



PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE (P4P) Project

Funded by the Local Action Fund
supporting peacebuilding initiative in Nigeria



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NEWSLETTER

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40 community Fulani women from KURUDU - Abuja have skills in making REUSABLE SANITARY PADS

A spin-off from the Reusable Sanitary Pads training on the Women Empowerment for Equitable Development (WEED) Project LEGASI held in May, 2021 in Kaduna state supported by World Connect US. By 20-21 November, 2021, **Impulse Recycling** with LEGASI supported in training selected breadwinner women in Kurudu in the outskirts of Abuja township. Many of these Fulani women due to the insecurity in the country had lost their major source of livelihood, some of which was cattle rearing to cattle rustlers and these have reduced their source of livelihood.

Supporting women from further experiencing period poverty helps improve their financial independence, reducing their over-dependence on their men, whereby we would hope to see a reduction in some form of gender-based violence in the home. Once the financial burden is reduced on the men they are less likely to be aggressive at home.

When women develop such soft skills towards financial independence, it assists them in promoting peace at home and within the community level where poverty serves as an under-lining factor to many of the persistent conflict.

The **Partnership for Peace (P4P)** project which took off officially in June 2021 funded by the Local Action Fund (LAF), an initiative of Peace Direct after the selection of **Ladies Empowerment Goals and Support Initiative (LEGASI)** to serve as the Nigerian Partner to **Peace Direct** on Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion projects through which the Local Action Fund supports micro grants to local actors serving as sub-grantees. Through rigorous planning, sub-grantee selection, advocacy and community entry/engagement in selected communities covering Kaduna and Plateau States, the project is beginning to yield results.

The approach has been community driven to gain further support of relevant state and non-state actors, community key stakeholders, without leaving out the youth and women population.

The height of the conflict is such that, “no Kataf indigene can enter Zango and come out alive and the reverse is also the case”.

- Victor Abarshi (Kaduna Partner)

Atyaps a community in Zangon-Kataf Local Government Area, Kaduna South has had its own fair share of historical inter-communal clashes. The origins of these conflict dates back to 1992 where restricted access to resources became the motivation for continuous crisis and reprisal attacks between the Atyaps indigenes, Hausa community and the Fulanis. With the heightened crisis in early 1990 which reached its peak in 1992 over the relocation of a market which led

to the displacement of the Hausa community. The return of the Hausa community met with the challenges of land encroachment which activated a type of land dispute between the Atyap and Hausa communities.

The Fulanis in the process became victims of this crossfire possibly due to their religious affiliations. At the moment, the conflict has grown and now masqueraded itself into different forms of a farmer/herder conflict but over the years it was clear that the root cause of this conflict was

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Hausa youths say,

“their fathers fought; they are still fighting; but they don’t want to hand over such a legacy to their children”.

Victor Abarshi (Kaduna)



Photo Credits: Participants from Atyaps community, Hausa and Fulani communities

embedded in adequate access to natural resources.

Victor Abarshi, a sub-grantee organization playing a positive role through the LAF, has been able to jump start a successful entry-level dialogue meeting with the three conflict communities; Atyaps, Hausa and Fulani communities. Though several peacebuilding activities have taken place in the region, for the first time an entry-level dialogue meeting has encouraged good representation of the Zango Urban Community after several years passed. The intra-dialogue meetings involved key stakeholders in the communities to seek permission to engage the youths in a participatory dialogue in order to gain more insight of the nature and dynamics of the conflicts between the Atyap, Hausa and the Fulani in the community.

Due to the level of rivalry, suspicion and distrust that existed among the conflicting communities the intra-dialogue meetings with the Atyap, Hausa and Fulani youths was agreed to be held respectively on the 10th, 11th and 12th of December, 2021 after the initial meeting session on the 4th December where all the three groups were well represented. The need to meet with each group separately was to create an open floor to deep dive into the under-lining issues connected to the recurring conflict. These dialogue sessions were very much participatory, inclusive and exploratory which gave the participants the opportunity to freely share their thoughts, views and pains as they were given that assurance of being in a safe space.

