



KOGI STATE

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE PEACE (CIPP)

STATE ENGAGEMENT Policy Outcome
DOCUMENT WITH STATE ACTORS
(SEPOD-SA)



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COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE PEACE



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ACRONYMS

CIPP - Community Initiatives to Promote Peace

GRR – Grazing Route Reserves

IMC - Interfaith Mediation Centre

KAOPA – Kano Online Policy Analysis

KATOPA – Katsina Online Policy Analysis

KOPA – Kaduna Online Policy Analysis

LUA – Land Use Act

SCDDD – Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development

PARE – Pastoral Resolve

AMRC - Advocacy, Mediation and Reconciliation Council

ARDA- Africa Radio and Drama Association

CSOs - Civil Society Organizations

CEPOD – Community Engagement Policy Outcome Document

KASU - Kaduna State University

SEPOD- SA – State Engagement Policy Outcome Document with State Actors

MC - Mercy Corps

ORGANISATION PROFILE

About Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy & Development (SCDDD)

Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (SCDDD) is a non-governmental organization committed to research, advocacy training and policy analysis in the areas of conflict prevention, management, democracy and sustainable development in Nigeria and Africa. The SCDDD is leading strategic discussions on inclusive governance for sustainable development, in order to promote human security, sustainable peace, good governance, rule of law and human rights in Nigeria and Africa, shaping public policy through research and knowledge sharing. We are committed to improving the democratic and governance space through advocacy and the provision of context-specific training and solutions to governments, policy makers and some non-state actors.

About Community Initiatives to Promote Peace (CIPP)

Mercy Corps is implementing the Community Initiatives to Promote Peace (CIPP), a five-year peace building program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to prevent violent conflict in the most at-risk communities across 6 states in Nigeria's North Central and North West geo political zones.

CIPP is implemented in partnership with Pastoral Resolve (PARE), Interfaith Mediation Centre (IMC), Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (SCDDD), and the African Radio Drama Association (ARDA).

About Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps is a leading global organization powered by the belief that a better world is possible. In disaster, in hardship, in more than 40 countries around the world, we partner to put bold solutions into action — helping people triumph over adversity and build stronger communities from within.

Now and for the future

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Initiatives to Promote Peace (CIPP) is a five-year USAID-funded program that seek to empower communities to prevent and respond to violence and violent extremism by strengthening key skills and relationships, and to foster an enabling environment for peace through policy advocacy, media outreach, and linkages to development programs. Since 2019, Mercy Corps, through CIPP, has been working alongside a consortium of organizations- Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy & Development (SCDDD), Pastoral Resolve (PARE), Interfaith Mediation Centre (IMC) and Africa Radio and Drama Association (ARDA), to facilitate conditions necessary for building sustainable peace and represent a force for peace.

Policies are specific decisions, actions, ad inactions, rules and regulations or conditions designed to guide present and future decisions, growth and development in the country.

SCDDD has so far organized series of policy focused activities at the community, state and national levels.

At the state level, SCDDD has organized Policy Forums in Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Benue, Kogi and Plateau states to engage with critical state and non-state actors to raise awareness of conflict-relevant policies and solicit inputs/ implementable recommendations.

At the national level, four National Policy Desk Review forum with stakeholders in peace building, governance, legal profession, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), youth groups, women groups, disability group and the media etc have been held to facilitate discussions around national policies that affect or have potential to influence peace and stability in Nigeria.

At the community level, SCDDD organized Community Town Hall Policy Dialogue events in Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Plateau, Benue and Kogi states to engage critical community stakeholders such as youth leaders, market women leaders, teachers, women leaders, religious leaders, traditional leaders etc to obtain validation and feedbacks of contentious policies as well as proposed implementable recommendations towards policy change that can promote peace and mitigate violent conflict across the six (6) CIPP States.

