



Newsletter 5 - February and March 2018 - 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 – February and March 2018
CPSP Meetings – Successes and Expansion
SARCs Formally Launched – Borno and Adamawa States
Results and Findings from our Annual Perception Survey
Traditional Ruler, Scribes, Wives and Mentoring Training

A Success Story - Community Peace and Safety Partnerships

Progress was recorded in convening of CPSPs in February and March with conclusion of consultations for the extension of CPSP to more LGAs across the three states. Consequently, MCN contracted the following organizations to convene CPSP platforms:

Borno State: Centre for Peace, Diplomatic and Development Studies (CPDDS) and Yelwa Community Circle in Bayo, Hawul and Kwaya Kusar, Gubio, Kaga and Monguno LGAs

Adamawa State: Murmushi Foundation, Pastoral Resolve (PARE) and Justice Peace and Development Commission (JDPC) in Demsa, Fufore, Lamurde, Mayo Belwa, Michika and Numan LGAs

Yobe State: Centre for Research, Innovation and Linkages (CRIL, Yobe State University, Damaturu and the North East Youth Initiative for Development (NEYIF) in Gujba, Gulani, Gaidam and Tarmuwa LGA

Potiskum CPSP Meeting

Existing CPSPs met and carried out initiatives during the period with promising results. For example, Tricycle Riders Association (Keke NAPEP) put internal strife behind them and partnered with security agencies to tackle crime in Potiskum town.

Tricycles (Keke NAPEP) are the predominant means of internal commercial transportation within towns and villages in Borno and Yobe in north east Nigeria. There are estimated to be over 5,000 tricycles operating in the Potiskum area alone, carrying more than 15,000 passengers per day.

In October 2017, the Potiskum CPSP learnt that tricycle riders were knowingly involved in criminal activity and were compromising the security and safety of people and the broader community. The situation was exacerbated by internal upheaval in the tricycle rider association and poor relations with security agencies. The CPSP deemed it imperative for the community as well as formal and informal security actors to bring a lasting solution to this problem considering how tricycle riders association contribute to peace, security and safety and provide an economic livelihood for many young people.

The Potiskum CPSP:

- Engaged with the Potiskum Local Government Council and facilitated the conduct of fresh elections for the tricycle riders' association.
- Supported the Potiskum Local Government Council to mediate between members of the tricycle riders' association and the leadership to mend the broken relationship
- Encouraged the leadership of the association (who are involved in the CPSP) to engage with security agencies at CPSP meetings and outside to improve their working relationship.
- Worked with the tricycle riders' association to revamp registration of its members to enable better coordination and tracking of riders and their actions. The association now has 4,300 registered members
- Encouraged the association to recruit 50 Keke NAPEP volunteers to monitor and report suspicious activities and ensure members comply with traffic laws and curfew hours.

The results are impressive:

- Tricycle riders are now more law-abiding and have a much-improved relationship with the security agencies, as attested by the commandant of the JTF
- The tricycle riders' association has reported several incidences of criminal activities to the police, who have acknowledged the role of the tricycle riders in combatting crime.
- Citizens are less likely to be harassed whilst using tricycles and are safer whilst riding or as pedestrians due to improved adherence by riders to laws and regulations.
- The transparent election of new leaders and the demonstration of how a trade association can effectively represent its members leading to an easier working environment for all is a classic example of how addressing root causes can lead to significantly greater results overall.



A newly recruited Keke NAPEP volunteer in Potiskum.
Photo by Saidu Lawan

“Our members have a lot of information concerning criminal activities being planned by some passengers but they cannot approach the security personnel at the check points because of the harassment they encounter from them. How do we then share security information with them when they see us as criminals and also treat us less humanely when we approach them?”

Saidu Lawan, Chairman, Tricycle Riders Association – Potiskum.

Official Launch – The Borno State Sexual Assault Referral Centre:

On Monday 19 February 2018, 200 key Government functionaries, Civil Society groups and the media gathered at the Umaru Shehu Ultramodern Specialist Hospital in Maiduguri to witness the official opening of the European Union funded N3lewa Centre.

