



COFP

Fellowship Program

2023

YEARBOOK

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COFP

Fellowship Program

2018-2023

2022/2023 COFP Fellowship Program
Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation & Mediation

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FOREWORD

The effort to build a continent that is peaceful, inclusive and progressive is the dream and desire of every African man and woman especially as the most local violent conflicts in Africa have ethnoreligious, communal and political ties. Hence, building peace in deeply divided societies like Africa is a bumpy ride that we must not be afraid to venture into. Managing communal conflicts that guarantees safety and human development requires a lot not only from the government but the citizens also.

The encounter between Pope Francis and the Grand Sheikh Ahmad Al Tayeb of Al Azhar, and the outcome of that encounter in terms of joint statements on human fraternity, and the establishment of a joint council for the same purpose have given hope that together, we can surmount the challenges of our diversities and come up with a more robust society that cares and protects the rights of every citizen.

COFP Foundation has toured this path in the last five years by providing the platform for religious leaders and peace actors to buy into the business of promoting peace and security through our annual COFP Fellowship Program which recognizes the important contributions of people of all culture, religions and beliefs, with emphasis on building common grounds for peace through our understanding of the values shared by all mankind. Since government at the United Nations have seen the need to work with faith communities in building sustainable peace, government in Africa must consider engaging and mobilizing actively, civil society actors, faith-based groups as well as the traditional institutions in advancing peace and security for human development.

I wish to heartily congratulate the Fifth Set of COFP Fellows for their commitment and dedication through the one-year Fellowship program. With the one-year Fellowship Program in Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation, these 63 COFP Fellows who came together from all corners of Nigeria and African are now equipped and set for the task ahead of them. They have been empowered, strengthened and positioned to engage in a more meaningful interfaith, intercultural and peacebuilding actions that will open up for development and peaceful societies across Africa. They have also discovered the force for inter-faith action, in a sacred coalition against violent extremism in the name of God.

They can henceforth be addressed as peacebuilders. Therefore, I challenge them all to use their newfound knowledge, skills, talents and the networks that they have built over the past one year for the common good and peace in our continent of Africa. A lot needs to be done, but we must start somewhere. Challenges and obstacles will come but don't forget that you have been equipped to overcome them with the help of God. Your greatest task therefore, is to take on the project of building a culture of peace and harmonious society wherever you find yourself. We also welcome the COFP Alumni Fellows (CANEP Africa) who are here to witness the graduation of their successors and to familiarize with them for the greater task of community building ahead of them.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the GHR Foundation, the Conrad Hilton Foundation, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), MM, Veritas University of Nigeria, Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution (IPCR), Nile University of Nigeria (NUN), Islamic Education Trust (IET) and other partners for their donations and contributions which has enabled us to continue with this life changing program thus far. We are still counting on your individual, organization and government partnership for the sustenance of the program. Let us not forget that alone we can move fast but together, we can go far.

May the Almighty and Merciful God grant us the peace that we so greatly need. Amen

+John Cardinal Onaiyekan (CON)

President and Chairman, COFP Foundation &
The Cardinal Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja

Mandate

To provide the platform for inspiring and equipping grassroots leaders to work together genuinely in building their own solutions for social change & common humanity

Approach

Addressing issues of violence and social injustice nonviolently by building network of community peacebuilders, promote leadership ethos and encourage interfaith/intercultural cooperation.

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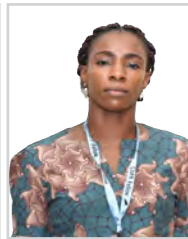
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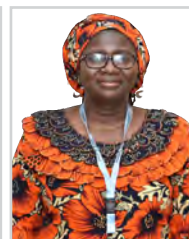
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ABOUT COFP FOUNDATION

Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) is a non-governmental organization with the mandate to provide a platform for building and strengthening the processes of peace and social change in Nigeria and Africa at large.

Established in 2010 by John Cardinal Onaiyekan, one of Nigeria's most respected faith leaders and a passionate advocate for religious tolerance and inclusiveness, the Foundation recognizes that most conflicts in Africa (despite their ethno-religious colorations) are symptoms of deeper structural problems arising from all manners of exclusion- religious, ethnic, political, economic, gendered- that can only be adequately resolved through governance structures that are both ethical and just.

COFP therefore strives to address these challenges by, among other things, promoting ethical leadership, offering a space for faith leaders, citizens and political leaders at all levels to engage in discussions for peace and development. The Foundation also assist in providing conflict parties with critical skills for peacebuilding, conflict management and transformation within their communities.



As a Foundation for inclusive dialogue, and driven by the principle of common good in line with the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church, the guiding point of reference for COFP is the *Nostra Aetate* Declaration of the Second Vatican Council on Interreligious Dialogue and Sustainable Development Goals SDGs (16) on peacebuilding. COFP is also guided by decades of leadership in addressing social injustice, interreligious dialogue and collaboration for peace and resilience of all people.

This is why the Foundation is keen to engage with everyone, particularly marginalized groups- women, youths, children and others on the margins of society- recognizing that peace is a condition for transformative development which all must be involve in. COFPs core programs include Interreligious Dialogue, Peace Education, Governance/Leadership Ethos and Development, Community Engagement, networking with similar groups, among others.

COFP THEMATIC PROGRAM AREAS

Rather than focus all our energy on the barriers, we concentrate on creating more sustainable communities, opportunities and potentials that bring the change that we want to see through our thematic areas:

1. **Build Common Ground for Peace**
2. **Integrating Social Change through Ethical Leadership**
3. **Sustaining Peace for Development**

BUILD COMMON GROUND FOR PEACE

Interfaith cooperation is one of the key essential elements in building sustainable peace in the twenty-first century.

The COFP believes that the role the religious leaders can play in building peace and harmony cannot be underestimated. Building common ground for peace should not just be the responsibility of government but task for every individual and much more, a duty for every religious leader.

Equipping religious/community leaders & actors with peacebuilding skills has become a necessity for countering violent extremism. Fostering peaceful and healthy human development requires changing the narrative for peace which means empowering the people with a mind-set that enhances peaceful co-existence.

The COFP encourages major stakeholders and religious leaders to rise above extreme ideologies and sentiments that leads to violence and sectarian conflicts and work collaboratively to build common ground that would advance peace in a complex society/continent like Africa.

INTEGRATING SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

The duty of every responsible government is service and this is what ethical leadership is all about. Moral and innovative leadership fostered through ethical governance is essential in advancing societal goals for sustainable peace and economic development. COFP provides forums that address concerns and build consensus for community based response to conflict.

Through this forum, the civil society are able to explore new opportunities for collaboration and advance citizen to citizen exchange that promote goodwill, build trust and ensure their voices are heard. The COFP believes that good governance is centered on accountability, fairness, openness, engagement and inclusion which guarantees secure and stable peaceful environment.

SUSTAINING PEACE FOR DEVELOPMENT

There is no doubt that peace is the gateway to a successful and prosperous future. Sustainable peace ensures not only development but inclusive and harmonious society.

The COFP Foundation has advanced a range of initiatives that significantly aimed at sustaining national peace and development.



COFP Fellowship Program: Building Dialogue that Forms the Foundation for Actionable Projects

Building peace in an environment where ethnic strife, bad governance, terrorism and insecurity predominate is both a personal commitment, with organizational efforts and key responsibility of government. The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) has continued to engage faith leaders and community actors across the continent in efforts to bridge divisions by building inclusive societies that enhance peace.

It is certainly true that unless civil society, faith-based and community-based organizations are involved, government efforts alone to bring peace cannot succeed. Therefore, joining forces with other actors to strategically increase citizen participation, strengthen community resilient, ensure

security and create peace narratives against hate speech, mistrust and stereotype remain our priority. This is the reason why building commitment for lasting peace and development has always been the bedrock of our peacebuilding work.

Since its inception in 2018, COFP Fellowship program has presented us with the safe space needed for tackling the challenges of our times especially that of violent extremism by developing relationships in the face of complex set of dynamics. This has inspired us to continue relentlessly in our efforts towards building interfaith relations, strengthening communities and fostering culture of peace.

COFP Fellowship program has come to stay because of its unique role in training, preparing, equipping, empowering, encouraging and engaging leaders and actors to take an active role in communities where they live, always working towards ways to advance reconciliation and peace by assuming civic responsibilities that provide people with opportunities to take part in their own community development. For this reason, COFP Fellowship Program in 2021 took a new dimension by expanding its scope and horizon to other African countries. This has made it a Pan African program with global solidarity.

