



PLATEAU STATE

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE PEACE (CIPP)

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



© Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy & Development, 2021

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE PEACE (CIPP)



ISBN: 978-978-948-682-3

All rights reserved

No part of the publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior permission of SCDDD.

Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (SCDDD)

Plot 239 P.O.W Mafemi Crescent, behind Chida Event Centre
beside Daily Trust, District 900108 - Abuja.

+234 7039296332, +234 913 406 5284, +234 803 870 2886

info@savannahcentrenig.org | www.savannahcentre.com

Twitter.com/savannah_centre | facebook.com/savannahcentreng



CONTENTS

iii	ACRONYMS
iv	ORGANISATION Profile
vi	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
01	INTRODUCTION
04	Advocacy Visits: Highlights
06	Challenges
07	RECOMMENDATIONS
09	Townhall Engagements: Highlights
10	Challenges
11	RECOMMENDATIONS
13	Photo Gallery
14	CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS
15	THE Advocacy, MEDIATION AND RECONCILIATION COUNCIL (AMRC) FOR CIPP

ACRONYMS

CIPP - Community Initiatives to Promote Peace

GRR – Grazing Route Reserves

OGPRE – Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment

IMC - Interfaith Mediation Centre

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

IES- Inclusive Educational System

CRA- Child's Right Act

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)

The Community Initiatives to Promote Peace (CIPP) project is a five-year peacebuilding program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to prevent violent conflict in the most at-risk communities across Six (6) states in Nigeria's North Central (Kogi, Benue and Plateau) and North West (Katsina, Kano and Kaduna).

CIPP is implemented in partnership with Mercy Corps Nigeria, Pastoral Resolve (PARE), Interfaith Mediation Centre (IMC), Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (SCDDD), and the African Radio and 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, CIPP is being implemented by a consortium of organizations expected to play specific roles in the following manner;

- Mercy Corps Nigeria: Responsible for the management of the consortium as well as leading in the rigorous research, technical expertise in conflict prevention and response amongst others;*
- Interfaith Mediation Centre (IMC): Leading interfaith dialogues and cross-religion exchanges for the purposes of promoting peace across the CIPP States;*
- Pastoral Resolve (PARE): Leading dialogue and mediation training, bringing its expertise working at the community level to prevent rural violence, especially between the farmers and pastoralists;*
- Africa Radio and Drama Association (ARDA): Leading a communication and mass media strategy across all program activities and amplifying critical project awareness;*
- Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (SCDDD): Leading in analyzing evidence-based assessment on the relevant existing States and Federal policies vis-à-vis developing policies/bills that could possibly influence conflicts, as well as engaging with critical state actors and policy-makers in advocating for policy change or review where necessary for the purposes of promoting sustainable peace and to mitigate violent conflict in at-risk communities in six (6) CIPP States.*

Policies are specific decisions, actions and inactions, rules and regulations or conditions designed to guide present and future decisions, growth and development while advocacy is the process of strategically managing and sharing knowledge to change and/or influence policies, legislations and practices that affect people's lives. Policy advocacy, as a core component of the CIPP program, is spearheaded by the Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (SCDDD), who has so far organized a 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 selected critical stakeholders to raise awareness of conflict-relevant policies and to solicit inputs and recommendations. At the national level, National Policy Desk Review forums with selected critical stakeholders in peace building, governance, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), youth and women groups, Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) and the media amongst others, have been held to facilitate discuss around national policies that affect or have the potential to affect peace and stability in the country. At the community level, SCDDD leveraged on Community Town Hall Policy Dialogue events organized by other consortium members in Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Plateau, Benue and Kogi states to engage critical stakeholders in obtaining inputs and feedbacks on problematic policies and propose implementable recommendations towards policy change that can promote peace and mitigate crises in the communities .In the same vein, validation workshops were held in all the six CIPP States aimed at engaging and receiving systemic and logical input(s) from critical stakeholders and gatekeepers/gate-openers imperative to the impact of CIPP projects and workability of the State Engagement Policy Outcome Document (SEPOD).

