

# COMPONENT BRIEF: FACILITATING COLLABORATION BETWEEN FEDERAL, SECURITY AND CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

## OBJECTIVE

Help reduce violence by strengthening the relationships, co-ordination and communication between those directly affected by violence and those who are to provide security.

## CONTEXT

Nigeria's national conflict management architecture and security governance relies on a complex and overlapping set of agencies that are poorly co-ordinated, lack strategic direction, are not inclusive or accountable and do not enable co-operation between state and non-state actors. This prevents early warning and response, and leads to responses that are often heavy-handed, selective and which fail to identify and tackle underlying causes of violence.

## OUR APPROACH

We work with federal peace and security agencies and non-state actors to improve their inclusivity, co-ordination and accountability, and encourage them to be sensitive to changing conflict dynamics, accountable and inclusive of young men, all women and other groups usually marginalised from decision-making. We also support all actors in adopting a conflict-sensitive approach to their daily activities, specifically focusing on balanced, up-to-date analysis of the context, deep understanding of the relationship between their activities and the context, and adopting both creative and flexible approaches to meet the ever-changing security environment in the country.

## WHERE WE WORK

We work at the federal level with government ministries and departments, security agencies and civil society organisations.

## WHO WE WORK WITH

- Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA)
- Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR)
- National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS)
- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- Defence Headquarters (DHQ)
- Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development (MoWASD)
- National Orientation Agency (NOA)
- Joint Task Force (JTF)



## OUR WORK

**Strategic partnerships and policy:** We strengthen alliances between government, security and civil society actors through establishing and supporting a National Security Forum (NSF) and providing it with technical assistance to draw up and implement plans for action.

We support the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies to host an annual *Experts and Eminent Persons Group Meeting*, which has resulted in recommendations for the reform of two national policies: the National Security Strategy and the Counter Insurgency Policy.

**Capacity building:** We provide training for security forces, government departments and civil society on gender and conflict, human rights, conflict analysis, conflict sensitivity, mediation and peace building.

## CASE STUDY

### **National Conference on Security: Sharing international lessons learned and best practice**

We partnered with the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies to host a national security conference to address the 'complex insurgency in Nigeria'. The event was attended by federal security agencies, government and civil society actors. NSRP presented a paper on lessons learned from conflict management from other countries worldwide. The paper provided an analysis of the lessons and how they could be applied to the context in Nigeria. This has led to increased interest in and action focused on inclusive and co-ordinated development of a National Security Strategy.

### **National Security Forum to foster accountability, co-ordination and inclusiveness**

We supported the establishment of a National Security Forum in partnership with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution. The forum is a federal-level network made up of key federal security agencies and civil society organisations. The forum will co-ordinate national institutions and actors responsible for decisions relating to peace and security. The aim is to build a national security management framework that fosters accountability, co-ordination and inclusiveness.

## FIND OUT MORE

Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme  
[www.nsrp-nigeria.org](http://www.nsrp-nigeria.org)

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