The journey to 2022/2023 COFP Fellowship Program which is in its 5th year with the Class of 2023 began in July, 2022 with a total number of 63 Fellows. Apart from the Nigerian Fellows who were in the majority, about ten Fellows were drawn from the following countries in Africa: Ghana, Liberia, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda and Chad. These Fellows represent adherents of the following Christian and Muslim sects/denominations within Nigeria and Africa. From the Muslim sects are: Sunni, Shite, NASFAT, Qadiriyyah, Ahmadiyya, and Tijjania, From the Christian faith came Catholic, Baptist, EYN, Orthodox, Presbyterian, Pentecostal Fellowship Mission, Lutheran and Anglican.

Through a tailored, intensive and participatory one-year Fellowship Program, Fellows successfully emerged from the required 150 credit hours of study at Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace and have individually executed their community peace projects in their states and countries. Having fulfilled the necessary requirements for graduation, they will be awarded with Certificates in “Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation” today May 13th 2023 by COFP Foundation through Veritas University of Nigeria (VUNA) and Nile University of Nigeria (NUN), who are partners of COFP in the project. The graduation ceremony for the Fellows automatically qualifies them as members of the COFP Africa Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP) which is a nationwide and now continental scale network that enable Fellows from across the continent to further their interaction, cross cultural learning, peacebuilding joint interventions and experience sharing even after the Fellowship program.

We are confident that the training received in Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation has prepared our Fellows to become Peace Ambassadors. This means that a lot is now expected of them. One of the ways that they can strengthen the efforts to address challenges of today's conflicts, is by putting into action all that they have learnt in the Fellowship Program, understanding that, when it comes to preventing and countering violent extremism, community/ religious leaders & civil group actors have significant role to play.

Building lasting peace requires committed leaders and actors like them who would share more openly lessons learnt and jointly work for peace in their various communities. We sincerely hope that this modest initiative will help to address our urgent need for religious harmony, peaceful coexistence and community development. The time has come to translate dialogue into practical actions. That is what it means to be a COFP Fellow.

May I conclude by paying respect to our hero and colleague – Late Rex-Cyprain Aniah who died in a car accident on his way to supervise Fellow's peace projects four years ago. Rex, your memories are still very fresh in our minds. But we are consoled that this noble task for which you died is growing from strength to strength. Above all, we have faith that you are already resting with the Lord, the rewarder of every good action and the bestower of eternal peace.

Welcome onceagain and God bless you.

Agatha Chikelue SR. DMMM
Executive Director
April 20th, 2023

Our Vision

We are committed to foster lasting peace, harmony and transformative development through social justice, dialogue and resilience building.

Our Mission

We envision a peaceful, cohesive and inclusive society that upholds dignity of human person, good governance and rejects all forms of violence.

Our Goal

Use dialogue to lead community driven social change, build mutual respect, prevent & resolve conflicts, promote good governance and enhance cooperation/development among adherents of different faiths and culture

The COFP Fellowship Program Modules

How It Works

COFP Fellowship Program is a one-year Program that prepares, equips, inspires & engages religious and community leaders from diverse faith & cultural backgrounds, academicians, media personnel, security agents & peace actors across Africa with skills in interfaith dialogue, conflict transformation, leadership and mediation. With its inception in 2018, COFP Fellowship program has to date built the capacity of more than 170 people from 11 African countries in strengthening community resilience for peace & sustainable development.

The COFP Fellowship courses bring together topics that was carefully selected and developed by practitioners and

professional experts in the field. The COFP Fellowship course is made up of three modules which were designed to be studied together. The uniqueness of the program is that it was designed and has continuously been updated based on African context by African scholars and for Africans working in Africa. The program is sub-divided into three modules/sessions which gives Fellows the opportunity to meet quarterly for one week-long in-class in-person training during the one-year program. Before graduation, Fellows will receive a seed grant for implementing a peace project initiated by each one of them in their community.

Upon graduation, University Certificates will be issued on **“Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation”** which automatically launch Fellows into COFP Africa Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP).

Module One

The courses in module one will provide Fellows and their trainers with the opportunity to explore the root causes of war, investigate the relationship between human nature, culture, religion and war.



This session will be a useful avenue within which the discourse of war from Christian and Muslim perspective may be ethically examined in order to explore common grounds for peace.

Module Two

This module explains how training on violent conflict, dialogue negotiation, mediation and training the trainer courses in module two would help Fellows overcome prejudice and extremism; possibly creates common grounds for dialogue and build nonviolent

commitment/approach to addressing the issues of social injustice. Fellows will therefore be instructed to use similar processes in designing their individual projects which they would implement individually or collectively in their respective communities before the commencement of the last training session and graduation.

Implementation of Individual Community Peace Projects Initiated by Fellows

The innovative aspect of the COFP Fellowship Program is that before the end of each Fellowship Program,

Fellows will be asked to design, develop and implement one peace initiative of their choice in any part of Africa. This exercise will enable them to apply skills learnt to a particular issue or challenge. Through this process, Fellows will demonstrate how peace actors can play an integral role in promoting peace, reconciliation and community resilience in the society. They will also, evaluate themselves, identify and consolidate lessons learned for peaceful coexistence





Module Three

This session will further concretize training on conflict early warning and response, leadership skills, community resilience building, social media communication and networking. Evaluating lessons learned during Fellows individual projects will enable them to build a visible and practical action plan that would be translated into their professional career at the end of the Fellowship Program.



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Daniel Mugera Kathuri

Certified Coach & Trainer and an Accredited Counsellor with the Kenya Counsellors and Psychologist Association (KCPA), Nairobi, Kenya.



Daniel Mugera is a Christian from Kenya. He is a Certified Coach, Trainer and speaker, and an accredited counsellor with the Kenya Counsellors and Psychologist Association (KCPA). Daniel holds a MA in Christian Counselling from Landmark Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth Texas, USA.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is not the absence of war. It is possible for people to coexist without being at war but yet not at peace with one another. Peace is deeper than peaceful coexistence and if people have to coexist in peace, they first must experience peace within themselves before they can manifest it outwardly in their personal lives and then in the way they relate with others. I believe through genuine initiatives like the one of COFP, we can impact our continent and experience change.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience.

The COFP Program has equipped and empowered me in the areas of interfaith dialogue, conflict transformation, and alternative dispute resolution through

mediation. This knowledge has brought me to a high level of awareness and understanding of myself and others. The interaction with Fellows from other faiths and Nations around Africa has helped me to learn more and positioned me to believe that I am not alone in my quest to see better Nations and ultimately a better continent. All this has happened courtesy of the COFP Fellowship program and I will recommend it to anyone from Africa who longs to be equipped in this area to become a great Ambassador of peace in the Continent and the World at large.

Biography

✉ danmugera@gmail.com

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Building Resilience and Healing the Wounds of Terror Through the Garissa University Psychosocial Support Program- GUPS Project 2023.



Project Summary

As a result of a terrorist attack by Alshabab radical Muslim terrorists on 2nd April 2015 at Garissa University which killed 147 Christian Students, a major wedge of division was driven among Christians and Muslims at the University. In a bid to be part of the psychosocial healing process seven years after, Daniel carried out his community peace project at Garissa University, Garissa County, North East Kenya,

and invited 33 undergraduates to take part in the 2-day interactive, healing, and insightful interfaith dialogue workshop on the 3rd & 4th of February, 2023. The mental



well-being of the students, the need for peaceful coexistence despite their different religions, and the ability to manage and deal with a generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) in order to help them cope and develop awareness that the attack which occurred was an isolated case and also reach out to and lend recovery support to their peers were some of the aims for the interfaith dialogue workshop.

9 Daniel

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Project Outcome/Impact

By the time the peace project rounded off, the participants had acquired more knowledge and understanding which will help them manage anxieties related to the terrorist attack, and their knowledge of interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence was increased. 20 of the undergraduates indicated that they needed to have individual follow up and that has already begun for them. 14 Female undergraduates made a request to go through intensive training to help them heal on different issues of their past and that is being arranged. A Muslim Female student from a different region of the country shared her experience of all that her family went through before they finally let her school at this University owing to the fact that one of her cousins witnessed the unfortunate incident, however, she testified that after the interfaith dialogue workshop "My knowledge and understanding of generalized anxiety disorder has been deepened."

While some others said, "Such programs should be held regularly to help students learn about the other faith and live with others in peace." "I will use the knowledge I have learned here to help other students learn how to coexist and accept each other and not tolerate each other irrespective of their religion or ethnic differences."



Sumaiya

Abubakar Muhammad

The CEO of Muryar Fulani Peace Initiative Network, Jos, Plateau State.



Sumaiya Abubakar Muhammad is a Muslim from Jos, Plateau State. She is the CEO of Muryar Fulani Peace Initiative Network, Jos, Plateau State & Team Lead Mediation & Dialogue at Plateau Peace Building Agency, Jos. She holds a Master's in Religion & Philosophy from the University of Jos.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace to my school of thought means the absence of fear and the presence of tranquillity and a sound environment. It is devoid of race, status, religious beliefs, or political affiliation. Peace is a complete package of serenity and understanding.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience with COFP has been an eye-opener, coming from a volatile community and a minority group, the experience is overwhelming and it has given me hope that peace and development will be back in my community. I have networked with a lot of people and also added to my body of knowledge.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Capacity building training for Community youths and leaders on Interfaith Dialogue and Confidence building.



