



October 2017 Newsletter - Enhancing State and Community Level Conflict Management Capability in North Eastern Nigeria

This is a 4-year programme that will enhance state and community level conflict management capability in order to prevent the escalation of conflict into violence across the three NE States of Nigeria – Adamawa, Borno and Yobe.

Key Activities – October 2017
SARC Training
CPSP Meetings
Traditional Rulers Workshops

Sexual Assault Referral Centre Training

A 5 day workshop was held for 40 participants from Borno and Yobe States. The training was held for Doctors, Nurses and Counsellors and covered the range of SARC activity – gathering forensic evidence and counselling the victims of sexual assault and rape.



SARC Training Participants

An update on each of the SARCs in across the 3 States is:

Yobe SARC – Fully operational with a total of 71 cases now referred

Borno SARC – Renovation work completed and the SARC is now being equipped ready to open for referrals

Adamawa SARC – Renovation work has started on the facility and training is being planned for the near future for those who will work in the SARC.

“We see these rape victims everyday inside the IDP camp and in Madinatu host community. This training has really helped me understand counselling needs and the support they really need from me.”

Fati Abba Butu,
Sexual Assault Trauma Trainee Counsellor,
Yobe State Ministry of Women Affairs

“The truth is that documentation of findings when it comes to a rape case has always been a challenge for us medical practitioners including myself. Now, as a result of this 5 days of training, I know how to document my findings better, what to look out for and ensure that the findings I put down can assist in the prosecution of rape cases in court”

Bukar Kawu
Forensic Medical Examination Trainee
Umaru Shehu General Hospital, Maiduguri

Community Peace and Safety Partnerships

8 Community Peace and Safety Partnerships meetings were held across the three NE States.

Date	LGA	State
21 October	Mafa	Borno
24 October	Biu	Borno
25 October	Potiskum	Yobe
26 October	Jere	Borno
28 October	Yola South	Adamawa
28 October	Bade	Yobe
28 October	Maiduguri	Borno
31 October	Damaturu	Yobe

The overall objective of Community Peace and Safety Partnerships (CPSPs) is to contribute to the restoration of security, safety and stability in the communities.

The CPSPs serve as platforms for early warning and response mechanisms that bring community actors, security agents and government officials together to collaboratively take actions to not only mitigate threats to security and safety but also proactively nurture more stable and resilient communities.



Yobe State CPSP meeting

The CPSP meetings bring together different and key members of the Community.

A total of 180 attended these meetings amongst them were - Security actors, CSOs, Youth and Women groups, Community leaders and Religious leaders.

Full records were kept of the meeting – including the issues discussed and the agreed mitigating strategies

This not only acts as an agreed record of the meeting, but also helps track the types of issues that are being brought to the meeting across the three states to help identify common themes that may require further action.

The issues raised go far beyond the insurgency and, for example, included:

- Herdsmen/farmer conflict (Yola South)
- Drug abuse by young boys (Yola South, Mafa and Biu)
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence (Biu and Jere)

“Coming together of stakeholders to discuss issues around community safety and security is second to none. This kind of platform is the most need in our communities at this point in time. Nobody has it all, and every one of us is a community police officer. We need this kind of platform to address our security and safety challenges and I feel this platform will serve this purpose.”

ACP Chris - Nigeria Police Force Area Commander covering four LGAs (Potiskum, Fika, Nangere and Fune)

Traditional Justice System and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

Introductory workshops were held across all three States with 269 in attendance to introduce a training programme that will take place in 2 Emirates within each State.

The training will reach:

- 1,500 Traditional Rulers
- 250 wives of Traditional rulers
- Scribes who will record details of all the cases in a standard format

These introductory workshops were to:

- Bring together the formal and informal justice structures
- Introduce the training
- Identify issues unique to the Emirates involved

- Review the training materials that will be used in the coming months

The Emirates involved were:

Adamawa – Adamawa and Mubi

Borno – Biu and Mafa

Yobe – Damaturu and Fika

As well as Traditional Rulers of various hierarchies from Members of Emirate Councils, these workshops were attended by both village heads and ward heads, representatives of the various ethnic and religious communities, including non-indigenes and IDPs, youth organizations, women groups and government agencies.



Damaturu Emirate Participants

“We cannot thank the EU and the British Council enough for identifying that the best way to honourably and responsibly addresses disputes among community members is to empower the traditional institutions in dispensing justice according to their respective traditional systems.”

Ibrahim Waidaima of Damaturu



Adamawa Emirate Participants

“Partnering with you will give us a better and more effective Conflict Management system. This will be the first formal training we will be getting as traditional rulers”

Ubandoman Adamawa and District Head of Girel

Adamawa State

As part of the Programme start-up in Adamawa State, the team visited Government House on 31st October to meet State Executive Council. The programmes objectives were welcomed by the state who stated that they would provide assistance to



the programme – in the event that it is needed. An upcoming issue is around the IDP camps and the return of IDPs to their home village – the programme will be meeting the state team to discuss this issue.

“This is a programme we cannot afford to joke with. The programme is very robust and ties in well with the State plans”

Deputy Governor, Adamawa State

“I find it very interesting that community early warning Forums will be established”

Hon Ahmed Sajo, Commissioner Information and Strategy, Adamawa State

Upcoming Activity – November 2017

The First NE Participation in the National SARC Network Meeting
Borno State – SARC Steering Committee Meeting and opening of the Maiduguri SARC
Continuation of CPSP Meetings in all 3 NE States
Planning/Feedback Meeting Traditional Ruler Workshops
Preparation of the Traditional Ruler Training Manuals for all 3 NE States
Supporting the Nigerian Police Force to establish Family Support Units in Police Stations

Challenges

Continued unrest in all three NE States – especially Borno State and the use of landmines



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