



**2025 ANNUAL REPORT**



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### Our 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 conceptualise, 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.



### Our 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 based on ethnic, religious, social status, economic or gender differences.

# Appreciation

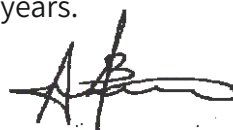
During the year 2025, the Kukah Centre experienced significant growth that necessitated structural and strategic policy changes. The changes demonstrated not only the impact generated by the Centre's interventions but highlighted the traction it has garnered because of its policies, strategies and partnerships. These successes would not have been possible without the support of technical partners, friends and followers of the Centre.

It is on this note that the Centre wishes to express her deepest sentiments of gratitude and appreciation to all her staff, consultants, donors, partners, supporters and friends for their contributions, loyalty and commitment to values and programme areas of the Centre. The Centre would like to specifically thank the European Union, the Embassy of Switzerland, Open Society Foundations, Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Profuturo, Fountain of Life Church and the Institute for Catholic Humanitarian Service (ICHS) for their technical support and professional guidance.

The Centre is equally grateful to Caritas Nigeria, the Justice, Development and Peace Commissions, JDPCs, in the different Catholic Dioceses in Nigeria, the Independent State-based Peace Architectures, the Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF), Policy and Legislative Advocacy Centre (PLAC), the Bakhita Initiative, YIAGA Africa, TAF Africa, EU-SDGN Partners,

International Religious Freedom Institute (RFI), Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Kimpact Development Initiative, Global Rights, Glisters of Hope Development Initiative, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, Veritas University, Nigeria, Gusau Institute, the Bureau for International Development, Benue State and all others for the collaboration we have enjoyed throughout the year 2025.

The Centre remains grateful to all the members of The Kukah Centre Board of Trustees whose commitment has guided and steadied the progress of the Centre. The Centre also wishes to express her profound appreciation to all those she has worked with on the field or at the administrative level for their commitment and cooperation. Finally, all the members of staff at the Centre wish to appreciate the leadership, vision and commitment of the Founder, Most Rev. Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah for his contributions. The successes recorded in 2025 gives us the drive to strive for higher ground as we begin the journey into the year 2026 and coming years.



Rev. Fr. Atta Barkindo, PhD  
Executive Director, The Kukah Centre & Head of Secretariat, NPC, Abuja

# Introduction

The year 2025 unfolded as a period of consolidation and recalibration in Nigeria's democratic and social landscape. Following a decisive electoral cycle, national attention shifted from contestation to governance, from rhetoric to responsibility. Yet the underlying pressures remained stark: persistent insecurity, economic strain, deepening social divides, and the ongoing struggle to translate democratic ideals into tangible justice, opportunity, and dignity for citizens.

Within this evolving context, The Kukah Centre deepened its role as a convenor, bridge-builder, and catalyst for reform. Building on previous gains, the Centre focused on strengthening institutional accountability, promoting inclusive political participation, and supporting dialogue-driven responses to conflict and fragility. Its work was anchored in the belief that democracy must be continuously nurtured not only through elections, but through ethical leadership, responsive institutions, and an engaged citizenry.

Political parties and democratic institutions remained central to this effort. Through sustained collaboration with partners, including under the European Union Support to Democratic Governance Programme, The Kukah Centre advanced initiatives aimed at

internal party reform, pluralism, gender inclusion, youth participation, and equitable representation. These interventions sought to move democratic practice beyond compliance toward credibility and public trust.

Peacebuilding continued to define the Centre's engagement in 2025. In partnership with the National Peace Committee, The Kukah Centre supported the consolidation of state-based peace architectures, post-election reconciliation processes, and locally driven platforms for mediation and dialogue. Emphasis was placed on empowering communities, traditional leaders, faith actors, and civil society to manage tensions, prevent violence, and sustain social cohesion in fragile contexts.

This Annual Report captures a year marked by steady progress amid enduring challenges. It tells the story of deliberate action, principled partnerships, and a renewed commitment to the long work of nation-building. Above all, it reflects The Kukah Centre's continued resolve to contribute to a Nigeria where peace is durable, democracy is accountable, and inclusion is not aspirational but lived.

# Shaping the Future Today

Another year has rolled by. We thank God for His everlasting protection and guidance. In your hands is the Report of the Kukah Centre for the year 2025. The report needs no formal introduction. It captures and highlights the work that is being undertaken by the team of young men and women at the Centre. We are a place for the future. As such, our median age is 25. There are far more women than men at the Centre. The result is that our dream is being realized, namely, creating a safe space, nay, a playground for the incubation of the talents and dreams of tomorrow's leaders. The future for us is not some distant echo. It is already here in the great work that these young men and women undertake.

The Report showcases our work, focusing largely on our core thematic areas of Good Governance, Leadership Development, Interfaith Dialogue, Memory Preservation/Knowledge Promotion, Peace Building and Human Rights. The pace, impact and spread of our work stretches over layers of institutions across the country. We remain committed to engaging the strata of the Nigerian society and working in collaboration to deepen a culture of Democracy and human rights especially.



Being the Convener of the National Peace Committee and with Fr. Athanasius Barkindo being the Head of Secretariat of the NPC, the work of the Centre and the NPC have areas of convergence and themes that are mutually re-enforcing. I hope that the reader will use the stories here as an inroad into the work that we are doing at both levels. Happily, the NPC now has offices in 26 states across the country where citizens are taking up the challenges of building peace by participating in community-based initiatives.

The elections are not far away. The reader will see that some very exciting and innovative initiatives have been undertaken. The scope of national and international engagements speak to the quality of work and the scope. The details of the ESI Hub for Election Security is one of the most exciting innovations sponsored by the European Union and incubated in the Centre. This platform should serve as one way of making us participant observers in the elections. There is a lot more to read, and I should let you enjoy it as you turn the pages.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support of our range of partners. I want to thank the Chairman of the National Peace Committee, General Abdulsalami A. Abubakar, GCFR, the entire team of the NPC for their trust in the Centre's work. I thank the Members of the Board of the Kukah Centre. I commend Fr. Athanasius Barkindo, the Executive Director of the Centre along with all his diligent and efficient staff. Please feel free to communicate your thoughts and identify areas of support and collaboration with us at the Centre. We are still on the tarmac and gradually warming for a take-off. May the good Lord be in our wings.

**Most Rev. Matthew  
Hassan KUKAH, con.**

*Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Sokoto & Founder, The Kukah Centre.*

# The Kukah Centre

The Centre was established by Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah to enhance and encourage greater citizen engagement in Nigeria. The Kukah Centre is a non-profit organisation 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 think tank that formulates policies on issues of peace, social cohesion, development, political participation, diversity, leadership training and knowledge promotion.

## BOARD MEMBERS



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Member



**DR. AISHA MUHAMMED - OYEBODE**  
Member



**FR. ATTA BARKINDO Ph.D**  
Secretary

# Programme Areas of The Kukah Centre

In 2025, The Kukah Centre maintained its commitment to fostering inclusive governance, social justice, and peacebuilding. Recognizing the interconnected nature of societal challenges, the Centre approached political leadership as a collaborative effort, engaging individuals, households, businesses, NGOs, faith communities, and government institutions. These activities were driven by the Centre's five core programme areas:

## Good Governance



This program focuses on creating an informed and active citizenry that values a governance system rooted in equality, accountability, and social justice. Through capacity building, stakeholder dialogues, and partnerships, the Centre seeks to strengthen democratic structures and enhance public trust in governance processes.

## Leadership Development



The Centre remains dedicated to mentoring the next generation of Nigerian leaders while holding current leaders accountable for policies that drive economic and social progress. This program emphasizes ethical leadership, community trust, and a vision for sustainable development across all sectors of society.

## Interfaith Dialogue



At the heart of the Centre's mission, this program fosters meaningful conversations among Nigeria's diverse faith communities and between faith leaders and public policymakers. The Centre's interfaith initiatives emphasize mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and collaborative solutions to shared challenges.

## Memory Preservation and Knowledge Promotion



This program aims to raise awareness of historical and contemporary issues of national importance. By fostering active citizen engagement and promoting dialogue on critical challenges, the Centre strives to inspire collective action and a deeper understanding of Nigeria's socio-political landscape.

## Human-Rights Protection



The Centre is dedicated to the promotion of human rights without discrimination or exclusion because of ethnicity, religion or region. It pays particular attention to the rights of citizens caught up in a vicious circle of violence, living in IDP camps and forced to migrate from their homes and cities.

# Part 2

Partnerships in 2025

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2025 Projects According to Programme Areas

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Programme Interventions and Achievements



# Partnerships in 2025

At The Kukah Centre, we remain firmly convinced that lasting change is built through shared effort. Collaboration continued to shape our work in 2025, guiding how we design, implement, and sustain our interventions. Through deliberate and inclusive engagement with public institutions, advocacy networks, faith-based organisations, community actors, programmatic partners, and funding partners, the Centre strengthened its ability to respond meaningfully to Nigeria's evolving challenges.

Throughout the year, The Kukah Centre deepened existing partnerships while forging new ones across international, regional, national, and sub-national levels. These relationships enabled coordinated action, local ownership, and solutions that are both context-driven and sustainable. By aligning expertise, resources, and influence, our partners helped ensure that initiatives reached the communities and institutions where impact matters most.

These partnerships reflect the collective ethos at the heart of The Kukah Centre's mission. They amplify our reach, strengthen our credibility, and reinforce our commitment to advancing peace,

democratic governance, social justice, and inclusion. As 2025 progressed, collaboration remained not just a strategy, but a defining principle of how we work toward a more just, peaceful, and cohesive Nigeria.

## Technical Partners

- European Union
- Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
- The Embassy of Switzerland in Nigeria
- Ford Foundation
- MacArthur Foundation
- Profuturo
- Open Society Foundations
- The Fountain of Life Church
- Institute for Catholic Humanitarian Service (ICHS)

## Partners

- Tetra Tech
- Nigerian Civil Society Situation Room
- YIAGA Africa
- Policy and Legislative Advocacy Centre (PLAC)
- Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Management, Taraba State University
- TAF Africa
- Religious Freedom Institute (RFI)
- Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)
- International Republican Institute (IRI)
- The Kofi Annan Foundation
- Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI)
- International Press Centre (IPC)
- Nigerian Women Trust Fund
- Global Rights
- Glisters of Hope Development Initiative
- Independent State-based Peace Architectures
- ElectHER
- International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)
- Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria
- Justice, Peace and Development Commission, Catholic Dioceses of Nigeria
- Veritas University, Nigeria
- Gusau Institute
- Bureau for International Development, Benue State

# 2025 Projects According to Programme Areas

## GOOD GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME AREA



### EU-SDGN: Support to Political Parties

With support from the European Union, The Kukah Centre continued implementing the EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) programme, Component 3: Support to Political Parties. This initiative focused on strengthening the operations and administration of political parties to enhance pluralism, internal democracy, and equity. The goal was to promote a political system that garners the trust of party members, Nigerian citizens, and the international community. Notable activities included stakeholder engagements, capacity-building workshops, and consultations with political parties to address organisational challenges and promote inclusivity.

### EU-SDGN: Support to the National Peace Committee (NPC)

With support from the European Union, The Kukah Centre continued implementing the EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) programme, Component 6a: Support to the National Peace Committee project, aimed at strengthening electoral peace and democratic governance in Nigeria by improving coordination among key stakeholders and deploying technology-driven solutions. A major highlight was the Election Security Information Hub, which enabled real-time risk monitoring and early response to potential electoral threats. Through targeted engagements in Anambra and Edo States including advocacy visits, peace accords, and post-election reviews the National Peace Committee enhanced collaboration across institutions, boosted public confidence, and supported more credible and peaceful elections.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AREA



### ProFuturo Digital Classroom Project

The ProFuturo program continued in 2025, providing access to digital education for children in vulnerable communities. In partnership with the Catholic Bishops Conference and the Northern Governors Forum, the project focused on equipping classrooms in 13 Northern states with digital learning tools. This initiative fosters skill acquisition through technology, keeping children engaged in education and away from negative influences.

### The Fountain of Life Church: Scholarship for Christian Orphans in Northern Nigeria

Through the Vineyard Project, The Kukah Centre, in partnership with The Fountain of Life Church, provided full academic scholarships for 40 Christian orphans in Northern Nigeria. Covering the 2024/2025 academic year, the scholarships funded junior and senior secondary school education, contributing to improved educational outcomes for marginalized youth.

## INTERFAITH DIALOGUE PROGRAMME AREA



### **KAICIID - Mechanism to Monitor Freedom of Religion and Belief**

Nigeria is a country known for its rich cultural diversity and complex socio-political landscape. This diversity presents opportunities for human capital development, but also some sociological challenges related to the freedom of association and expression. As a result, Nigeria continues to experience a disturbing trend of religious discrimination and persecution that threatens the stability and harmony of its citizens. Against this background, the Kukah Centre in collaboration with National Human Rights Commission and Nasrul-Lahi-il Fathi Society (NASFAT) conducted a survey on Freedom of Religion and Belief in Nigeria. The findings were used in designing strategic policy recommendations on the basis of which engagement with critical stakeholders was undertaken.

### **Global Rights Project on Peace and Security in the Northwest**

The Kukah Centre in partnership with Global Rights engaged communities to promote peace and security in the northwest. The project encouraged active participation of women and youths in decision-making processes, recognizing their important roles in building community resilience. It also provided the platform for open constructive dialogue among community members, religious leaders, government officials, and security agencies to discuss the root causes of insecurity and identify community-led solutions.

## MEMORY PRESERVATION AND KNOWLEDGE PROMOTION PROGRAMME AREA



### **Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO): Strengthening Peace and Resilience in Nigeria (SPRING) Programme - Improving Community Security Initiatives for Accountable Service Delivery**

The Kukah Centre in collaboration with Tetra Tech International Development is implementing this project, which seeks to address the design and operational concerns about the functioning, oversight and accountability of state sanctioned local security groups established by law in Benue, Plateau, Kaduna and Katsina states. While conducting a baseline study of the structure of these groups in Sokoto state. This is a new opportunity to develop standard operating procedures for these groups, with the aim of providing training for state security personnel who retain the potential to evolve into state police in the nearest future.

## HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION PROGRAMME AREA



### **Open Society Foundation - Africa (OSF) Support to the National Peace Committee (through The Kukah Centre) on Strengthening existing Independent State-based Peace Architectures (ISPAs) in Fifteen [15] states, Consolidating Their Roles in facilitating Peaceful Elections.**

The OSF project aims to strengthen and expand state-based peace architectures and commissions at the sub-national level. By safeguarding these platforms from political interference, the project supports impartial mediation, inclusive dialogue, and the systematic collection of community-level data to inform evidence-based peace policies. Through this approach, the project seeks to deepen a culture of peaceful coexistence before, during, and after elections, while reinforcing the National Peace Committee's capacity to advance sustainable and locally grounded peacebuilding efforts across Nigeria.

### **Institute for Catholic Humanitarian Service (ICHS)**

This intervention provides targeted education and welfare support to internally displaced persons in the Durumi and New Kuchigoro IDP camps in Abuja, with a focus on pupils attending Bethel Foundation School in Durumi Camp and Prosperity School in New Kuchigoro Camp.



Programme  
Interventions  
and Achievements

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# Good Governance Programme Area

# EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Phase II Component 3 – Support to Political Parties

The “EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Phase II Component 3 – Support to Political Parties” focuses on strengthening the structure, accountability, and internal governance of political parties as a cornerstone of democratic consolidation. During the reporting period, the component combined legislative engagement with targeted institutional support to advance reforms within Nigeria’s party system.

Key interventions included technical sessions with the House of Representatives Committee on Political Party Matters on the proposed Political Parties Bill, as well as bilateral engagements with major political parties to assess organisational capacity and guide reform efforts. Through strategic realignment informed by the Mid-Term Evaluation and Needs Assessment findings, the component shifted toward practical institutional strengthening—supporting parties to become more structured, ideologically grounded, and accountable to their members and citizens.



## Technical session for the House of Representatives Committee on Political Party Matters

This intervention focused on contributing to ongoing technical discussions on the Political Parties Bill. The bill builds on the Needs Assessment recommendation and the Justice Uwais Report to unbundle INEC and establish a separate commission responsible for party regulation and registration. The Centre collaborated with Yiaga Africa to organise a technical session for the House of Representatives Committee on Political Party Matters to unpack the section of the Bill. The Bill seeks to create a Registry that will register, regulate, and fund Political Parties in Nigeria.

The draft legislation, which has now passed second reading in the House of Representatives, introduces mechanisms for party subvention, which are critical for reducing parties' dependency on private, often unaccountable funding sources. It also supports national reform priorities to unbundle INEC, allowing the Commission to focus exclusively on election management while a new regulatory body oversees party registration and compliance.

Progress on the Bill was strengthened further through a technical session with the House Committee on Political Parties, where the draft was analysed in detail. This review identified several structural and procedural gaps that must be addressed to ensure that the Bill is both implementable and aligned with democratic principles. While political parties have engaged with the Bill primarily through the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC), their involvement remains relatively broad and nonspecific.

Although most parties support both the unbundling of INEC and the introduction of state subvention, they require deeper engagement to fully understand the Bill's implications and to contribute meaningfully to its refinement. Targeted technical sessions between political parties and the



The draft legislation, which has now passed second reading in the House of Representatives, introduces mechanisms for party subvention, which are critical for reducing parties' dependency on private, often unaccountable funding sources.



House Committee will be essential for building this understanding and strengthening the legitimacy and effectiveness of the legislative process.



## **Bilateral Sessions with the APC (through TPI), PDP (through PDI), SDP, LP, NNPP and ADC**

These parties were selected due to their higher representation in government and, consequently, their greater potential influence on governance outcomes and institutional reforms. The sessions provided a structured opportunity to assess each party's organisational development using the Maturity Matrix. This process enabled the identification of baseline capacities, the mapping of organisational maturity stages, and the articulation of clear pathways for progress. By highlighting gaps in skills, internal processes, and institutional structures, the assessment offered a foundation for targeted training and more strategic resource allocation. The sessions followed an open-ended yet structured interview methodology, focusing on five key dimensions: organisational structure and governance; membership and grassroots engagement; policy development and

ideological clarity; outreach and communication; and electoral performance and governance.

Looking ahead, the component plans to expand these technical engagements to additional parties in subsequent periods, ensuring broader coverage across the political landscape. As part of post-MTE programming, future sessions will remain targeted toward parties with significant representation in government but will also integrate a needs-based approach. Parties that demonstrate interest in, and commitment to, organisational development will be prioritised for continued technical support.

## Project Key Achievements and Results

A defining feature of implementation during the reporting period has been the strategic adjustment of Component 3's outcome and approach. This revision was informed by an internal analysis of the component and the strategic recommendations emerging from the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) report. The Needs Assessment Report had previously provided a detailed review of Nigeria's political party system, identifying critical gaps alongside opportunities that, if addressed effectively, could reshape parties' motivation, capacity, and readiness to pursue genuine reform. In response, the revised outcome—"Structured, better organised, and ideologically driven political parties that are accountable to their members and citizens"—reorients the programme's theory of change around the practical realities of Nigeria's political environment. This represents a deliberate shift from broad normative aspirations to targeted institutional strengthening, marking one of the most significant strategic decisions during the reporting period.