In February 2021, SCDDD inaugurated a 7-member Advocacy, Mediation and Reconciliation Council (AMRC) to embark on quiet diplomacy and open advocacy using mediation and sustained dialogues to engage with major government stakeholders and gatekeepers/gate-openers. The council is to bridge the gap between community, civil society leaders, businesspeople, other stakeholders and state actors (decision-makers), to advocate for policy change where possible. The AMRC is composed of highly influential, patriotic citizens with access and a large circle of influence who embarked on strategic advocacy/engagement visits in the six CIPP states.



PLATEAU STATE

Plateau State is located in North Central Zone, one of the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. It has an area of 26,899 square kilometers, with an estimated population of 3, 206,531, according to the 2006 National Population Census. The state has over forty ethno-linguistic groups. Some of the indigenous tribes in the state are the Berom, Afizere, Amo, Anaguta, Aten, Bijim, Bogghom, Buji, Jipal, Mhiship, Irchip, Fier, Goemai, Irigwe, Jarawa, Jukun, Kadung, Kofyar ,Montol, Mushere, Mupun, Mwaghavul, Ngas, Piapung, Pyem, Ron-Kulere, Bache, Talet, Tarok, and Youm. These ethnic groups are predominantly farmers and have similar cultural and traditional ways of life. Each ethnic group has its own distinct language, but as with the rest of the country, English is the official language in Plateau State; Hausa is also a common medium of communication and for commerce, as it is the case in most parts of the North Central.

There have been cases of violent conflicts (attacks) outside the state capital. From June 2018 however, one of such conflicts drew international attention, as the multiple violent conflicts (attacks) within the same area were attributed to violent herdsmen. These included series of attacks carried out in many communities in Plateau State, estimated to have taken over 200 lives, left many others homeless and properties/means of livelihood destroyed.

Lists of Reviewed Policies in Plateau Community Engagement Policy Outcome Document



Child's Right Act 2005;



*National Crop Varieties
and Livestock Breeds Bill;*



*Violence Against Persons
Prohibition Act (VAPP) 2015*

HIGHLIGHTS

- i Laudable policies to promote peace and peaceful coexistence initiated by the government of Plateau State are commendable.
- ii Periodic interactions between the government and relevant leaders and critical stakeholders should be encouraged by the government to ensure understanding and fostering of peace in the state.
- iii The laws of the state should be reviewed periodically to reflect emerging needs or trends that can threaten the peace in communities.
- iv Maintaining peace and security in Plateau state is the most important role of the Governor.
- v Law and order are vital in all civilized societies. Therefore, laws must be carefully crafted and diligently implemented.
- vi This project is aimed at pointing out some of the gaps in the policies which would assist policymakers in understanding what is needed in every community.

ADVOCACY VISITS

- vii The Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), is closer to members of the community than the Nigerian Police Force and this is so because the NSCDC have no barracks and live among the people and are readily available to settle civil cases in communities. This has earned them the trust and confidence of the communities.
- viii It was observed that other neighbouring states are also experiencing conflicts that will require inclusion among the project states by SCDDD.

CHALLENGES

i

The open grazing by the herders in the state has led to acts of violence between herders and farmers

ii

Lack of understanding of some laws and policies by the people is a major challenge in the state

iii

The local communities are not always involved in the process of policy making before such policies are passed into law

iv

Over time some laws have become obsolete and need to be reviewed

v

The non-teaching of history in our schools is fast eroding our values of mutual respect, sanctity of life, peaceful coexistence, good neighbourliness among others

vi

Traditional institutions have been bastardized and not accorded deserved respect or advisory status in our modern-day Nigeria

vii

All policies are designed to solve problems and not create more disputes, but some policies are leading causes of disputes in the state

RECOMMENDATIONS

i

The sensitization of the people in the state to create awareness and understanding on each policy is beneficial in peace building

ii

Ranching with necessary facilities should be encouraged instead of open grazing

iii

Laws should be reviewed periodically to meet emerging realities in the state

iv

The security agencies in the state should be adequately equipped and supported by the government and relevant stakeholders to ensure efficiency and effectiveness

v

Appropriate punishment/sanctions for each crime should be implemented by Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)

vi

Consultation with communities and critical stakeholders would be necessary before, during and after policy making processes and peace-making efforts