In February 2021, SCDDD inaugurated a 7-member Advocacy, Mediation and Reconciliation Council (AMRC) to embark on quiet diplomacy and open advocacy where necessary. The council is to bridge the gap between community, civil society leaders, critical stakeholders, state/federal government, and decision makers among other key policy influencers to advocate for new policies, review proposed bills, and provide implementable recommendations for policy change. The AMRC is composed of highly influential, patriotic citizens with access and a large circle of influence who interacted strategically during advocacy visits in the six (6) CIPP states of Nigeria's North West (Kaduna, Kano and Katsina States) and North Central (Kogi, Benue and Plateau States) and the FCT.



KOGI STATE

Kogi state was created in 1991 to aggregate the interests of the various ethnic nationalities that were first in Kwara state and later became part of Benue state. Although, there are minor ethnic groups in the state such as Nupe, Bassange, Ogori, Kakanda, Ibaji and Igbira, the three dominant groups are Igala, Ebira and Yoruba. The state has very few industrial establishments. The most important one is the yet to be functional Ajaokuta Steel Industry, the Okaba Coal industry, which is said to be unviable, and the Obajana cement industry recently established Kogi state is predominantly a civil service state. The number of civil servants employed over the years, appear to have exceeded the manpower requirements for the state. Two main sources are responsible for the conflicts in Kogi state. The first is the reaction of people to Federal government policies. The second is the crisis triggered by the state government's decision to reform the civil service. Other crises have been strongly linked to historical relationships, ethno cultural conflicts, religion and competition for resource control.

Lists of Reviewed Policies in Kogi Community Engagement Policy Outcome Document



Child's Right Act 2004;



*National Reserve
Establishment Bill 2016;*



The Indigeneity Policy

HIGHLIGHTS / CHALLENGES

- i The tribal conflicts between the Ebira and the Basa people: The conflicts between the Ebira and the Basa people has a long history of not being able to co-exist together which has heightened clashes and caused numerous deaths in many communities. For instance, the consistent fear about one tribe dominating the other over political position.
- ii The Herders and Farmers Crisis: This is another major problem in Kogi state. The victims of this crisis are usually people in the rural communities 80% of which are peasant farmers who depend on farming as their source of livelihood. The major effect is the destruction off farm produce by the herders in many rural communities.
- iii Boundary Issue: Kogi state shares boundaries with 10 states; this has led to so many conflicts arising from boundary demarcation with neighbouring states.
- iv Conflicts between the law and the traditions of the people: In the state, many enacted laws are not successful because the laws and the traditions have conflicted over time. Some of the traditional practices

ADVOCACY VISITS

in the state have been illegally adopted and are inimical to principles of natural justice, equity and good conscience. Barbaric traditional practices in many communities have made laws ineffective in the communities. For example, the Girl Child marriage is one of the issues the state is still combatting till date. The major conflict is how to set the boundary between culture and government policies. What the government may see as the right age of marriage is considered a breach in some cultures whose yardstick may be that a girl is ripe for marriage once she starts seeing her menstrual period.

v

Religious Conflicts: In Kogi state, the religious conflicts between the various religious sects in the state has led to a high mortality rate and a high rate of injured victims from these conflicts.

vi

The issue of Indigeneity: One of the biggest problems confronting the state is the issue of who is an indigene. The bigger ethnic groups seem to lord it over the smaller ethnic minorities. This has created a lot of tension among the different ethnic groups and had led to denial of opportunities to the smaller groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS

i

The Creation of Clear Cut Boundaries in Kogi state: To prevent boundaries conflicts from arising constantly, the boundaries in Kogi state should be properly identified and mapped out by experts in collaboration with lawmakers in the state and their counterparts in other neighbouring states. If this is done, the conflicts arising from boundaries and borders would reduce drastically in the state.

ii

Inclusion of Traditional Rulers in the security of the state: In Kogi state, Lawmakers should Liaise and collaborate with the traditional rulers in the state. Often time, it is discovered that many of the traditional rulers living in the communities have more information and deeper understanding on the problems amongst the people, the causes of disputes and the solutions to the disputes in their communities. If traditional rulers work alongside the state security officers, combatting insecurity in the state and communities would be more effective.

