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PEACE BREEDERS

System and Structure Strengthening Approach Against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism (SARVE III PROJECT)

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PHOTO CAPTION:

Women Safe Space (WPS) members of Galadanchi community in Gwale LGA of Kano state.



Peace Club Members at Government Girls Senior Arabic Secondary School, Tudun Murtala, Kano State.

WHAT'S NEW

1

In the period under review, ActionAid Nigeria's System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism (SARVE III) Project with funding from GCERF disseminated the Interfaith Dialogue Guide Towards Prevention of Violent Extremism: Christian and Islamic Perspective with faithfuls and stakeholders at different levels in attendance.

2

The SARVE III team led by Ene Obi, ActionAid Nigeria's Country Director visited the Emir of Kano who gave his word of blessing and pledged his commitment and dedication to SARVE III's cause.

3

In the quest to mitigate youth vulnerability, ActionAid Nigeria's System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism (SARVE III) Project established Peace Clubs in secondary schools in Kano state. This led to the inclusion of Peace Club into the secondary school curriculum by the Kano State Government.

4

Also, the Community Action and Response Team (CART) attained giant stride in its swift response in managing community crisis. The women safe spaces and radio listening groups continued it good records and reformation, pulling down extremists' barriers and providing financial freedom for her members.

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WOMEN SAFE SPACE: A Panacea to Peaceful Coexistence

Gladanchi community in Gwale LGA of Kano state is situated within the metropolis. It used to be faced with thuggery, illicit use of drugs and phone snatching especially during durbar festival or Eid celebrations. If there was any breach in security and the Police is notified, before they arrived the scene of the incident, the culprit had escaped.

Interestingly, the System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism (SARVE III) Project launched their presence in the community, sensitising members of the community on different strategies and how to collaborate with the local vigilante and security agencies on peaceful coexistence. This led to a seamless collaboration with the vigilante groups and when any culprit is apprehended, he or she is handed over to the police. With this development, every woman now moves about without fear of being a victim to violent activities.

It is also worthy to mention that the women safe space (WSS) program introduced by ActionAid

Nigeria and Dispute Resolution and Development Initiative through the SARVE III Project has helped in changing so many things for the Women in Gwale Community. Women are beginning to be at peace with themselves which is helping them understand their children better and how to build stronger relationships with them.

They only ask for support if the task is beyond them, and this has reduced the prevalence of physical abuse in their homes.

Husseini during her interview with ActionAid Nigeria SARVE III team, said she sees the safe space program as a new dispensation which was brought to them by ActionAid and DAG through the SARVE III project to include women in peace building, seeking for the best ways to proffer solution to women on issues that are bothering them. *“Through this safe space, we discuss so many issues and get answers to our questions in a space that is confidential and safe. We have bonded and built very strong connections”* **Husseini reaffirmed.**



Gwarzo LGA Women Safe Space members during an interactive session.



L-R, Dr. Muhammad Mustapha Yahaya, ED DRDI-DAG, Kano State, Ene Obi, ActionAid Nigeria's Country Director, Suwaiba Muhammad Dankabo, Director of Programmes, ActionAid Nigeria, David Habba, Manager, Humanitarian and Resilience, ActionAid Nigeria during a courtesy visit to the Emir of Kano.

ROYAL BLESSINGS:

Emir of Kano Affirms His Commitment with SARVE III to Foster Peace

In an opulent palace adorned with vibrant cultural treasures. The team led by the resilient and passionate Country Director, Ene Obi found themselves standing on hallowed ground.

The air hummed with anticipation as they presented the SARVE III vision to the revered Emir.

The Emir, known for his unwavering commitment to progress and social development, listened intently. His eyes mirrored a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the community he so passionately served.

With an unwavering conviction, he welcomed the team and pledged his commitment and dedication to SARVE III's course. In his words, he said:

The palace is your home. At any point in time, you

want to come, feel free, you're always welcome because we know you are bringing positive elements into the society. We are happy receiving you today and I am giving you the assurance that the palace will always be there for you as an adviser, guardian. I wish you well, I pray you succeed.

Through the power of unity and collaboration with the Emir's endorsement we believe that the SARVE III project will soar to new heights and the communities in Kano state will feel the winds of change as the project's noble objectives found a fertile ground to blossom.

The royal blessings showcase the remarkable potential that tradition can embrace progress, and influential figures can as well dedicate themselves to the betterment of their communities.



Ruth Danjuma, Women Leader and Safe Space Facilitator, Marmara Damishi, Chikun L.G.A

EMPOWERED TO LEAD FOR PEACE

“

As you can see, people are passing and greeting me because they know I am their leader but before now, I did not have such platform.

- Ruth Danjuma, Women Leader and Safe Space Facilitator, Marmara Damishi, Chikun L.G.A

”

Ruth was just an ordinary woman in the community who was quite introverted before SARVEIII launched its presence in Marmara Damishi community, Chikun L.G.A of Kaduna state. Her excitement knew no bound when the SARVE III team visited her community during the decentralised 2023 Women conference. According to Ruth, she said she is now a leader that people always want to identify with, and has learnt a lot, understands her rights as a woman and now outgoing.

