

COMPONENT BRIEF: PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM VIOLENCE THROUGH SAFE SPACES

OBJECTIVE

Improve prevention of and response to violence against women and girls (VAWG) and thereby increase influential participation of women and girls in peace building.

CONTEXT

Violence against women and girls is endemic throughout Nigeria. According to the *2012 Gender in Nigeria Report*, one in three girls aged 15 to 24 experience violence. The stigma and culture of silence means that cases go unreported and perpetrators are not punished.

OUR APPROACH

We work to address violence against women and girls by supporting partners in creating physical 'safe spaces' for young people aged ten to 24. In this safe space, they learn to manage conflict non-violently and to report and to challenge gender-based violence. They also learn skills that encourage them to participate in leadership, mediation and peace-building initiatives. We also collect reports of gender-based violence in an 'observatory': a web-based map of reports that links survivors with available services and ensures responsive action.

WHERE WE WORK

We work in three local government areas in each state: Kaduna, Kano, Plateau and Rivers.

WHO WE WORK WITH

- Women, peace and security networks
- Partner civil society organisations
- Gender Awareness Trust
- Legal Awareness for Nigerian Women
- Women with Disability Self Reliance Centre
- Centre for Peace Advancement in Nigeria
- Social Justice and Human Development for Peace Initiative
- Women Initiative for Sustainable Community Development
- Society for Women Development and Empowerment of Nigeria
- Gender and Development Action;
- Kebetkache Women Development and Resource Centre
- Funds for Peace (F4P)
- Education as a Vaccine
- Federation of Muslim Women Association
- Health Care Development Focus Initiative
- National Council of Women Societies
- University of Maiduguri Muslim Women Association
- Women in New Nigeria
- Abantu for Development
- Centre for Human Rights in Islam
- Christian Women for Excellence and Empowerment in Nigerian Society
- Community peace club facilitators
- Observatory steering committee, comprising representatives from security agencies, women's rights organisations, government ministries and departments, community leaders and healthcare providers
- Young women and men mediators



OUR WORK

We support girls, women, boys and young men to increase the reporting of VAWG cases, through the establishment of safe spaces.

Peace clubs: We partner with civil society organisations to create physical safe spaces for women, girls and boys. The clubs are a forum to share information about conflict and peace building in their communities and to shape attitudes around violence against women and girls. Each club consists of five 'clublets' in formal and informal school environments. The members range from ten to 24 years of age. NSRP will have supported the establishment of a total of 120 clubs across four states by the completion of the programme.

Observatory: We have supported a partner CSO to develop a web-based platform to serve as a virtual safe space. The observatory operates in target and provides an online repository of information about VAWG in order to trigger action. The data is available at www.nsrp-nigeria.org.

Mediation training: We have supported the delivery of 'Mediation as a Life Skill' training to help young women and men better manage conflict in their own lives. The training provides them with the skills to avoid being drawn into other people's conflicts and assist with the management of conflict in their communities.

CASE STUDY

Peace clubs formed in Kaduna State

We partnered with local civil society organisations to establish peace clubs that empower young people to reduce violence against women and girls in Kaduna. Community facilitators have been trained to run the peace clubs. Given the high incidence of violence against women and girls with disabilities, one of our partners runs a peace club that focuses on girls, boys and young women with disabilities. Support for the initiative has been widespread across the state from government, civil society, community leaders and state security agencies.

'The peace clubs could be the solution to gender-based violence in this state.'

Naomi Nuhu Bajoga, wife of the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, in Barnawa, Kaduna South

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