ADVOCACY VISITS

- vii Distortion of election results: Over time in Kogi state, the elections conducted in the state are not always free and fair and the collated election results are manipulated and this has led to bad governance in the state.
- viii Gender bias in the Nigerian Police force due to insecurity: In Kogi state, there is an obvious gender imbalance in the Police force which is as a result of the high rate of insecurity in the state and no woman desires to risk serving in the Police force in Kogi State especially because of the high rate of insecurity.
- ix No consultation with the people before policy formulation and enactment of laws: Some laws enacted in the state are not laws which the people deem useful to them and this has led to an increase in conflicts in the state. Some of the laws enacted do not in any way address the needs of the people which often meet with wide scale resistance and conflicts.

iii

Sensitization of the people: Illiteracy and lack of information contributes greatly to the causes of unrest in the state. More consistent and sustained sensitization, awareness creation and engagements at the grass-root level to educate people on their rights, the benefits of peaceful coexistence and teaching the people on the culture of peace and its value will go a long way to change the environment characterized by hostilities. If this is done, it will give rise to more harmonious relationship within and between communities and the state.

iv

Modification of the Kogi State Judicial System: Justice delayed is justice denied and this is one of the problems the state faces. The state judicial system should be overhauled and restructured, and lawyers should take up more pro-bono cases for accused victims who cannot defend themselves in courts; Alternative Dispute Resolution should be widely adopted in the state and mobile courts set upto ensure Justice is served appropriately.

HIGHLIGHTS / CHALLENGES

- i The Kogi State Traffic Management Authority Law is one of the policies which is not favourable to the people. Following the enactment of the law, staff of the authority has been accused of high handedness as some of their activities have led to increase in the traffic congestion. Some of these staff overcharges offenders above the approved rate and this tends to generate conflicts.
- ii Non-inclusion of people at the grassroots and poor representations of the most affected people at the town hall engagements.
- iii The Indigeneity policy and the mode of identifying who an indigene of Kogi state is, has led to conflicts in Kogi state. There are no standardized means of identifying who an indigene is. The minority groups in the state largely suffer when it comes to being identified as indigenes of Kogi state.
- iv The Matrimonial Causes Act is one of the laws and legislations which have been abandoned in Kogi state. It is a law that should be applied alongside the Child Right's Act and the Violence against Person Prohibition

TOWNHALL ENGAGEMENTS

Act. The Matrimonial Causes Act protects families and marriages primarily and provides that for a child to be protected in the state; such a child should belong to a family first.

v

Many policies and laws in the state have not aligned to the needs of society. Some enacted policies do not go vis-à-vis the reality of the state and there is a need to amend numerous laws in the state.

vi

Stigmatization after reporting a crime is one of the challenges women and children face in the state. After a crime has been reported in the state such as rape or violence against women, many times due to the lack of confidentiality in these cases, the victims of these crimes are stigmatized and shamed in their societies.

vii

Although, the Disability Rights Act in Kogi state has been assented to, its implementation is faulty. The Law stipulates that the chairperson must be an able-bodied person with the secretary being a disabled person. If the law is operated this way, it will lead to disunity, disaffection and likely unrest because this policy will not sufficiently protect disabled people in the state.

TOWNHALL ENGAGEMENTS

viii

The patriarchal system being operated on a large scale in the state is an impediment to the rights of many women and children. Patriarchy has led to the infringement of fundamental rights of women and children subjecting them to unfair and unjust treatment

RECOMMENDATIONS

i

The Traffic Management Authority Law should be amended, and checks and balances included to prevent abuse of power by the staff and the instigation of conflicts through during implementation.

ii

Town hall meetings should be more decentralized, this would enable better and active participation of the people from the grassroots in the interactive processes.

iii

To resolve the problem associated with indigeneity formal documents should not be used to identify who can be regarded as an indigene or not.

iv

The Matrimonial Causes Act should be domesticated in Kogi state, and amendments made where necessary to protect both children and families sufficiently.

v

A domestication action plan should be developed for the security of Children and Women in the state. Laws that pertain to the rights of women and children should be domesticated in Kogi state and adopted by the ministry of women affairs.

vi

The Chairperson of the Disability Child's Right should be a disabled person. This will give persons living with disabilities a sense of worth and control of their own affairs.

vii

The CSOs in the state should learn to collaborate and work with officials of the state government for effective results.

viii

Widespread public enlightenment, education and simple interpretation of the laws would go a long way to raise the level of awareness in the people on their rights as citizens of the state. Many people are uninformed of these laws in the state.

ix

The state should explore avenues for engagement and partnership with international institution and adoption of some best practices that will strengthen its human rights practice.