In appreciation, she boasted of how the SARVE III project has helped the women in her community achieve a lot. “We now know our rights and the

need to live peacefully. She gave an example of one of her colleagues who was prohibited by her husband from attending political functions because he did not understand equality and felt she was being wayward. After the sensitisation from AAN and Global Peace Development, through the radio listening circles and Women safe space, she and her husband now understand Women Rights better.

Ruth believes that even when the project ends, the cooperative and the learning circles should continue and hopes to be a governor someday in her state.

MITIGATING YOUTH'S VULNERABILITY THROUGH PEACE CLUB

A tale to replication and adoption of peace club by kano state government.

“

There use to be brutal fight between senior and junior student in Bichi Education Foundation, but after the establishment of peace club in the school, senior and junior student have been living peacefully. **Khalid Hussein**

”

Khalid Hussein Expressed his happiness due to the establishment of peace club in Bichi Educational Foundation Secondary School, Bichi, which is an instructive extracurricular for students to inculcate peace culture, promote social cohesion, guidance and deter debauchery habits that leads to violent extremism.

36 Peace Clubs were established across secondary schools in SARVE III intervention communities that are contributing to the psychosocial and emotional healing from pains that dehumanizes girls and boys to withdraw and avoid society engagements premised on exclusion and cultural impunity. Blocking exclusion and promoting inclusive empowerment

in our target communities will foster inclusive engagement, knowledge enhancement, and would in-turn contribute to mitigate radicalization and violent extremism through collaborative learning and constructive social change among boys and girls necessitated to adopt education as means to prevent violent extremism.

It is on the glaring success that Kano state government adopted and replicated Peace club across all the schools in the state.

“Peace club has sharpened my mind and led me to embrace tolerance and understand diversity”.

Hauwa Hafsat Abubakar from Government Girls Secondary School, Tudun Wada.



Hauwa Hafsat Abubakar, facilitating a Peace Club session at Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Tudun Wada, Kano State.



Timothy Emmanuel, a SARVE III radio listening member of Gama LGA, Kaduna State.

A CHANGE OF PERCEPTION

Through SARVE III the radio listening session

Timothy Emmanuel, a SARVE III radio listening member of Gama LGA, Kaduna State, narrated his translation from his previous acts of drug abuse.

“

I used to smoke and take hard drugs in the jungle and start thinking about how to steal and cause trouble. This was as a result of idleness and my perception towards life as I saw it as a form of being happy.

- Timothy Emmanuel

”

I heard about the radio listening session and attended with the aim of catching fun. The radio session changed my perception toward life because I thought the easiest way to make money was to steal and the way to be happy was to smoke. Now I am into iron bending and fabrication. I am genuinely happy with what I am doing now, and I have invited my friends to the radio listening session which usually holds every Thursday so that they can have a change in perception.

**Thank you ActionAid,
Thank you, SARVE III,
Thank you, GCERF.**



Media participants during the 2-day media master class on preventing and countering violent extremism held in Kaduna State, Nigeria

BUILDING SOCIAL COHESION: A Catalyst for Peace

ActionAid Nigeria CSP emphasises building the media’s capacity to understand relevant development issues to improve the quality of reportage and media engagement on such topics. We also recognise that the media are the primary machinery for promoting social cohesion and conflict (Curran et al. 1996). Given this, a 2-day Media Masterclass on Preventing and

Countering Violent Extremism was conceptualised with the theme, Strengthening Media Capacity as Catalyst for Social Cohesion. The training also strengthened the capacity of twenty-eight (28) media professionals from Kano and Kaduna states to shape society positively and prevent pre- and post-election violence.

“

The training helped me during the election period as I took more time to peruse the Electoral Act 2022, which allowed me better approach my interaction with my guests and political analysts during and after the electioneering period. – Oche, Wazobia FM, Kano State



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ActionAid Nigeria's Social Mobilisation Manager, Adewale Adeduntan, and Dr. Rukkaya Aliyu of Bayero University, Kano also led discussions around Understanding and Reporting on Social Issues and Conflict Sensitive Reporting: Skills and Methodologies in Reporting in Conflict Prone Environments, respectively.

Within the first, second, and the current third phase of the System and Structure Strengthening Approach Against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism (SARVE I, II, III), funded by the Global Community Engagement

and Resilience Fund (GCERF), ActionAid Nigeria trained a total of 151 mid and high-level media professionals from Kogi, Nasarawa, Kano and Kaduna states on preventing violent extremism through conflict-sensitive reportage, social cohesion, and counternarratives. The trained Journalists are part of Journalist Against Violent Extremism (JAVE), supporting AAN's effort through the project to promote peace and social cohesion.

The experience-sharing session revealed to participants that media reports must be accurate, impartial, fair, objective, and responsible, not to cause conflict. Also, Journalists must stop labeling, profiling, and using stereotypes but should apply survival centered approach to reporting. Participants developed and circulated a communique at the end of the training. One of the recommendations was for Journalists to have good knowledge of the Electoral Act to enable seamless coverage of the general elections.