Project Summary

This joint project with Farouk Musa was a 2-day program that was held on the 17th & 18th of January, 2023, during which 24 youths of both the Islamic and Christian religions and 6 community leaders were equipped with knowledge on interfaith dialogue. There was a follow-up sensitization in Miango community market square on the need for the community to live in peace.



Project Outcome/Impact

The project brought back the lost trust and confidence as during and after the peace project, the Miango community which is divided along ethnic lines reconciled and agreed to form committees and networks for communications and programming.

Mba Paschal

Lecturer, Veritas University, Abuja.



Mba Pascal is a Catholic religious of the Holy Family Sisters of the needy, Bwari, FCT. She hails from Enugu State and lectures in the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management Sciences, Veritas University, Abuja.

My Reflection on Peace

For me, peace is a must-do task. It is the ability of the individual to be selfless, accommodate and accept the other person. It is an essential ingredient for peaceful coexistence. Peace is progress, it is development, it is growth. It is important to note however that there can never be lasting peace without love, justice, and fair play. So, we must at all times, give peace a chance.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience.

Sincerely speaking, so far so good. It has been very educative expository, engaging, entertaining, and uniting. If possible, I will recommend this program to all Consecrated Catholic religious persons if I have the capacity to do so. It will even foster peace in our religious communities. It is a wonderful program. The experience was quite worthwhile.

Biography

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: 1-day Skill Acquisition & Empowerment Program for women

✉ npaschalmba@gmail.com

Project Summary

The one-day skill acquisition and empowerment program which took place at Bwari Area Council of FCT on 11th February 2023 benefitted 25 women. The aim of this project was to empower these women to be self-reliant and fend for themselves. They were taught skills in the production of liquid soaps, chin-chin, and eggrolls. This was to ensure that these women would be able to put food on their various tables and take care of those that also depended on them. All the beneficiaries received starter kits to facilitate the smooth take-off of their businesses, 2 of them got sewing machines, while others got either chemical for Liquid soap or tools and equipment for pastries.





Project Outcome/Impact

Immediately after the conclusion of this project, the beneficiaries that were empowered with various skills began production at different levels. The woman that desired to and was empowered to sell 'Kuli-Kuli', a local delicacy started marketing her wares from the venue of the empowerment workshop. Even, the seamstresses though they do not have shops were not discouraged. They collect their customers' fabric and sew them in their homes, hoping to earn enough money soon to rent shops of their own. These women(beneficiaries) who lacked means of sustenance and could not provide for their families now feel more accepted and valued as they contribute towards the upkeep of their families.

Muhammad Idris Kolo

Broadcast Journalist, Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria



Muhammad Idris Kolo is a Muslim from Niger State. He is a graduate of Mass Communication from Ibrahim Babangida University, Lapai, Niger State. He works with the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria as a broadcast journalist. Idris is an advocate for peace, good governance, and socio-economic-political development.

My Reflection on Peace.

For me, peace is Justice, fairness, equity, respect, love, and the right to the basic needs of life and humanity.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

The window for sharing experiences and thoughts or ideas widened my concept of promoting peaceful coexistence wherever I find myself. I made new friends. The interactions with COFP officials and the other Fellows have been awesome and in them all, I find home and family.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: The peace message (Radio Program) Doko Peace Walk.

Biography



✉ write2idris@gmail.com

Project Summary

It was a one-day peace talk with about 200 participants/ Radio audience held on 26th January 2023. The Peace message was aired for three months. It was aired by Doko/Radio Nigeria Power Fm 100.5 Bida.

Project Outcome/Impact

People came together for the Doko peace walk irrespective of status, age, gender, religion, ethnicity, and political affiliation. We interacted with and received the blessings and prayers of the Community Leader (Etsu Dazhi Doko) and the religious leaders in the community. The parting message was that we should put humanity first and shun violence of any sort, especially with the 2023 General elections around the corner. Above all, as a result of Idris's radio peace program, some organizations like the Dawah Institute of West Africa (DIWA) approached him for partnership in order to sustain the radio peace initiative.



Joyce

Abwe Nzelle



Human Resource Officer Volunteer at the Center for Peace and Research Initiative (CAMPEACI), Yaounde, Cameroon.

Joyce is a Christian and a Cameroonian. She holds an MBA in Human Resource Management from the University of Kigali, Rwanda, and is a Licenced Professional in Communications and Public Relations from Institut Universitaire Siantou Yaounde, Cameroon.

My Reflection on Peace

I see peace as having compassion for others; living life selflessly, treating others with respect, and accommodating other people despite their religion, ethnicity, race, skin colour, or language.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Before joining the COFP Fellowship program, I had a lot of misconceptions about other religions, especially Islam. With all the teachings from the course experts I received, I have a clearer understanding of the Religion and relate better with my brothers and sisters of the Islamic Faith. Also, the program has helped me a lot with public speaking. It has been a delight meeting people from diverse cultures and different walks of life, networking, and learning other social skills.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: A Two-Day Women's Interfaith Dialogue For Peace In Cameroon And Support To Economic Empowerment To Selected Female IDPs In Yaounde-Cameroon

Project Summary

When you empower women there is a greater chance that the family is on its way to better Living standards. Joyce took this route for her 11 participants in her 2-day Skills Acquisition/Empowerment and interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop held on the 17th & 18th of February, 2023 at Odza Messamendongo in Yaounde Cameroon. First of all, her participants took part in the interfaith dialogue roundtable discussions and on the second day were trained on reusable pads production, all-purpose liquid soap, puff-puff, and the process of healthy Juices. The main objectives of this project were to strengthen the involvement of women in the search for lasting peace solutions, facilitate skill training for selected groups of internally displaced women and girls for economic empowerment and secure minimal start-up capital for select and trained groups of women and girls.



Project Outcome/Impact

First and foremost, this dialogue created a platform for grassroots women to share their experiences and talk about their hurts and the loved ones they lost to the ongoing crises. Most of them talked of finding it difficult to forgive before the program but after all, they were taught, they realized that forgiveness was an important step to their healing. Secondly, Social ties were created during this program, women who had the same stories or left the same areas bonded easily and networked. Also, the creation of a common initiative group created an avenue for continuous socialization among them. Finally, The Internally Displaced Persons (IDP -5 Girls and 6 women) that participated in the program were economically empowered through skill acquisition and token start-up capital.



Agbo Hadiza Abigail

Medical Consultant & Professor of Reproductive and Child Health
Department of Community Medicine, Jos University Teaching
Hospital and University of Jos respectively.



Agbo Hadiza Abigail is a Christian from Gombe State. She is a Medical Consultant and Professor of the Reproductive and Child Health Department of Community Medicine, at Jos University Teaching Hospital. She holds MBBS from the University of Jos.

My Reflection on Peace.

I understand peace as more of an innermost virtue that brings about a genuine rest of mind, enhances better health, and promotes development in all ramifications of life. Peace extends outwards when the inner mind is at rest with itself (which will not be the case in situations of mere absence of war or cases of false/deceptive peace), it extends uncontrollably to the environment which includes people and other living creatures around an individual. I also understand that PEACE should not be assumed to take place automatically even when the population is homogenous, rather it should always be pursued, nurtured, and preached.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience.

It is difficult to put all I learned, or understood into writing. It was an experience that changed my negative perspectives to the positive in many things about life and relationship with other people. The program was detailed, and the resource persons were all unique in their own way, impacting knowledge with so much zeal and grassroots understanding of their subject. The welfare was near perfect (good accommodation and meals). Dedicated staff and above all a good seed fund for the project which I did not expect considering the economic meltdown. I pray that the Fellows nurture and support their projects so that all the efforts of the Foundation geared at Peacebuilding shall not go in vain, Amen.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project.

Project Title: Peace Club School Initiative as a veritable Tool to Enhancing Peaceful Coexistence.

Project Summary

In order to educate pupils on peaceful coexistence and to establish peace clubs in select schools as a pilot study, Agbo Hadiza on the 13th of February, 2023, invited 1200 pupils of both the Islamic and Christian religions, from three different Government, Private, and Faith-based schools in Jos North LGA. to participate in the 1-day workshop. The aim of the workshop was to educate the pupils' young minds on the need for peaceful coexistence so that right from their childhood they will begin to understand that there should be no need to discriminate among themselves because of their religious or ethnic inclinations. Posters and banners were printed and gifted as souvenirs to the participating Pupils and schools.





Project Outcome/Impact

After the event, many of the pupils expressed their gratitude and promised to apply all they have been taught during the workshop, also, most of the Parents of the participants called over the phone to express their gratitude. Already, 2 out of the 3 schools that participated in the workshop have established Peace Clubs in their schools and are looking forward to the gains in the lives of the pupils.