Within this period, six of the nineteen political parties—NNPP, SDP, PRP, LP, ADP, and YP—reported adopting at least two recommendations from the component's guidance, with Labour Party (LP) and People's Redemption Party (PRP) providing verifiable evidence of implementation. These changes

illustrate the early impact of structured support in fostering institutional reforms. For example, the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) reviewed its constitution to broaden leadership structures and strengthen internal decision-making while committing to inclusivity through the establishment of directorates for Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The party conducted internal reviews, shared reports with the National Working Committee, and developed directorates to include Deputy National Chairmen from both the North and South. Nevertheless, limited documentation, financial constraints, and weak mechanisms for monitoring progress present ongoing challenges.

Similarly, the Labour Party has advanced women's inclusion, political education, and the creation of directorates for Women, Youth, and PWDs. The Technical Working Groups influenced party leadership to prioritise women's representation, resulting in the appointment of four women to NWC positions and ongoing efforts to review the party constitution and manifesto, revalidate membership, and strengthen political education. Challenges include leadership disputes between factions, inadequate funding, and difficulties in cascading reforms to state-level structures.

Party	Key Initiatives	Specific Actions	Challenges
<b>Social Democratic Party (SDP)</b>	Strengthened participatory decision-making; promoted inclusivity	Launched "SDP 36+" initiative including state-level training, consultative meetings, and stakeholder engagement; TWGs supporting internal capacity-building	Financial limitations; need for sustained capacity-building support
<b>Youth Party (YP)</b>	Advanced inclusivity for women, youth, and PWDs	Implemented "twinning" of positions; reduced nomination fees; developed recruitment and mobilisation plans; planning grassroots engagement town halls	Funding shortages; limited structure for long-term follow-up and evaluation

Party	Key Initiatives	Specific Actions	Challenges
<b>Action Democratic Party (ADP)</b>	Strengthened internal decision-making, communication, and inclusivity	Established directorates for Women, Youth, and PWDs; reviewed party constitutions; planned youth summits and climate awareness drives	Severe financial constraints; unstable membership; slow implementation due to limited resources
<b>People's Redemption Party (PRP)</b>	Promoted adherence to party constitution and legal frameworks; improved training	Developed party code of conduct; trained members on legal and ethical standards; planned periodic leadership training	Resistance from untrained members; entrenched traditional structures; limited funding

In addition to individual party reforms, broader progress is evident across the political landscape. Under the auspices of the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) Directorate for Women, the Forum of National Women Leaders of Political Parties has actively engaged in advocacy for the Special Seats Bill. The APC has launched a nationwide digital membership registration drive to create a comprehensive database ahead of the 2027 general elections, while the SDP plans to expand membership registration from physical to online platforms, enhancing accessibility for members. Likewise, the Labour Party has initiated a review of its constitution and code of conduct to integrate stronger provisions on internal democracy, accountability, and inclusion, reflecting outputs from its Technical Working Group deliberations.

The project continues to engage with political parties through bilateral sessions, embedding technical experts where necessary to support wider adoption and practical implementation of recommendations. While the overall outcome target has not yet been fully achieved, the progress reported represents a credible step toward institutional reform. Early adoption of these recommendations provides a solid foundation for the sustained strengthening of party structures, internal democracy, and accountability mechanisms.

Complementing these reforms, the Political Party Management Toolkit (PPMT) has been developed to provide parties with practical guidance on strengthening internal democracy, ideological clarity, candidate selection, membership development, and communication strategies. The Toolkit outlines good practices in candidate nomination, inclusivity, procedural adherence, and maintaining ideological coherence, equipping parties with the tools to institutionalise reforms and ensure sustainable internal governance.

Overall, the reporting period demonstrates measurable progress toward creating structured, accountable, and ideologically coherent political parties. While challenges remain, the combination of strategic realignment, targeted technical support, and practical tools for implementation has laid a credible foundation for ongoing institutional strengthening and democratic consolidation within Nigeria's political party system.

# EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Phase II Component 6a – Support to the National Peace Committee

The “EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Phase II Component 6a – Support to the National Peace Committee” project focused on strengthening electoral peace, security, and institutional coordination across Nigeria. Through a combination of technology-driven innovation, strategic stakeholder engagement, and structured peacebuilding interventions, the project reinforced mechanisms for preventing electoral violence and promoting credible, inclusive elections.

Central to this effort was the operationalization of the Election Security Information (ESI) Hub as a national platform for real-time risk monitoring, early warning, and coordinated response. Alongside this, the National Peace Committee (NPC) deepened multi-level engagements in Anambra and Edo States through advocacy visits, stakeholder validation forums, Early Warning–Early Response systems, Peace Accord processes, and post-election “Pause & Reflect” sessions. Together, these interventions strengthened collaboration among electoral institutions, security agencies, political actors, civil society, traditional and religious leaders, and the media, contributing to improved electoral integrity, enhanced public confidence, and sustained democratic stability.



## Election Security Information (ESI) Hub Methodology Workshop



The NPC facilitated a methodology workshop in Abuja to strengthen the operational readiness of the Election Security Information (ESI) Hub. The Hub was developed as a centralized, technology-driven platform for collecting, analysing, and disseminating election security information to address growing concerns over electoral insecurity, including violence, voter intimidation, vote manipulation, destruction of electoral materials, and logistical disruptions observed during the 2023 general elections and subsequent off-cycle elections.

The ESI Hub is designed to enhance coordination among electoral actors, including INEC, security agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), the media, and peacebuilding institutions. By providing evidence-based data and early warning signals,

it supports the NPC's efforts in conflict prevention, electoral stability, and ensuring a secure democratic process. The methodology workshop convened stakeholders from INEC, YIAGA Africa, TAF Africa, The Kukah Centre, Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF), Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI), The Nextier Group, Beacon Consulting, WANEP, and media partners (Democracy Radio & Radio Nigeria). The workshop validated and refined the draft methodology, addressed operational gaps, and developed a clear operational roadmap for the Hub ahead of the 2027 general elections.

## Stakeholder Validation Forum on Existing & Emerging Issues in Anambra State



Ahead of the 8 November 2025 gubernatorial elections in Anambra State, the NPC Secretariat organized Stakeholder Validation Forums across the 3 senatorial zones Anambra South (Nnewi), Anambra North (Onitsha), and Anambra Central (Awka). The forums were designed to validate findings from the Context Analysis, enhance multi-stakeholder engagement for peaceful elections, and generate actionable recommendations for early warning, peace messaging, and inclusive electoral processes. Participants included

representatives from government MDAs, political parties, independent state-based peace architecture (ISPAs), traditional and religious institutions, civil society organizations, the media, women and youth groups, and persons with disabilities (PWDs). These forums fostered stakeholder trust, promoted collective responsibility, and facilitated the co-development of time-bound solutions to addressing political, social, cultural, and economic factors influencing Anambra electoral system.

The NPC secretariat team undertook targeted advocacy visits aimed at promoting peaceful, credible, and inclusive elections in Anambra State. The initiative sought to strengthen collaboration with key actors in governance, security, traditional institutions, and faith-based organisations ahead of the electoral process. These engagements were designed to integrate peacebuilding into electoral and governance systems, encourage collective commitment to non-violence, and enhance stakeholder participation for sustainable peace.

The advocacy visits focused on engaging influential political, traditional, religious, and civic leaders to address identified emerging and re-emerging political and security risks and to promote non-violent conduct through their platform throughout the election period. Through these visits, the NPC canvassed the voices of indigenous critical stakeholder to encourage public commitments to peace, reinforced the importance of compliance with the Peace Accord, and strengthened early-warning, early-response, and rapid-response networks that were vital before, during, and after elections. Strengthening these mechanisms contributed to safeguarding voter safety, mitigate conflict triggers, and maintain public confidence in the electoral process.

Key stakeholders engaged during the visits included the Anambra State Resident Electoral Commissioner, Assistant Inspector General of Police - Zone 13, Anambra State Commissioner of Police, Traditional Ruler of Umueri Community, Chairman of the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC), the Catholic Bishop of Awka, the Bishop of the Niger (Anglican Communion), the Chairman of the Anambra State Traditional Rulers Council, and the Chairman of the Anambra State Town Unions Council (ASTUC). By collaborating with these diverse stakeholders, the NPC reinforced multisectoral cooperation, enhancing electoral integrity, and fostering democratic participation across communities.



## Facilitating EWER Engagement in Anambra State



The Early Warning - Early Response (EWER) intervention in Anambra State was implemented to promote peaceful, credible, and inclusive elections ahead of the November 2025 governorship poll. It was established in response to persistent electoral challenges, including insecurity, misinformation, voter suppression, and political intimidation, highlighting the need for preventive mechanisms capable of identifying and addressing risks before they escalate into violence.

The intervention established a sustainable, community-driven system for early detection and rapid response by equipping stakeholders

across all 21 LGAs with the tools, skills, and coordination structures necessary for conflict prevention. It also created adaptive mechanisms and institutional linkages designed to remain functional beyond the 2025 elections, supporting long-term peacebuilding and mitigation efforts. Through stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and collaborative planning, the EWER intervention strengthened local resilience, enhanced institutional coordination, and operationalized a proactive framework for safeguarding electoral integrity, positioning the system as a model for democratic stabilization with potential long-term impact.

## Inauguration of the Election Security Information (ESI) Hub



The Election Security Information (ESI) Hub was established by the NPC to address rising threats to electoral integrity, including insecurity, voter intimidation, misinformation, and other forms of electoral malpractice. The Hub provides data-driven insights to enable timely, coordinated, and proactive responses to electoral risks. Through tools such as risk analyses, real-time dashboards, situation reports, and interactive platforms, it supports INEC, security agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the media in monitoring, assessing, and responding effectively to potential electoral threats. By promoting transparency, accountability, and shared responsibility, the Hub contributes to peaceful and credible elections nationwide.

The inauguration formally launched the Hub, showcasing its vision, framework, and methodology while strengthening information-

sharing among election security actors. Day 1 featured a press conference introducing the Hub to the media and public, highlighting its operational methodology and capabilities in intelligence gathering, risk mapping, and conflict mitigation. Day 2 included the official inauguration, presentations on operational tools and coordination mechanisms, interactive stakeholder sessions, and documentation of recommendations to ensure sustained operational impact. Stakeholders in attendance included NPC members, INEC, EU, EU-SDGN Partners, diplomatic corps such as the Swiss and German Embassy, FCDO, international NGOs (INGOs), civil society organizations, and the media.



## Pre-Election Engagement with Stakeholders Ahead of Signing the Peace Accord in Anambra State

The pre-election engagement in Anambra State was aimed at promoting a shared understanding of the Peace Accord and its significance among key stakeholders, which includes political actors, security agencies, civil society organizations, traditional and religious leaders, and community representatives. The initiative sought to reinforce the principles of peaceful conduct, accountability, and inclusive participation across all stages of the electoral process. Through structured presentations and

dialogue, the engagement facilitated consensus-building amongst stakeholders on the importance of non-violence and adherence to legal framework and constitution of Nigeria. It provided a platform for stakeholders to voice concerns, share perspectives on potential electoral risks, and collaboratively identify strategies to mitigate conflicts. The insights gathered during these interactions informed the NPC's ongoing peacebuilding strategies and the design of targeted interventions

## Signing of the Peace Accord ahead of the Gubernatorial Elections in Anambra State



The signing of the Anambra State Peace Accord held on November 3rd 2025. Organised by the NPC, the Accord reaffirmed the collective resolve of political actors, institutions, and citizens to uphold peace, credibility, and inclusiveness throughout the gubernatorial election.

The ceremony brought together gubernatorial candidates, political parties, INEC, security agencies, civil society organizations, traditional and religious leaders, EU-SDGN partners, and the media. The presence of eminent figures including the NPC Convener, Most Rev. Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah, CON; the NPC Chairman, represented by General Martin Luther Agwai (Rtd); the INEC Chairman, Professor Joash Ojo Amupitan, SAN; and the Inspector-General of Police, represented by DIG

Benjamin Okolo, alongside state commandants of the NSCDC, NDLEA, FRSC, and DSS underscored the critical importance of elite consensus in preventing electoral violence.

Through the Peace Accord, political actors publicly committed to non-violent conduct, respect for the rule of law, and adherence to democratic principles before, during, and after the election. This broad-based engagement strengthened institutional collaboration and laid a firm foundation for peaceful participation across Anambra State with 15 out of the 16 parties in the election signing the Peace Accord.



## Monitoring the Conduct of Off-Cycle Gubernatorial Elections in Anambra State

During the Anambra State off-cycle election, The Kukah centre deployed a comprehensive real-time election monitoring system across the 21 LGAs. The initiative aimed to track, analyse, and report election-related risks while ensuring adherence to signed Peace Accord commitments and supporting coordinated observation efforts. The Centre successfully deployed Early Warning Monitors, mobilised and briefed other observer teams. These efforts facilitated real-time reporting, strengthened risk assessment processes, and enhanced data harmonisation across multiple monitoring platforms, contributing to a more coherent and evidence-driven election security picture.

Overall, the exercise recorded strong collaboration with key civic and religious monitoring networks, effective communication channels, and consistent, professional incident reporting of pre-election, election day and



post-election matters. In addition, it focused on countering misinformation and political manipulation through community sensitization, media engagement, and fact-checking partnerships. By integrating community engagement, technology-enabled reporting, and multi-stakeholder collaboration, the ESI Hub not only tracked electoral risks in real time but also contributed to post-election peace and stability.

## Anambra State Stakeholders “Pause & Reflect” meeting on NPC's Role in Elections



A Pause & Reflect Meeting was convened after the off-cycle gubernatorial election in Anambra State to assess achievements, challenges, lessons, and opportunities from NPC interventions. Stakeholders including security agencies, civil society, traditional and religious leaders, media, and early-warning monitors agreed that peacebuilding, coordinated security, and effective electoral technology

were central to the largely peaceful election. The role of NPC peace accords, intelligence-led security deployment, and improved performance by Independent National Electoral Commission were widely commended.

The meeting underscored lessons on the importance of early civic education, intelligence-driven security planning, standardized reporting, and continuous peacebuilding beyond election cycles. Looking ahead to 2027, stakeholders identified priority actions around deeper community engagement, strengthened early warning and enforcement mechanisms, improved institutional collaboration, technology advancement, infrastructure upgrades, and year-round peacebuilding to consolidate gains and enhance democratic resilience nationwide.



## Edo State Stakeholders “Pause & Reflect” meeting on NPC's Role in Elections

Stakeholders in Edo State convened to assess the impact of the National Peace Committee (NPC) during the Edo off-cycle election and broader Nigerian electoral processes. The discussions underscored the significance of the Peace Accords signed by 11 political party chairmen and 14 gubernatorial candidates from the 18 participating parties, alongside the value of stakeholder and media engagement in reducing tensions and promoting peaceful participation and smooth transitions of power.

Participants highlighted key lessons, including the need for stronger collaboration with INEC and security agencies, more effective monitoring and enforcement of commitments, increased community engagement, and supportive legal frameworks. They also stressed the importance of ongoing advocacy for electoral reforms and identified gaps in current strategies that could be addressed to improve future interventions. Recommendations focused on sustainable, long-term measures to reduce electoral

violence and enhance democratic participation ahead of the 2027 general elections. The meeting reaffirmed that peaceful elections require continuous learning, adaptive strategies, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. Overall, the Pause & Reflect meeting strengthened ownership among stakeholders, provided actionable insights for refining NPC strategies, and reinforced the committee's commitment to credible, effective, and responsive approaches in advancing peaceful and democratic elections under the EU-SDGN II programme.



## Project Key Achievements and Results

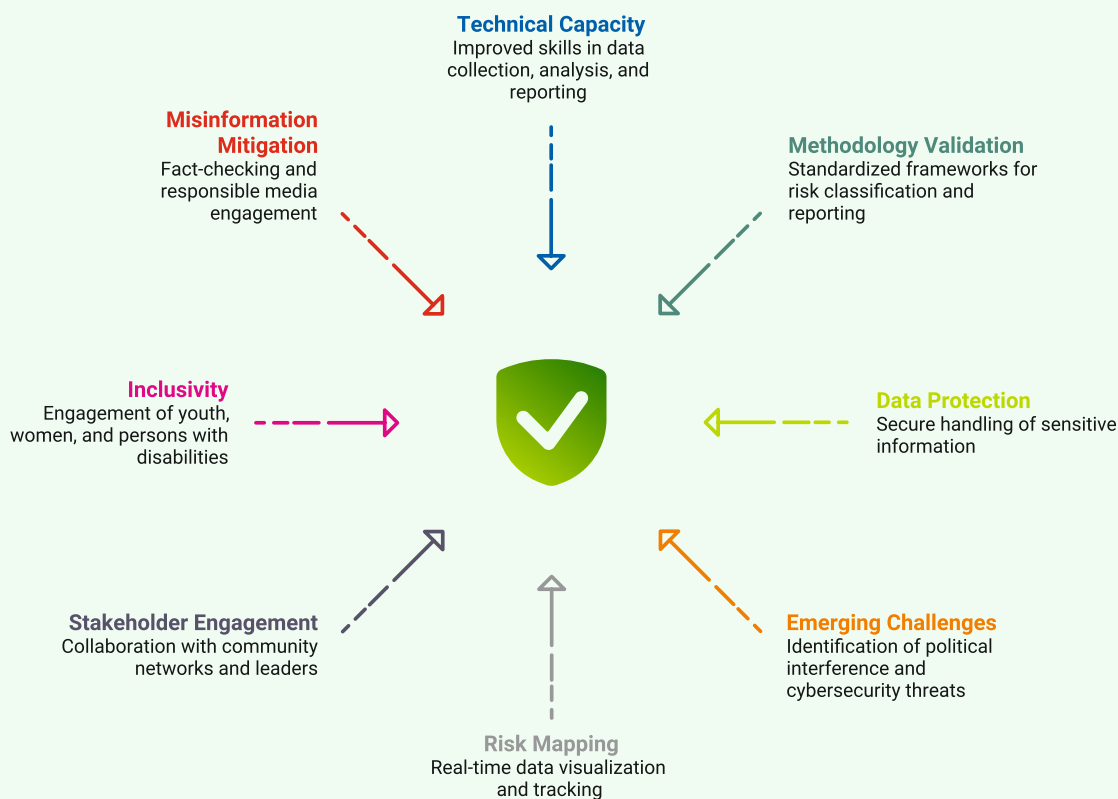
### Operationalization & Strengthening the ESI Hub

The ESI Hub was significantly strengthened through improved technical capacity in data collection, analysis, scenario building, and reporting. Its methodology was validated and refined, resulting in standardized risk-classification frameworks and reporting templates. Knowledge of data protection and ethical standards was reinforced to ensure secure and compliant handling of sensitive information. The Hub identified emerging security and operational challenges including political interference, cybersecurity threats, weak grassroots reporting, voter intimidation, misinformation, mal-information, disinformation, and vote buying thereby enhancing risk awareness and preparedness. It also demonstrated strong capabilities in risk mapping, real-time data visualization, tracking electoral offences, and coordinating multi-stakeholder responses. Stakeholder understanding of the Hub's operational

functions and strategic priorities was significantly enhanced, and the Hub was formally inaugurated as a national electoral security intelligence platform, positioning it as a centralized, data-driven mechanism for monitoring and responding to election-related threats.