ActionAid Nigeria facilitated the training with the Global Peace Development and Dispute Resolution and Development Initiative.

SIGNING OF PEACE ACCORD

and its Implication to a Non-violent Election in Kaduna State

The meeting of the top echelon comprising political parties, candidates and their teeming supporters was convened to collectively support state's political stakeholders to pursue their ambitions without recourse to provocation, intimidation, incitement, and other negative tendencies that may lead to the disturbance of public peace and social order targeted at addressing issues that pose a threat to peace and security thus ensuring accountability speech by politicians while dwelling on the theme of the day – building consensus and mobilizing collective action for peaceful 2023 general elections in Kaduna State.

By the gathering of political actors to witness the signing of the Peace Accord in preparation to the 2023 general elections, critical stakeholders could proudly say Kaduna State was once again asserting its leadership position in the country and demonstrating the unwavering commitment of its citizens towards

peaceful and harmonious coexistence.

Series of engagements with political parties and their supporters, religious and traditional leaders, security personnel, media and citizens of Kaduna state were engaged with to create awareness and provide capacities. This ensured peaceful campaigns and elections which could be achieved only when all commit to peaceful conduct and agree that no one would carry out any acts of intimidation and provocation capable of undermining peace and social order.

Elections were conducted and semblance of peaceful co-existence was seen across most of the communities in the state. More so, that democracy only thrives in atmosphere of peace and social tranquility. Political parties, candidates, supporters, and the citizens can only exercise their free choice and franchise when law and order prevail.



Group photograph of participant at the launch of the inter-religious dialogue manual in Kano State, Nigeria.

INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE:

A key to enhancing tolerance and promoting peaceful coexistence.

Religion today in Nigeria has become a tool or weapon for provoking violence because of the views about religious obligation.

Hence, actions of religious bigots have resorted to violence which contradicts both the religious and cultural principles which the society is known for.

This led ActionAid Nigeria's System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism (SARVE III) Project with funding from Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund

(GCERF) to launch an Interfaith Dialogue Guide Towards Prevention of Violent Extremism: Christian and Islamic Perspective. This seeks to contribute towards building just, equitable, peaceful and tolerant societies, empowering religious leaders as agents of change and peace ambassadors.

ActionAid Nigeria implements the SARVE III project in Kaduna and Kano in partnership with Global Peace Development (GPD) and Dispute Resolution and Development Initiative (DRDI - DAG).

PEACE AMBASSADORS SPOTLIGHT.

“

I received information from one of my CART member that an unknown person was threatening to kill a community member if he did not give him certain amount of money. We intervened the case and asked the person not pay anything and fortunately, CART were able to trace the suspect and arrested him.

Alh. Kabiru Alhassan Yaryasa Community

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“

Before I attended the CART training, I did not know how to advocate on behalf of my community. This training provided me with Tips to advocate better for my community

Usama A Auwal Danzabuwa Community.

“

Through the women safe spaces, I have learnt some techniques to resolve conflict in my community and address family disputes.

Maryam Yusuf Nuhu Gwarzo Community

“

I learnt much about advocacy and how to resolve conflict in my society. And I will be taking all what I learnt to my community to apply it for a better and positive changes. Furthermore, I will join hand together with all stakeholders to help our community to move forward

Ali Malam Bichi Community.

“

I wrote a memo on causes of violence before, during and after election in Nigeria and measures to be taken in order to prevent it and disseminate it to all security personnel in Gwarzo LGA update them about the current security situation in the area after 2023 presidential election before the governorship election

Alhaji Hamisu Halilu Gwarzo

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SARVE III

PROJECT SUMMARY

Following successes recorded in the first (SARVE I) and second (SARVE II) phases of the project in Kogi and Nasarawa states respectively as well as current trends in the Northwest region of the country, ActionAid Nigeria has received more funding from the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) to continue the implementation of the third (3rd) phase of the SARVE project in partnership with Democratic Action Group (DAG) in Kano and Global Peace Development (GPD) in Kaduna states. SARVE III will raise awareness on the dangers of violent extremism, develop new and nurture existing effective response systems, promote peaceful coexistence, encourage shared positive alternative narratives, and build social cohesion among vulnerable groups. This will be achieved by empowering communities to identify threats and signs of violent extremism, peacebuilding initiatives, conflict resolution systems, platforms for intercommunal dialogue, and advocacy


SARVE III project aims to reach 36,000 direct (18,200 youths (12,600 male and 5,600 female), 4,160 women; 7320 men and 6,320 in-school children (3,160 male and 3,160 female) and 129,360 indirect beneficiaries (40,200 female and 89,160 male) by supporting the 24 benefitting communities across 12 Local Government Areas (LGAs) against injustice and inequalities through building tolerance as well as strengthening community agencies where violent extremists exploit.


System and Structure Strengthening Approach
against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism Project,
SARVE I and II are proudly funded by



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