneficiaries (who largely spoke in TIV) and the implementing team. However, the team worked with an interpreter to enable a proper articulation of the project objectives as well as undertake a needs assessment for beneficiaries.

## NEXT ACTION PLAN

Having assessed the impact of the project on the beneficiaries in Kaduna and Benue states, The Fountain of Life Church has extended the project to focus on improving access to education to forty (40) vulnerable children in Sokoto, Kaduna and Taraba.



# Memory Preservation, Advocacy and Knowledge Promotion

## Knights of Columbus - Hope for Victims of Violent Conflict in Nigeria

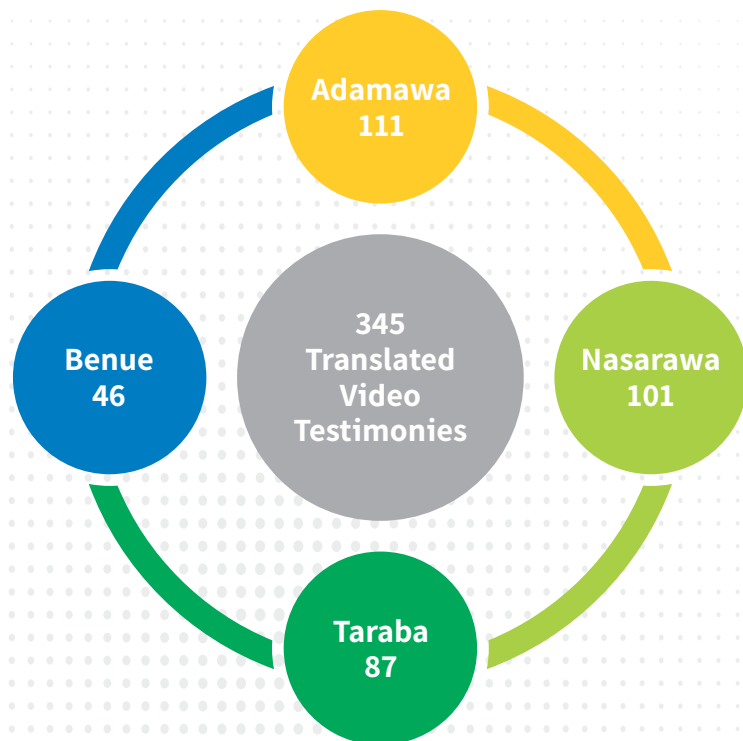
In October 2020, The Kukah Centre kick-started an intervention program that focused on research and the economic empowerment of communities affected by violent conflicts in Nigeria. Supported by the Knights of Columbus, USA, the Centre completed the project in 2022 with two major activities:

- Translation of collected video testimonies in four states namely: Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba and Adamawa.
- Video Documentary



## Translation of Video Testimonies

As a wrap-up to the second phase of the collection of video testimonies, the Centre rounded off the translation of videos in 4 of the seven states where video testimonies of victims were collected.



## Film Documentary Project

Beyond the translation of video testimonies of victims of violent conflict, the project implementing team also embarked on a film documentary to ascertain first-hand and scholastic information on the nature, drivers and impact of violent conflict in Nigeria. Between the 3rd of July and 6th of July 2022, the Centre with the kind support of the Knights of Columbus, USA and in collaboration with Talking Film Production Service from Uganda interviewed senior religious leaders, researchers and policy experts on what faith-based organisations have done to mitigate the impact of conflict on victims, how the conflict has affected their livelihoods, cultural heritage and the faith, as well as the areas that the international community can offer assistance to alleviate the sufferings of victims and survivors of violent terrorism and other forms of conflict. The video documentary was played at the Annual Conference of the Knights of Columbus in August 2022.

## Hungarian Government - Nigerian Atrocities Documentation Project

Religious persecution in Northern Nigeria is on the rise. Incidences of marginalization, discrimination, and violent attacks against religious minority groups in the region are often underreported and undocumented. This has given the perpetrators of these atrocities more impetus to execute heinous crimes in the Northern region. In cases where religiously motivated attacks are carried out, pretexting factors like the proliferation of arms, porous borders, and farmers' and herders' conflicts are presented as drivers of the conflict.

Consequently, many communities belonging to religious minority groups have become soft spots for violent attacks because of the government's failure to nib the crisis in the bud. Their susceptibility is worsened with an utter deprivation of basic amenities such as good access roads, potable water, hospitals, schools, etc. Victims of violent attacks are often subjected to the Sharia law, mob killings, forceful conversion to Islam, violent extremism, kidnappings, rape, child labour, human trafficking, and other human rights-related abuses. The various arms and tiers of the government are overwhelmed with the increasing rate of these forms of violations.

The political atmosphere of Northern Nigeria is tense, taking into cognizance the number of political and religious violence. States like Kano,

Sokoto, and Zamfara have not been able to separate the affairs of the government from Islamic doctrines. It has also not been able to regulate the violent and extremist preaching by some Islamic clerics. These have made religious persecution and the imposition of some Islamic laws on non-Mulsims in the region thrive.

Against the backdrop of these challenges, The Kukah Centre designed a project aimed at collecting evidence of violent attacks and religious persecution against Christians and minority groups in Northern Nigeria. The project which aligns with one of its core values of Memory Preservation, Advocacy, and Knowledge Promotion seeks to:

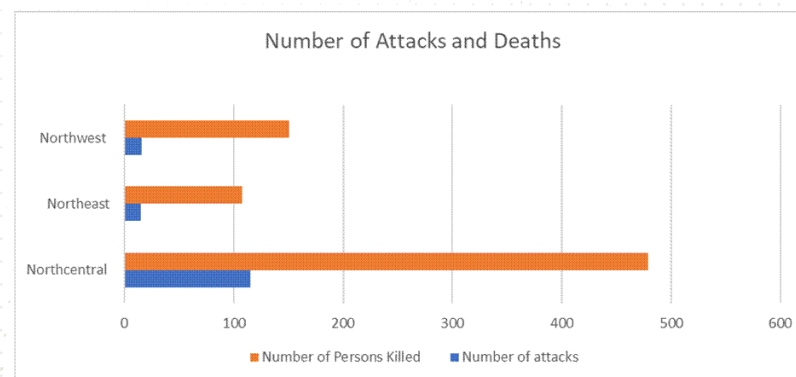
- Provide reliable evidence on the facts about the persecution of Christians and minority groups in Northern Nigeria.
- Provide more accurate, context-based & fuller pictures of the situation of religious persecutions in Northern Nigeria, as well as the immediate and remote drivers of conflict.
- And to support local faith-based networks to collect documentation on atrocities against their communities and others.

It is important to gather evidence on religious persecution for proper documentation and robust confrontation with the government on how best to address these current challenges. Where applicable, evidence collected can be used to call for compensation for victims.