The ESI Hub's monitoring of the Anambra Gubernatorial Elections produced several significant outcomes that enhanced electoral integrity and public confidence. Early-warning systems were strengthened through engagement with community networks, traditional leaders, and religious institutions, facilitating timely reporting of potential threats and improving responsiveness by security agencies. Collaboration among stakeholders including INEC, security

### Strengthening the ESI Hub for Election Security



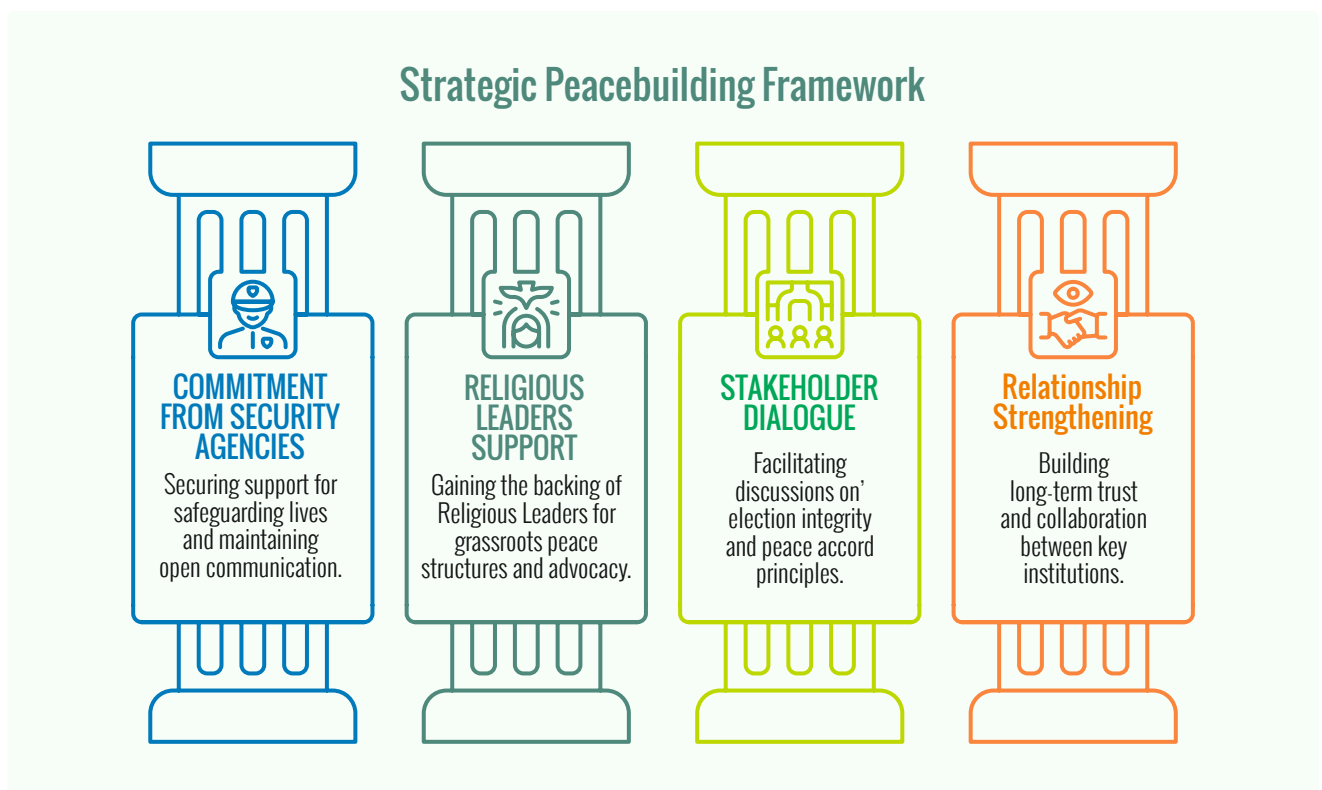
agencies, civil society organizations, and local communities was enhanced, enabling coordinated interventions to mitigate risks. Efforts to reach marginalized groups, such as youth, women, and persons with disabilities, improved inclusivity and representation in monitoring processes. Furthermore, misinformation and hate speech were mitigated through fact-checking initiatives, responsible media engagement, stakeholder advocacy campaigns, contributing to social cohesion and public confidence in the electoral process.

Overall, the monitoring efforts by the ESI Hub strengthened real-time election risk detection and improved coordinated response among key stakeholders, contributing to a more credible and peaceful electoral process in Anambra State. It also enhanced data harmonisation and collaboration across monitoring networks, resulting in more accurate incident reporting and greater public confidence in election accountability.

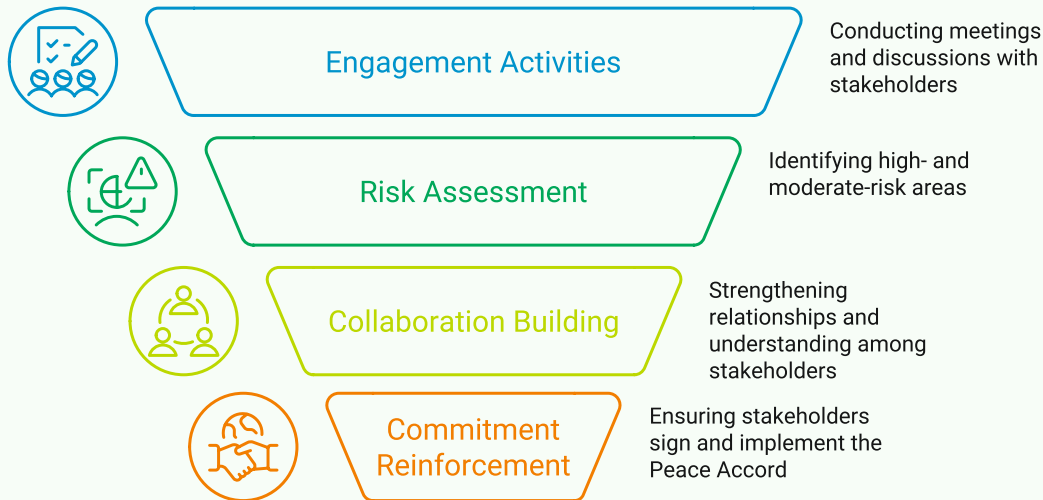
## Strategic Engagements with Stakeholders

The project conducted extensive stakeholder engagements with National and state level stakeholders in Anambra across its 21 LGAs, identifying high- and moderate-risk areas to inform targeted interventions. Collaboration and understanding were strengthened among INEC, security agencies, traditional and

religious leaders, civil society organizations, youth and women groups, and political actors. These engagements reinforced stakeholder commitment to signing and implementing the Peace Accord, while earning public commendation for the NPC's neutrality, credibility, and peacebuilding leadership.



## Stakeholder Engagement Process

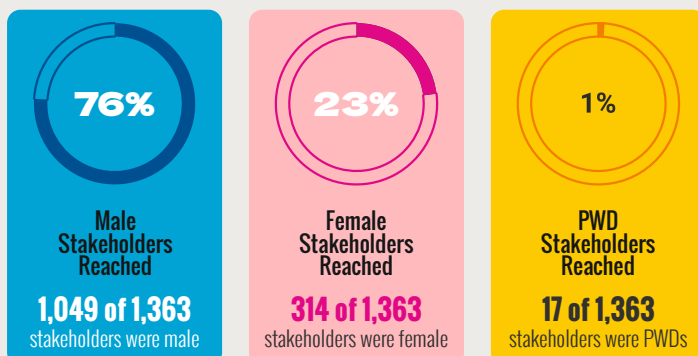


High-level strategic meetings with the Assistant Inspector General of Police (Zone 13) and the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Awka secured firm commitments from the Police to safeguard lives and maintain open communication, and from the Church to support sustainable grassroots peace structures and Peace Accord advocacy. Long-term relationships between the NPC, security agencies, and faith-based institutions were further strengthened, creating avenues for continuous information sharing and grassroots coordination. The NPC successfully convened a stakeholder dialogue to socialize the Peace Accord, clearly

presenting its mandate, achievements, and challenges, while facilitating robust discussions on issue-based campaigns, voter education, balanced police deployment, relocation of INEC collation centres, judicial responsibility, and acceptance of election results. These engagements reaffirmed the NPC's role as a neutral facilitator of peaceful elections and strengthened stakeholder pledges to uphold Peace Accord principles and promote voter confidence.

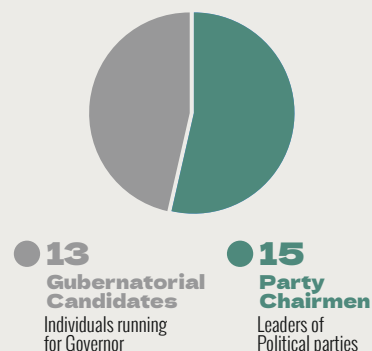
## Summary of Engagements

### Stakeholder Engagement Reach



Engagements reached a significant number of stakeholders, with notable male majority

### Distribution of Signatories in Anambra Peace Accord (Signatories)





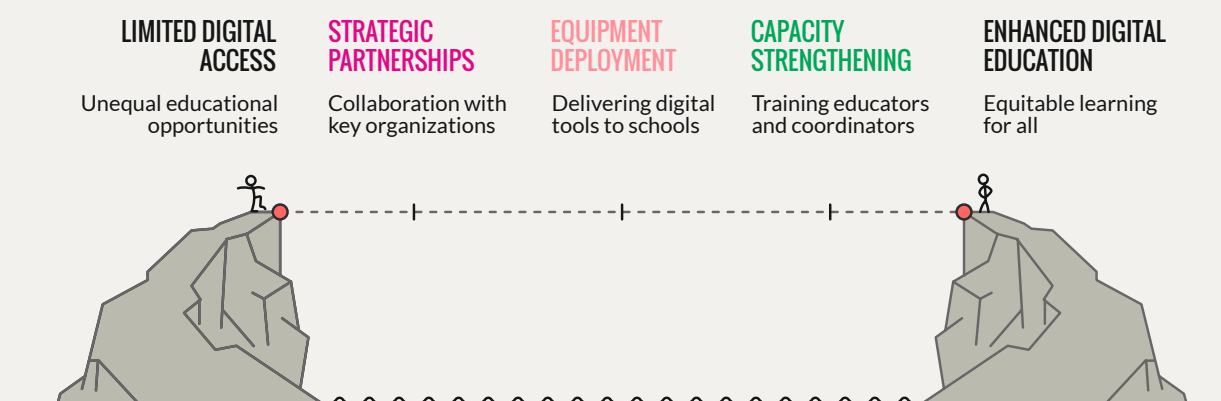
Programme  
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# Leadership Development Programme Area

# ProFuturo Digital Classroom Project

## Expanding Digital Education in Northern Nigeria



The ProFuturo Digital Classroom Project recorded major milestones in 2025 through strategic partnerships, equipment deployment, and capacity strengthening initiatives aimed at expanding access to quality digital education in Northern Nigeria. Following the March 2025 agreement between the ProFuturo Foundation, The Kukah Centre, and American Tower Corporation, digital education equipment was successfully delivered to 11 schools across Kano, Kebbi, and Taraba States, benefiting 5,672 pupils and 34 teachers. The project was officially launched in July 2025 in Kebbi State, reinforcing its commitment to bridging the digital divide and strengthening educational infrastructure in vulnerable communities. To ensure effective implementation, intensive technical and pedagogical trainings were conducted in Madrid and Abuja for State Coordinators and partner organisations, equipping them with advanced skills in deploying ProFuturo’s offline platforms and integrating ICT tools in both formal and humanitarian school settings.

## Official Delivery of the ATC-ProFuturo Equipment (Distributed in Kano, Kebbi, and Taraba States)

In March 2025, the ProFuturo Foundation and The Kukah Centre signed an agreement with American Tower Corporation to collaborate in 11 schools under the ProFuturo Program in Nigeria. This collaboration aims to facilitate access to advanced technological tools, educational platforms, and ProFuturo's innovative educational content, benefiting 5,672 children and 34 teachers, even in contexts of limited connectivity has culminated in the donation and delivery of Digital

Education Equipment to three States: Kano, Kebbi, and Taraba States, respectively, in May 2025. This initiative underscores the commitment of both organizations to address the educational digital divide. Its goal is to enhance the understanding of vulnerable school contexts to promote innovative teaching practices more effectively and to strengthen the digital transformation of education.





## Official Launch of the ATC-ProFuturo Project (Implemented in Kano, Kebbi, and Taraba States)

The Kukah Centre (TKC), through the ProFuturo project, which supports digital education in Nigeria, visited Kebbi State on Thursday, 10th July 2025, to launch the project at the Atiku Bagudu Science Primary School in Birnin Kebbi. The ProFuturo-ATC project marks a significant step towards enhancing educational infrastructure and opportunities in the region. The delegation from the Centre included Dr. Emmanuel Nkanta (Project Manager) and Esrom Ajanya (Senior Programme Manager), with other key attendees like Prof. Sulieman Khalid, Executive Chairman, State Universal Education Board [SUBEB], Kebbi State, Very Rev. Fr. Chukwubueze Onyekwelu, Vicar General, Catholic Diocese of Sokoto, Kebbi State, Mr. Aloysius Tochi, ProFuturo Coach, Kebbi State, Mal. Haliru Sarki, Chairman of Head Teachers, Kebbi State, and Head Teachers and Staff from PF-ATC Benefiting Schools (Atiku Bagudu Science Model Primary School, St. Dominic Schools, and Gwandu Emirates Model Primary School)

## Profuturo Training in Madrid

The ProFuturo Foundation, organized an On-Site Training on the ProFuturo Offline Platform (MODULE) and Mathematics Reinforcement aimed at enhancing the digital education skills for coaches (State Coordinators) implementing the ProFuturo Project in Nigeria, executed by the Kukah Centre. The training took place from 22nd September 2025 to 27th September 2025 at Fundación Telefónica Headquarters in Madrid, Spain. The main objective was to empower Coaches with the technical aspect of the Offline Platform and Installation of the ProFuturo Launcher that promotes inclusive and quality education. This introduction sets the foundation for evaluating the training's success and impact. The specific objectives of the training were:

1. To strengthen the Coaches' technical aspect of the Offline Installation of the ProFuturo Launcher.

2. To equip Coaches with the necessary knowledge and skills to explore and deploy the new ProFuturo offline platform (MODULE) and ProFuturo Mathematics.
3. To improve Coaches' capacity to integrate Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).
4. To encourage collaborative learning and digital literacy and encourage a more efficient and proactive work environment
5. To support the implementation of ProFuturo's digital education program in schools.

The training brought together 14 participants from different States across the Northern part of Nigeria, two Management Staff from The Kukah Centre, and twelve State Coordinators.



## Profuturo Training in Abuja

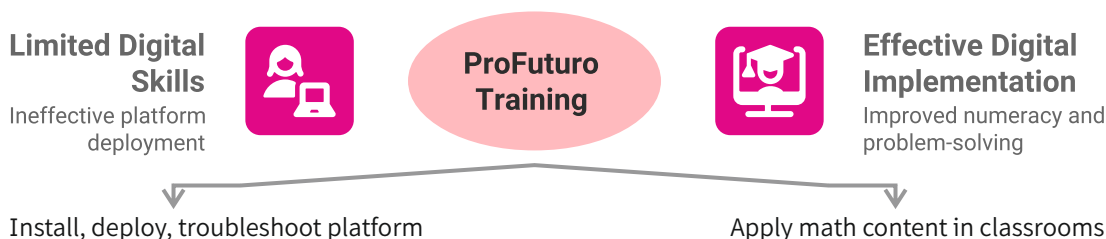


The Kukah Centre hosted a five-day technical and pedagogical training program for coaches involved in the implementation of the ProFuturo project in Nigeria. This training, which began on October 6, 2025, at the Kukah Centre in Abuja, brought together coaches and partners from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and Caritas Nigeria, all of whom are working in schools hosting refugees in Cross River, Benue, and Taraba States. The ProFuturo Foundation organised the event. The training concluded on October 10, 2025, and was initiated in response to recent updates to ProFuturo's offline platforms. Dr. Emmanuel Nkanta from the

Kukah Centre and Mr. Tobias Ouma from the Salesians of Don Bosco, Kenya, led the sessions. The training emphasised the need for continuous learning and skill development to keep up with the evolving landscape of digital tools and educational technologies. This underscores the importance of adapting to technological advancements to ensure the effective implementation of educational projects, especially in humanitarian contexts.

## Key Achievements and Results

### Advanced and developed coaches' digital competencies



The ProFuturo Foundation, Madrid, organised an on-site training on the ProFuturo Offline Platform (MODULE) and Mathematics Reinforcement from 22nd to 27th September 2025 at the Fundación Telefónica Headquarters in Madrid, Spain. The training brought together fourteen participants from northern Nigeria, including two management staff of The Kukah Centre and twelve State Coordinators serving as coaches under the ProFuturo Project.

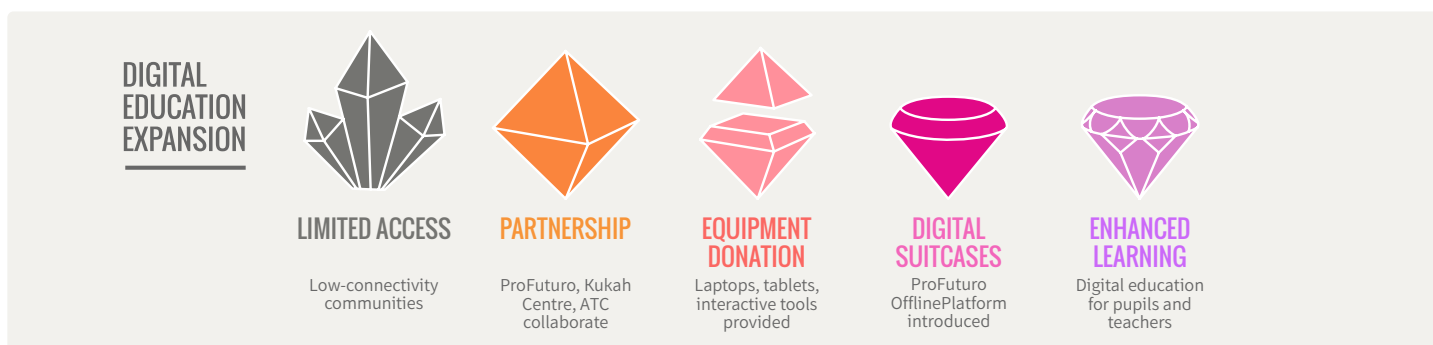
The training strengthened participants' technical capacity in the offline installation and deployment of the ProFuturo Launcher, equipping them with practical skills to implement the new offline platform and ProFuturo Mathematics content in low-connectivity environments. Coaches also gained a clear understanding of troubleshooting

processes and best practices to ensure effective and sustainable use of the platform in schools.

In addition, the sessions enhanced coaches' pedagogical competence, focusing on the classroom application of the MODULE platform and mathematics resources. Participants explored the structure, learning objectives, and interactive features of the content, enabling them to support teachers in delivering personalised, adaptive learning and improving pupils' numeracy and problem-solving skills.

