



January 2018 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 North East States of Nigeria – Adamawa, Borno and Yobe.

Key Activities – January 2018
Alternative Dispute Resolution in Action – Borno State
Traditional Ruler Training – Wives and Scribes/Record Keeping Systems
Policy Dialogue Forum Meetings – Yobe and Borno States
Continued Community Peace and Safety Platform (CPSPs) Meetings

Alternative Dispute Resolution – The Biu Emirate Mediation Centre

“Following the recent training we received from Green Horizon Limited under the European Union funded MCN Programme on Alternative Dispute Resolution, which took place in Biu, His Royal Highness the Emir of Biu, Alh. Umar Mustapha Aliyu, was briefed by the facilitators during their visit to the palace.

Immediately after the visit, the Emir of Biu on 15 January 2018 established an office known as Dakin Sulhu (Mediation Centre).

Mediation commenced at the Centre on 20 January 2018. So far we have mediated and resolved seven cases related to land, community leadership and family issue.

A very important one is a case of mediation that settled the difference between two community leaders, Mal Kawo and Mal Magaji.

Both of them had been contesting for leadership in their community and had been in dispute for the past 9 years, not even talking to each other.

But with the intervention of the Dakin Sulhu, the dispute was laid to rest, and now they live amicably with each other.”

Zannan Sulhu of Biu Emirate, head of Biu Emirate Mediation Centre (Dakin Sulhu)



Community Leaders shaking hands shortly after a 9-year old quarrel between them was settled at the Dakin Sulhu (Biu Emirate Mediation Centre). Photo Zannan Sulhu, Alhaji Abdulkarim

Traditional Ruler Training – Scribes and Wives

Across the three North East States, the European Union funded Traditional Rulers training continued. The programme has now successfully trained 958 Traditional Rulers from 6 Emirates Councils:

Adamawa State	Adamawa and Mubi Emirate Councils
Borno State	Borno and Biu Emirate Councils
Yobe State	Damaturu and Fika Emirate Councils

In addition, the programme has also trained:

- 1) Scribes – to record all cases and the decisions made
- 2) Mentors – to provide support to the Traditional Rulers
- 3) Wives – to be able to assist in the Dispute Resolution Process
- 4) Leaders of Women’s Groups - to help resolve disputes

The training, which is nearing the end of phase one, has had a big impact across the six Emirate Councils and the programme looks forward to expanding this to 9 more Emirate Councils in the coming year.

“This is the first time our wives are targeted for specific dispute resolution training. No doubt they have a greater role to play in ensuring peaceful coexistence particularly on issues relating to women and girls. The programme is making effort to revive the lost glory of the role of traditional rulers in dispute resolution”

Emir of Damaturu, Alh. Shehu Hashimi Ibn Elkenemi II commenting on the trainings received by traditional rulers and their wives on ADR



Participants during the training of wives of traditional rulers in Damaturu Emirate. Photo M. Kaugama



Participants after training of wives of traditional rulers on ADR in Fika Emirate. Photo Usman Dago

“You have taught us a lot of what we don’t know and reminded us of what we have forgotten. We appreciate all that you have taught us and promise that we will give you full cooperation whenever you need it.”

Ya Amina Umar (Wife of District Head, Mafa) commenting on the trainings received by wives of traditional rulers on ADR

“I am attending this type of training for the first time. This workshop has exposed me to the affairs handled by my husband; it is good for me having such an insight as I know I can also contribute in resolving disputes and ensuring peace in my community.”

Hajiya Zainab Dauda, Wife of Village Head, Mbonu, Namtari District, Adamawa State



Participants during the training of wives of traditional rulers in Borno Emirate. Photo Amina Nur Alkali



Male and Female participants at the training for Traditional Rulers' scribes in Biu, Borno State. Photo by Mustapha Binawa.

In summary the European Union has funded training for:

Emirate	Traditional Rulers	Scribes	Women	Mentors
Adamawa	157	154	39	22
Mubi	160	148	40	25
Borno	161	160	41	25
Biu	160	160	40	25
Damaturu	160	159	40	22
Fika	160	159	40	21
Total	958	939	240	140

Policy Dialogue Forum – Borno State:

The first Public Dialogue Forum took place in Maiduguri on 29 January 2018

The forum targeted issues of youth empowerment and reintegration and attracted 74 participants which included members of the State House of Assembly, Executives officials, Civil Society Organizations, security agencies and representatives from International Development Organizations.

The Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Usman Jidda Shuwa (*fwc*) represented by Permanent Secretary Mohammed Ahmed Gazali delivered the keynote address.