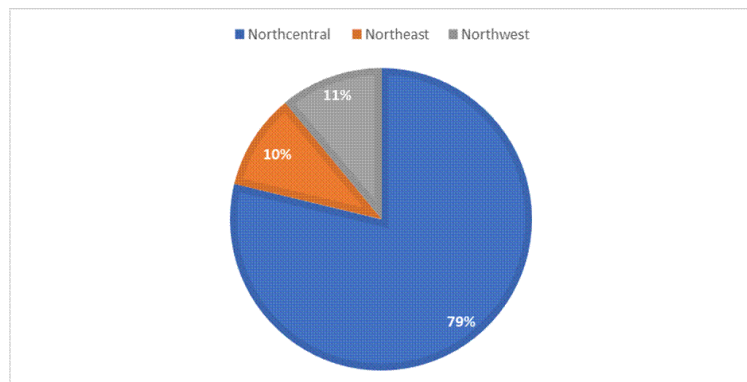
## Activities

Activities within the first quarter of the project included the selection and training of the project implementation team members. Data collection officially began at the end of the training with the Regional Coordinators. Primary data were collected by Regional Coordinators through key informant interviews and phone calls with community leaders, residents in affected communities as well as eyewitnesses. This was augmented with desk research conducted by two Research Assistants at the Centre. The desktop research consolidated the primary data collected by the regional coordinators which are currently used to create an atrocities database for the documentation.

**Documented Attacks for Q1 (February 1st- May 31, 2022)**



### Percentages of Documented Attacks

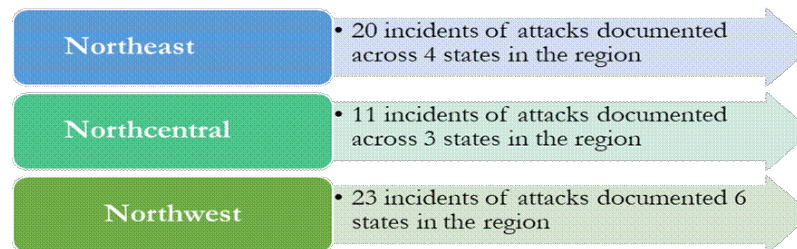
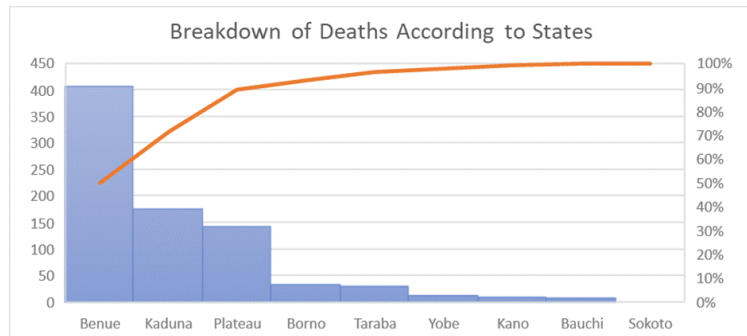


From the 146 attacks documented, 1 incident recorded that at least 50 persons were killed, while 26 incidents recorded that at least one person was injured. 97 attacks recorded that an unspecified number of persons were missing while 22 recorded none.

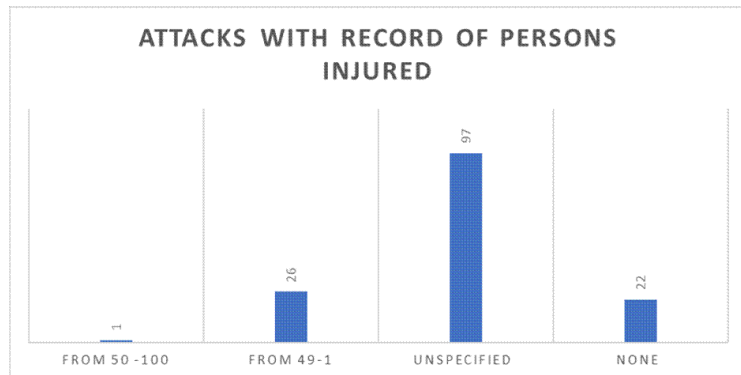
### Documented Attacks for Q2 (June 1 – Sep 30, 2022)

Within the period of documentation, thirty-seven (37) incidents of attacks were recorded across the region, of which 316 persons were killed and thousands were displaced from their homes.

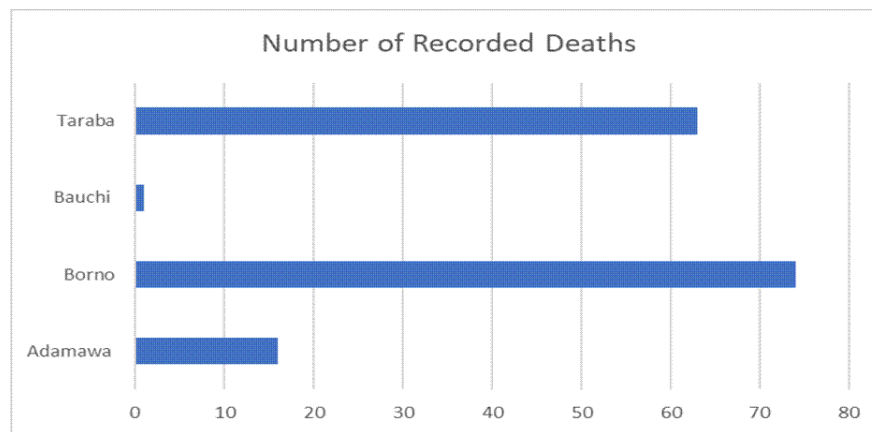
### Breakdown of Deaths According to States



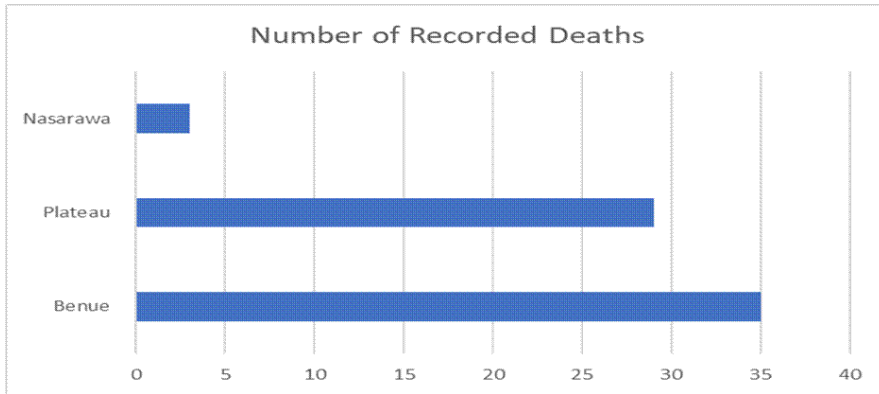
### Injuries Recorded from documented attacks