The Centre was formally opened by the wife of the Borno State Governor who, in her keynote address stated:

“The Sexual Assault Referral Center couldn’t have come at a better time than now when every hand must be on deck to curb these vices rearing its ugly head in the society. There are a lot of activities geared towards these over the years, particularly various awareness Campaigns and Capacity building of relevant stakeholders. With sustained efforts, we shall curb these dangerous ills in our societies.”

First Lady of Borno State



First Lady of Borno cutting the ribbon to launch the N3Lewa SARC in Maiduguri.
Photo by Abdulkareem Haruna

The Hon. Commissioner for Health also commended the efforts made by the European Union and the British Council in establishing a SARC in Borno State. He stated that the Ministry of Health would give its full support to ensure that victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence are fully taken care of.

As evidence of the support for the SARC, the Hon. Commissioner for Health highlighted:

- 1) The immediate deployment of personnel to the SARC
- 2) The Hospital supports SARC by providing immediate medical attention in the form of tests and medication to any victims brought into the centre

Official Launch – The Adamawa State Sexual Assault Referral Centre:

On Tuesday 27th March 2018, a large number of stakeholders gathered at the Adamawa State Specialist Hospital to witness the official opening of the European Union funded Adamawa Hope Centre by the wife of the Adamawa State Governor.



The opening of the Adamawa Hope Centre.
Photos by Sendi Dauda

The Medical Director of the Adamawa State Specialist Hospital, Dr. Bala Saidu, stated his appreciation for the efforts of the European Union, the British Council and the Ministries of Justice, Health and Women Affairs for supporting this initiative.

In his remarks, the Adamawa Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr Bala Sanga, praised the setting up of the centre which he said will be taking as curative justice for the survivors and facilitate the prosecution of rape suspects. He said Adamawa has reviewed its penal code which now puts the jail sentence for rapists to minimum of 25 years and maximum of life in prison.

The Commissioner for Health, Fatima Atiku, said there was a lack of data around SGBV and the SARC provided an opportunity to start harmonising data. She said the SARC came at the right time as rape cases are becoming rampant and she promised to support the centre.

While commissioning the centre, the wife of Adamawa State Governor, Maryam Jibrilla, decried the increasing incidences of rape especially among teenagers. She advised parents to be careful over their female children as according to her: "female children have become more vulnerable and exposed to sexual assault."

"No medical doctor will not want to support the SARC initiative which provides Counselling, medical examination and legal support"

Dr. Bala Saidu- MD, Specialist Hospital Yola.

"I am passionate about the plights of women and Girls and will support the Centre"

First Lady of Adamawa State

Annual Perception Survey of Stability in Programme LGAs

In December 2017, the programme commissioned an independent perception survey in 21 LGAs in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States. The survey captured the perceptions of over 2,300 randomly selected respondents about the safety, security and conflict situation in their communities. Figure 1 shows the proportion of respondents that consider their communities to be 'very stable'.

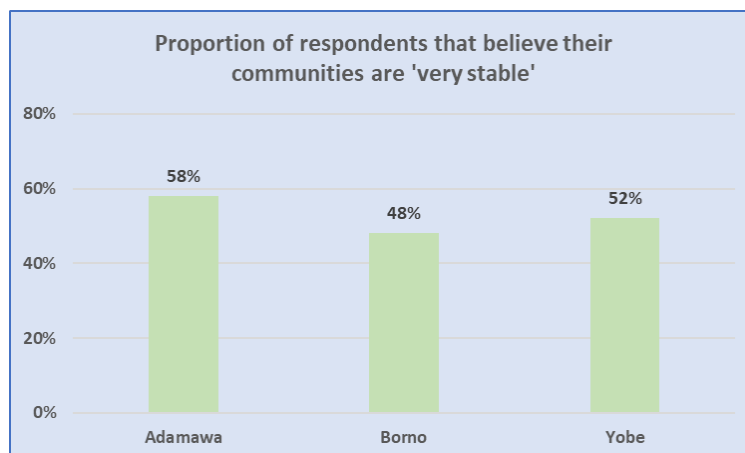


Figure 1: Perceptions of stability of communities in three programme States. Source Annual Perception Survey December 2017

A little over half of respondents across the three states consider their communities to be 'very stable'. Unsurprisingly, Adamawa fared better in this regard than Borno and Yobe States. There was an interesting disparity between the views of male and female respondents with just 46% of female respondents adjudging their communities to be very stable, compared to 59% of male respondents. There was also a difference in perceptions of stability between urban respondents (45%) and rural dwelling respondents (55%). Comparative data was gathered from similar LGAs in Bauchi, Gombe and Taraba States where three-quarters of respondents said they believe their communities are 'very stable'.