Overall, the training improved the capacity of coaches to support effective implementation of ProFuturo's digital education programme, contributing to improved learning outcomes across beneficiary schools in 2025.

### Enhanced Access to Digital Learning and Transformation of Education



The ProFuturo Foundation and The Kukah Centre entered into a partnership with American Tower Corporation to support the implementation of the ProFuturo Programme in 11 schools across Nigeria. The collaboration

seeks to expand access to digital education tools and ProFuturo's innovative learning content for 5,672 pupils and 34 teachers, particularly in low-connectivity settings. This partnership culminated in the donation and deployment of

digital education equipment to schools in Kano, Kebbi, and Taraba States in May 2025, reinforcing a shared commitment to narrowing the digital education divide.

The deployment has already recorded notable impact, with over 5,600 children now accessing laptops, tablets, and other digital learning tools that were previously unavailable. These resources have opened up opportunities for interactive and personalised learning, significantly enriching the learning experience of pupils in vulnerable contexts.

In addition, the digital suitcases provide access to a wide range of educational content, including the ProFuturo Offline Platform, ProFuturo Mathematics, and interactive learning resources. Teachers have been empowered to adopt more dynamic and learner-centred teaching methods, moving beyond traditional classroom approaches. By extending digital learning to underserved communities, the initiative contributes to reducing urban-rural education gaps and lays a strong foundation for sustained digital inclusion in Nigeria's education sector.

## Improved Educational Outcomes and Digital Inclusion

The implementation of ProFuturo programmes has recorded clear and measurable improvements in student learning outcomes across benefiting schools in Nigeria, supported by both system data and qualitative feedback from schools.

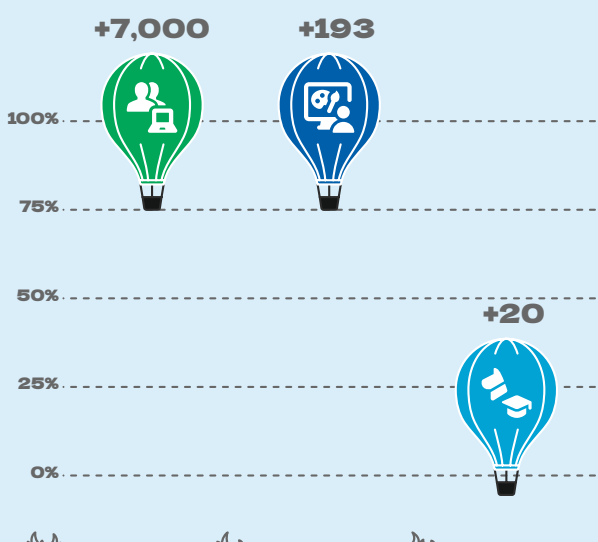
In 2025, student engagement increased significantly. ProFuturo's analytics show that over 7,000 students actively used the platform's tools and learning resources, marking a notable rise compared to previous periods. This growing

level of participation reflects increased adoption of digital learning and underscores the value of interactive content in sustaining learners' interest, deepening understanding, and improving overall academic performance.

Teaching practices have also improved substantially. In the same period, more than 193 teachers created and actively managed classes using the ProFuturo platform. Beyond strengthening digital literacy, the programme has enabled teachers to rethink lesson delivery by uploading customised content and adapting materials to suit local curricula and classroom realities. This flexibility has supported more responsive, learner-centred instruction.

Many participating teachers completed at least one course from the ProFuturo training catalogue, accruing a minimum of 20 hours of professional development. This training has strengthened their confidence and capacity to effectively apply digital tools in teaching. Teachers now routinely adapt activities from the ProFuturo suitcases and design new ones aligned with their lesson objectives, ensuring relevance across basic, intermediate, and advanced learning levels. With continued coaching support at state level, educators are increasingly equipped to adopt innovative pedagogical approaches that enhance learning outcomes and classroom engagement.

### ProFuturo Programme Impact in Nigeria



**Students Actively Engaged with Digital Tools**

Over 7,000 students used digital tools in 2025.

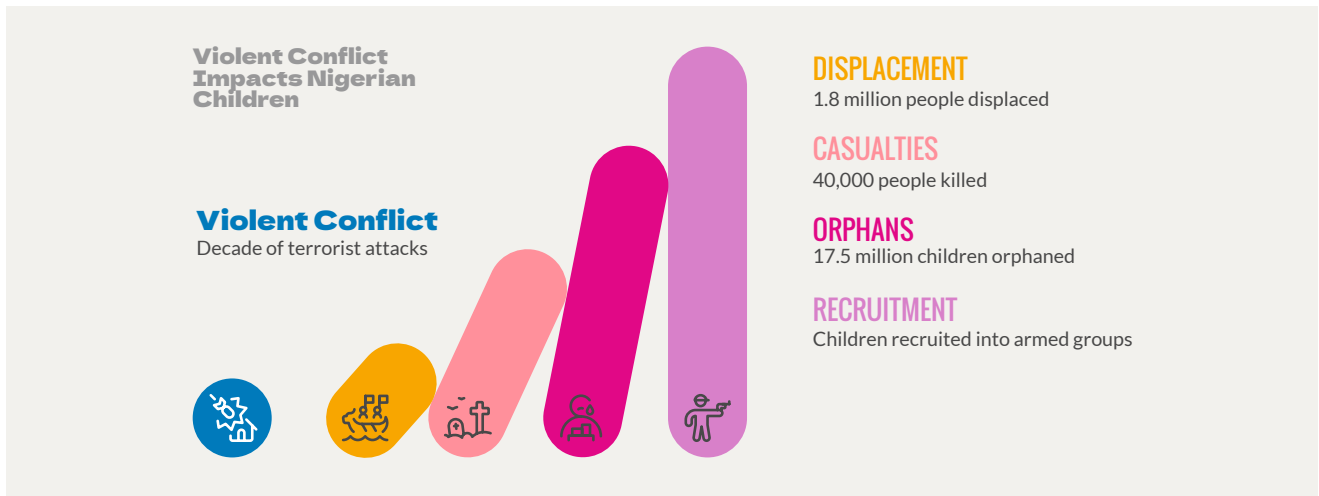
**Teachers Creating and Managing Digital Classes**

More than 193 teachers created and managed digital classes.

**Hours of Professional Development**

Teachers completed at least one course, accumulating 20 hours.

# Fountain of Life Church Scholarship Scheme for Orphans



For more than a decade now, Nigeria has experienced various forms of violent conflict linked to violent extremism perpetuated by terrorists and bandits. The effects on the local population and communities have been devastating. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) estimates that since 2009, up to 40,000 people have been killed in Nigeria,<sup>1</sup> 1.8 million are displaced, while about 230,000 live at the borderland as refugees. Violence against women, girls, and children, including sexual violence, exposure to trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence, are all too common yet underreported. In this context, thousands of children have been orphaned, and or taken captive, the numbers of children in the ranks of armed actors continue to swell by the day. Recently, according to Prof. Osinbajo, Nigeria's Vice President, 17.5 million children have been orphaned by conflicts in Nigeria.<sup>2</sup> These children are allegedly compelled by non-state armed groups to carry person-borne improvised explosive devices, act as informants, messengers, cooks and intelligence officers.

Nigerian orphans, under prolonged suffering because of loss of parents, are faced with several challenges such as dropping out of school; and in some cases, they may be taken out of school to care hoes. This is especially for orphaned girls. Some of the orphans will be

forced to become escorts for beggars or tasked to look after sick relatives. They are often-times being forced to relocate in the process and bringing their social networks and education to an abrupt end. They are likely to be recruited by armed bandits and terrorists. It is for this reason that the Fountain of Life Church, through The Kukah Centre, has undertaken the initiative to provide scholarship for Christian orphans and the most vulnerable children in northern Nigeria. Through the Kukah Centre, the intervention is undertaken in Sokoto, Kaduna and Benue States. The project partners include:

- \* Glitters of Hope Foundation – Sokoto
- \* Bakhita Initiative – Sokoto
- \* Justice, Peace and Development Commission – Kafanchan (Kaduna State)
- \* Health Commission, Catholic Diocese of Gboko – (Benue State)

For the 2024/2025 academic year, the Kukah Centre has provided full academic scholarships for 40 Christian orphans in Northern Nigeria. The scholarships funded junior and senior secondary school education, contributing to improved educational outcomes for marginalized youth.

<sup>1</sup> Simon Allison, 2020. 'Conflict is still Africa's Biggest Challenge in 2020', ISS, 6 January 2020, Available at: <https://issafrica.org/iss-today/conflict-is-still-africas-biggest-challenge-in-2020> [Accessed: 21 November 2020]

<sup>2</sup> Nigerian Tribune, 2021. Osinbajo Decries Increasing Number of Orphans in Nigeria, October 14, 2021.



**Some of the Christian Orphans on full academic Scholarships**





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# Interfaith Dialogue Programme Area

# KAICIID – Mechanism to Monitor Freedom of Religion and Belief

Nigeria's cultural diversity offers opportunities for human capital development but also presents challenges related to freedom of religion and belief. In recent years, the country has experienced rising cases of religious discrimination and violence, worsened by the activities of extremist groups such as Boko Haram and ISWAP, whose attacks on both Muslims and Christians have created fear and distrust within communities. Concerns are also linked to gaps in legal protections and responses that sometimes deepen tensions. In response, the National Human Rights Commission, in collaboration with The Kukah Centre and Nasrul-Lahi-il Fathi Society (NASFAT), conducted a survey on Freedom of Religion and Belief across Plateau, Sokoto, Edo, Osun, Kano, and Ebonyi States. The survey assessed the extent to which citizens' rights to practice their religion are respected, examined public attitudes toward religious diversity, documented instances of discrimination and violence, and evaluated the effectiveness of existing legal and institutional protections. The findings highlighted key issues, including restrictions on places of worship, denial of access to social amenities and governance based on religion, imposition of religious laws on minority groups, threats to life and property, and denial of scholarship opportunities. The Centre and its partners developed a policy brief and engaged government agencies, religious organisations, and policymakers to advocate for stronger protections for freedom of religion and belief in Nigeria.

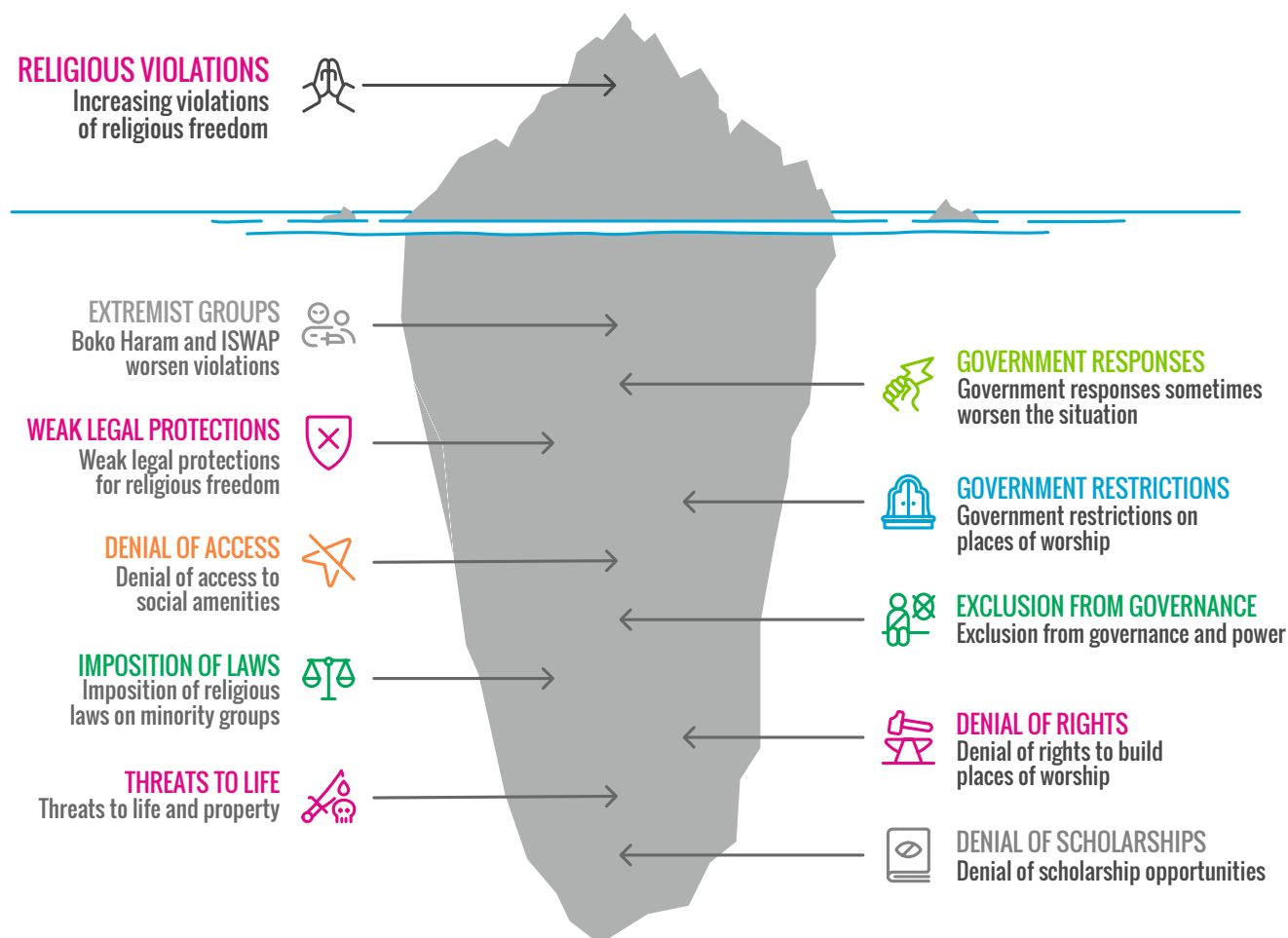
Nigeria is a country known for its rich cultural diversity and complex socio-political landscape. This diversity presents opportunities for human capital development, but also some sociological challenges related to the freedom of association and expression. One of the concerning issues Nigeria has been grappling with in recent years is the violation of freedom of religion and belief. Nigerian continues to experience a disturbing trend of religious discrimination and persecution that threatens the stability and harmony of its citizens. The rise of extremist groups like Boko Haram and ISWAP in the northern part of Nigeria has aggravated the status of religious violations. Their emergence and sustained attacks have resulted in countless acts of violence against citizens - both Muslims and Christians. Often, these acts of violence are carried out under the banner of religious ideology, exploiting, and distorting religious beliefs to justify acts of terror. Consequently, this situation has created an atmosphere of fear and distrust within communities, making it increasingly difficult for individuals to practice their faith without threat or intimidation.

Most worrying is the fact that sometimes, the response of the government exacerbates the situation. In fact, there are concerns about the lack of effective legal protections for freedom of religion and belief in Nigeria. Against this background, the National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with The Kukah Centre and Nasrul-Lahi-il Fathi Society (NASFAT) conducted a survey on Freedom of Religion and Belief in Nigeria in the Phase One of the project to identify enabling factors that promote violations, identify gaps, and develop mechanisms that can promote social cohesion in Nigeria.

The survey was conducted in the six states of Plateau, Sokoto, Edo, Osun, Kano and Ebonyi states. It assessed the state of religious freedom in the country and identified challenges or areas for improvement. Within this thrust, the survey had the following specifics:



## Religious Freedom Violations in Nigeria: Unveiling the Hidden Depths



1. It analysed the extent to which citizens' freedom and rights to practice their religion or belief system are respected and/or violated.
2. It assessed public attitudes towards religious diversity and tolerance in Nigeria.
3. The survey identified instances of religious discrimination or violence.
4. It evaluated the effectiveness of existing legal and institutional frameworks protecting religious freedom.
5. It contributed to existing policy and advocacy efforts aimed at promoting religious freedom and interfaith harmony in Nigeria.

The findings from the survey were in line with the project's assumptions. Emerging issues included government restrictions on religious place of worship; denial of access to social amenities based on religious identity; exclusion from governance and access to power because of religion; the imposition of religious laws on minority groups; denial of the right to build places of worship; threats to life and property; denial of scholarship opportunities among many others.

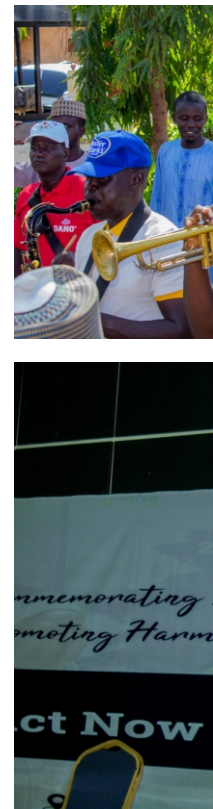
With its partners, the Centre prepared a policy brief and deployed this policy brief for advocacy with different government agencies, religious organisations and policy makers at the highest level of government.

# Global Rights Project on Peace and Security in the Northwest

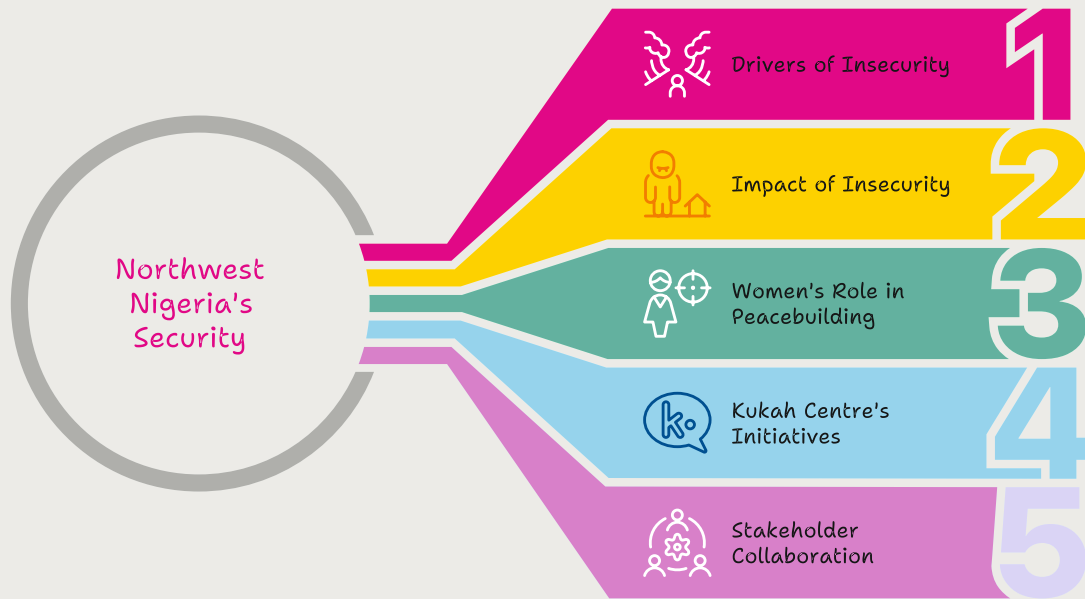
The Northwest region of Nigeria has experienced a significant increase in violence and insecurity in recent years. Violence, in many cases, has been linked to factors such as ethnic tensions, resource control, banditry, insurgency, contestation over environmental resources by farmers and herders, communal clashes, and socioeconomic challenges. This has disrupted the lives of people in the region leading to loss of lives, displacement, economic instability, and social unrest as such building community resilience is crucial in addressing these security concerns effectively. In addition, women who play a crucial role in promoting peace and security in communities are often overlooked, neglected, or marginalized in decision making processes and institutions. Consequently, it has become increasingly necessary to recognize and empower women as agents of change, with the capacity to mitigate the existing challenges of insecurity in the region.