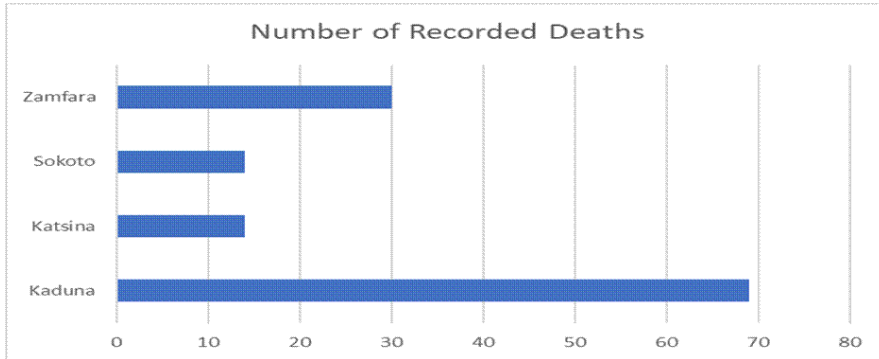
### Northeast



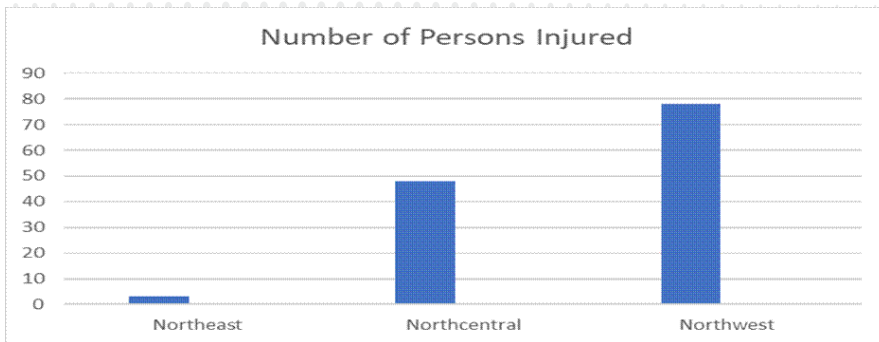
### Northcentral

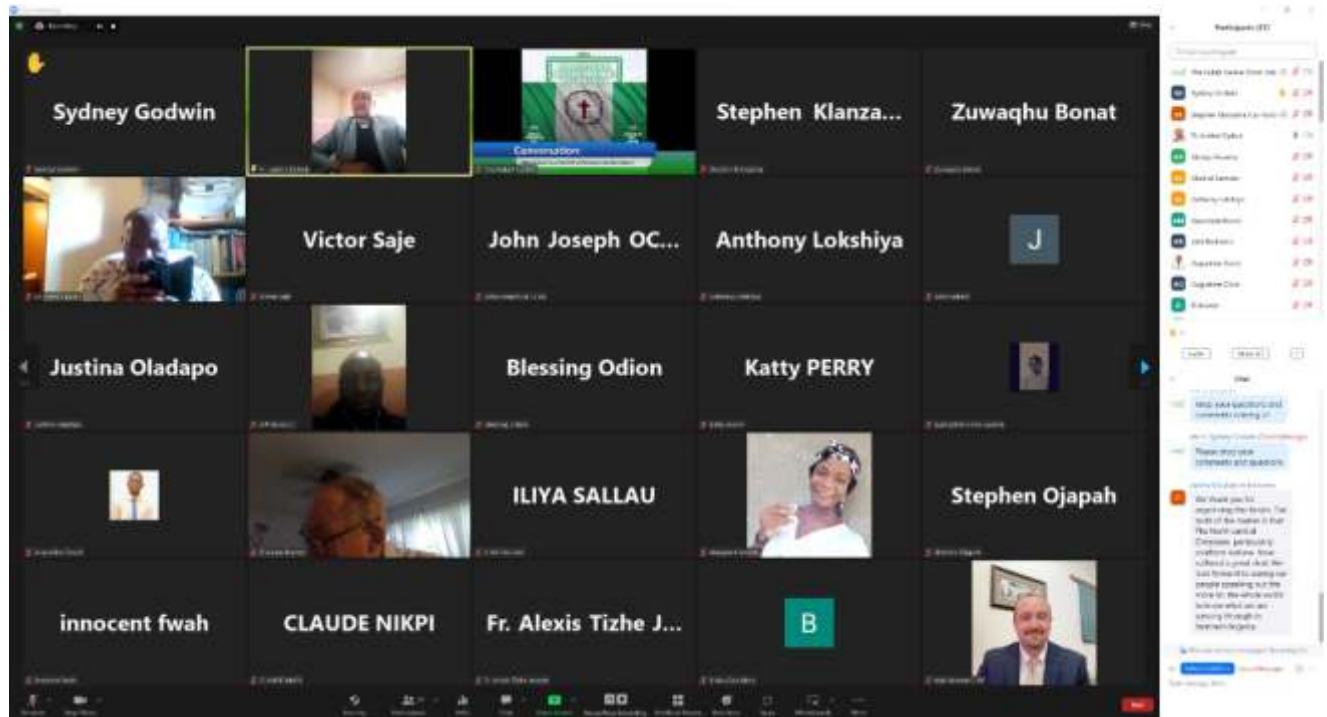


### Northwest



### Number of Persons injured





## Webinar on the Persecution of Christians and Minority Groups in Northern Nigeria.

### PANELISTS

**The Reverend Dr, Gideon Para-Mallam**, Executive Director, Para-Mallam Peace Foundation

**Dr. Zawaqhu K.A Bonat**, Executive Director, Centre for Population and Development

**Stephen Rasche**, Religious Freedom Institute, USA

**Fr. Justin John Dyikuk**, Catholic Diocese of Bauchi

**Fr. Stephen Ojapah**, Catholic Diocese of Sokoto



## Key Issues

- For a holistic approach to the persecution of Christians and minority groups in Northern Nigeria, there is the need to exceed the usual statistical analysis by undergoing research on the socio-cultural and political dimensions of the problem to identify the actors and agents responsible for promoting conflict, injustice, and inequality in the region. The persecution of Christians and minority groups in Northern Nigeria is driven by religious, ideological, economic, and political factors.
- Beyond the violent attacks by non-state actors, there is a systemic violation of the human rights of Christians and minority groups in Northern Nigeria. This is entrenched in government and traditional institutions where there is unequal access to job opportunities.
- There is the denial of the right to a place of worship and the forceful conversion of Christian girls to Islam through child marriage. The impact of violence and rights infringement on Christians and minority groups is huge. It affects their lives and livelihood, causing humanitarian crises and psychological trauma to the victims. Importantly, it affects the faith and mode of Christian worship in the region.
- Kidnappings by bandits and armed Fulani are organised crimes. Priests and religious leaders are being kidnapped for some religious and economic reasons: one is because of the erroneous belief that they are a bad influence on the propagation of Islam in

Northern Nigeria. Two, because Priests and Religious are perceived to be paid handsomely as Church leaders, kidnapping them would therefore attract huge ransoms to be paid.