Farmers and Herders were always at war and the Atyap community accused the Fulanis of gang gazing, serving as spies and moving with guns while rustling their goats and sheeps during grazing and further accused the Hausa communities of giving cover in such scenarios. Also the Atyaps, say the Hausa and Fulani communities do not respect the traditional rulership in Atyap Chiefdom and that many of their crops were destroyed by both the Hausa and Fulanis.

On the other hand the Fulani have complained of the hate speech against them as they had continually been labeled as terrorist and bandits. The Hausas complained and alleged that their lands were hijacked by the Atyap community since 1992 and till date such lands have not been returned. The Fulanis also claim injustices by the Atyaps leaders towards them. Both Hausa and Fulani complained about political marginalisation. Owing to all the crises women and children were usually the highest casualty falling victim when such clashes erupt. Across the three communities the success of this peace process was such that all communities present have agreed to step down the dialogue sessions within their community and the youth also have promised to give their maximum support through this process.

Pathways for Peace

- The lands that belong to the Hausa community in Zango and that are currently being farmed by some of the Atyap people should be returned to the Hausa community.
- Engagement of religious leaders and leverage on their high influence over the people to help resolve conflicts.
- Allow the Atyap who bought lands from the Hausas to farm on those lands.
- Freedom of grazing in all areas of the Atyaps chiefdom should be ensured for all the three parties.
- An alleged statement made by the Agwam Atyap that the Fulanis should be sent out of Zango be reversed or explanations should be given.

VILLAGE DEBBO CARE INITIATIVE (VD CARE)

Over the years there had been continuous conflict between the Christian and Muslim communities living in Kudenden and Nasarawa in Kaduna state hence the intervention by Village Debbo Care Initiative pioneering a component of the Partnership for Peace (P4P) project under the **Kudenden and Nasarawa Peace Building Project**.

With a strategic community entry the P4P project was able to gain the buy-in of the traditional leaders of Trikania and Nasarawa communities respectively to ask their permission and support throughout the project implementation and beyond. Other stakeholders visited during this entry phase included the Religious Leaders and Security Agencies including the Nigerian Police Force within that community and other local vigilante groups.

On the 10th of December 2021, VD Care brought together youths from the target communities to the palaces of their respective traditional leaders for a sensitization and selection exercise. Across gender lines, a total of twenty

(20) participants were selected (10 participants from each community) of those to be engaged as peace champions. Overall, the Kudenden and Nasarawa Peace Building Project was welcomed by the two communities thereby building trust and a gradual relationship is now being built between the VD Care team and the stakeholders. Furthermore, participants and future peace champions were identified and selected to promote the values of the project within their respective communities towards brokering a more sustainable peace.



MURYAR FULANI PEACE INITIATIVE NETWORK

Testimonials

"I used to think peacebuilding and any community development work is for men, while women are supporting from the home front. But now I can see the need for women to be motivated to take action" - **Mr. Ayuba John, Bachi Community, Riyom LGA.**

One of the women leaders also shared, *"We don't like what is happening between us and our neighbours, all the killings and destruction. We believe there are people who do not want to see us living together and are taking advantage of the situation to cause havoc among people who have lived together as a family"* - **Rhoda Ashingy, Dong Sarki Community, Jos North.**

The **Muryar Fulani Peace Initiative Network** undertook key sensitization visits to selected communities (**Dong Village**) in **Jos North LGA** and (**Bachi Village**) in **Riyom LGA** to bring them up to speed on the LAF supported program under the P4P project which seeks to garner stakeholders support to amplify the role of women in changing the negative tide on the farmers-herders conflict within the LGAs of interest and the state. Some of the community leaders and stakeholders said that this is the first of its kind in their communities. A situation where women are identified and selected to lead the initiatives of peacebuilding.