He emphasized that ***“the state government specially identifies with the focus of the first policy dialogue on options for empowerment and reintegration. The Kashim Shettima administration has recognised that lack of economic opportunities provided a breeding ground for violent extremism”.***

At the end of the dialogue, a nine point communique was developed and adopted by stakeholders and this has been reported by local Television and Radio stations as well as the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) on nationwide news.



Assistant Commissioner of Police (Dr) Bello Ahmed delivering a goodwill message during the Public Policy Dialogue in Borno.
Photo Mustapha Shettima

Policy Dialogue Forum – Yobe State:

The first Public Dialogue Forum took place in Damaturu on 31 January 2018.

The forum targeted issues of youth empowerment and reintegration and was attended by 85 participants including members of the State House of Assembly, Senior civil servants, palace officials, Civil Society Organizations and partners from local and International Development Organizations.

Declaring the session open, the Honorable Speaker Yobe state house of assembly Right Hon. Adamu Dala Dogo appreciated the European Union and the British Council for selecting Yobe as one of the beneficiary state in this intervention.

The Honorable Commissioner for Youth Sports, Social and Community Development, Rt. Honorable Tijjani Zannah Zakariya stated that he hoped that the outcome of this dialogue will positively impact the policy direction of Yobe State on youth employment and empowerment programmes.

The Chief Judge of Yobe State, Justice Ibrahim Musa Nabaruma represented by Honorable Justice Ibrahim W. Jauro, emphasized that ***“the theme for the first state policy dialogue forum Employment and Reintegration is apt and timely given the fact that Yobe State is in recovery state after undergoing some economic and social devastation caused by insurgency of which youths were direct victims”***

The Rt. Hon. Adamu Dala Dogo, Speaker of the Yobe House of Assembly said ***“even though the state is relatively peaceful at present – having just come out from the negative effects of insecurity propelled by insurgency – the primary concern of Yobe State government is the rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement”***.

Participants adopted a communique issued at the end of the Policy Dialogue, which attracted good media coverage in local radio and television stations as well as three national newspapers.



The Rt. Hon. Speaker, Alh. Adamu Dala Dogo declaring open the Public Policy Dialogue in Yobe. Photo Yahya Janga

Community Peace and Safety Platform (CPSPs) Meetings

These have continued across the North East states with feedback received around positive interventions made:

Biu, Borno	The CPSP worked with security agencies to postpone a religious gathering that was considered to be a security risk.
Yola South, Adamawa	Visited 10 village areas to meet with community leaders and village members to identify causes of unrest (Farmer/Herdsmen issues, drug abuse and unemployment) and then prompt the community to discuss possible solutions to the issues raised
Girei, Adamawa	The platform discussed risks related to use of fake military uniform and initiated action to address the reported challenge of education for children living on IDP camps whose parents cannot afford to pay the school fees



Yola South CPSP Sensitization committee visiting villages in the Namtari District to meet with community members on the need for them to participate in conflict management and peaceful coexistence at village level
 Photo Gambo Ibrahim

Progress against European Union Indicators

	Indicator	2021 Target	Actuals December 2017	Comment
4.2	Number of staff from governmental institutions and internal security forces trained	1210	71	Activity Focused Years 2-4
4.3	Number of people participating in conflict prevention and peace building activities	2860	2132	Activity Focused Years 1-4

Upcoming Activity – February 2018

On-going CPSP Meetings in all 3 States
SARC Centre Official Opening in Maiduguri
Borno SARC Steering Committee members to visit the Mirabel Centre (Lagos) to observe a successful SARC from within the network
Support the Yobe SARC Steering Committee to hold a town hall meeting on SGBV
Develop the Adamawa SARC Steering Committee as their SARC nears completion
Engagement across the 3 states with CSOs working on peace-building initiatives

In all 3 States, engage with the Nigeria Police to establish Family Support Units, Gender Desks and Community Accountability Forums (CAFs)

Challenges

Continued unrest in all three NE States including the removal of militants from the Sambisa Forest out of Borno State, but to Yobe State

Worsening farmers/herders violence in Adamawa State

The political environment as political mobilizations start ahead of the 2019 Elections

Persistence of fuel scarcity and rising costs



This programme is funded by the European Union

“This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of The British Council and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.”

For more information on the programme contact:

National Programme Manager	Muhammed Tabiu	mtabiu@yahoo.com
Technical Lead	Ukoha Ukiwo	Ukoha.Ukiwo@ng.britishcouncil.org
Operations Manager	Andy Campbell	Andy.Campbell@ng.britishcouncil.org