## Government Actions and Inactions

- The first response to attacks on communities has been the deployment of the military to affected communities. Invariably, this response shows how intelligence gathering is weak and almost absent. Largely, the functionality of government institutions within the context of security, inclusive governance, equality, and human rights protection of Christians and minority groups is questioned in Nigeria.
- With the existing facts on the persecution of Christians and minority groups in Nigeria, there seems to be an outright and a persistent denial by the government. The narrative is painted with the brush of economic contestation, arms proliferation, and the porosity of Nigeria's borders.
- The focus and attention on climate change as the central cause of the crisis in Nigeria by the government and the West is a curvature of the reality in Northern Nigeria.
- In all these, gathering data is essential because it is the right channel for empirically engaging the government, foreign and local NGOs, and critical stakeholders on how to address the problem.

## CHALLENGES

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

- **Insecurity:** With the increasing insecurity in Northern Nigeria (herdsmen attacks, banditry, Boko Haram, ISWAP attacks, etc.) it was challenging for Regional Coordinators to travel to the field and organise formal interviews with groups and key informants. This challenge was aggravated by the abduction of the Northwest Regional Coordinators. Mindful of this challenge, the Regional Coordinators devised informal interviews to collect data in order not to raise religious suspicion and be exposed to security risks.
- **Difficulty in Field Travels for Data Collection:** Considering the frequency of attacks in the region, travelling across the huge land expanse in Northern Nigeria to collect data was a challenge for the Regional Coordinators. However, Regional Coordinators relied on the networks they have established with local individuals and communities to collect and verify data.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The atrocities of non-state actors like Boko Haram, founded on a religious ideology, affect Christians and other minority groups in several ways. Consequently, these have devastating economic impacts on victims. Interventions from the government do not match the resulting impact of these atrocities. The following recommendations can help address the existing challenge of Christian persecution in the region:

### Government

- The government should adopt a local and community-led policing where indigenes and residents of communities are employed, trained, and equipped to secure their environment and communities against non-state actors like Boko Haram
- The existence of indigeneity in Nigeria has advanced the course of religious persecution. Lawmakers should come up with legislation that will promote inclusivity, free access to land, place of worship etc. and equality in the country.

### Religious Leaders

- Religious bodies like the Christian Association of Nigeria and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) should continue to confront the government on the need to solve the current security challenge while it seeks collaboration with Christian INGOs to offer humanitarian assistance to victims whom the government has not adequately provided relief services.

## **Bradford University - Developing an Inclusive Research Network to Co-design Livelihood Recovery Measures for Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria**

Conflict and its consequent effect of poverty and displacement has been an existential challenge in Nigeria, especially in the Northern part. What has been an ongoing discourse is how to develop sustainable recovery measures for victims of conflict in order to build their resilience in their post-conflict, resettled communities. The Centre, a research and policy think tank collaborated with an interdisciplinary team of experts from University of Bradford, University of Teesside, Taraba State University and Playback - a performing arts organisation, to embark on a research project which seeks to develop a research network that combines participatory drama, research, risk management and stakeholder engagements to contribute to the inclusive development of culturally informed livelihood recovery measures for IDPs in Nigeria.

The project offered the Centre an opportunity to collaboratively engage with local cultures and communities through performing art-based methods to improve understanding of interconnecting conflict triggers and the intersection with livelihoods of IDPs, and how these are layered and play out across time and in different contexts. The network also explored the use of participatory drama to provoke community-based discourse on the plight of IDPs, and how the concept of risk management can help mitigate vulnerabilities in the development of culturally-informed policies on IDPs.



▲ The Kukah Centre Staff in a group photo with participants during at a workshop organised for Internally Displaced Persons in Abuja.

## Project Activities

As part of the core team of experts, The Kukah Centre hosted the 4th webinar series on the intersection of conflict and livelihood of IDPs in Nigeria on the 14th of November 2022. The pre-implementation activity of the project was a veritable means for knowledge exchange within the team of experts and their networks to engage with local cultures, histories, knowledge, and communities, and to understand conflict dynamics, the role of arts in improving visibility to the plights of IDP and the propagation of the surmountability of conflicts they experience.

A workshop was organised for selected Internally Displaced Persons from Durumi and Kuchingoro camps between 21st and 24th of November 2022. The four-day workshop adopted the Participatory Action Research (PAR) methods. Day 1 of the workshop focused on building trust with the IDPs, while Day 2 involved stimulating story projections and learning from the stories told by IDP participants. Day 3 identified some impactful and gender-specific stories that presented the unique plight of IDP women. Participants co-developed participatory dramas from these identified stories and conducted four public performances on day 4. The performances provided

visibility to IDPs' stories with the aim to amplify their voices and stir public discourse.

61% of IDPs engaged during the workshop were women. The performances also served as a means of collecting data for the identification of livelihood capabilities needed to initiate a recovery process.

### Next Steps

The next project activity will involve the co-development of a culturally informed livelihood recovery policy framework with key stakeholders in a two-day workshop using risk management concepts to explore policy approaches.

Programme Areas of  
The Kukah Centre

# Interfaith Dialogue

## Ford Foundation - To Support the Development of an Ethical Framework and Religious Intervention Towards Combatting Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Nigeria



Sexual and gender-based violence are the current issues confronting the world today. In many parts of the world, including Africa, sexual and gender-based violence have both theological and cultural roots that date back to the origin of mankind. The theological root of sexual and gender-based violence, for example, is rich with evidence of male dominion where women are ascribed a subordinate status. Women are exposed to all forms of abuse ranging from rape, assault and practices that undermine their dignity and sexuality. Sexual and gender-based violence subjects the women to emotional and psychological tortures leading to frustrations or even death.

Many government and non-governmental societies have attempted to proffer programs to mitigate violence against women. Yet, religious teachings and ideologies that appear to justify gender-based violence (GBV) on women remain unchallenged in all its forms. The innovation in this project is to go beyond socio-economic and political approach to the issue of gender-based violence. The project deploys the instruments of religion both at the institutional and doctrinal levels to prevent and combat gender-based violence.

Thus, the objective of the project is to develop an inclusive national religious policy framework for preventing and



combating gender-based violence in Nigeria. This means that 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 Combating 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 young girls. Religious leaders were drawn from Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN State Chapters) and Jamatu Nasril Islam (JNI State Chapters) to discuss issues on:

- Countering extremist ideologies that justify violence against women
- Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Sexual/Gender Based Violence (SGBV)
- Girl Child Education
- Early and Forced Marriage for girls.
- Negative social norms that exacerbate VAWG and promotes a culture of silence
- Psychological support for victims of gender-based violence



▲ Facilitators and participants sharing ideas at a workshop in Adamawa state.

Since the beginning of 2021, The Kukah Centre has been implementing the project activities across the six(6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Strategic meetings were held to introduce the project to the project team, obtain their buy-in, to ensure that all objectives and expected outcome of the project are understood, to conduct due diligence and background checks on all the state coordinators and the consultants, and ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly signed.

These series of meetings were followed by training of project staff, desktop research and data collection, validation of findings from research on how religious texts are used to reinforce gender-based violence.