The Kukah Centre in partnership with Global Rights engaged communities to promote peace and security in the northwest. The project

encouraged active participation of women and youths in decision-making processes, recognizing their important roles in building community resilience. It also provided the platform for open constructive dialogue among community members, religious leaders, government officials, and security agencies to discuss the root causes of insecurity and identify community-led solutions. It also strengthened collaboration and cooperation among various stakeholders, including government (MDAs), civil society organizations, religious leaders, traditional rulers, community-based organizations, international partners community members, security agencies, and government institutions to develop effective strategies for peacebuilding and conflict resolution.



## Unveiling the Multifaceted Approach to Northwest Nigeria's Security





Programme  
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# Memory Preservation and Knowledge Promotion Programme Area

# Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO): Strengthening Peace and Resilience in Nigeria (SPRiNG) Programme - Improving Community Security Initiatives for Accountable Service Delivery

Nigeria continues to face multiple, overlapping forms of violent conflict, especially in the North-West and North-Central regions, including farmer-herder clashes, banditry, and ethno-religious violence. These conflicts have undermined public trust, weakened governance, and stalled socio-economic development. In response, several state governments have created sub-national security outfits such as the BSCPG, KADVS, SCGC, KSCWC, and Operation Rainbow. However, these outfits have faced persistent challenges, including allegations of human rights abuses and ineffective conflict response, largely due to gaps in their establishing legal frameworks.

The Strengthening Peace and Resilience in Nigeria (SPRiNG) programme, implemented by The Kukah Centre, addresses these challenges by supporting inclusive, professional, and accountable community-based security mechanisms. The SPRiNG Programme, an initiative of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) implemented by Tetra Tech International Development, aims to promote a more stable and peaceful Nigeria by reducing violence, improving conflict resolution, strengthening security and justice systems, and enhancing resilience to climate change in target areas.

Consequently, as part of implementation activities in furtherance to these objectives, the Centre in 2025 conducted the following activities across the implementing States.

- i. Mapping of relevant state and non-state actors across project states to introduce the project and secure buy-in.
- ii. Stakeholders' advocacy and sensitization engagements. These engagements were at two levels: a general townhall consultation session and one-on-one courtesy call to key government MDAs.
- iii. Draft and Signed partnership agreements (MoU) with key government agencies and non-state actors detailing levels of commitment, effort and expectations for intervention delivery.
- iv. Conducted assessment of legal and policy frameworks establishing the BSCPG-Benue State, KADVS-Kaduna State, KCWC-Katsina State and OR-Plateau State highlighting gaps and proposing recommendations.
- v. Held validation sessions with a cross section of stakeholders in Benue and Kaduna States to review findings from the assessment report.

## Benue State



In Benue State, the project conducted the mapping of Stakeholders, identifying and documenting relevant State and non-State actors for engagement on the project. Key stakeholders identified in Benue State include the Executive Governor, Deputy Governor, the Secretary to State Government, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Office of the Special Adviser to the Executive Governor on Internal Security, Benue State Civil Protection Guard, Benue State Bureau for International Cooperation and Development (BICD), State House of Assembly and Bureau for Homeland Security. Other stakeholders include the Nigeria Police Force, Benue State Command, The Tor Lobi (1st Class traditional Ruler for Makurdi and Guma LGA), Foundation for Justice Development and Peace (FJDP), CAN, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Professional Associations, Youth and Women Groups, Persons with Disability (PWDs), MACBAN and the media.

This was followed by the engagement of the Stakeholders identified, which was done at two levels; one-on-one advocacy and a wider Stakeholders engagement, held on the 9th and

10th July 2025 with the Stakeholders enumerated above in attendance. As part of activities in Benue State, the Centre achieved a remarkable milestone by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Benue State Government in Makurdi on the 11th of December 2025. The Honourable Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Prof. Timothy Yangien Ornguga, represented by the Director of Legal drafting Barr. Edward Yange signed on behalf of the State government, while the Project Manager, Mr Terseer Bamber signed for the Centre. The project also assessed the law establishing the Benue State Civil Protection Guards Corps (BSCPGC). A consolidation of stakeholder perspectives from the two validation sessions held on the 23rd October 2025 and 11th December 2025, respectively indicate robust stakeholder inputs and interest. It is important to mention that the need for a second level validation was sequel to contextual changes in the appointment and assumption of office of new Commissioners including, the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Prof. Timothy Yangien Ornguga.

## Kaduna State

In Kaduna State, the Stakeholder mapping exercise resulted in the identification of the following stakeholders; Executive Governor, Deputy Governor, the Secretary to State Government, Ministry of Justice, Kaduna State Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Kaduna State Ministry of Human Services and Social Development, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Kaduna State Vigilance Service (KADVS), Nigeria Police Force, Kaduna State Command and State House of Assembly. Others include Socio-cultural groups, faith groups/communities, MACBAN, Youth and Women Groups, the media and Persons with Disability (PWDs).

The general Stakeholder engagement in Kaduna State which held on the 26th June 2025 brought together all the critical stakeholders from the Kaduna State Vigilance Service (KADVS), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Nigeria Police Force, Civil society organizations (CSOs) professional associations, youth and women

groups, Persons with Disability and the Media, for engagement. The second part of the stakeholder engagements which held on the 27th June 2025 was the one-on-one advocacy/sensitization visits to critical stakeholders to secure their commitments and buy-in, and which commitments were later documented in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Sequel to the rounds of engagements with relevant government ministries and agencies, the Centre convened at the Ministry of Justice for official signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 20th of August 2025. Led by the Executive Director of The Kukah Centre, Rev. Fr. Atta Barkindo PhD, the Centre appreciated the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice as well as the relevant ministries for their cooperation and open doors. Highlight



of the event was the formal signing of the MoU by the Commissioner for Justice Sir James Kanyip PhD, in witness of the Solicitor General/ Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Barr. Jummai Adamu Dan 'Azumi. On behalf of The Kukah Centre, Rev. Fr. Atta Barkindo PhD signed the MoU and was witnessed by the Project Manager, Mr. Bamber Terseer.

At the external validation session to refine the findings of the assessment report in Kaduna, stakeholders examined the existing provisions of the law establishing the KADVS and proposed revisions to align the Service's functions with contemporary security realities in Kaduna State. The external validation of the

2016 KADVS Establishing Law provided a platform for stakeholders to align perspectives and strengthen the Service's legal and institutional framework. The exercise reaffirmed the commitment of stakeholders to enhancing KADVS's effectiveness, accountability, and professionalism in addressing Kaduna State's evolving security challenges. The insights and recommendations generated during the validation will inform the development of a more responsive and sustainable legal framework that promotes collaboration, human rights compliance, and community trust, key pillars for building lasting peace and security across the state.

## Plateau State

Stakeholder mapping exercise in Plateau State identified the Executive Governor, Deputy Governor, Nigeria Police Force, Plateau State Command, the Plateau State Peace Building Agency, Operation Rainbow and the Special Adviser to the Executive Governor on Internal Security, Operation Rainbow and Neighbourhood Watch, the Department of State Services (DSS), Plateau State House of Assembly and Plateau State Ministry of Justice. Other category of stakeholders identified include faith groups/communities, MACBAN, Youth and Women Groups, the media and Persons with Disability (PWDs). Stakeholder engagements were convened from 20th to 21st

October 2025, with visits to the Nigeria Police Force, Plateau State Command, the Plateau State Peace Building Agency, Operation Rainbow and the Special Adviser to the





Executive Governor on Internal Security, Operation Rainbow and Neighbourhood Watch, the Department of State Services (DSS), Plateau State House of Assembly and Plateau State Ministry of Justice.

Advocacy visits to key security and governance institutions in Plateau State provided important insights into the evolving security architecture and reform priorities in the state. Discussions with the Nigeria Police Force, Plateau State Command highlighted strong institutional support for the project, alongside cautionary perspectives on gender inclusion in security operations, emphasizing the need for context-sensitive deployment of personnel. Engagements with the Plateau State Peace Building Agency (PPBA) underscored its coordinating mandate on early warning and non-kinetic responses, with emphasis on aligning the project with existing baseline studies, partner initiatives, and formalizing collaboration through a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU), in consultation with Operation Rainbow leadership.

The signing of the MoU on December 2, 2025, was a follow-up to previous advocacy/ sensitization engagements with stakeholders in October 2025 aimed at securing buy-in and cooperation from critical stakeholders for the project's implementation. The Honourable Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Barrister Philemon Daffi received the Centre's project team at the Ministry of Justice conference room for the signing ceremony. The parties proceeded into the MoU signing ceremony. The MoU establishes a structured basis for follow-up on agreed commitments, strengthening accountability, sustaining stakeholder ownership, and promoting the long-term sustainability of project outcomes.

## Katsina State

A careful mapping of stakeholders identified the Executive Governor, Deputy Governor, Office of the Special Adviser to the Governor on Katsina State Community Watch Corps, Office of the Senior Special Adviser on Victims of Banditry and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Office of the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Katsina State Development Management Board, Katsina State Community Watch Corp, State House of Assembly, Traditional and Religious leaders, Socio-cultural groups, Youth and Women Groups and the media. Stakeholder engagements held in Katsina from 13th to 14th October 2025. Beginning with the one-on-one advocacy visits to the Special Adviser to the Governor on Katsina State Community Watch Corps, Senior Special Adviser on Victims of Banditry and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Ministry of Justice,

the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Katsina State Development Management Board and Katsina State Community Watch Corp.

The signing of the MoU was hosted by the State Ministry of Budget and Planning and led by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, who represented the Honourable Commissioner. The landmark ceremony took place on 17th December 2025 in witness of the Permanent Secretary/Solicitor General, Ministry of Justice and other key stakeholders. The MoU was signed for the Katsina State government by the Permanent Secretary on behalf of the Commissioner, Ministry of Budget and Planning, and by the Project Manager Mr. Terseer Bamber on behalf of the Centre. The MoU signing strengthens government buy-in and legitimacy, which is essential for advancing legal and policy reforms related to community security governance.



## Sokoto State

In Sokoto State the Executive Governor, Deputy Governor, the Sultanate Council, Sokoto State Community Guard Corp (SSCGC), Ministry of Justice, Sokoto State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC), Sokoto State Command, Sokoto State House of Assembly, Nigeria Police Force, Sokoto State

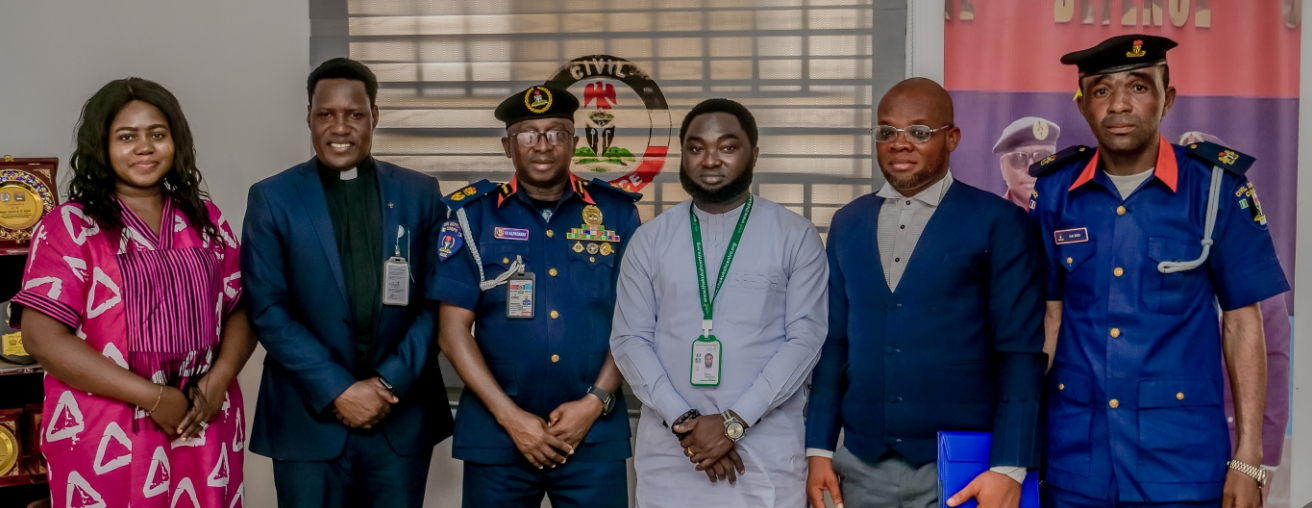
Command (NPF) and Centre for Peace Studies, Usman Dan Fodio University, Sokoto (UDUS) were the key stakeholders identified. Others include the Permanent Secretary Security Matters, Traditional and Religious Leaders, Professional Associations, Youth and Women Groups, and the media.

The Centre undertook Stakeholder engagements in Sokoto State from 30th June to 1st July 2025, with visits to the Sultanate Council, Sokoto State Community Guard Corp (SSCGC), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC), Sokoto State



Command, Sokoto State House of Assembly and Nigeria Police Force, Sokoto State Command. The one-on-one advocacy visits provided a deeper opportunity for stakeholders to hold frank and honest conversations on how

best to promote security in Sokoto State. During the advocacy visits, the Centre held conversations regarding the objectives, activities and strategies for effective project implementation.



## Key Achievements and Results

### PROJECT MILESTONES IN BENUE, KADUNA, SOKOTO, KATSINA, AND PLATEAU STATES



Following the series of targeted activities implemented in Benue, Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto and Plateau States the Centre remarkably recorded milestones and results in line with the objectives of the project.

1. The signing of key MoUs with state governments across Benue, Kaduna, Katsina and Plateau States. These MoUs signify a formal relationship with the States and represent a formal relationship for the collaborative implementation of the activities on the project.
2. Completion of the assessment of the legal and policy frameworks of state security outfits in Benue, Kaduna, Katsina, and Plateau States, identified gaps and recommendations made with a view to strengthening the frameworks for improved institutional capacity of the security outfits.
3. Successfully convened three validation sessions of draft assessment reports of the legal and policy frameworks establishing the Kaduna Vigilance Service (KADVS) and Benue State Civil Protection Guards Corps with participation from over 100 state and non-state actors.



Programme  
Interventions  
and Achievements

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# Human Rights Protection Programme Area

# Institute for Catholic Humanitarian Service (ICHS)

This intervention provides targeted education and welfare support to internally displaced persons in the Durumi and New Kuchigoro IDP camps in Abuja, with a focus on pupils attending Bethel Foundation School in Durumi Camp and Prosperity School in New Kuchigoro Camp.





## Education and Welfare Support for IDP Children in Durumi and New Kuchigoro Camps

In Durumi Camp, a critical challenge is sustaining basic education services delivered by volunteer teachers who have gone several months without stipends. Their commitment has kept learning activities ongoing, but the absence of financial support threatens continuity and quality. In addition, many pupils face hunger and poor nutrition, which significantly affects concentration, attendance, and learning outcomes. Providing short-term stipends for volunteer teachers and food support for pupils for one month will stabilise learning activities and improve the overall well-being of the children.

In New Kuchigoro Camp, Prosperity School serves over 300 pupils but lacks basic materials that support participation and holistic development. A key gap is the absence of sportswear and recreational support, limiting opportunities for physical development, psychosocial healing, and social inclusion. For children affected by displacement and conflict,

access to structured recreational activities is essential for emotional recovery, teamwork, and resilience. The provision of sportswear will help address these needs and strengthen school engagement.

Overall, this support responds to immediate and clearly identified needs within both camps, strengthening education delivery and child welfare while encouraging regular school attendance. By addressing critical material and human resource gaps, it contributes to restoring dignity, inclusion, and a sense of normalcy for children living under prolonged displacement. This effort reflects the shared commitment of The Kukah Centre (TKC) and the Institute for Catholic Humanitarian Service (ICHS) to improving humanitarian responses, assessing evolving needs, and supporting sustainable solutions for vulnerable displaced populations.

## Improved Food Security and Learning Outcomes

Regular foodstuffs were provided to support pupil meals at Bethel Foundation School in Durumi and Prosperity School in New Kuchingoro, directly benefiting over 800 individuals. By prioritising school-aged children, the intervention addressed a critical gap in nutrition that affects physical health, concentration, and learning capacity. The provision of meals reduced hunger and malnutrition, improved classroom engagement and academic performance, increased school attendance and retention, and eased the financial burden on IDP families. School-based feeding also served as an incentive for enrolment, supporting the educational aspirations of displaced children.

## Holistic Child Development through Sportswear Provision

Sportswear was procured and distributed to 402 pupils at Prosperity School in the New Kuchingoro camp. This support promoted participation in physical and recreational activities essential for children's physical health, mental wellbeing, and social development. Beyond physical benefits, the initiative boosted morale and self-esteem, fostered social cohesion and teamwork, supported trauma coping, and contributed to a more positive and engaging school environment.

## Sustaining Education through Teacher Stipends

Recognising the central role of volunteer teachers, many of whom are displaced themselves, the Centre provided regular stipends to teachers at Bethel Foundation School and Prosperity School. This support increased teacher motivation and retention improved the quality of teaching and learning, reduced turnover, ensured continuity in education, and reinforced the value and professionalism of volunteer educators, thereby strengthening the stability of the camp-based education system.



## Strengthened Oversight through Supervisory Visits

Regular supervisory visits were conducted to the Durumi and New Kuchingoro camps to assess humanitarian conditions and monitor ongoing interventions across education, health, sanitation, security, and food security. These visits enabled real-time needs assessment, effective monitoring and evaluation, identification of emerging challenges, and evidence-based decision-making. They also enhanced accountability and transparency, built trust with beneficiaries and

partners, and strengthened advocacy for durable, long-term solutions such as improved infrastructure, livelihoods, and resettlement in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Overall, the intervention delivered integrated and responsive support that improved child welfare, strengthened educational delivery, and reinforced accountability while laying groundwork for sustainable solutions for displaced communities.

## Key Achievements and Results

The intervention delivered targeted, high-impact support to internally displaced persons in the Durumi and New Kuchingoro camps, with a strong focus on education, nutrition, and child wellbeing.

### COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT FOR DISPLACED COMMUNITIES



# Open Society Foundation (OSF) – Africa - Support to Sub-national Security Initiatives.

With support from Open Society Foundations (OSF) Africa, The Kukah Centre advanced sub-national security and peacebuilding efforts through rigorous research validation and the establishment of sustainable state-level peace structures. A one-day external validation of the National Conflict Assessment, covering all 36 states and the FCT, was convened at UN House, bringing together key government institutions, security agencies, civil society actors, and development partners to review and strengthen the study's methodology, findings, and recommendations ahead of its official launch. In parallel, Independent State Peace Architectures (ISPAs) were successfully established and operationalised in Anambra State, Abia State, and Ebonyi State, mobilising credible leaders across sectors to address state-specific conflict dynamics and support peaceful electoral processes. Notably, the Anambra ISPA contributed to a peaceful 8 November 2025 gubernatorial election through candidate engagement and the facilitation of a peace accord. These combined efforts produced a comprehensive, standardised evidence base on conflict trends across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, providing strategic guidance for national policy planning and responsive interventions by government and development partners.