The survey also asked respondents to identify the most common causes of violent conflict in their communities. Figure 2 shows the proportion of respondents that identified each of the listed reasons as a major cause of violence in their community.

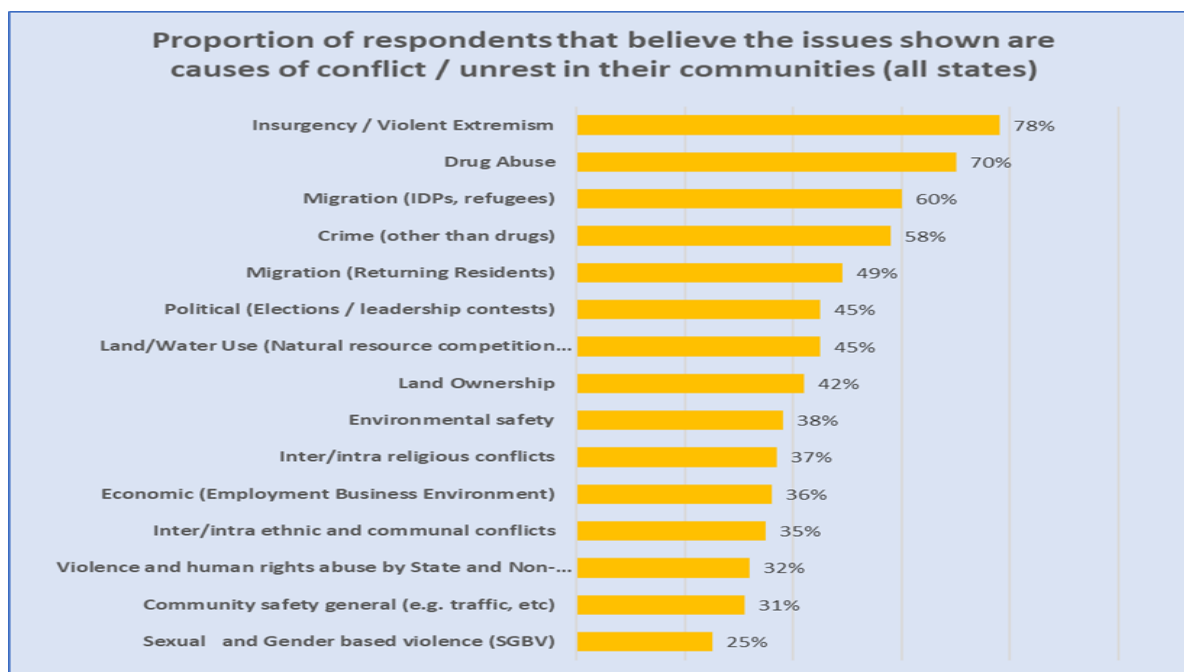


Figure 2: Causes of conflict / unrest in communities. Source Annual Perception Survey December 2017

Not surprisingly, Insurgency/Extremism was seen as a cause by nearly 4 out of 5 respondents. Migration related issues (IDPs and 'Returning Residents') were also significant causes. It is notable that 'Drug Abuse' was identified as a significant cause by 70% of respondents.

In the three control states, the most common cause was identified as drug abuse followed by issues around land ownership and inter/intra-ethnic disputes. Two-thirds of respondents to a follow up question believe that violent conflict had reduced in their communities in the past year, suggesting that in overall terms violent conflicts are becoming less common.

The survey will be repeated at the end of each programme year, providing comparative data over time that will enable measurement of the impact of programme activities on people's perceptions.

Herder-Farmer Conflicts – the next Nigerian challenge?