RECOMMENDATIONS

vii

Traditional institutions should be given more constitutional responsibilities and should equally be included in (the) policy making processes in Nigeria

viii

The NSCDC peace, conflict and mediation unit should be strengthened to continue to settle conflicts amongst members of the community through the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and other dialogue mechanisms

ix

The NSCDC and Police collaboration with international agencies to promote peace in Plateau State should be strengthened

x

The capacity of officers and staff of the NSCDC and other Law Enforcement Agencies LEAs should be developed continuously in ADR, peace and conflicts mechanisms and criminology

HIGHLIGHTS

- i Many children are denied quality education, and this makes them vulnerable to crimes in communities
- ii The critical stakeholders such as police officers and lawyers are not always included in town hall meetings even though they are the first people to be contacted when there is violation of human rights
- iii The process of acquiring land in Nigeria is quite cumbersome and stressful
- iv The livestock bill is capable of instigating violence which might lead to an increase in internally displaced persons across the country
- v Perceived injustices by government and security agencies have caused violence in the society

CHALLENGES

i

Section 7(1) of the Child Right's Act (CRA) stipulates that children with disabilities should be taken care of, but parents of this category of special children who are poor are not supported

ii

Section 7(k) of the Child Right's Act (CRA) does not state the requirements for recruiting teachers in schools especially for children living with special needs

iii

The punishments for most of the crimes which constitute as assault or molestation to vulnerable persons are not stringent enough and some cases not implemented

iv

One of the biggest issues of taking care of children with special needs is insufficient funds for care givers and schools

v

Insufficient education and sensitization on these laws is one of the biggest causes of the infringements of the rights of vulnerable members of the communities

vi

There are no adequate legal provisions available to address the diverse nature of farmers and herders in many communities

RECOMMENDATIONS

i

The parents of children with disabilities should be supported by the government and relevant stakeholders to enable them take care of their children adequately

ii

Recruitment of teachers and other care givers for children with special needs should be done meticulously

iii

Every policy in Plateau State should meet the needs of every child as they are the most vulnerable sets of people

iv

Religious leaders should be sensitized on how criminal cases should be addressed

v

A psycho-social support system should be set up to assist abused and traumatized children

vi

Provision should be made in the Child Rights act for stiffer punishments

vii

The violence against person prohibition bill should be assented to, gazetted and fully implemented vis a vis accessible to members of the communities

RECOMMENDATIONS

viii

Sanctions and penalties should be strictly applied on any Law Enforcement Agent found culpable on his role in promoting and maintaining peace among the populace

ix

Modern and legal ways of ranching should be encouraged among herders in the communities

x

Free, qualitative and compulsory educational policy should be implemented in Plateau State for Children

xi

The Land Use Act (LUA) needs to be reviewed and simplified

xii

Religious leader should adhere to the tenant of religious practices that promote sustainable peace, tolerance and harmonious living

xiii

The policy of the Inclusive Educational System (IES) should be effectively implemented in Plateau State

PHOTO GALLERY



CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

In conclusion, the Centre intend to consolidate lessons learned from the State Engagements with State Actors and other stakeholders on conflict activities to leverage positive impacts by improving on new sets of activities in the coming years across violent prone communities vis-a-vis conflict prevention and trust-building at the community, state and federal levels.

The centre also poise to strengthen more efficiently citizenry sensitization, participation in policy formulation and implementation processes by deepening inclusion of women, youth and other marginalized groups via sustainable dialogues, strategic collaboration and critical engagements in problem solving mechanisms, in addressing and responding to root causes of violent conflicts and plausible ways to strengthen policies.

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 Ocheke 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





 Plot 239 P.O.W Mafemi Crescent, Behind Chida Event Centre,
Utako District, Abuja-Nigeria

 +234 703 929 6332, +234 913 406 5284,
+234 803 870 2886

 info@savannahcentre.org

 www.savannahcentre.org

@ savannah_centre 

@ savannahcentreng 

@ savannahcentreng 