Salifu

Abdul- Mumin Dalhu

Islamic Scholar, Traditional Ruler and Chief of the Zongo community in Tamale and also the Chief Imam of the AhlulBait (AS) community in Northern Region, Ghana.



Salifu Abdul-Mumin Dalhu is a Muslim from Tamale, Ghana. He is not only an Islamic Scholar but also a Traditional Ruler and Chief of the Zongo community in Tamale, Northern Region, Ghana. His missionary activities include teaching, training propagators, healing spiritually, and officiating as Chief Imam of the Ahlul-Bait (AS) community, in Northern Ghana. He studied Islamic Sciences and Arabic at Imam Hussain University Karachi, Pakistan.

My Reflection on peace.

Peace to me refers to the absence of any kind of war or disturbance within a person or a society. It is therefore a state of feeling and wanting for others what you feel and want for yourself. The Holy Prophet (S) of Islam said "You cannot be a complete believer until you love for others what you love for yourself." Therefore, a person who wants peace must first give peace to his neighbour and then receive his. In other words, peace means living in harmony with your creator, your neighbour, and yourself. So therefore, peace is the basic factor in every aspect of life reflecting understanding, love, and care for all.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Before partaking in the program my perception about other religions other than Islam was very narrow and sceptical. However, my experience in this noble Fellowship program has positively changed particularly in interfaith dialogue, peacebuilding, peaceful coexistence, unity in diversity, and religious similarities. Equally, I have benefitted from the understanding of the effect of a single story and a balanced story taught us in the Fellowship program. Above all, as a Muslim given the chance to be a COFP Fellow, indirectly, I was taught to love, tolerate all, and hate none. This indeed is so dear and touching to my life.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project.

Project Title: Sensitization on Peaceful Coexistence.

Project Summary

The peace education on sensitization on peaceful coexistence was held in Tamale, Northern Ghana on 26th January 2023. The aim of the program was to create awareness and also to remind the people especially the northern region and Ghana at large of the importance of the peace currently enjoyed, and the need to maintain, consolidate and sustain it. Overall, 60 people participated in the 1-day program.



Project Outcome/Impact

In Tamale, Political Youth camps in the community are antagonistic toward one another. Fortunately, this community peace project enlightened the youths on the need for peaceful coexistence and made them appreciate the concept of peace. As a result, the youths developed intercultural and political understanding among themselves. The project brought them together and they have started seeing one another as one, so much so that we have occasions where they paid each other visits after the implementation of the peace project in the community.



Gogwim Caroline

A Pastoral Worker and Mistress Formator of Aspirants for the Augustinian Sisters in Jalingo, Taraba state



Gogwim Caroline is a Religious Sister of the Augustinian Sisters of the Mercy of Jesus. She hails from Plateau State, and currently, works in Jalingo, Taraba State. A Pastoral worker by profession and a Mistress Formator for Aspirants into the Augustinian Sisters' religious life. She obtained a Diploma in Business Administration from Plateau State Polytechnic.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is beautiful, it is simply non-negotiable and must be sought at all costs. I seek and treasure peace daily in my life. I do not compromise peace with violence. The absence of peace leads to chaos in the community, which could result to set back and destruction. The bedrock of justice, equity, and protection of human rights is ultimately the recipe for peace, thereby leading to sustainable peace and development of people in the country and the world at large.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience.

I thank God Almighty for giving me the privilege to participate in COFP Fellowship program. It has been a wonderful experience for me. Without a doubt, it was an enriching, educative, and very impactful experience. This program has really exposed me to know more about the Islamic religion. Before now, I had a different idea about Islam. This program gave me hope that we can still live together as children of the same father, even though we have differences that are normal in every human person. The program has taught me that our differences should not cause division or fighting but should make us understand one another better in order for us to live together as one family.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project.

Project Title: The Need for Peaceful Co-Existence Among Women in Jalingo and Ardo-Kola Local Government Areas of Taraba State.



Project Summary

Sr. Carolines's Skill acquisition, empowerment, and Peacebuilding workshop was held in Jalingo, Taraba State on the 26th & 27th of January, 2023. The two-day program attracted 45 participants of which 25 were beneficiaries of the empowerment tools. All the women were trained on the production of basic household disinfectants, liquid soap, room fresheners, cake baking, and donuts. At the end of the workshop which aimed to build trust and provide an enabling environment for peaceful co-existence

among Muslim and Christian women in Jalingo North and Ardo-kola Local Government of Taraba State while sensitizing them to see the need for girl-child education, in addition, to seeking ways to improve their entrepreneurial skills for self-sustainability in their family and the environs thereby reducing or eradicating abject poverty and illiteracy from the society, 25 of them were given empowerment starter kits ranging from sewing machines, local ovens, and baking materials to chemicals for domestic disinfectants and liquid soaps.





Project Outcome/Impact

The Community Peace Project was very impactful to the women, in the course of sensitization carried out before the commencement of the community peace project, it was obvious from the joyful looks on their faces that these women have been waiting for a forum like this to express their feelings, and during the implementation, they showed a willingness to co-operate and work towards ending the conflict that had torn their communities apart. The beneficiaries have since started production and sales of their products and have been remitting some money to their women leaders to help in empowering more women so that together they can continue to help one another irrespective of their religious affiliations.

Kadabiyu Dimga Jones

Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) ShallHolma Diocese, Gombi Adamawa state.



Kadabiyu dimga Jones is the Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) Shall-Holma Diocese, Gombi, Adamawa State. He obtained a Master's in Theology from TCNN, Bukuru, Jos.

My Reflection on Peace

The Advanced Learners Dictionary defines peace as: - "A situation or period of time in which there is no war or violence in a country or a given area. The State of being calm or quiet. The state of living in friendship with somebody without arguing". The word peace is the opposite of other words like-contention, fight, struggle, argument, disagreement, disturbance, conflict, etc. When there is a lack of peace, there are always remote and immediate causes of that and there must be found a solution to those causes for peace to exist.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

So far, the Fellowship program has changed my way of thinking about inter-religious dialogue, Conflict transformation, and meditation and the way I perceived other faiths and ethnic groups. What changed my mind and how I view people as I started attending the COFP Fellowship program was the

video clip on the "danger of a single story". Before I was ignorant and judgmental in dealing with other religious and ethnic groups, the single story always 'rubbed off my identity'. Through my participation in the first and second modules of the COFP Fellowship program, I have changed my views and I realized that change begins with me in dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project.

Project Title: Inter-Religious and Ethnic Dialogue: Panacea for Peaceful Coexistence and Economic Development in Gombi LGA.

Project Summary

Gombi Local Government Area of Adamawa State is made up of many ethnic groups and has two major religions (Christianity and Islam). The adherents of these religions for one reason or the other sometimes experience conflicts, that is, the component ethnic and religious groups in the LGA do not live together in harmony with one another. The conflict could either be a result of religious, ethnic, or farmers-herders misunderstanding which breach the peace of the community. Bearing this in mind, Fellow Jones organized his peace project with high hopes of making it a pathfinder for peaceful coexistence and economic development in the State. The 1-day interfaith Peacebuilding workshop which had 64 participants was held in Gombi, Adamawa State on the 2nd of January, 2023.



Project Outcome

After the workshop, the Participants expressed their gratitude and timeliness of the peace project in their community, they equally showed their willingness to cascade their learning to the youths in a bid to foster harmonious living among all the members of the community.



Godwin

Ebokhasomi Perpetua

Vice President of the Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria (CYON) Abuja.



Godwin Ebokhasomi Perpetua is a Christian from Edo State, she works as an Administrative Secretary in the Pastoral Agents Department of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, Abuja, and holds an LLB Law from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN).

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a continuous process that requires certain skills and attitudes such as patience, tolerance, empathy, forgiveness, compassion, and love. Peace is life, freedom, wealth, liberty, and harmony. People need to be at peace within themselves, informed and motivated by the greatest commandment "to Love their neighbour as they love themselves". Conflict has never brought success, development, or progress to a person, community, state, or nation; it is only dialogue that leads to peace and happiness. In the words of Albert Einstein "Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice, of law, of order, in short, of the Government".

The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace has given me the ground to become a better and balanced peace actor in my community. I see that peace is Possible.

Biography

COFP Fellowship Program:
An Unforgettable Experience.

It has been a wonderful and unforgettable experience for me. The program has increased my knowledge of interfaith, dialogue, understanding of the fundamentals of different religions and their similarities, peacebuilding, mediation, tolerance, and the much-needed exposure regarding conflict transformation and resolution.

✉ princesspeppy4real@yahoo.com

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peace Building and Gender Equity Sensitization in Kabusa Community, Abuja, North Central, Nigeria.