TKC Project Consultant delivering a presentation at a workshop in Adamawa ▶



- The Centre in partnership with the Bakhita Initiative was in Akwa Ibom from 29th – 31st May 2022 to officially begin the validation exercise of the research findings that was conducted by the project team's research experts. The project implementation team was also in Enugu state from 13th- 15th June and Adamawa state from 26th-28th June 2022 to continue with the validation session of the desktop findings. Between the 23rd and the 25th of August 2022, the team was in Oyo and the Federal Capital Territory respectively for the exercise.

The Centre organised a series of workshops with the different key stakeholders in the different regions to underscore the nature of the gender-based violence and how best to respond to it using religious narratives.

- It organised and conducted a two-day workshop with various faith-based organisations, government agencies, CSOs and NGOs in Akwa-Ibom (south-South Nigeria) from the 25th to the 26th of November, and in Enugu (Southeast Nigeria) from the 31st to 2nd November 2022. Participants at the workshop discussed how misinterpreted religious texts and teachings are deployed to reinforce, encourage, or justify VAWGs. At the same time, they outlined strategies on how the same religious interpretations can be corrected and used in combating VAWGs.



A participant giving her contributions at a workshop in Enugu ▶



▼ The Executive Director, Fr Atta Barkindo delivering a presentation at a workshop in Akwa Ibom.



▲ A group photo of participants with project team members after a workshop in Abuja



▲ A group photo of participants with project team members after a workshop in Oyo

## CHALLENGES

A major challenge faced during the implementation of the project was the issue of insecurity across the regions. This was coupled with the high rate of inflation that affected the cost of project activities. For instance, the sit-at-home order by the secessionist group, IPOB affected the engagement of the project team in Imo state, Southeast Nigeria. The project team however tackled this challenge by rescheduling its engagement to a later date. Overall, the project was successful and served as an opportunity for TKC to engage faith-based organisations across the country. This consequently helped the Centre to build more partnerships with NGOs. It as well created more visibility for the project and the Centre.

## NEXT STEPS

With the measurable results from workshops and other engagement so far, the centre will organise a national/regional religious dialogue on GBV: There will be three dialogue sessions – a northern regional conference, a southern regional conference and a national conference. These conferences will bring together religious leaders, women groups and key stakeholders to reiterate the role of religion in preventing and combating GVB. It will resolve to address GBV at national and regional levels.



# TKC's National and International Engagements

## Workshops, Lectures and Roundtable Discussions

### **Mass Atrocities Summit:**

The Executive Director of the Kukah Centre, Fr. Atta Barkindo (PhD) was the guest speaker at the Mass Atrocities Summit organised by Global Rights on the 23rd of February 2022. In his capacity as a security and terrorism expert, Fr. Atta among other things, spoke on the issues of violence, terrorism and atrocities which pose substantial threats to environmental and human security.

### **Gender Surviving Multiple Vulnerabilities: Voices of Farmers and Pastoralists in Africa Borderlands:**

The Executive Director of the Kukah Centre, Fr. Atta Barkindo was one of the key consultants invited to be part of a workshop organised by the Africa Borderlands Centre, (ABC). The workshop took place in Naivasha, Kenya from the 9th -15th of May 2022. Delving deeper into the status, threats and potentials of the Lake Chad borderlands, Fr. Atta's presentation underscored the need for African governments and policymakers to provide policies and legislations that will address the current risks faced



▲ TKC Executive Director, Fr. Atta Barkindo (PhD) speaking at the Mass Atrocities Summit in Abuja

by Africa's several borderland regions which play host to more than 270 million inhabitants.

He explained how communities at the borderlands are becoming increasingly poorer and dependent on infertile lands, their vulnerability to insecurity, climate change and population explosion, desertification,

illegal taxations, organised crime, and other criminal activities.

### Frameworks for Sustaining Democratic Governance in West Africa:

The United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, the United Nations Development Programme, the Open Society Foundation, The Kofi Annan Foundation, and the National Democratic Institute came together to organise a 3-day workshop in Dakar, Senegal between September 5th – September 8th.

The workshop highlight was the assessment of the implementation of existing normative frameworks that are responsible for sustaining democratic governance in West Africa. The Director of the Kukah Centre, Fr. Atta Barkindo attended and contributed to the conversation on the need to enact a regional digital strategy for supporting peaceful elections and making democracy achievable to African Citizens. He further talked about the neglect of the negative results of humanitarian responses and the impact on credible elections in the entire sub-Saharan African region.





## The Growing Use of Armed Drones in Counterterrorism in Nigeria and the Implications on Civilian Populations:

The Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and PAX invited the Director of The Kukah Centre, Fr. Atta Barkindo, to present a paper at its Centre on the topic, 'Non-State Actors and Military Drones.' This invitation was extended against the backdrop of the research conducted and presented by Fr. Barkindo, on “The Emerging Trend of Drone use in the Lake Chad region” at the Oslo Military Drones Conference, Norway in 2019.



Fr. Barkindo's presentation on 25th April 2022, centred on the growing use of armed drones in counterterrorism in Nigeria and the implications on civilian populations. Recommendations were also given in a bid to spur more research-based conversations that will help close security policy gaps in Nigeria and the Lake Chad region.

The presentation offered an opportunity for the Geneva Centre for Security Policy to explore potential roles for the African Union and African States to play on the use of drones in military and counterterrorism operations in Africa. For representatives from Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva present at the roundtable, it was also an opportunity to give updates on recent developments on military and export.



## Senior Level Retreat on Election 2 Peace in Montreux, Switzerland

The Kukah Centre was part of the senior level retreat organised by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Kofi Annan Foundation between the 15th and 18th of November 2022 in Switzerland.

Represented by its Director, Fr Atta Barkindo (PhD), the three-day retreat themed 'Building trust in elections, a conflict prevention measure' brought together high-level members of electoral management bodies, political stakeholders and representatives of civil society from Georgia, Kosovo, Nigeria and Zimbabwe to extensively explore how digitalisation can best be used to improve elections.

Through panel discussions, breakout sessions, keynote speeches and interview sessions, participants also deliberated and exchanged knowledge on innovative ways to prevent conflict especially through the deployment of digital technologies.



## Elevating Africa's Borderland Voices: Emerging Development Issues at Africa's Borderlands

The Summary of Fr. Atta Barkindo's Presentation and Response at the UNDP Africa Borderlands Research Conference in Naivasha, Nairobi-Kenya (9th – 14th May 2022)

Africa's borderlands and their communities are a unique source of ingenuity, places of untapped opportunities and great resilience. These regions play host to more than 270 million inhabitants, a combined population significantly larger than any single state on the continent, with about 106 existing border areas. In many of these regions, insecurity and poverty disguise the true socio-economic potential of borderlands and their communities. The current conference on Elevating Africa's Borderland Voices discusses emerging development issues at these border areas, paying attention to West Africa (Lake Chad and the Sahel) and the Horn of Africa (East Africa).

### Main Sources of Livelihood:

Communities at the border are becoming poorer and dependent on land that has substantially declined in terms of value.