## External Validation of National Conflict Assessment Research

Understanding conflict dynamics is key to effective conflict management, peaceful co-existence, and sustainable development. On this backdrop, TKC convened a one-day external validation of Conflict Assessment research covering all 36 states and the FCT. The session, held at UN House, Abuja, provided a platform for stakeholders to critically interrogate the methodology, findings, and recommendations presented by the research firm CORN-WA.

The exercise aimed to strengthen and refine the research, producing a comprehensive report that would be widely accepted by relevant actors ahead of its publication, public presentation, and official launch.

Key stakeholders in attendance included representatives from the Federal Ministry of Interior, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), National Human Rights Commission, Nigeria Police Force (NPF), international development partners, civil society organisations, and members of the Independent State Peace Architecture (ISPA), among others. Their insights and feedback were instrumental in ensuring the report's relevance, accuracy, and utility for national conflict management and policy planning.



## Establishment and Operationalisation of Independent State Peace Architectures (ISPAs)

The inauguration of the Independent State Peace Architecture (ISPA) focused on identifying and mobilising credible individuals with a demonstrated commitment to peace, community development, and public service. Selected members brought proven track records, accomplished careers, and the convening power needed to engage state governments and other critical stakeholders. The composition of the ISPAs reflected broad societal representation, including religious and traditional leaders, captains of industry, civil society leaders, women leaders, retired public servants, and other respected professionals

Through this process, ISPAs were successfully established in Anambra, Abia, and Ebonyi States and formally inaugurated to carry out their mandates in line with clearly defined terms of reference. These structures are tasked with identifying and responding to state-specific conflict dynamics, engaging relevant government actors and institutions, and contributing to peace and security efforts aimed at guaranteeing peaceful general elections. The inaugurations were conducted in Anambra State from 7-8 April 2025, Abia State from 10-11 April 2025, and Ebonyi State from 14-15 April 2025.

Following their inauguration, the ISPAs became fully operational and commenced engagements with both state and non-state actors to support collaborative peacebuilding initiatives. Notably, the Anambra State ISPA played a critical role during the 8 November 2025 gubernatorial election by engaging candidates to promote issue-based campaigns and supporting the signing of a peace accord among all contestants. These efforts contributed significantly to the conduct of a peaceful gubernatorial election in the state.

In addition, a comprehensive conflict assessment was completed, resulting in a detailed report documenting conflict drivers, dynamics, trends, key actors, and impacts across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria. The report provides stakeholders with a standardised evidence base for understanding conflict patterns nationwide and offers strategic guidance for policy formulation and the design and implementation of responsive government and development interventions by national and international partners.



# Part 3

TKC Highlights: National and International Engagements

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Founder's Corner – Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah

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Financial Report

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TKC Impact Assessment Report

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Conclusion

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## NPC and European Union Delegation Convene high-level dialogue titled “A Whole-of-Society Approach to the Prevention of Conflict in Northern Nigeria.”



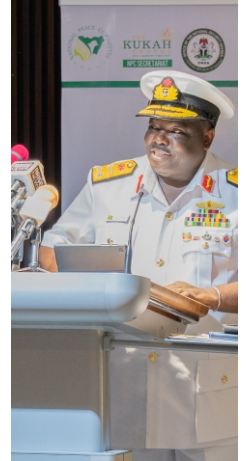
The Kukah Centre, serving as the secretariat of the National Peace Committee, in collaboration with the European Union Delegation in Nigeria, convened a broad coalition of stakeholders for a high-level dialogue titled *A Whole-of-Society Approach to the Prevention of Conflict in Northern Nigeria*. The engagement created a platform for collective reflection on the complex and interconnected drivers of insecurity across the region.

The dialogue featured a presentation by The Nextier, delivered by Ndubuisi N. Nwokolo, PhD, which examined conflict dynamics in the Northwest, Northeast, and North Central regions. Particular attention was given to the often-underexplored religious dimensions influencing patterns of violence, alongside political, social, and economic factors. Participants included the National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu; Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah; His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammadu Sa'ad III, the Sultan of Sokoto; H.E. Gautier Mignot, Ambassador of the European Union to Nigeria; a representative of the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Olufemi Olatubosun Oluyede; as well as traditional and religious leaders, government ministries, departments and agencies, political party leaders, members of the diplomatic community, civil society

actors, academics, and development partners.

Discussions underscored the critical role of traditional and religious institutions in strengthening national peace and security strategies, particularly in identifying early warning signs of radicalisation and preventing violent escalation. Key takeaways highlighted the importance of deeper institutional collaboration, inclusive policy design, and sustained community engagement, with specific emphasis on empowering women and local actors as central drivers of sustainable peace. Through this dialogue, the National Peace Committee and the European Union Delegation reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing holistic approaches that address both the immediate expressions of violence and the underlying structural causes, laying the groundwork for lasting peace and stability in Northern Nigeria





# NPC and European Union Delegation Host Dialogue on Nigeria's National Identity and the Indigene–Settler Question

The National Peace Committee through The Kukah Centre, in collaboration with the European Union in Nigeria, convened a high-level discourse titled *Nigeria's National Identity: Revisiting the Indigene–Settler Question*. The engagement addressed a long-standing national issue that continues to shape access, belonging, and opportunity across the country. Discussions focused on how the indigene– settler classification has, over time, reinforced a two-tier perception of citizenship, undermining inclusion and weakening national cohesion despite Nigeria's cultural and ethnic diversity. Participants interrogated the historical, legal, cultural, and social foundations of this divide, as well as the institutional practices that sustain exclusion.

The dialogue brought together stakeholders from across sectors to reflect on alternative

narratives of citizenship and explore practical pathways toward a more inclusive understanding of identity and belonging. Emphasis was placed on the need for policy reform, social reorientation, and civic responsibility to strengthen national unity. Through this engagement, the National Peace Committee reaffirmed its commitment to fostering dialogue that bridges divides, advances democratic values, and promotes peaceful coexistence. The discourse underscored a shared aspiration for a Nigeria in which identity serves as a source of unity rather than division, and where all citizens are recognised as equal stakeholders in the national project.



## The Kukah Centre Hosts UN Volunteers Executive Coordinator for Strategic Engagement



shape the Centre's mission across good governance, credible elections, interfaith dialogue, inclusion, leadership development, and the defence of human rights. The delegation included Mr. Marc Lalanne, Regional Portfolio Specialist, and Ms. Veronica Obiuwevbe, UNV Country Coordinator. They were received by Mr. Esrom Ajanya, Senior Programmes Manager, on behalf of the Executive Director, Fr. Atta Barkindo.

The Kukah Centre received a delegation from the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), led by Mr. Toily Kurbanov, Executive Coordinator, for an engagement focused on shared values and areas of potential collaboration. The visit provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on peacebuilding, civic participation, inclusive leadership, and the promotion of democratic governance. Mr. Kurbanov's visit also served as a moment of reflection on the vision and leadership of Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, Founder of The Kukah Centre, whose work continues to



## International Day of Peace Commemoration

At the 2025 International Day of Peace commemoration hosted by the United Nations in Nigeria at the German Embassy, Fr. Atta Barkindo, PhD, represented The Kukah Centre and delivered a goodwill message highlighting the urgency of peacebuilding in Nigeria and beyond. In his remarks, Fr. Barkindo drew attention to Nigeria's persistent challenges, including terrorism, banditry, and violent agitations, stressing that peace, while demanding, remains essential for national survival and collective progress. He emphasised that peacebuilding cannot be deferred or outsourced but requires deliberate and sustained action.

He called on citizens, government institutions, civil society organisations, and faith communities to take responsibility for building an inclusive, just, and peaceful society. Aligning with the global theme, *Act Now for a Peaceful World*, his message reinforced the need for immediate, coordinated efforts to address the root causes of conflict and strengthen social cohesion. The engagement reflected The Kukah Centre's continued commitment to advancing dialogue, justice, and peace through collaborative action at local, national, and global levels.

## Faith, Democracy, and Open Societies: The Kukah Centre at OSF Connect & Create, Dakar



The Kukah Centre (TKC) participated in a Fishbowl Session on Religion, Social Justice, and Democracy during the Connect & Create Programme in Dakar, Senegal, organised by the Open Society Foundations (OSF) as part of its mid-year evaluation to deepen engagement with African programme partners. The session examined a central question: Can religious institutions contribute to building open societies? Fr. Atta Barkindo, Ph.D, Executive

Director of The Kukah Centre, actively contributed to the discussion, offering nuanced reflections on the complex relationship between religion, democracy, and social justice in Africa.

The conversation explored the influence of religion on governance and political identity, the role of religious leaders in civic mobilisation, and the capacity of faith-based institutions to advance democratic values, inclusion, and participation, particularly among women and young people. Participants also interrogated the dangers of politicising and weaponising religion, acknowledging how faith can either serve as a force for peace or a driver of division. Despite these tensions, the dialogue underscored the growing relevance of religious voices in resisting authoritarianism and strengthening democratic processes across the African continent.

## Fr. Atta Barkindo Represents The Kukah Centre at Vatican Workshop on Transparency and Accountability

Fr. Atta Barkindo represented the Centre at the 2nd edition of the Markets, Culture & Ethics Research Centre's workshop on "Transparency, Accountability & Evaluation in the Catholic Church." The workshop, held at the Old Synod Hall in the Vatican, brought together officials from Rome's Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Pontifical Lateran University, and the Vatican's financial authority. Participants engaged in practical training and discussions on ethical leadership, financial and accounting transparency, cultural accountability, and effective communication within Church institutions. Fr. Barkindo's contribution highlighted The Kukah Centre's ongoing commitment to promoting ethical leadership and advancing global dialogue on transparency, accountability, and good governance in religious and societal institutions.



## Fr. Atta Barkindo Speaks on Sustainability at Caritas Nigeria's 15th Anniversary Symposium



The Kukah Centre participated in the commemoration of Caritas Nigeria's 15 years of humanitarian and development engagement in Nigeria, joining partners and stakeholders to reflect on the organisation's impact and future direction. At the anniversary symposium themed Sustainability in the Face of the Changing Funding Landscape, the Executive Director of The Kukah Centre, Rev. Fr. Atta Barkindo, PhD, contributed insights on navigating declining donor support while sustaining impact. He underscored the need for organisations to rethink traditional funding

models and prioritise long-term resilience. Fr. Atta emphasised a shift from consumption-driven approaches to empowerment-focused strategies, highlighting the importance of mobilising diaspora communities and adopting innovative faith-based financing models, including structured tithing systems and community banking initiatives. The engagement reinforced the shared commitment between The Kukah Centre and Caritas Nigeria to advancing peace, governance, and development through sustainable, community-centred solutions that strengthen local capacity and resilience.



## Fr. Atta Barkindo Reflects on Hope and the Future of the Catholic Church at Priests' Jubilee

At the Priests' Jubilee of Hope celebration in Jalingo, Fr. Atta Barkindo, PhD, represented The Kukah Centre and delivered a reflective lecture on Hope and the Future of the Catholic Church.

Drawing on historical perspective, he reminded clergy and the faithful that although the Church has encountered periods of crisis, challenge, and declining vocations in parts of the world, its foundation of hope remains anchored in God's promises and the resurrection of Christ. He noted that the Church continues to experience significant growth, particularly in Africa, while sustaining its global mission through education, healthcare, and charitable service. Fr. Barkindo called on the Church to approach the future with courage and faith, emphasising the importance of remaining steadfast in hope



while responding thoughtfully to contemporary realities. His reflections underscored the enduring role of the Church as a source of spiritual renewal, social responsibility, and compassionate engagement in a changing world.



# Policy Engagement on Organised Crime, Terrorism, and Insecurity in Nigeria

The Kukah Centre, in collaboration with Conciliation Resources, the Royal United Services Institute RUSI, Hope Interactive HI, and Unified Members for Women Advancement UMMWA, convened a Policy Engagement Workshop on Organised Crime, Terrorism, and Insecurity in Nigeria under the Organised Crime, Terror, and Insecurity in Africa OCTA project.

The engagement amplified perspectives from Borno, Yobe, and Kaduna States, communities that continue to experience the direct impacts of violent extremism, banditry, and related security threats. Participants included government officials, security agencies, civil society actors, and development partners, creating a space for cross-sector dialogue grounded in research and lived realities. Discussions examined key findings on the evolving patterns of violent extremism, the intersections between banditry and terrorism, and the declining public trust in state-led security responses. Emphasis was placed on the need for locally informed and integrated approaches that move beyond rigid classifications to address the underlying drivers and behaviours sustaining insecurity. By connecting community-level experiences with national and international security priorities, the workshop contributed to advancing inclusive, evidence-based policy conversations that reflect the realities of affected populations across Nigeria.



## Fr. Atta Barkindo represents TKC at the National Dialogue on Countering Digital Hate Speech and Promoting Social Cohesion

Fr. Atta Barkindo, on behalf of The Kukah Centre participated as a panellist at the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and House of Representatives Legislative Roundtable on Inter-Faith Dialogue, where discussions focused on countering digital hate speech, online ethnic slurs, and bigotry. The roundtable was formally opened by the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie

Kalu, who reaffirmed the legislature's commitment to addressing the rising tide of online hate speech and dehumanising rhetoric that threatens social cohesion and peaceful coexistence in Nigeria. Fr. Barkindo's intervention highlighted the growing impact of digital platforms in amplifying divisive narratives and the need for responses that balance accountability with the protection of fundamental freedoms. He emphasised the importance of multi-stakeholder approaches involving government, civil society, faith communities, and technology platforms in confronting online hate.

Also contributing to the panel were Sheikh Muhammad Nuru Khalid and Imam Fuad Adeyemi, who underscored the need for ethical and legal frameworks to hold purveyors of hate and bigotry accountable. Sheikh Muhammad Nuru Khalid specifically called for legal measures to penalise the use of dehumanising religious slurs, including terms such as “Arne,” “Kafir,” or “Infidel,” within the Nigerian context. Key recommendations emerging from the discussion included the development of mechanisms to hold content creators and social media influencers accountable for the deliberate spread of hate and division, as well as the establishment of a regulatory framework to provide oversight for religious preaching. Participants proposed that minimum qualification standards, guided by recognised religious bodies, be required for individuals engaged in public preaching. As the national conversation on digital hate speech continues, the roundtable reaffirmed the urgency of crafting thoughtful, inclusive, and rights-respecting solutions to strengthen social cohesion and promote peaceful coexistence in Nigeria.



## Fr. Atta Barkindo speaks at NACATHS CONVENTION on Strategic Approaches to Peacebuilding in Southern Kaduna

At the National Association of Catholic Theology Students, NACATHS' Convention hosted by Christ the King Seminary in Kafanchan, Kaduna State, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah was represented by Fr. Atta Barkindo, Ph.D, who delivered a paper titled *"Conflict Resolution in Southern Kaduna: The Need for Strategic Engagement."* Fr. Barkindo's presentation critically explored the historical and structural roots of conflict in the region, highlighting the complex interplay of ethnic, religious, and political factors that have fueled cycles of violence. He underscored that past interventions have largely been reactive, failing to establish the long-term frameworks required for sustainable peace. Calling for a shift toward intentional and strategic peacebuilding, Fr. Barkindo emphasised the importance of truth-telling, restorative justice, and inclusive dialogue. He stressed the indispensable role of faith-based institutions, academics, civil society

organizations, and traditional leaders in driving meaningful engagement. Beyond surface-level narratives such as 'farmer-herder' or religious conflicts, his paper urged attention to deeper structural inequities and identity-based grievances as central to achieving lasting stability in Southern Kaduna.



## Fr. Atta Barkindo attends Faith and Sustainability Conference

Fr. Atta Barkindo, Ph.D delivered a keynote address at the Faith and Sustainability Conference in Abuja, organised by Eco-friendly Sensitisation and Advocacy (ESAA). He explored the intersection of faith, environmental stewardship, and sustainable development, highlighting how religious values and traditions can foster responsibility toward the planet. Fr. Barkindo emphasised the



principles of the Circular Economy as a pathway to sustainability, stressing the importance of collaboration among faith communities, policymakers, and environmental advocates. His address called for championing responsible consumption, waste reduction, and regenerative practices to ensure a sustainable and thriving world for future generations.

## Fr. Atta attends ECOWAS Regional Meeting on Strengthening National Peace Architectures

The Department of Political Affairs, Peace, and Security PAPS of the ECOWAS Commission convened a three-day regional meeting in Accra, bringing together National Peace Commissions, Councils, and Committees from Member States to deepen collaboration, networking, and partnership in peacebuilding across West Africa. Against the backdrop of evolving conflict dynamics in the region, the meeting provided a timely space to reflect on the effectiveness of national peace infrastructures, exchange best practices, and strengthen regional cooperation toward sustainable peace and security.

At the meeting, Fr. Atta Barkindo PhD, Head of Secretariat of the Nigerian National Peace Committee, shared insights on the Committee's role as an independent arbitrator with the convening power to engage policymakers and political actors at the national level. He highlighted the NPC's work beyond electoral processes since its establishment in 2014, particularly its preventive interventions aimed at stopping conflicts from escalating into violence. Fr. Barkindo also highlighted ongoing efforts to deepen the Committee's impact at sub national levels across Nigeria's 36 states through the Independent State Based Peace Architectures (ISPAs) and partnerships with other actors. The National Peace Committee reaffirmed its commitment to collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission, the African Union, the Commonwealth, and other regional bodies in advancing peace, stability, and cooperative security across the African continent.



# TKC Fellows Meeting



The Kukah Centre convened a pivotal meeting bringing together its fellows and partners from Veritas University to deliberate on collaboration, strategy, and long-term impact. The discussions centred on key areas of the Centre's work, including peacebuilding initiatives, leadership development, good governance, interfaith dialogue, and the documentation of historical injustices that continue to shape contemporary society. The meeting explored opportunities to expand strategic partnerships, strengthen documentation and research processes, and define actionable priorities that would enhance the Centre's influence and effectiveness. Fellows were encouraged to take proactive roles in their communities, serving as "light posts" to advance the Centre's mission, while pathways for sustained collaboration with Veritas University and other aligned organisations were outlined. The meeting also highlighted the importance of integrating lessons from past projects with emerging

opportunities, ensuring that ongoing programmes remain contextually relevant and impactful. Discussions emphasised the value of evidence-based approaches, community engagement, and knowledge-sharing to inform policy, foster social cohesion, and promote inclusive development.

By the close of the session, participants reaffirmed their collective commitment to advancing the Centre's vision of a more peaceful, just, and united society. The meeting strengthened the foundations for coordinated action, ensuring that the work of the Centre continues to inspire transformation, nurture leadership, and foster sustainable solutions across communities in Nigeria and beyond.