Project Summary

This was a 3-day joint project between Perpetua and Priscillia which encompassed a Peacebuilding workshop and skills acquisition/empowerment that lasted from the 26th - 28th of January, 2023 at Kabusa. The program was divided into three phases; a sensitization in two schools which had 491 participants including students and teachers, the Vocational Training took care of 30 women, men, and youth participants while the Workshop on Peace-Building and Gender Equity attracted 118 participants. The peace talk took place 2 days before the skill acquisition training proper and addressed topics on Equity, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and incorporated the tools of skills and empowerment to help 30 people (men, women, and youths) to become self-reliant, build the participants resolve to manage internal and external conflicts by strengthening their capacity for peace-building and gender equity, including sexual and gender-based violence. The beneficiaries were taught the art of liquid soap and Vaseline production and the highlight of the joint community peace project was the distribution of starter kits after the training, to help them begin their businesses.



Project Outcome/Impact

Overall, this peace project was a life changer for Kabusa Community. The beneficiaries of the Chemicals starter kits began production immediately. With the knowledge they gained through the Vocational training in Income Generating activities (IGA), they began to make sales and profits from their products, thereby generating income for their families.

Also, through this peace project, the men came to understand the dangers of Sexual and Gender-based violence (SGBV), the women's capacity was built on how to avoid Violence against women and girls (VAWG) while the youths understood their role in peacebuilding /conflict resolution. The traditional and religious leaders strengthened their resolve to create greater awareness in the community of the negative impact of these practices while also committing to a more harmonious and peaceful coexistence among the different religions and ethnic groups in Kabusa.



Michael Dumka

Administrator MMM Primary Health Care and Maternity, FCT Abuja



Michael Dumka is a Religious Sister of the Medical Missionaries of Mary, (MMM), Currently the Administrator of the Medical Missionaries of Mary Primary Health Care and Maternity in FCT, Abuja. She holds an M. Sc. in Strategic Management from the University of Derby, United Kingdom.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is not the absence of conflict – but the ability to manage conflict constructively, as an important opportunity for change and increased understanding, it is a relationship of living well together with other people. It is strong and lasting, based on respect, serenity, cordiality, and mutual understanding among people. It comes from the expression of the heart just as much as from the mind; a state of mutual harmony between people or groups, especially in personal relations. Peace is a yearning to understand, celebrate and learn from people's differences. Peace is a commitment not to harm, but rather to nurture all individuals.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Coming across the Fellowship Program and its thematic areas, I was intrigued to become a Fellow and since then till now,

all my expectations from the Fellowship program have been met beyond what I anticipated. I am happy that I met with people from diverse religious backgrounds and with the exchange of knowledge among us, I can boldly say that I am more informed than when I first came to the Fellowship program. I can make more meaningful transformations to the IDPs as I integrate them back into society for theirs and our betterment and positivity. I also now know what and what not to say to a Muslim not to trigger conflict or confusion.

Biography

✉ dumkamike@yahoo.com



My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Strengthening peaceful coexistence through enhancing the economic capacity of Sauka women, Kuje, Abuja.

Project Summary

Sr. Dumka's project lasted for two days from the 16th-17th of January 2023 at Zhigbodo-Sauka community, Kuje Area Council with a target of over 50 participants, at the end of which 23 of them were empowered with different starter kits and materials depending on the persons need. Equally the aim of implementing this peace project includes activating the community members' and leaders' conscience on other alternative ways for Peaceful Coexistence, teaching the target group tips on health education, educating the women on the importance of home management and basic business skills, and economically empower and develop the income capacity of 23 women chosen from the different religious groups were all met.



Project Outcome/Impact

It was an overwhelming experience for them all; participants and beneficiaries. The beneficiaries were overwhelmed with gratitude as the items they were given, like the sewing machine, chin-chin making tools, groundnut seedlings, soybeans, Liquid soap chemicals, and a pregnant doe directly solved so many specific problems they had. For instance, the woman that got the sewing machine testified that she had qualified for over 3 Years and could not afford to buy a machine of her own to meet her customer needs, a similar story was told too by the other women. Thankfully, through this peace project, the members of the community, especially the women, were better equipped with enhanced knowledge of Peaceful coexistence and more avenues of earning an income to care of their families.



Hassan Mohammed Chiroma

Program Officer of Grassroots Initiative for Development (GID), Bauchi state



Hassan Mohammed Chiroma is a Sunni Muslim from Bauchi State. He is the Program Officer of Grassroots Initiative for Development, Bauchi, and a peace promoter Fellow of Equal Access International who trains people on how they can deploy technological tools to promote peace. He holds a BSc in Computer Science from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria.

My Reflection on Peace

To me, peace is understanding and respect for the views of others; whether they be religious views, political views or other views. Peace can also be said to be people's ability to resolve conflicts in a non-violent manner.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

As a Muslim, I learned a lot about Christianity and also increased my knowledge of Islam. I learned that none of the two major religions advocate for hatred but rather, peaceful coexistence. I also learned that the two major religions originated from the same source and share many things in common.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: The Use of Technology Tools to Promote Community Development and Combat Hateful Online Content.

Project Summary

In a move to re-orientate the mindset of Youths on the right use of social media, Hassan convened this 2-days workshop for 50 Youths of his community in Bauchi from the 6th – 7th of January, 2023. Interestingly, the intent of this project was amongst others, to directly build the capacity of 50 youths on the use of social media for the promotion of accountability, to campaign for peace and curb hate speeches through the use of technology tools, and to institute the foundation of a youth hub that will serve as a platform for continuous training and empowerment.

Project Outcome/Impact

This project intervention produced 50 transformed youths with a positive mind-set toward peacebuilding and the promotion of good governance in the community and Bauchi State.



Eucharia Solomon

Member Bachama Traditional Council
Adamawa state.



Eucharia Solomon is a Christian from Adamawa State. She is a member of Bachama Traditional Council. She is a graduate of Language and Communication Arts from the Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola, Adamawa State.

My Reflection on Peace.

From my project implementation, I have learned that peaceful co-existence is living peacefully with different kinds of people around us. We desire peaceful co-existence because we cannot be an island unto ourselves. We need each other to succeed in life. We have to co-exist with our neighbours in our community. We meet in our offices, markets, bus stops, churches, and hospitals. We make friends, talk and mingle with one another every day and sometimes, marry within the community, we cannot avoid living with people from different tribes and cultures, people who worship in ways different from ours. Since we cannot avoid living together with different people, we have to learn to live peacefully with them.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

It has been a mind-blowing journey, an eye opener, excellent and hands-on experience on the need and importance of peaceful co-existence in our communities. With well-trained and informed facilitators, I must say it's a unique learning opportunity that every religious and traditional Leader should engage in for the course of peaceful coexistence in our communities.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: The Role of Women in Peacebuilding: A Case Study of Ngbalang Community, Numan LGA of Adamawa State.

Project Summary

The Interfaith Peace Workshop took place at Ngbalang Community, Numan LGA, Adamawa State on the 31st of January, 2023. This project examined women's role in peacebuilding in Ngbalang Community, Numan LGA of Adamawa State, Nigeria. The one-day program benefitted 80 people.



Project Outcome/Impact

The 80 participants went home with invaluable lessons on the Basic understanding of the basis of Financial Management Literacy, Skills in financial sustainability, an understanding of the need for peaceful coexistence, and Key skills in taming violent extremism and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).



Onuh Ladi Sixtus



The Provincial Secretariat of Health, Justice, Development and Peace (HJDP) Kaduna state.

Onuh Ladi Sixtus is a Priest of the Catholic Church from Kogi State. He is the Provincial Administrative Secretary at the Provincial Secretariat of Health, Justice, Development & Peace (HJDP), Kaduna State. He holds a Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN).

My Reflection on Peace

Peace means so much to me as a person and as a practitioner. Peace is the basis for progress and is closely related to Justice. Peace should not just be seen as an absence of war or conflict; it is an enabling environment for mutual co-existence. Peace builds trust and gives room for healing and reconciliation in the community and among disputants, it remains the bedrock of all forms of collaborations, operations, and development.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Cardinal Onaiyekan's Foundation for Peace Fellowship Program has been an interesting and educating program that has exposed me to the true meaning of peace and how peace can be extended to our various homes, communities, and society in particular. I

have been able to harness my potential in designing communication strategies suitable for peace developments in the communities where I serve.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peace Cup Football Match Between Christian and Muslim Youths in Abakpa Kaduna North, Kaduna State.

Project Summary

The interfaith peace football Match between the 60 Christian and Muslim youths took place on the 7th of January, 2023 at the Kaduna Club. The purpose of the Project was to bridge an existing religious gap between Christian and Muslim Youths in the community, to use the match as an avenue to discourage electoral violence, especially among the youths during the forthcoming elections, and to raise Ambassadors for Peace in the State.