Nigeria Herdsmen
Photo from Nigeria Today

The rapidly escalating levels of violence associated with farmer-herder conflicts over access to Nigeria's natural resources may soon take over as the biggest cause of violent death in Nigeria. Data collection and analysis is carried out by the European Union funded Nigeria Watch, who reported that in the three months to February 2018, there were 500 fatalities across the country in connection with farmer-herder conflicts, compared to 600 deaths linked to the Boko Haram insurgency. It is also notable that 78 of the farmer-herdsmen related deaths happened in the three north-eastern states of Nigeria, a considerable increase on previous periods.

Traditional Ruler Training - Scribes and Wives

In Yobe State and as a direct result of the European Union funded training on mediation and reconciliation, Hajiya Amina, the Ward Head of Dikumari Ward, who is also the only female traditional ruler in Damaturu Emirate, now discharges her duty in more organised and

transparent way following the guidance and approach given in the training. Her scribe, Binta Mohammed, who is also her only daughter, was also trained by Green Horizon as a record keeper and is now supporting the ward head with records of all issues and then whether the dispute is resolved or referred onwards for resolution.



Hajiya Amina explaining how the training has changed her approach to the mediation of disputes
Photo by Muhammed Kaugama

Traditional Ruler Training - Record-Keeping

As the intervention grows, the emphasis on the Record Keeping systems becomes more and more essential. The training of the Traditional Rulers, Scribes and the Traditional Wives is the starting point of the intervention.

Across the 6 Emirate Councils that have been trained and with 9 more Emirate Councils to be trained in Year 2, a large amount of data will be collected showing all the disputes that have been handled. The Emirate Councils can then review this information and immediately see where common themes are emerging, where there are one-off issues etc.

To help facilitate this, the programme will work with each Emirate Council to ensure that a Record Keeping Centre is established within each Council. This will ensure a standard and consistent approach to electronic Record Keeping that will generate information that can then be used further.

Traditional Ruler Training – Evidence of Dispute Resolution

Cases continue to be resolved by the Traditional Rulers. An example from the Biu Emirate Council is interesting as it was a case referred to the Emirate Council by a Sharia Court sitting in Bauchi State.

The case involved an indigene of Biu LGA who was alleged to have received a payment of N444,372.40 into his account with the intended as a death benefit from Bauchi State Electricity Company PLC on behalf of his brother's children. He denied receipt of any such payment into his bank account.

The case had been in court for over three years, but on referral to the Biu Emirate Council, the European Union funded mediator was able to gather the required evidence and mediate the conflict amicably.

As a result, the man in question has since returned half the sum with a plan in place to repay the remaining balance.

Family Support Units

The Adamawa team met firstly with the Commissioner of Police and then with Divisional Police Officers to talk through various programme interventions – most notably around Community Accountability Forums, Family Support Units and SARCs. The DPOs of Yola South, Yola North and Girei have all made commitments to make space available for the establishment of FSUs in their divisions.



Engaging with DPOs and explaining FSUs, CAFs and SARCs
Photo by Sendi Dauda

Progress against European Union Indicators

	Indicator	2021 Target	Actuals March 2018	Comment
4.2	Number of staff from governmental institutions and internal security forces trained	1210	125	Activity Years 2-4
4.3	Number of people participating in conflict prevention and peace building activities	2860	2223	Activity Years 1-4
	Total Community Beneficiaries	2,278,580	178,506	Activity Years 2-4

Upcoming Activity – April and May 2018

Continuing CPSP meetings in existing LGAs and expansion into new LGAs in all States
Dissemination Events in all States following phase one of the Traditional Ruler Training
Expand the Traditional Ruler Training Programme – 3 more Emirate Councils in each state
SARCs Steering Committee – increased advocacy/raising awareness of SGBV as an issue
SARC Personnel Training (Doctors, Nurses and Counsellors) in Adamawa State
Research in Adamawa State on Land and Water Usage
Research in Borno State on Livelihood Opportunities and Conflict Dynamics in communities affected by displacement
Convening of Community Accountability Forums
Establishment of Family Support Units in police stations in the different LGAs

Challenges

Continued unrest in the NE and the impact to travel and work outside state capitals
Worsening farmers/herders violence
The political environment as political mobilizations start ahead of the 2019 Elections
Persistence of fuel scarcity and rising costs



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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