### Vulnerabilities:

Communities remain vulnerable to increasing levels of insecurity, climate change and population explosion.

### Threats to Livelihood:

aggressive desertification, existence of criminal gangs, illegal taxations and illegal security check points, organized crime and criminal activities.

### Governance:

Governance by other means, territories are fragmented with different layers of authority depending on who has the monopoly of the use of violence.

### Provision of Services:

Services are now mostly provided by donors and international development partners, while the influence of national governments at the African borderlands is waning so fast.





- Governments and international partners should provide essential structures for governance and rule of law.
- Education, including the creation of awareness on environmental protection and climate change must be taken seriously and strategically.
- Support for youths and women to build resilience from conflict to stability.
- Increased synergy rather than competition between international development partners.

### **Coping Mechanisms for Communities at the Borderlands:**

Cross border migration as individuals and as communities, fundraising to pay protection tax, and emergence of independent community security outfits for self-preservation.

### **STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

In improved circumstances, borderland communities have the capacity to achieve sustainable growth, peace and stability.



# TKC's Campaign Activities.

The campaign activities of the Centre in 2022 were focused on two aspects - campaigns on peace and gender-related issues. Thus, the Centre organised round table discussions and carried out some social corporate responsibilities to reinforce the need and urgency of promoting peace and mitigating gender-based violence.

## **International World Day of Peace Commemoration**

On the 21st of September 2022, The Kukah Centre collaborated with HJDP, Global Peace Foundation of Nigeria and KAICIID to organise a one-day round table discussion to commemorate the International World Day of Peace.

With 'End Racism, Build Peace' as the theme for the year 2022, the conversation at the round table focused on the existential issues of conflict and the need to promote peace, justice, and social inclusion. The event particularly had the specific objective of promoting peaceful coexistence among communities in Kaduna State. The Director of The Kukah Centre, Fr. Atta Barkindo in his presentation on 'Justice as a Precondition for Peace' identified the need for Nigerian leaders to manage religious and cultural

diversities for the advancement of peace and justice. He further stated that peace cannot be guaranteed unless public and private institutions function efficiently.

## **Gender Issues**

The Gender Desk of the Centre is saddled with the responsibilities of mainstreaming gender across the Centre's activities including all the projects being implemented by the Centre. One of the core activities of the desk is to provide relevant platforms to discuss relevant issues around gender in the context of emerging world crises - either health-related or humanitarian crises, or the issues of climate change and its impact.

In line with the annual celebration of Menstrual Hygiene Day on May 28th, The Kukah Centre through its Gender and Social Inclusion Desk organised an online chat session with individuals, Civil Society Organizations and NGOs to discuss issues surrounding menstrual hygiene. Some of the issues addressed in the chat were how menstrual hygiene management could be challenging for females in developing countries, where clean water and toilet facilities are often inadequate, and how traditional cultures have made it difficult for women and girls to discuss menstruation openly.

Part of the policy recommendations from the conversation were the need for the introduction of menstrual hygiene education to girls in primary and secondary schools, and the free distribution of pads to address the problem of period poverty in rural communities.

Furthermore, as part of its pragmatic approach to menstrual hygiene and its corporate social responsibility, The Kukah Centre donated sanitary pads to The Every Girl Child Initiative in Nasarawa state to mitigate the growing challenge of period poverty amongst girl-children in Nigeria. Discussions with the representative from the Pad a Girl Initiative were held on how to deploy strategies that can better address the challenge of accessibility to sanitary pads and girl-child education on hygiene.

## **Sixteen Days of Activism**

The 16 Days of activism is a global campaign that challenges violence against women and girls in all its forms. The campaign runs every year from 25th of November which marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10th December which also marks International Human Rights Day. In 2022, the United Nations marks 16 days of activism with the theme “UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls”.

Thus, The Kukah Centre enjoined various civil society organizations, individual groups and government agencies to key into this campaign by creating awareness on some form of violence against women and girls in Nigeria, sharing contents from the Violence Against Person's Prohibition VAPP Act and highlighting harmful traditional practices that continue to reinforce VAWGs.

# Founder's Corner

This section of the annual report highlights the engagements, interventions and the achievement of Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, the founder of The Kukah Centre.

## World Fraternity Day Celebration



▲ (L-R) Bishop Matthew Kukah, Alhaji Tanko Yunusa, Dahiru Majeed, Iguehi Omole-Irabor at the panel discussion marking the celebration of World Fraternity Day.



▲ Picture 1: Bishop Kukah shaking hands with Alh. Nuru Khalid in the midst of Discussants, Invited Guests and the organizers of the World Fraternity Day event.

The Founder of The Kukah Centre and member of the Council for Human Integral Development, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, organised a one-day conversation to mark the first World Fraternity Day celebration on the 8th of February 2022. The purpose of the conversation was to engage religious leaders, civil society organisations (CSOs), politicians, journalists, security experts and other critical stakeholders in a candid discourse on how to promote common humanity and religious fraternity in Nigeria and the world at large.



▲ Alhaji Nuru Khalid and John Cardinal Onaiyekan at the World Fraternity Day Celebration



▲ Bishop Matthew Kukah in a group photograph with the Directors and Representatives of the Justice Development and Peace Commission.

## Justice Development and Peace Commission Directors and Stakeholders Meeting

The Founder of The Kukah Centre, Bishop Matthew Kukah was a Special Guest at the Justice Development and Peace Commissions (JDPC) Directors and Stakeholders meeting held on the 11th of May 2022, at the Catholic Secretariat in Abuja. The meeting was organised to discuss strategies for citizens participation in the coming 2023 general elections and to identify issues and challenges of the 2022 electoral act. Addressing the need to close the gap of voter apathy among Nigerians, Bishop Kukah emphasised on the urgency for Nigerians to get their Permanent Voter Cards (PVC) and vote objectively in the coming elections. He charged the Directors and other stakeholders at the meeting to continually engage their people in conversations that will spur them to actively participate in both off-cycle and general elections.

# Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah @ 70

Most Reverend Matthew Hassan Kukah celebrated his 70th birthday on the 31st of August 2022. A threefold event was organised in his honour at the Ladi Kwali Hall of the Sheraton Hotel in Abuja. A panel discussion on 'Nigeria's Unfinished Greatness: Next Steps' featured eminent Nigerians drawn from various works of life who spoke on Nigeria's challenges and the way forward. There was fundraising to support The Kukah Centre permanent site and the School of Government, followed by the maiden edition of the Kukah Prize Awards for Young Innovators powered by Greysoft Technologies.

Governors Godwin Obaseki, Emmanuel Udom, Waziri Tambual, Former Governors of Lagos and Borno, Bola Tinubu and Kashim Shetimma, and Governor Kayode Fayemi with Bishop Kukah (Middle) at his 70th Birthday Celebration.