Project Outcome/Impact

This impactful project established cordial relationships between Muslim and Christian youths and encouraged all the participants to aim for non-violence in the forthcoming elections in Kaduna State.



Odeyemi

Suwebat Funmilola

Chief Confidential Secretary of the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, and the National Secretary of the Women Auxiliary body of the Jamaat Lajna Imaillah, Ogun State, Nigeria.



Odeyemi Suwebat Funmilola is an Ahmadiyya Muslim from Ogun State. She is currently the National Secretary general of the women's auxiliary body of the Jamaat - Lajna Imaillah (women servants of Allah). She holds a Master's in Personnel Psychology from the University of Ibadan.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace to me is the bedrock of a nation's development. it encompasses all the necessary requirements that are needed by a country to develop. Where there is no peace, the economy of such a nation suffers great setbacks, companies would be shut down, investors would abandon such a country for a more peaceful nation with a favorable business environment. There will be a rise in the unemployment level. Rather than developing the nation, the government will spend its resources on the procurement of weapons.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience.

My experience at COFP Fellowship program so far has been so wonderful. At times when I look back, I wonder why and how I was able to scale through the screening process from a large number of applicants. The program has been excellent. Very impactful, educative, and enriching. It has broadened my mind and

widened my horizon when it comes to peacebuilding, conflict management, and resolutions. it has really improved my interfaith relationship. I have been able to meet and interact with people of diverse religious ethnicity and socio-cultural, backgrounds. I have established sound relationships with participants both within and outside Nigeria. I was able to understand that we Africans share almost everything in common. Conflicts, racial and religious discrimination are not limited to Nigeria alone but are common issues in African nations. with the introduction of the COFP Fellowship program and its continuity, peace will surely reign supreme in Nigeria and Africa as a whole.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: The Hazard of Smuggling Activities on Socio-Economic Lives And Peaceful Co-Existence Of The People Of Yewa South Local Government- The Way Out.

Project Summary

Funmilayo's community, Yewa South LGA, in Osun State is a town known for smuggling activities because of its proximity to the border. Funmilola deemed it necessary to educate the people on the dangers of smuggling and the benefits of engaging in legitimate business, so, she created the awareness and 145 people turned up and benefitted from the one-day program held on the 9th of February, 2023.



Project Outcome/Impact

The seminar became an eye-opener to the stakeholders: the religious leaders, community development associations, parents, and youths of Yewa South local government. The law enforcement agencies spelled out the government's position on smuggling and the rule of the law. The youths, parents, community leaders, and religious heads came to realize that apart from the loss of lives and properties smuggled goods are also very dangerous to health and contribute greatly to terminal illnesses. The stakeholders became informed of the great need to encourage Yewa south youths to abandon smuggling occupation and seek other legal means of employment.



Ugwu

Mark Ifeanyi

President of the Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria and the Executive Director of WHY THE CRIME INITIATIVE Kaduna State, Nigeria



Ugwu Mark Ifeanyi is a Catholic from Enugu State. He is the President of the Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria (CYON) Kaduna state and also the executive director of WHY THE CRIME INITIATIVE. He holds a BSc in Criminology and Security Studies from the National Open University of Nigeria, (NOUN).

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is the ability to understand the differences in humans, be it their ideological or political beliefs. Therefore, one should strive not to hurt anyone by making jest of their values, beliefs, emotions, sentiments, and even their belongings or identity. As much as conflicts are inevitable among human beings, we must keep trying to resolve them for indeed humanity truly needs peace.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience at the COFP Fellowship program has been very satisfying, it has been an opportunity to mingle with great minds from around Africa to share and learn new approaches as regards mediation and peacebuilding.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: The Role of Young Leaders In The Protection Of Holy Sites And Places Of Worship At Kamazo Community, Chikun Local Government, Kaduna State.

Project Summary

In recent years, Kaduna State of Nigeria has been marred with Violent clashes between Christians and Muslims. There has been unnecessary loss of lives and properties and most of these violent eruptions almost always have religious colorations behind them. This prompted Mark to Organise a 1-day interfaith workshop at Kamazo community, Cikun Local Government, Kaduna State on the 16th of January, 2023 for 61 Youths that cut across the Muslim and Christian Faiths. This workshop was aimed at enlightening the minds of these participating Youths on the sacredness of the places of worship of both religions, thereby hopefully, reducing to the barest minimum incidences of violence and religious clashes in Cikun Community and Kaduna State.





Project Outcome/Impact

After this workshop, the participants now understood the value of holy sites and places of worship of other religions which most of them had no clue about nor valued before then. One of the participants Sulieman confessed that he never regarded places of worship belonging to Christians to be holy enough to be respected and protected until he was enlightened better through this program. Dayo as well pledged to visit more of his Muslim friends, especially at naming ceremonies or weddings Fathia. Hopefully, what they have learned from the project will renew their minds and as they get more active on the WhatsApp group that was created for them after the workshop, they will eventually drop the bias they have about practitioners of other religions and their places of worship.

Adeniran Adenike Patricia

President of the Nigeria Conference of Women Religious, Abeokuta, Ogun State.



Adeniran Adenike Patricia is from Kwara State. She is a religious sister of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, a graduate of Economics & Geography from Bayero University, Kano. Adenike is engaged in different missions and apostolates in her congregation.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace as we know is not the absence of war, but it is a way of understanding one another to be able to live amicably with others, to accept other people irrespective of their religious beliefs, background, and culture. To be able to settle misunderstandings by being a mediator between people or groups who find it hard to cohabit. Peace has to do with letting go of myself to make others happy and reason positivity with others in moving things forward.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

COFP Fellowship program has opened my mind to people of different religions and how I can live peacefully with them despite the fact that we have our different beliefs, it taught me that my opinion about the other person should not hinder my relationship with him/her. For me now, it is necessary that

I teach those whom I live and work with to understand the need of living peacefully. I am grateful to the Foundation for giving me the opportunity not only to mix with people outside my culture, religion, and belief but also to embrace them, fellow children and descendants of Abraham, like me.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Skill Acquisitions and Empowerment & Building Peaceful Coexistence and Non-Violence in the 2023 General Elections.

Project Summary

Adenike organized a 2-day community peace project for 35 women out of which 21 were empowered at Ota, Ogun State on the 9th of February 2023. The objectives were to empower some of the women in skills such as liquid soap making, Izal, puff-puff, Doughnut, and chin-chin. Also, to enlighten the participants on the need to avoid violence, before and, during the elections as well as encourage them to vote.



Project Outcome/impact

The project helped to educate the participants on the need for them to exercise their civic duty to vote and, peacefully too. Additionally, the skills they acquired will go a long way to empower some of the women to become self-reliant and be in a position to cater to their needs and those of their families. The community members and participants expressed their appreciation for the implementation of this program in their community as they saw it as a tremendous help that will shape their lives more positively and teach them acceptance of people with different faith beliefs from theirs, realizing that before religion came, they all are children of the same father and God.



Abakar

Abounassib Mahamat

Interfaith Dialogue Coordinator of Program
Alimentaire Mondiale (PAM), Chad



Abounassib Abakar Mahamat is a Muslim from Chad. He is the Interfaith Dialogue Coordinator at Program Alimentaire Mondiale (PAM), Chad. He holds a B.A in Business Administration.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. In a social sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict (such as war) and freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience with COFP has been good and wonderful and my expectations have been reached by the Foundation I had the privilege to meet so many people from different countries. The experience will be in me for so many years and it is a privilege for me to be part of this organization.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project
Project Title: Youth Interfaith Dialogue Forum

Project Summary

This 1-day interfaith workshop was held at Ndjamenat Chad on the 30th of January, 2023. The 40 participants were Youths from the community and the workshop fulfilled its aim which was to train them on the need to promote peace by creating an Understanding and a friendly environment between different religions to increase acceptance and tolerance, unity, and Love in the community.

Project Outcome/Impact

This Interfaith forum was the first of its kind in my community. All the members of the community welcomed and participated in it and the forum has made people in my community forget their differences and embrace peace so that development can take place, of course without peace, there is no progressive development in any society.



Andrew-Essien Ndifreke

Founding Executive Director of Freky Andrew-Essien Care Foundation (FAECARE) Foundation, Rivers state



Andrew-Essien Ndifreke is a Christian from Rivers State. She is the Founding Executive Director of Freky Andrew-Essien Care Foundation (FAECARE FOUNDATION). Freky is the producer of BOLD TV and holds a Master's in Human Physiology and Public Health from the University of Port Harcourt

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is definitely the absence of war or conflict, and also a State of acceptance of our differences, inclusion, and living in harmony.

When we lose any of this then peace is lost, and the manifestation of this loss can present in different levels or degrees of intensity. For persons with disabilities, a core demography affected and impacted by conflict, it is important to show how the loss of peace which leads to conflict can result in disability.