## KAPOK Peace Exchange Workshop Strengthens Regional Peacebuilding

Over two impactful days (9–10 December 2025) in Abuja, The Kukah Centre (TKC), in partnership with Conciliation Resources, convened peacebuilders from Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria for the KAPOK Peace Exchange Workshop. The workshop offered participants an opportunity to learn from Nigeria's diverse conflict experiences, including herder–farmer tensions, youth-led initiatives, and community-based reconciliation efforts. Attendees also shared innovative practices from their own contexts, fostering cross-

border learning and adaptation. Panels on women's leadership, dialogue and reconciliation, and civil society–state engagement provided space for deep reflection, critical discussion, and practical problem-solving. By the close of the workshop, participants had forged new connections, strengthened their understanding of conflict dynamics, and enhanced their capacity to advance peace and inclusive governance across West Africa.



# European Union Election Observation Follow-Up Mission Engages The Kukah Centre

Following the 2023 general elections, the European Union Observation Mission released its report and made 23 critical recommendations to improve election processes and management in Nigeria. The expectation is that this will translate into free, fair and credible elections in Nigeria, and in turn better the lives of ordinary Nigerians. Mr. Barry

Andrews, Chief of the Election Observation Follow-Up Mission, led a team from the European Union Delegation, including the EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Mr. Gautier MIGNOT and other officials of the delegation to engage Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, the Convener of the National Peace Committee on the progress made so far regarding the implementation of the recommendations. Serious mention was on the recommendation around lack of compliance with electoral laws and issues of accountability.

Bishop Kukah highlighted the commitment of the NPC to support peaceful and credible elections. He also expressed the availability of the Committee to identify strategies for undertaking interventions and engagements that will call for accountability and credible judicial processes. Progressive outcomes and early signs of impact indicate that all political parties have constituted Technical Working Groups (TWGs), a strategy of the Centre, to support each party's Organisational structure, Membership and grassroots engagement (recruitment and retention), Policy development and ideological clarity, Outreach and communication (issue-based campaigns and policy enunciation) and Affirmative action (inclusion of women, youths, and PWDs). The project has contributed to technical discussions on the Political Parties Bill, drawing on recommendations from the Needs Assessment to “unbundle” INEC. This effort supports the establishment of a separate registry to regulate, register, and fund political parties in Nigeria. The Bill has already passed its second reading in the House of Representatives. The meeting further reinforced the moral authority, influence and convening power of the NPC towards peaceful electoral outcomes.



## Fr. Atta Barkindo Engages U.S. Stakeholders on Nigeria's Peace, Development, and Migration Challenges

For over two weeks, the Executive Director of The Kukah Centre (TKC), Fr. Atta Barkindo, Ph.D, was in Washington, DC, where he held a



series of engagements with government officials, development partners, academics, civil society leaders, and advocacy actors on pressing issues of conflict, migration, and development in Africa. These meetings provided an opportunity to deepen dialogue on the complex challenges confronting the continent while also highlighting emerging opportunities for collaboration and policy engagement.

During these interactions, Fr. Barkindo underscored the role of The Kukah Centre in contributing to the Nigeria that is taking shape. He emphasized the country's capacity to confront its challenges and harness its considerable potential to build a more stable, prosperous, and inclusive future. His engagements also served as an avenue to advocate for stronger international partnerships and greater support for initiatives aimed at promoting peacebuilding, social cohesion, and sustainable development in Nigeria and across Africa.



Beyond these high-level discussions, the visit also included strategic and reflective engagements with key institutions. Fr. Barkindo visited the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, where he offered prayers for the peace and progress of the nation. He also paid visits to The Catholic University of America, the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC, and Franciscan University in Ohio. These visits combined moments of reflection with opportunities for dialogue and outreach, strengthening institutional relationships and reinforcing The Kukah Centre's commitment to promoting peace, development, and collaborative responses to shared global challenges.



## TKC participates in the SHAPPE Stakeholders Summit- Empowering Women in peacebuilding and environmental advocacy across Northern Nigeria.

The SHAPPE Stakeholder summit ignited a movement for sustained women-led action in peacebuilding and climate resilience. The presence of diverse voices reaffirmed the need



for collective action and systemic change in addressing Nigeria's dual challenges of insecurity and environmental degradation. The Kukah Centre represented by Ms Obafemi Deborah, highlighted the Centre's project interventions and commitment to inclusive peacebuilding particularly the integration of women and persons with disabilities in peace processes. A call to expand the intervention to other conflict-prone regions in Nigeria and recommendations to policymakers to mainstream climate and peace education into community development plans.

## NPC Participates in Regional Human Rights and Early Warning Capacity Building

The National Peace Committee (NPC), through its Secretariat, The Kukah Centre (TKC), was present at the Regional Stakeholders Capacity Building on Mainstreaming Human Rights into Early Warning for West Africa, held in Lomé, Togo. Esrom Ajanya, Senior Programme Manager at TKC, represented the NPC at the dialogue, which convened representatives from National Peace Infrastructures, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), civil society organizations, ECOWAS, ECOWARN, the African Union's Department of Political Affairs, GIZ, and the UN Human Rights Office. The discussions focused on integrating human rights principles into early warning systems to anticipate and respond to conflicts proactively.

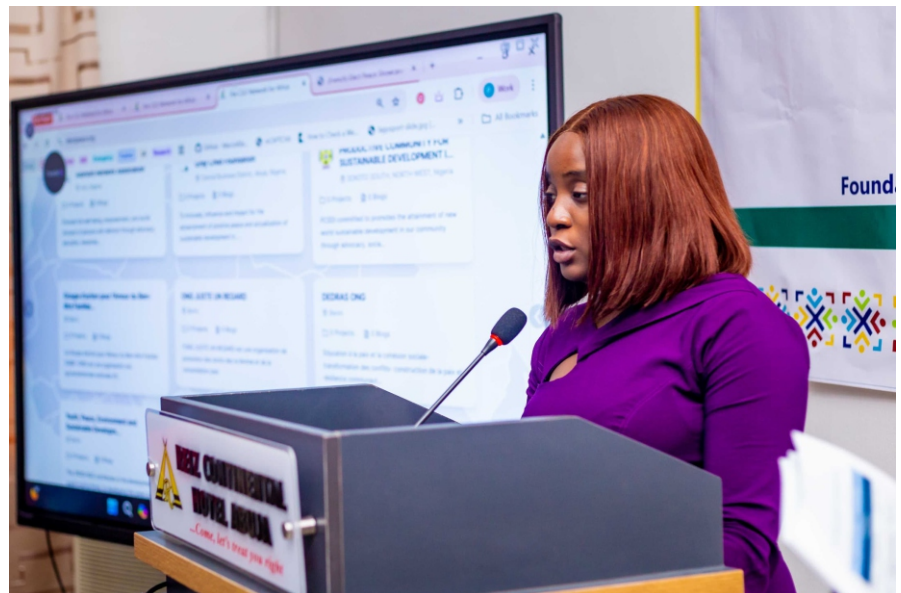


## TKC participates in the ECOWAS Peace Security and Governance Validation Workshop

The validation workshop brought together CSOs and media stakeholders from Benin, The Gambia, and Nigeria, the European Union, the German Embassy, the Spanish Embassy, and GIZ. The purpose was to review and validate the reports, offer inputs and recommendations, and provide feedback to help refine and finalise the findings. The Kukah Centre (TKC) was represented by Ms Anna Swanta a Data Analyst of the Election Security Information Hub (ESI Hub) as a delegate. The workshop also featured the presentation and validation of the Elect

Peace Platform, a digital database of CSOs and media organisations working on electoral processes. The platform aims to foster collaboration, strengthen coordination, and facilitate knowledge sharing among CSOs and media across the ECOWAS region on electoral context.

Overall, the workshop contributes to ongoing efforts to enhance electoral integrity and address violence and disinformation in West Africa.





*Founder's  
Corner*

**Bishop  
Matthew  
Hassan  
Kukah**

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www.bhekukahcentre.org





## Rt. Hon. Emeka Ihedioha's 60th birthday. Themed "Is Democracy Failing in Africa?"

Nigeria's political and intellectual community convened to mark the 60th birthday of Rt. Hon. Emeka Ihedioha through a public colloquium themed Is Democracy Failing in Africa? The occasion provided a timely platform for critical reflection on the state of democratic governance in Nigeria and across the continent. His Lordship, Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah, Catholic Bishop of Sokoto and Founder of The Kukah Centre, delivered the keynote address. In a characteristically forthright and reflective intervention, Bishop Kukah examined the fragility of democratic institutions, and the growing disconnect between political power and public service. He warned against the erosion of democratic values, noting that democracy can only endure when anchored in integrity, accountability, and a genuine commitment to the common good.

The address interrogated Nigeria's leadership crisis, challenging political actors to move beyond short-term calculations toward a vision of nation-building rooted in justice and responsibility. Bishop Kukah also raised concerns about electoral malpractice,



particularly vote-buying and manipulation, which he described as fundamental threats to representation and democratic legitimacy. Emphasising the future of democracy, he called on young Nigerians to assume greater civic responsibility and participate actively in shaping the nation's political direction. He further underscored the role of faith and moral leadership in governance, urging religious institutions to remain voices of conscience, accountability, and social justice.

## Bishop Matthew Kukah Advances Dialogue with the European Union on Peace and Stability in North-West Nigeria

Serving as the Convener of the National Peace Committee, Bishop Kukah held a strategic engagement with Ambassador Gautier Mignot, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and ECOWAS, alongside ambassadors of nine European Union Member States. The discussion centred on deepening collaboration to respond to the security, socio-economic, and humanitarian challenges confronting North-Western Nigeria. Particular attention was given to the interconnected nature of insecurity and poverty, and the need for coordinated, long-term interventions that strengthen resilience at the community level.

Ambassador Mignot reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to supporting Nigeria, especially in the North-West, through targeted programmes aimed at peacebuilding, stability, and sustainable development. He emphasised the EU's intention to address both immediate humanitarian concerns and the structural drivers of conflict and deprivation. Bishop Kukah expressed appreciation for the EU's sustained partnership and highlighted the urgency of moving beyond high-level engagements to practical, people-centred actions. He underscored the importance of inclusive approaches that actively involve local

communities, religious leaders, civil society organisations, and government institutions in addressing the root causes of poverty and insecurity.



# Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah Engages Royal College of Defence Studies Delegation on National Resilience and Security

The Kukah Centre hosted a distinguished delegation from the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS), United Kingdom, as part of their Overseas Study Tour to Nigeria. The visit, coordinated by the British High Commission in Abuja through its Defence Section, brought together senior RCDS members and staff for a strategic engagement focused on national resilience and regional threats to prosperity, security, and stability. His Lordship, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah delivered a keynote

lecture on national resilience. He emphasised the importance of strong institutions, ethical leadership, social justice, and active citizenship as essential foundations for sustaining national cohesion in the face of persistent socio-political and security challenges. The engagement also featured a presentation by Major General IM Yusuf (Rtd), Chairman of Blue Horizon Schools, Kaduna, who examined Nigeria's security landscape within the broader regional and continental context. His contribution provided participants with a strategic overview of emerging threats, regional instability, and opportunities for strengthening security cooperation in West Africa.



## A Moment of Honour: Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah Invested as NIFST Trustee



Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, was formally invested as a Trustee of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST), marking a significant addition to his long-standing public engagement on issues of justice, equity, and national development. During the investiture, Bishop Kukah drew national attention to the urgency of food security, calling on the Federal Government to treat hunger as a national emergency. He underscored the human cost of food insecurity, noting that poverty erodes dignity and creates conditions for social instability when individuals are unable to provide for their families. His remarks came against a sobering national backdrop. Current projections indicate that over 26.5 million Nigerians are expected to face acute food insecurity in 2025. Nigeria ranks 103 out of 121 countries on the 2023 Global Hunger Index, placing the country in the “serious” hunger category. Additionally, up to 70 percent of Nigerian households spend more than half of

their income on food, reflecting widespread challenges of affordability and access. Despite employing more than 35 percent of the population, the agricultural sector continues to suffer post-harvest losses estimated at 40 to 60 percent due to inadequate preservation and logistics infrastructure.

Bishop Kukah's investiture comes at a critical moment when Nigeria must align scientific innovation, policy reform, and ethical leadership to address hunger and restore dignity to millions. In his role as Trustee, he is positioned to contribute to bridging faith-based advocacy, food science, and public policy, bringing a values-driven perspective to one of the country's most pressing development challenges.

## Bishop Kukah Delivers Keynote at Goodluck Jonathan Foundation Democracy Dialogue in Accra

At the 2025 Goodluck Jonathan Foundation Annual Democracy Dialogue, a high-level gathering was convened around the theme Why Democracies Die, bringing together policymakers, diplomats, academics, civil society leaders, and democracy advocates from across Africa and beyond. Bishop Kukah delivered the keynote address, offering a reflective assessment of Africa's democratic journey. He examined the continent's democratic setbacks alongside its resilience, while underscoring the enduring responsibility to nurture democratic values across generations. In his address, Bishop Kukah described democracy as a shared inheritance, sustained by commitment and hope, and emphasised that its survival depends on deliberate care and ethical stewardship.

The dialogue provided a platform for critical engagement on the structural and systemic drivers of democratic decline, including rising authoritarianism, weakened institutions, and the shrinking civic space. Participants also explored practical pathways for renewing democratic practice, strengthening accountability, and safeguarding democratic institutions against erosion. Bishop Kukah's relayed the importance of values-based leadership, active citizenship, and institutional integrity in sustaining democracy. His contribution aligned with The Kukah Centre's broader commitment to advancing democratic discourse, promoting accountable governance, and supporting inclusive, people-centred approaches to democratic renewal across Africa.



## Bishop Kukah Reviews General Lucky Irabor's Book on Nigeria's Security Challenge



Bishop Kukah delivered a critical review at the launch of *SCARS: Nigeria's Journey and the Boko Haram Conundrum*, authored by General Lucky Irabor (Rtd), former Chief of Defence Staff. The event convened a distinguished audience of national leaders, senior government officials, security experts, religious leaders, scholars, and policymakers to reflect on Nigeria's enduring security challenges.

In his review, Bishop Kukah commended General Irabor for his service to the nation and for offering a reflective account of Nigeria's struggle with insurgency. He argued that Boko Haram represents more than a military threat, describing it as an idea that cannot be defeated solely through force or an overreliance on kinetic responses. According to him, the insurgency is symptomatic of deeper national failures, particularly the erosion of citizenship, weak social cohesion, and the absence of a shared national identity that transcends religious and sectional divisions. Bishop Kukah

further noted that the rejection of education has left millions of young people trapped in poverty, dispossession, and social exclusion. He warned that narratives which portray the world as inherently corrupt and promise salvation without civic responsibility create fertile ground for the manipulation and weaponisation of religion. Framing Boko Haram exclusively as a military problem, he argued, limits the scope of response and sidelines critical non-kinetic strategies rooted in governance, education, social justice, and moral leadership.

The book launch was attended by former Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo and Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, while President Bola Ahmed Tinubu was represented by the Honourable Minister of Defence. Members of the National Peace Committee, including His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Muhammad Abubakar III, and General Martin Agwai (Rtd), were also in attendance. In a related intervention, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa, observed that insecurity would persist in the absence of national cohesion.

He called for a sustained national orientation strategy and deeper community engagement as essential components of Nigeria's long-term security response.



## Bishop Kukah Speaks at the Launch of ACN's 2025 World Report on Religious Freedom



Bishop Kukah delivered a reflective address titled *A Plea and Testimony from Nigeria* at the launch of the Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) 2025 World Report on Religious Freedom. The event formed part of activities marking 25 years of ACN's global advocacy for freedom of religion and belief. In his remarks, Bishop Kukah examined Nigeria's deepening security crisis and the increasingly blurred boundaries between terrorism, religious persecution, and criminal violence. He described a country grappling with prolonged neglect and institutional failure, noting the devastating human cost of insecurity and the urgency of moral courage and national renewal.

Drawing from personal experience, Bishop Kukah recalled Nigeria's long history of interfaith coexistence, including enduring relationships of solidarity with Muslim leaders in Sokoto. At the same time, he challenged state institutions to confront impunity, protect citizens, and uphold constitutional guarantees of religious freedom and human dignity.

He cautioned against the re-designation of Nigeria as a "Country of Particular Concern," warning that such measures risk undermining fragile dialogue and reconciliation efforts. Instead, he called on international partners to prioritise support for locally driven initiatives that promote peace, inclusion, and social cohesion. The launch featured senior global Church leaders, including Cardinal Pietro Parolin, who presented key findings from the report indicating that more than 5.4 billion people worldwide live in countries where religious freedom is significantly restricted. Concluding his address, Bishop Kukah affirmed that despite Nigeria's challenges, the country retains a critical opportunity to rebuild trust, strengthen unity, and demonstrate that faith can serve as a force for healing rather than division. His intervention echoed The Kukah Centre's ongoing commitment to advancing dialogue, justice, and peaceful coexistence in Nigeria and beyond.

## Bishop Kukah Honoured with the Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON)

In recognition of his decades-long dedication to peacebuilding, democracy, and social justice in Nigeria, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah was conferred with the national honour of Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. The award highlights Bishop Kukah's extraordinary contributions to the nation, including his unwavering commitment to speaking truth to power, fostering interfaith dialogue, advocating for good governance, and promoting national unity. Throughout his

career, Bishop Kukah has played a pivotal role in guiding public discourse, mediating conflicts, and mentoring generations of leaders committed to justice and ethical leadership. Receiving the CON serves not only as a recognition of his personal achievements but also as an affirmation of the values he represents, courage, integrity, and service to the common good. For The Kukah Centre, this honour underscores the national and international significance in advancing peace, democracy, and social cohesion in Nigeria.



## The Sun Newspaper Nominates Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah for 'The Sun Courage in Leadership Award 2025'

The Kukah Centre received a delegation from The Sun newspaper led by its Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief, Mr. Onuoha Ukeh, for the formal presentation of the notification letter for *The Sun Courage in Leadership Award 2025* to the Centre's Founder and Convener of the National Peace Committee, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah. The delegation included Mr. Iheanacho Nwosu, Editor Daily; Ms. Adetutu Folasade-Koyi, Editor Nation's Capital and the North; and Mr. Aidoghie Paulinus, Assistant Foreign Affairs Editor. The visit recognised Bishop Kukah's decades of public service grounded in truth, justice, and sustained peacebuilding. For the management and staff of The Kukah Centre, the recognition represents more than an award. It affirms the enduring value of principled leadership, moral courage, and an unwavering commitment to the common good qualities that remain critical to Nigeria's democratic and social development.

The Sun's selection reflects the values and mission that define The Kukah Centre and the role Bishop Kukah continues to play in national life: speaking truth to power, bridging divides, and nurturing Nigeria's democratic conscience. At a time of persistent national challenges, acknowledging voices that consistently advocate unity, fairness, and peaceful coexistence underscores the importance of leadership rooted in courage and conviction.

## Bishop Matthew Kukah Lends African Voice to Global Call for Justice at Lest We Forget Book Launch



A broad coalition of global leaders, scholars, and cultural figures convened for the launch of *Lest We Forget: Slavery, Slave Trade, Colonisation, Emancipation and Reparation*, a landmark publication examining the enduring legacies of slavery and the moral imperative of reparative justice across the Black world. The book, edited by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and featuring a foreword by former Jamaican Prime Minister P. J. Patterson, brings together historical reflection and contemporary advocacy on memory, justice, and reparation. The launch drew high-profile participation, including Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley of Barbados, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah, Professor Peter Okebukola, and cricket legend Michael Holding, alongside cultural performances that underscored the shared heritage of Africa and the Caribbean. Delivering the Continental African Perspective, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah emphasised the urgency of preserving historical memory and pursuing restorative justice through sustained unity between Africa and the Caribbean. He framed remembrance as

a moral obligation, stressing that historical amnesia deepens injustice and undermines the quest for healing and dignity.