**Picture 1:** Bishop Kukah and Former President Goodluck Jonathan (GCFR) with his entourage.  
**Picture 2:** (L-R) Maope Ogun Yusuf, Gov. Kayode Fayemi, Dr Sam Amadi, Dr Kabiru Adamu and Gloria Ballason during a panel discussion on Nigeria's Unfinished Greatness: The Next Steps  
**Picture 4:** Recipients of The Kukah Prize Award for Young Innovators with the Celebrant





▲ Bishop Kukah (far left) with other panelists at the Goodluck Jonathan Peace Conference

## Goodluck Jonathan Foundation Peace Conference

The Founder of The Kukah Centre, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah was a guest at the 2022 Peace Conference organised by the Goodluck Jonathan Foundation on the 20th of September 2022 at the Nigeria Air Force Conference Centre, in Kado Abuja. The conference was organised against the backdrop of Nigeria's electoral process characterised by violence, vote-buying, delegate inducement, protests of ethnic marginalisation and religious dominance, divisive rhetoric that has created an unwholesome climate of mutual suspicion, intolerance, politics of calumny, and fake news – these trends, if not checked, could set in motion an agenda for a vicious circle of inclusive and peaceful elections<sup>23</sup> general elections.





▲ Bishop Kukah and Fr Atta Barkindo with Senior Religious Leaders at a Conference in Indonesia

## G20 Religion Forum (R20) Summit in Indonesia

The Founder of The Kukah Centre, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, and the Executive Director of the Centre, Fr. Atta Barkindo (PhD) participated in the G20 Religion Forum (R20) Summit in Bali, Indonesia, organised by the world's largest Muslim organisation, Nadlatul Ulama in collaboration with the Muslim World League – a non-governmental organisation headquartered in Mecca – and the Indonesian Presidency on the 2nd and 3rd of November 2022.

Bishop Kukah, who was on a panel at the summit, spoke on 'The Weaponization of Religious Identity in Contemporary West Africa' to identify certain values and traditions that must be relinquished to make religion function as a source of genuine solution in the 21st Century. Among other recommendations, he identified the development of a strong legal basis for common citizenship in line with the constitution and the integration of a comprehensive programme of education as solutions to the existing problem of religious extremism in West Africa.

## Analysis of Organisational Impact

This section of the report assesses the methodology adopted by the Centre in 2022, its organisational structure and the impact of project interventions.

### Number of States Reached in 2022

Through its project activities in 2022, The Kukah Centre directly reached out to 25 states in Nigeria cutting across the 6 geopolitical zones.

### The Structure and Methodological Approach that Worked

The Kukah Centre implemented a total of 8 projects for the year 2022, covering its thematic areas handled by its staff who have effectively coordinated all its activities. The Centre has a total of seventy (70) staff in its Head Office in Abuja and the Regional Office in Kaduna consisting of core staff, domestic staff (this includes the security, cleaners, drivers, and gardeners), consultants, champions, and regional coordinators.

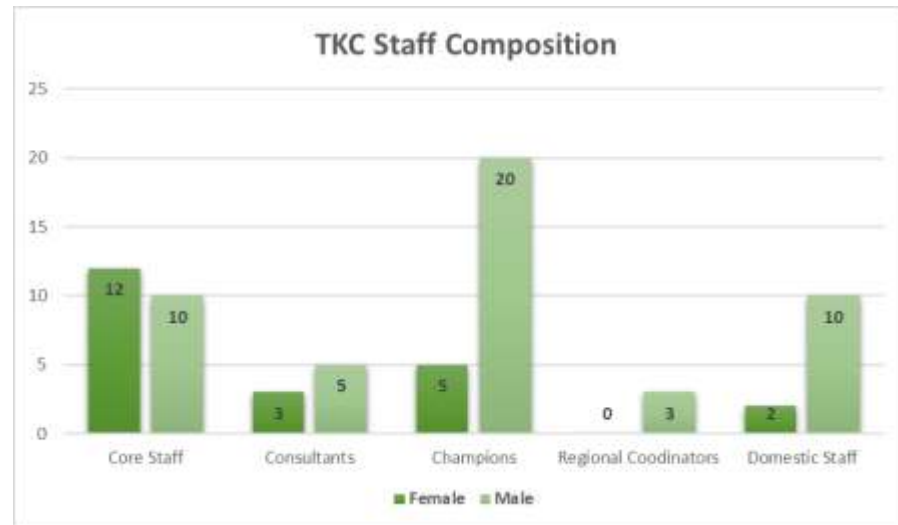
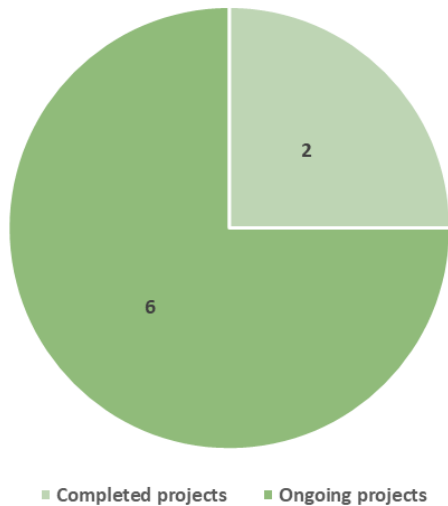


Fig. 1: Staff Composition desegregated by Gender

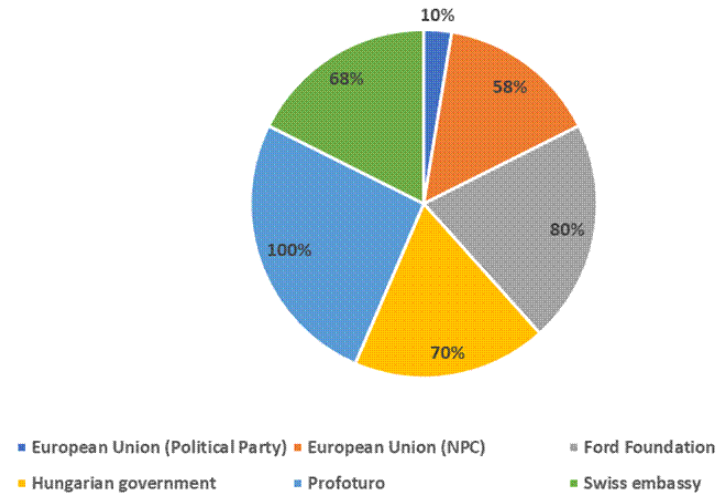
**Total number of projects**



**Fig 2: The total Number of Projects Disaggregated by Level of Completion**

The Open Society Initiative for West Africa and The Fountain of Life Church projects were successfully completed with a 100% output delivered and all outcomes documented. For ongoing projects, with the support of a good internal monitoring and evaluation system, the processes, outputs, and other accomplishments are captured by their progress reports. The percentage performance of these ongoing projects in relation to their expected outputs is highlighted in fig 3 below. Cumulatively, the centre's overall percentage performance for the year is at 65%.