However, beyond the impact is the importance of enhancing the value of Persons with Disabilities not as liabilities of failure at peace but rather as instruments of Peace. Peace is crucial for human existence because when lost the impacts are devastating for all.

Positive Peace is therefore the attitude of individuals, institutions, and structures that creates and sustains peaceful societies. It is associated with well-functioning governments, sound business environments, and low levels of corruption. In other words, an optimally functional society, where no one is left behind.

Biography

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COFP Fellowship Programme: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience so far in the COFP Fellowship has been very enlightening. One of my philosophies in life is that when we stop learning, we stop living. The experience has been and is definitely worth it. My mind has been greatly enhanced in the course of the modules and even the community peace project. The power of the mind shift I have now has allowed me to see others in a better, clearer, and more appropriate light. I am particularly happy because acknowledging others does not take away from us. I also learned the importance of accommodation because for a long time, it has been about religious tolerance, and it should not be so. I also must applaud the inclusive approach in the Fellowship program and ask that many more Persons with disabilities be included in the peace Fellowship. I must add, that beyond the learning modules, the interaction with other COFP Fellows, the staff and volunteers of the COFP Foundation, and the connect, has also been very rich.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: A 1-Day Seminar on Disability Inclusive Peace Building.

Project Summary

People with disability have the same and equal rights as every other human being. In order to equip them with knowledge about their rights, Ndifreke, in Port Harcourt, on the 10th of February 2023 got 34 of them to take part in the peace workshop with the aim of sensitizing and exposing these persons with disabilities to peacebuilding and enhancing their participation in peace-building processes through a peace education campaign. This in addition, raises awareness among States, stakeholders, and multilateral organizations, that persons with disabilities and their



representative organizations have a vested interest in the maintenance of peace, in formal and informal peacebuilding, and in peace processes at all levels of society. While also highlighting the need for their protection from electoral violence during the upcoming 2023 general elections in the country.

Project Outcome/Impact

At the end of the peace project interactive workshop, the confidence of the 30 persons with Disabilities in attendance was boosted so much so that they showed eagerness to be involved in other outstanding aspects of life, like peacebuilding. Their awareness was raised through several media engagements on peacebuilding and how persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities are also keen and should be included in peacebuilding processes at all levels. The rights of persons with disabilities were highlighted and barriers to these rights, including how this interface with peace was also highlighted.



Hussaini Abdullahi

Program Officer of
Wildan Care Foundation, Gombe state



Hussaini Abdullahi is a Shia Muslim from Gombe State. He is the program officer of Wildan Care Foundation, Gombe, and has HND in Accounting from the Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. In a social sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict (such as war) and freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups. Throughout history, leaders have used peace making and diplomacy to establish a type of behavioural restraint that has resulted in the establishment of regional peace or economic growth through various forms of agreements or peace treaties.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship program has increased my knowledge in different ramifications, which includes emotional, physical, spiritual, and mental.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Promoting Interreligious Peace and Tolerance in the Forthcoming 2023 General Elections in Gombe State.

Project Summary

Abdullahi decided to lend his voice to the conduct of peaceful elections in the forthcoming general elections in Gombe State. This made him organize the 1-day interfaith peacebuilding workshop for 75 participants including security personnel, and traditional and faith leaders in his community on the 25th of January, 2023. Abdullahi aimed to promote interreligious peace and tolerance in the forthcoming 2023 general elections through this workshop.

Project Outcome/Impact

Overall, the workshop was successful from the feedback he received. One of the voluntary uniformed personnel, Mr. Aminu Mahdi who was the state Chairman/Coordinator of the Voluntary Uniform group expressed his gratitude stating that, for once their efforts in Gombe State were recognized through the opportunity given them to be part of the workshop. The program was also commended by the traditional institution, the security agency in attendance, and all peace-loving organizations and individuals in attendance for organizing such an event on behalf of the COFP here in Gombe state. They all welcomed this development and urged the organizer to use this forum to reach out to many more people (individuals and all stakeholders) in the State, as this message was worth spreading to promote peace and tolerance among the good people of Gombe state.



Rev. Sr. Blessing Aladi Okpe

The Head Teacher of the Nativity Private School, Makurdi Benue state



Rev. Sr. Blessing Aladi Okpe is a sister of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Nativity (S.O.N), Makurdi, Benue State of Nigeria. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the Nasarawa State University. She also acquired certificates in Mediation Skills from Tangaza College, the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya, & in Theology of the Body from Theology of the Body Institute USA.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a gift of God to human beings to live happily with themselves, others, and with the whole of his creation. It is sad to see and hear from social media the high rate and level of lack of peace beginning from the home to the society. Peace is a powerful virtue to be cultivated by everyone starting from the home since the home is the first school. The importance of peace can never be overstressed. In the Bible, Jesus Christ prayed and blessed peacemakers thus: "Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called children of God".

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

So far for me it has been wonderful, beginning from the welcome ceremony to the lecture sessions. I found the

accommodation, feeding, and medical care commendable. The opening ceremony made me feel at home, loved, and accepted. This program has helped me learn, relearn, and relate with other Fellows to create a peaceful and positive impact in the community where I live and work. I found the experience-sharing from the Fellows and Facilitators of each course enriching. The WhatsApp platform has been an educative tool and has opened up an opportunity for self-growth and development for me.

Biography

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Also, I found the COFP peace project program which empowered me to implement a community peace project that has created a great impact in my community as a privilege and a wake-up call to make peace in our world irrespective of our religion, colour, and nationality. This community peace project was another touching and memorable aspect for me and all the participants. It helped me to see the vulnerability of life through each participant as they shared the hurt of their widowhood experiences and got that inner healing from the stories of their common misfortune. I felt happy as the women were happy with the skill acquisition and empowerment and how they gladly gave me the chance to put my counselling skills into practice every time they needed my services.





My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Interreligious Dialogue and Empowerment for Vulnerable Christian and Muslim Widows in Makurdi, Benue State of Nigeria.

Project Summary

Owing to the hardship that most widows face in Nigeria, Sr. Blessing saw a gap she needed to fill in her community in Benue State and decided to gear her project towards skill acquisition and empowerment for 20 Muslim and Christian widows in Makurdi. The goal of her intervention was to create a peaceful atmosphere that will lead to a common ground for dialogue and the use of non-violent ways to approach and address the issues the women, (especially the widows) face in the markets and common places of meeting and also create a sense of togetherness as they journey through their widowhood to find meaning in life.

Project Outcome/Impact

Following the implementation of this project, the widows in my community now know more about their rights, obligations, and what to do in times of need or concern, it created a sense of togetherness and friendship among the widows and has empowered them to expand their businesses thereby earning additional income for their families. When I went to visit some of the women in the market at their stores, they all gave me a warm embrace and called out to their neighbours and anyone who cared to listen to come and see and hear how the COFP has helped them generate extra income and improve livelihoods for their families.

Nanjobe

Hawa Kimbugwe

Communications Manager and Program Officer of the Ugandan Muslim Youth Development Forum (UMYDF), Kampala, Uganda.

Nanjobe Hawa Kimbugwe is a Muslim from Uganda. She is the Communications Manager and Program Officer of the Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum (UMYDF) in Kampala. She holds BSc in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from Kyambogo University, Uganda.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace to me means the ability to be self-aware, vulnerable, accountable, and to be conscious of one's words, and actions and how they positively or harmlessly affect the people and things around them and not merely the absence of war, disparity, or conflict. Peace to me means the ability to agree or agree to disagree without becoming violent or hateful towards one another. Peace is the ability to be accommodative and tolerant of views, opinions, and beliefs that do not align with yours without being resentful and projecting or imposing your own beliefs. It's the grace to embrace and respect instead of shunning differences.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship program has been enlightening and mind-blowing for me so far. I have improved my comprehension of faiths, religions, and cultures, of wars weaved around the three, and the importance of cohesion amidst the three, the program has challenged me to reflect on what I have learned and how I can integrate it into my daily life and to ask myself what I have done for my community in my capacity. I commend the COFP Team for tasking the Fellows to each come up with a project, this has helped me assess my comprehension of the program modules so far and my ability to spread the gospel or translate what I've learned into action and impact my community intentionally.



Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Enhancing Interfaith and Intercultural Collaboration And Social Cohesion Amongst Youths In Secondary Schools Through Dialogue, Poetry, And Art Held At Wakiso, Uganda.

Project Summary

This interfaith Peacebuilding workshop was a 2-days program held on the 1st & 2nd of February 2023 at the Wakiso community in Uganda for 23 Teachers (11 Male and 12 Female), a train-the-Trainers workshop. The program aimed to promote interfaith understanding, dialogue, and collaboration and foster social cohesion among youth and teachers of different faiths to equip teachers and students with Peace building, conflict prevention, and peaceful conflict resolution skills.