The project team visited **UNITY FM 93.3 Jos** and were welcomed and accepted by the General Manager of the Radio and TV station (Hajiya Larai Baba). She expressed her willingness and the station as a whole in supporting activities that put women in the forefront of active participation and engagement towards women social wellbeing, prevention of violence and community development.

The management agreed to collaborate and partner with Muryar Fulani on the project in order to expand the scope of the beneficiaries and target population of the project.

"Most of our grassroots women don't know that they can do something to prevent the recurrent violence, while others know but they don't know how to go about doing it, but I believe this project will enlighten them and encouraged them to be strong in promoting peaceful coexistence" - **Mallam Ya'u Muhamed, Dutsen Kurak Community Dong Jos North.**

A Fulani (Herder woman) said that *"I am anxious to see the day that we will start the program proper because I can't wait to see myself sitting together with the Irigwe (farmers/indigenous people) like we used to do in the past"* - **Sa'adatu Ismail, Dutsen Kura Dong Community, Jos North.**

They agreed to continue to provide space for advocating for women active participation in the peace process in Plateau state.

A weekly radio talk program is to commence by 2022 next year and the management have shown their support at ensuring the program achieves its maximum result.



NETWORK OF NIGERIAN FACILITATORS (NNF)

As part of the **United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325** which affirms that sustainable peace and security is more achievable where women form part of the planning, decision-making and implementation of programs related to preventing violent conflict, relief delivery and recovery, the Network of Nigerian Facilitators (NFF) in Plateau state under the P4P Project introduced the **Women Inter-Communal Peace Exchange program**. Target communities were Riyom and Jos North with carefully selected female members of these communities to serve as champions forming a Women Inter-Communal Peace Exchange program. The project planning meeting took place on the 26th of November 2021 with the coordinators of the project, Lola Raji and Nantip Joseph to review all documents connected to the project and strategic advocacy planning for the projects first phase.

The project had an advocacy approach and was designed to get the support of critical stakeholders working in and around peacebuilding and conflict prevention, as well as women organizations, the Local Government Council, Traditional Rulers and Religious Leaders in the Local Government Area. Also very important in this regard is the buy-in of the **Plateau Peace Building Agency (PPBA)** which is a dedicated institutional framework of the state government for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The Ministry of Women Affairs, International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), as well as the buy-in of the various security agencies that would participate in the dialogue process. This would assist in creating a local structure for peace and security with the buy-in of relevant stakeholders thereby creating a sense of belonging and ownership which would go a long way in terms of sustainability of the platform. Visitations to the Director General of the Plateau Peace

Building Agency, Mr Joseph Lengmang who was represented by the Director of Program, Mr Godwin Okoko. The Director, was glad to receive the team and was happy that the Women Inter-Communal Peace Exchange Program was targeted at women. He stated that, "the Plateau Peace Building Agency (PPBA) through the project to meet up with their expectations in bridging the gender gap, therefore this would be an opportunity for them to capitalise on towards engaging women".

The Plateau Peace Building Agency pledged their full support to the project and are willing to provide capacity building resources that would be of importance to the success of the project. The Network of Nigerian Facilitators have had good relationships with key peacebuilding stakeholders in Riyom and Jos North over the years and would further be leveraging on that towards reaching out to these stakeholders at the Local Government and Community level. In order to properly flag off the project which took off on the 10th of December, 2021 stakeholders from Riyom, Jos North and the Plateau Peace Building Agency came together to give an overview of the project and began the process which will lead to an effective dialogue process. An observation from the dialogue proceeding shown that many times the Local Government Secretariat women were often excluded from policy matters at both the Local Government and Community levels. This would be addressed moving forward to carry all parties along. The project team will further reach out again to security actors and the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) towards continuous dialogue at the community levels. The NNF also welcomed Muryar Fulani who are colleagues on the P4P project and hoped that at some point, the NNF and Muryar Fulani would synergize to further increase the impact of the P4P project in Plateau state.