**Output Percentage Performance for Existing Projects**



**Fig 3: Percentage performance on the output of the ongoing project**

The centre collects various forms of data both quantitative and qualitative, from credible sources through in-depth research. It uses various methods for its data collection which include surveys; both online and offline, focus group discussions, questionnaires, and interviews to elicit important information to its baseline data, pre-project, and further inference post-project. The Centre has continually shown evidence of its capacity to deliver and has been able to sustain the needs of its beneficiaries via the projects. The list of its beneficiaries for the year includes:

- a. School pupils
- b. Teachers

- c. Schools; 123 schools cutting across 13 states in the northern region
- d. Widows
- e. Political parties
- f. High-level stakeholders
- g. Women
- h. Persons with disability
- i. Youths
- j. State and community level stakeholders
- k. Government agencies
- l. Religious and traditional leaders
- m. Gender-based organisations

## The Total Number of Persons Reached in 2022.

Direct reach of 86,939 persons consisting of 81324 pupils' boys and girls in school via the digital classroom projects and 5615 men, women, youths, and persons with disability across other projects executed by the organisation disaggregated in Fig 4 below.

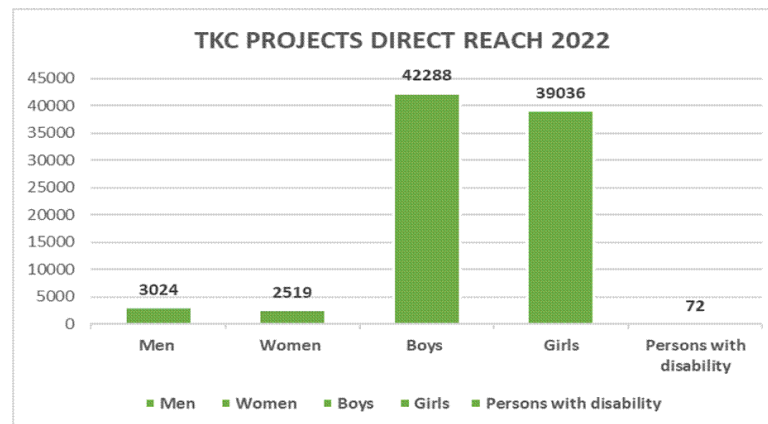


Fig 4: Total number of persons directly reached disaggregated by gender and inclusivity

Through the use of both old media (radio and television) and new media (social media; Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Official website), the Centre disseminated information, engaged in advocacy campaigns that educated the public in a bid to contribute to ensuring that fake news and hate slurs that could cause division and trigger violence are prevented. The table below shows the average number of persons reached or sensitised through media messaging for the year 2022.

MEDIA METHOD	THE NUMBER OF PERSONS REACHED
Radio	Over 3 million
Television	Over 20 million
Social media	About 140,000

Fig 5: Engagements reach via old and new media for 2022

## General Conclusion

- The Center's vision for the year was clearly defined and linked to its work plan in tangent to its thematic areas and all project programs were appropriate and relevant to the vision.
- Although projects undertaken were relevant as they were based on specific commitments to the beneficiaries. The publications, the technical assistance, and the database improvements are perceived as commendable. In terms of efficiency, Project management was appropriate and project governance was well-defined which gave room for improvement, and positively equated to knowledge-sharing among team members. The relationship between management was good and democratic, all projects had a joint formal governance structure. Also considering the magnitude of the challenges, activities were implemented in a reasonable, timely, and reliable manner with the priorities set out in each project document by employing a risk management matrix.
- The projects in general have been effective in terms of activity completion and their contribution to the overall goals and objectives outlined by the Centre. The relevance of all projects being carried out was directly linked to the Centers' effectiveness. It has helped strengthen existing processes and, in some cases, it has permitted the creation of structures that would not exist with the same degree or coverage without each of these projects. The effectiveness contribution analysis was made less difficult with the help of good baseline data by its research team, unlimited internal linkages, and the support provided to existing ongoing processes and projects.
- In terms of gender and human rights, the Centre highlighted the importance of gender issues during its project implementation processes, there was an explicit gender strategy or gender implementation plan for each of its activities incorporating gender, child, and human rights approach.
- In terms of monitoring and knowledge management, the progress reports are good, comprehensive, and informative and the project's final report is of good quality. The monitoring was not only activity-based but processed-based focusing on verifiable data and analysis. There are adequate capacities for monitoring and sharing of the resulting knowledge even with beneficiaries.
- Lastly, Given the dual aspect of inclusion as an end, there should be a stronger emphasis on proposing inclusive complementarity in its project execution process, which would better assist in changing the prevailing illustration of gender inequalities and forms of discrimination present in the society.

## INFLOW TO THE KUKAH CENTRE IN THE YEAR 2022

S/N	DONORS	US Dollars (\$)
1	OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE WEST AFRICA (OSIWA)	10,000.00
2	PROFUTURO	239,340.98
3	FORD FOUNDATION	200,000.00
4	HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT	77579.52
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 526,920.50</b>

S/N	DONORS	Euros (€)
1	EU-NPC	413,255.38
2	SWISS	162,561.00
3	EU-POLITICAL PARTIES TKC	888.663.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>€ 1,464,479.34</b>

**INFLOW TO THE KUKAH CENTRE IN THE YEAR 2022 (Contd)**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>DONORS</b>	<b>POUNDS (£)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD</b>	<b>3,017.99</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 3,017.99</b>

<b>S/N</b>	<b>DONORS</b>	<b>NAIRA (N)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE CHURCH</b>	<b>7,500,000.00</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>GRAYSOFT COMPUTERS</b>	<b>10,000,000.00</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY DEVELOPMENT (CDD)</b>	<b>10,000,000.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>N27,500,000.00</b>



**The law of evidence vindicates you. Integrity, accountability and prudence is our watch word.**



## Looking Ahead

2022 provided an opportunity for the Centre to expand its workforce by creating significant units and desks designed to complement the continuous achievements in its various projects. This led to the creation of a concurrent project implementation strategy that yielded positive results and unprecedented impact. There were however some challenges and lessons learnt.

Armed with a clearly-footed knowledge from these lessons, The Kukah Centre plans to consolidate on its achievements in 2022 to build a more robust intervention strategy and expand its networks across board. In the area of project implementation, the Centre will work with more of its partners to implement monumental projects and will provide more training to its staff for capacity building.

Considering 2023 as the general election year, the Centre as the secretariat of the NPC will continue to deploy its strategic intervention that will promote peaceful, free, fair and credible elections. Watch out for more of our intervention programs on our social media handles as we move to a higher level





BE A PART OF  
**THE KUKAH CENTRE  
FAMILY**



Social Handles

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# BISHOP MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH @



**22** Annual  
Report

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.

**REGIONAL OFFICE:**  
#10 North Road, Abakpa,  
Kaduna - Nigeria.

+234 810 9531 981

[info@thekukahcentre.org](mailto:info@thekukahcentre.org),  
[tkc.abuja@gmail.com](mailto:tkc.abuja@gmail.com),  
[kukahcentre@gmail.com](mailto:kukahcentre@gmail.com)

[www.thekukahcentre.org](http://www.thekukahcentre.org)