PHOTO GALLERY



CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

In conclusion, the Centre intends to consolidate lessons learned from the State Engagements with State Actors on conflict activities to leverage their positive impacts by improving on new sets of activities onward in the coming years of the CIPP program that works; in targeted violence-prone communities on conflict prevention and trust-building at the local community level; strengthens more efficient and more sustainable citizenry participation in policy formulation and implementation processes; deepen inclusion of women, youth and other marginalized groups via sustainable dialogues for peace building and conflict resolution across the six (6) CIPP states at the regional and national levels; as well as engage more with key actors for collaborative problem-solving to address and respond to root causes of violent conflicts and plausible ways to strengthen policies – in order to increase the likelihood of the replicability, scalability and sustainability of all of the above.

The Advocacy, Mediation and Reconciliation Council (AMRC) for Community Initiatives to Promote Peace (CIPP) Project

**A 7-Member Council with a Mandate to
Embark on Strategic Advocacy Activities
for Conflict Mitigation and Peace building**

ROLES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ADVOCACY, MEDIATION AND RECONCILIATION COUNCIL (AMRC)

The Advocacy, Mediation and Reconciliation Council (AMRC) is tasked with working with Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (SCDDD) in the six CIPP States and at the national level to:

1. Mitigate violent conflict:
2. Promote peaceful coexistence and stakeholders' collaboration vis-à-vis influencing policy change or review of laws or bills that are conflict sensitive by nature in the following States; Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Plateau, Benue and Kogi respectively.
3. Embark on strategic advocacy/engagement visits to Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Plateau, Benue and Kogi States, using mediation and sustained dialogues to engage major critical stakeholders and gatekeepers, namely; State Government (Executive, Legislative and Judiciary) as well as Security Agencies.
4. Periodically or as the need arises, engage with critical State actors at the Federal level.

The AMRC will draw on findings from policy analyses and community consultations to support community and civil society leaders, businesspeople, and other concerned stakeholders to meet with policymakers and government decision makers at the Federal level to advocate for new policies, recommend revisions for proposed legislation, or make recommendations for policy implementation. In the fifth year of CIPP implementation, it is expected that the AMRC will use these sets of Policy Outcome Documents (POD) produced from years 1 - 4 to present community concerns and recommendations at the National level.

MEMBERS OF THE ADVOCACY, MEDIATION AND RECONCILIATION COUNCIL (AMRC)

| S/N | STATE | NAME | DESIGNATION | STATUS |
|-----|---------|--|--|----------------------|
| 1. | Kano | Amb. Aminu Wali, mni, CON | Former Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria. | Chairman |
| 2. | Katsina | Mal. Abidu Yazid, OON | Development Economist and Chairman, Board of Directors, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development. | Co-Chairman |
| 3. | Plateau | Ms. Sarah Ochekepe CON, | Former Minister of Water Resource, Federal Republic of Nigeria. | Member |
| 4. | Kogi | Ms. Eugenia Abu | Founder and CEO The Eugenia Abu Media Centre | Member |
| 5. | Kaduna | Prof Hauwa'u Evelyn Yusuf | Director, Centre for Gender Studies , Kaduna State University (KASU) | Member |
| 6. | Benue | Ms. Charity Echor | Founder/CEO, Northern Nigerian Women Initiative | Member |
| 7. | Abuja | Amb. Sani Bala (Wamban Katsina) | Former Nigerian Ambassador to Qatar, Former Federal Permanent Secretary and the Executive Director, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development | National Coordinator |



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