The programme featured a high-level panel discussion, a book signing session, and a formal presentation of the publication to Prime Minister Mottley, a leading global advocate for reparations. These engagements reinforced the growing international momentum around historical reckoning and reparative justice. The launch of *Lest We Forget* stands as a significant moment in the collective effort to confront the past, affirm shared responsibility, and advance a just and reparative future for descendants of the enslaved.



# Now, here is some good news for you...

## The Kukah School of Government

We are entering the final phase before construction begins on our permanent site. This site will house our main offices and key facilities. It will also be home to something bigger:

### **The Kukah School of Government.**

Built on a model inspired by Harvard Kennedy School, the School will deliver executive education for top-level policymakers and leaders across society.

Our focus is clear:

- Equip leaders with practical tools for public policy
- Strengthen engagement between citizens and the state
- Support the work of civil society
- Promote reconciliation and national cohesion

Our ambition goes beyond Nigeria. We are building an institution that will stand as a reference point for public policy design and execution across the continent.

This is where you come in. We invite you to be part of this vision.

- Partner with us
- Support with your expertise
- Contribute financially

See the final pages of this report for a site design/model and how you can become a part of our very large and growing family committed to shaping better governance.



# TKC Impact Assessment Report 2025

## Understanding Change: TKC's Impact Narrative

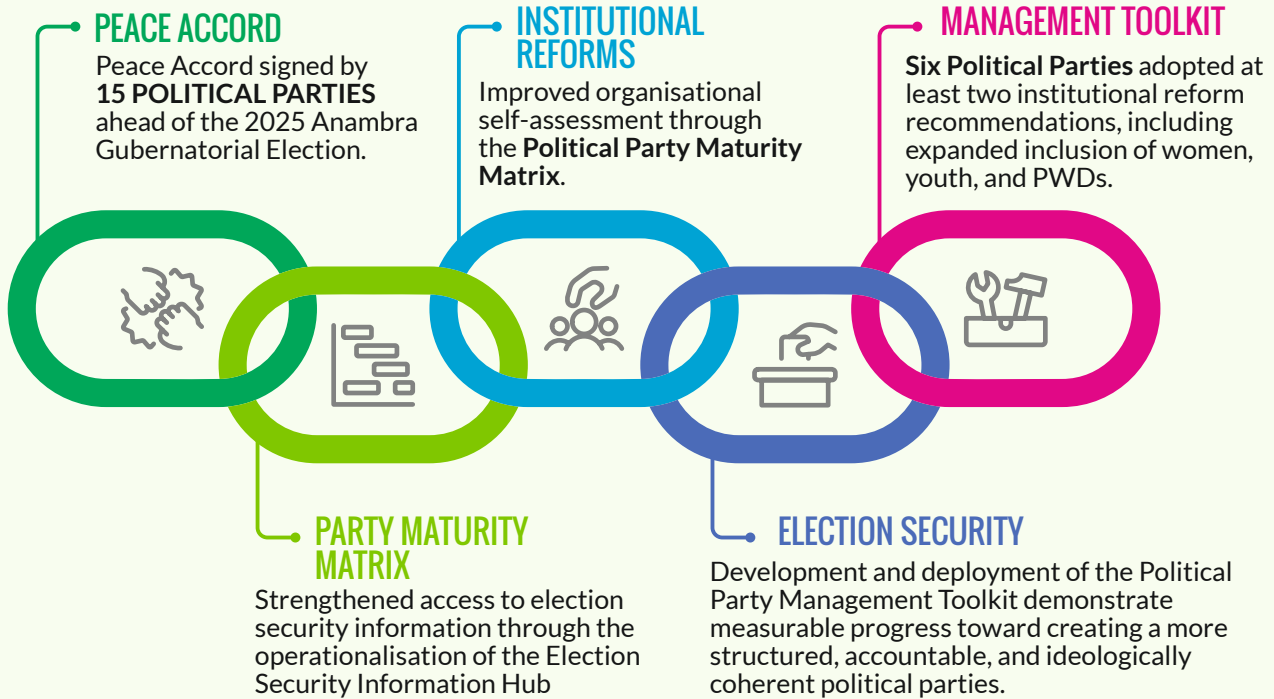
This Impact Assessment interprets what our interventions cumulatively achieved, what changed as a result, and why those changes matter for democratic governance, leadership, peace, and inclusion in Nigeria. Across 2025, TKC's work consistently reinforced its role as a trusted institution shaping public discourse, strengthening leadership norms, and enabling citizen engagement across political, faith-based, peace and security, and policy spaces.

Evidence from governance reform efforts, peacebuilding initiatives and security governance, education and leadership programmes, and knowledge production and promotion points to growing institutional credibility, deepened stakeholder trust, and early signs of systems-level influence. While the long-term ambition of a fully consolidated Kukah School of Government remains a work in progress, the year under review demonstrates clear forward movement: citizens and institutions are better informed, coordination among actors has improved, and TKC's voice continues to carry weight in national and sub-national conversations on governance, peace, and rights.

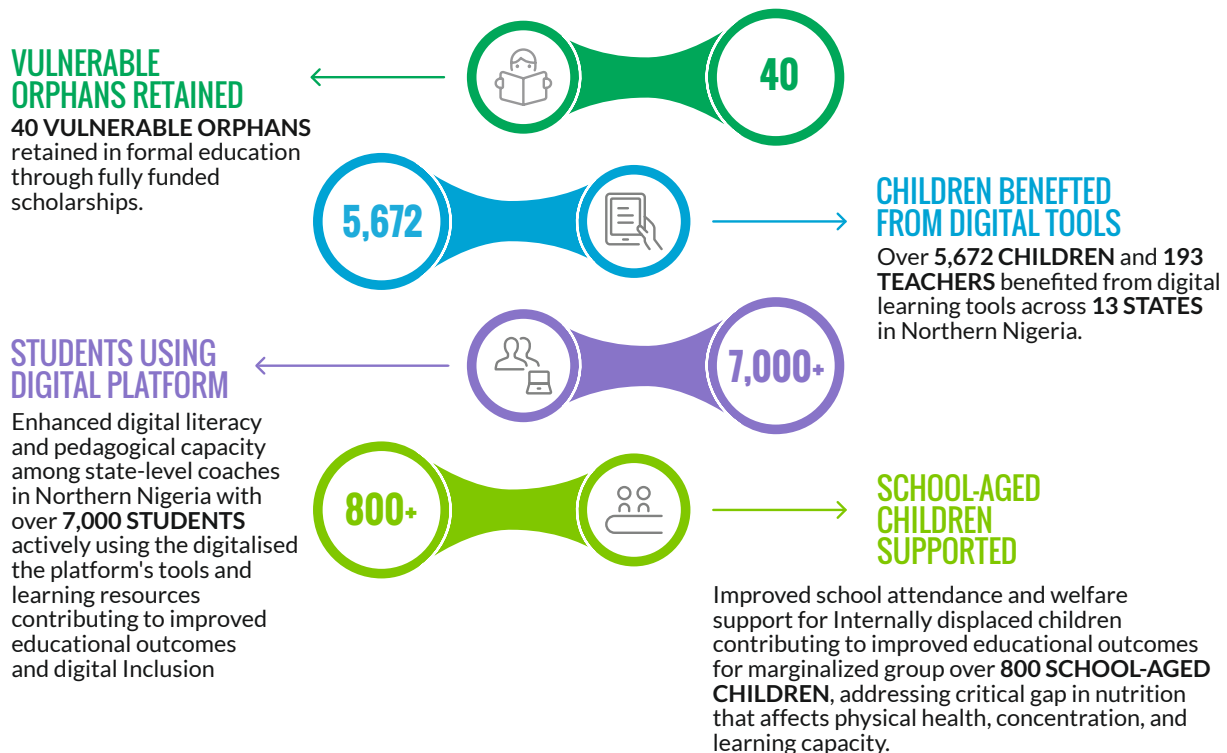
The assessment draws on programme records, stakeholder engagements, monitoring data, and documented outcomes across 2025, with an emphasis on contribution rather than attribution. Given the complex political and social contexts in which TKC operates, impact is understood as progressive, relational, and cumulative. The Kukah Centre significantly expanded its influence across national, regional, and international policy spaces, reinforcing its position as a trusted convener, moral voice, and strategic thought leader on peace, democracy, and inclusive governance.

# What Changed in 2025: Key Areas of Impact

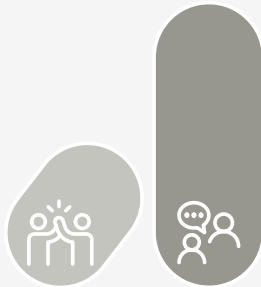
## Good Governance



## Leadership Training and Development



## Interfaith Dialogue



### Policy Advocacy

Supported Research on freedom of religion and belief in Nigeria providing strategic Evidence-based policy advocacy on religious freedom with national stakeholders.

### Open Dialogue

Supported platform for open constructive dialogue among community members, religious leaders, government officials, and security agencies to discuss the root causes of insecurity and identify community-led solutions.

## Memory Preservation and Knowledge Promotion



### • HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

#### • INDEPENDENT PEACE ARCHITECTURE

Set up and strengthened early warning and early response mechanisms in Anambra State.



#### • EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

Strengthened the conflict assessment research in Nigeria for accuracy, and utility for national conflict management and policy planning.

#### • CONFLICT ASSESSMENT RESEARCH

Established Independent state-based peace architecture in 3 states (Abia, Anambra, and Ebonyi States) to support peacebuilding and conflict management at the subnational level

## High-Level Influence & Engagement Impact

Through sustained high-level engagements in Nigeria, West Africa, Europe, and the United States, the Centre elevated critical conversations on conflict prevention, democratic resilience, migration, religious freedom, institutional accountability, peace and security governance, and social cohesion. Strategic dialogues convened in partnership with the European Union, ECOWAS, the United Nations, and other global actors created space for candid reflection on Nigeria's most complex structural challenges including insecurity in Northern Nigeria, the indigene-settler divide, electoral reform, digital hate speech, organised crime, and national identity.

By bringing together senior government officials, security agencies, legislators, traditional and religious leaders, diplomats, academics, and civil society organisations, these engagements strengthened multi-stakeholder collaboration and reinforced a whole-of-society approach to peacebuilding. Importantly, as the secretariat of the National Peace Committee's continues to support the committee's standing as a neutral platform with the convening power to address politically sensitive issues and foster preventive dialogue before crises escalate.

International advocacy missions and participation in global forums further positioned the Centre as a credible African

voice within broader discussions on open societies, transparency, ethical leadership, and democratic renewal. These platforms strengthened institutional partnerships, enhanced donor confidence, and expanded opportunities for cross-regional learning and cooperation. At the level of public discourse, the intellectual and moral leadership of Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah and Fr. Atta Barkindo continued to shape national conversations on democracy, security, food security, accountability, and the responsible role of religion in public life. National and international recognitions during the year reflected sustained public trust in the Centre's values-driven approach.

Collectively, these high-level engagements advanced more coordinated, inclusive, and forward-looking approaches to governance and peace in Nigeria and the wider region. Beyond individual events, the cumulative effect has been to deepen strategic alliances, influence policy conversations, and strengthen the institutional ecosystem required for long-term democratic resilience and social cohesion.

### Centre's Strategic Framework

#### HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENTS

Sustained discussions across continents on critical peace and security issues.

#### NATIONAL PEACE COMMITTEE

Neutral platform for addressing politically sensitive issues and preventing crises.

#### INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP

Shaping national discourse through ethical and values-driven leadership.



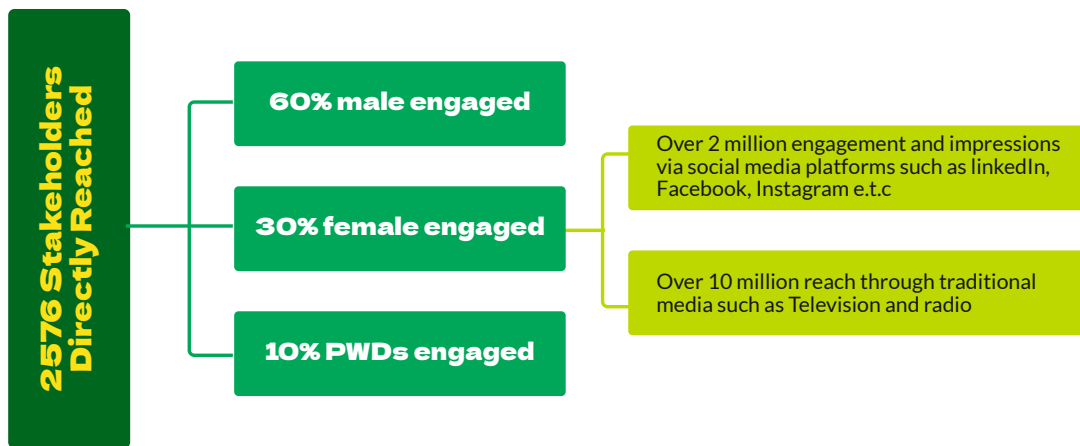
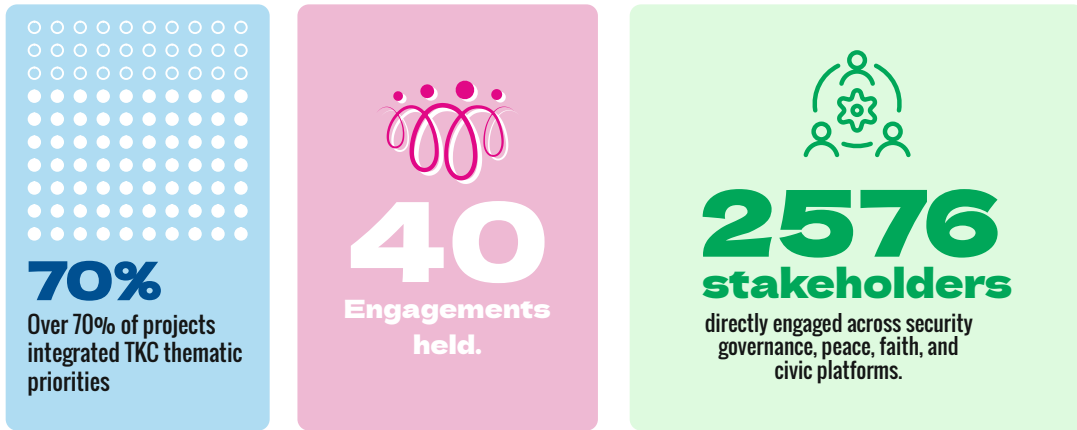
#### STRATEGIC DIALOGUES

Collaborative examination of complex structural challenges with global partners.

#### INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Positioning the Centre as a credible African voice in global forums.

## Cross-Cutting Impact and Pathway Indicators



## Overall Assessment

Taken together, TKC's 2025 interventions contributed to measurable strengthening of civic, institutional, and leadership ecosystems in Nigeria. The Centre demonstrated growing influence as a convenor of dialogue, a source of credible evidence and reflection, and a trusted partner to political, faith-based, and civic actors.

Importantly, impact during the year extended beyond immediate programme results. Improved coordination among institutions, increased openness to reform, and heightened attention to inclusion and peaceful engagement suggest that TKC's work is shaping norms as well as practices. These shifts, while incremental, are essential building blocks for long-term democratic resilience.

# Summary of 2025 Financial Inflow

## Major Funding Received Across Three Currencies



## Funding Breakdown

### USDollars

- ProFuturo Digital Classroom Project - **81,486.35 USD**
- Institute for Catholic Humanitarian Service (ICHS) - **12,500 USD**

### EUROS

- European Union – Support to National Peace Committee – **286,884.89 EUR**
- European Union – Support to Political Parties – **948,723.92 EUR**
- European Union Delegation – Dialogue on Nigeria's National Identity and the Indigene–Settler Question - **8,758.45 EUR**

### NAIRA

- Tetra Tech –SPRiNG - **321,194,392.73 NGN**
- Foreign Commonwealth Development Office - Nigeria Stability Programme – **3,960,000 NGN**
- Conciliation Resources – **17,135,795.15 NGN**
- Plateau State Government – **10,000,000.00 NGN**
- Fountain of Life Church - Scholarship to Orphans – **9,039,450.00 NGN**
- European Union Delegation - A Whole Society Approach to the Prevention of Violence and Conflict in Nigeria – **15,572,545 NGN**

# Conclusion

Building on the lessons, institutional reforms, and programmatic shifts of 2024, The Kukah Centre's interventions in 2025 reflected a more consolidated, impact-driven, and forward-looking approach to peacebuilding and governance in Nigeria. The Centre moved beyond internal strengthening to a phase of strategic expansion, deepening its influence across communities, institutions, and policy spaces.

The post-election environment continued to shape programming priorities, with sustained efforts directed at reinforcing public trust, promoting accountability, and addressing emerging drivers of conflict. Drawing from prior experiences, the Centre refined its early warning and response mechanisms while strengthening partnerships with both state and non-state actors to ensure more coordinated and timely interventions.

Interfaith Dialogue initiatives evolved into more structured community-based engagements, with a stronger emphasis on economic resilience as a pathway to sustainable peace. By integrating livelihood support, entrepreneurship, and local capacity development, communities were better equipped not only to recover but to withstand future shocks. This approach further demonstrated that peacebuilding is most effective when it is rooted in tangible improvements in people's daily lives.

Within the Leadership Development programme, the Fellowship Programme matured into a dynamic platform for nurturing a new generation of ethical and transformational leaders. The transition of the ProFuturo Digital Classroom Project into a more locally driven initiative marked a significant milestone, reflecting increased institutional ownership and sustainability. The

growing collaboration with government stakeholders underscored the project's relevance and long-term value in advancing digital education and inclusion.

The Centre's work in Knowledge Promotion and Memory Preservation gained greater prominence, serving as a critical resource for policy engagement, civic education, and institutional learning. By documenting electoral experiences and peacebuilding practices, the Centre contributed meaningfully to national discourse on democratic consolidation and conflict prevention.

Human Rights promotion, formally integrated into the Centre's programming in the previous year, became more pronounced in 2025. Targeted interventions addressing gender-based violence, civic rights awareness, and institutional accountability helped amplify marginalized voices and strengthen advocacy for justice and equity across communities.

In the area of good governance, the Centre intensified its focus on rebuilding trust between citizens and public institutions. Through dialogue platforms, policy engagements, and civic education initiatives, efforts were directed at fostering transparency, ethical leadership, and citizen participation. This reinforced the understanding that sustainable peace is closely tied to responsive governance and shared societal values.

Overall, 2025 marked a year of strategic consolidation and measurable impact for The Kukah Centre. The Centre not only strengthened its internal systems and programmatic delivery but also expanded its role as a trusted convener, thought leader, and catalyst for peace, justice, and national cohesion.

# Moments, Unscripted.





## The Kukah Centre / School of Government



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# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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