Project Outcome/Impact

After the project workshop, there were noticeably enhanced Inter, and Intra-faith understanding, and collaboration among the teachers and youth from different faiths and ideologies within the school, teachers that became willing to embrace learner-centric teaching methods that are more supportive to the learners instead of punishing the learners.

Ultimately, accountable Individuals are more willing to build meaningful relationships and connections.

Umar

Farouk Musa

Member of Jama'atu Nasril Islam in Jos and the Cochair, Plateau Interstate Forum for Peace and Sustainable Development.



Umar Farouk Musa is a Muslim from Plateau State. He is a member of Jama'atu Nasril Islam in Jos, the co-chair Plateau Interstate Forum for peace and Sustainable Development. He holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Bayero University, Kano.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace means being free from persecution due to one's nationality, immigration status, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, religious beliefs (or lack thereof), or sexual preference. Peace also comes from the comfort of knowing that you have a roof over your head, food to eat, and loving family members and friends. Peace means tranquility.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

My Experience with COFP has really been an Interesting and life-turning one, as it shaped my consciousness in the area of Human relations, public engagement as well as general human relations apart from capacity-building training of individuals, groups, and communities on Inter-Faith activities (Dialogue and collaboration). The Foundation stands out in peace promotion and community

engagement services. My horizon has been further increased and strengthened in the area of inter-religious harmony as well as working with other faith groups and organizations.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Capacity building training for Community youths and leaders on Interfaith Dialogue and Confidence building.

Project Summary

This joint project with Summayya Abubakar was a 2-day program that was held on the 17th & 18th of January, 2023, during which 24 youths of both the Islamic and Christian religions and 6 community leaders were equipped with knowledge on interfaith dialogue. There was a follow-up sensitization in Miango community market square on the need for the community to live in peace.

Project Outcome/Impact

The project brought back the lost trust and confidence as during and after the peace project, the Miango community which is divided along ethnic lines reconciled and



Folasade Adepaju

Chief Librarian at the National Library of Nigeria Headquarters, Abuja and a DAAD Scholar.



Folasade Adepaju is a Christian from Osun State. She holds a Masters's Degree in Information Management. She is the Chief Librarian at the National Library of Nigeria Headquarters, Abuja.

My Reflection on Peace

My idea of peace is a conflict-free environment. Peace to me is equal opportunities for all irrespective of gender, ability, or tribal affiliation. Access to information, quality education, and the internet without toxic content and disinformation, to me, is Peace. The ability to travel without fear or anxiety, the grace to wake up in the morning and face the day with the hope of returning back home in the evening in a sound state of mind is peace. Peace is absolute rest.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience with COFP has been awesome and an eye-opener for me. I have learned, unlearned, and relearned. I have a full understanding of Islam belief after listening to the lectures on the fundamental of Islamic belief, Jihad, War and Peace in Christianity, and understanding the framework of interreligious dialogue. Now I know

there will always be extremists among us but with my conduct they can be won over.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Sustainable Development Approach in Advancing Peaceful Co-Existence in Nigeria.

Project Summary

The negative effects of climate change in our world today are glaring so much so that children cannot be left out in the efforts to curb it. Folashade through her peace project at Abuja (Amac and Bwari Area Council) held on 14th February 2023, educated 400 school children on Peace Education at the intersection of Climate Action for peaceful co-existence. They were schooled on the different aspects of climate change and informed that they are also actors in the fight to mitigate the effect of climate change, especially through their actions.

Project Outcome/Impact

Following the completion of the workshop, Folashade interacted with some of the participants and she discovered that most of them are now more conscious of their actions and how these can affect our climate. They promised to lead by example in their conduct both at home and school going forward. They are equally, eagerly waiting for Green Actors for Climate Club to be inaugurated in their schools.



Abinet Megressa Girma

Monitoring and Evaluation & Communication Coordinator
of Ethiopian Mulu Wongel Amagnoch Church Development
Commission (EMWACD) and JISRA Project Manager, Ethiopia.



Abinet Girma Megerssa is a Christian from Harar, Ethiopia. Presently, he is the Monitoring & Evaluation & Communication Coordinator at the Ethiopia Mulu Wongel Amagnoch Church Development Commission (EMWACD) and JISRA Project Manager Ethiopia. Megerssa holds a Master's degree in Developmental Psychology from Addis Ababa University.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a complete and holistic (psychological, social, economic, and spiritual) well-being of a person, family, community, and country, in general. So, to do all daily chores and perform social as well as other duties, peace has to be there and needs to be intact. It can be understood as well, as the ability to live in harmony with self, others, nature, institutions, and God. To achieve peace, however, one has to have intra-personal, inter-personal, Theo-personal, and extra-personal communication and dialogue skills.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

At the COFP Fellowship Program, I was able to grasp many theoretical concepts and practical skills for transforming conflicts and conducting dialogues for peace. Besides, I was able to come together with my African Fellows to find solutions to African problems. I got enlightened as well that we Africans need to look into ourselves and take the initiatives to commence self-supporting community or national projects than looking for external aid or support. I was also inspired that as a continent, Africa has to have strong media with African color and culture which promotes indigenous thoughts, practices, and ways of living. In short, the whole of my experience at the COFP Fellowship could be summed up by saying "look at what the Pastor and the Imam have done" or "For a bright future, Please Africans Come Together".

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title:

Inter-faith Radio Program on the Role of Youths on Peacebuilding in Addis Ababa and its surrounding.

Project Summary

The Live inter-faith Radio Program peace project was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 27th January 2023. The Objectives of the project were to create Increased awareness of 7,000 (direct targets) youths, women, men, religious leaders, and others on their roles in peacebuilding and an Enhanced role of 4 faith communities/faith-based organizations in supporting youths to be the actors of development, in addition to the Improved focus of the local government in developing programs which could advance the lives of youths.

Project Outcome/Impact

The community project enhanced the awareness of the community that youths are agents who could bring either destruction or construction to their communities. In addition, participants from the Evangelical Fellowship of Ethiopia, Ethiopian Muslims, and Ethiopian Catholics came to a consensus to work collaboratively on communal issues to bring peace and harmony among the people in their communities.



Rafatu Abdul Hamid

Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Abuja and the Program Coordinator Center for Gender Security Studies and Youth Advancement, University of Abuja.



Rafatu Abdul Hamid is a Professor of Islamic Studies with the University of Abuja, Faculty of Arts, Department of Islamic Studies. She is also the Programme Coordinator Center for Gender Security Studies and Youth Advancement, University of Abuja. She holds Ph.D. Islamic Studies from the University of Jos. Her current research is on Interfaith Dialogue for National Integration.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace to me is the feeling of security. Peace with one's creator, peace with oneself, with fellow human beings, with the animals, and with the environment. Muslims believe that the religion of Islam loves life, sanctifies it, and makes people appreciate it. It is for this reason that, Islam liberates its adherents from fear and draws the ideal way in which the human community can live to achieve development while being covered under the shade of peace and security.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship Program has allowed me to know more about Christianity and how a devoted Christian is expected to live in society. I have learned both the theoretical and

practical aspects of both religions. The need for both religions' adherents to live in peace and harmony is paramount. Respect for one another's religious practices and doctrines was encouraged through the teachings in the Fellowship Program modules.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: 1-Day Interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop on Promoting Peaceful Coexistence Through Religious Understanding at Mararaba, Karu Local Government Nasarawa State.

Project Summary

Rafatu held an interfaith peacebuilding workshop for 100 participants on the 21st of January, 2023 at her community in Mararaba Nasarawa state. The project brought adherents of the Islamic and Christian religions together under one roof which is an experience some of the participants have never had before then. The goal of this project was to Foster peaceful co-existence between Muslims and Christians, and encourage religious tolerance, mutual co-existence, and freedom of religion. It equally aimed to discourage hate speech, mobilize adherents of the two religions towards creating opportunities for building trust and enlightening Muslims and Christians in the community on the need for inter-religious dialogue for sustainable peace and security.





Project Outcome/Impact

The project brought about a remarkable change in my community. The participants expressed happiness with the seminar presentations, especially because many challenging issues such as misconceptions about the actual teachings of the two religions of Islam and Christianity were unveiled. For instance, one of the participants stated that before the seminar, she had no knowledge about the many similarities that exist between the two religions that is Christianity and Islam. The seminar has increased her knowledge of these similarities and therefore she now sees the need for harmonious and peaceful coexistence between adherents of these two religions.

Ashigabu Augustine

Vice Principal of St. Peter's College, Garaku, Nasarawa state



Ashigabu Augustine is a Priest of the Catholic Diocese of Lafia. He studied Philosophy and Theology at St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary, Makurdi, Benue State. He is the Vice Principal of St. Peter's College, Garaku, Nasarawa State.

My Reflection on Peace

Human existence finds its truest meaning and flavour only when in their differences they can joyfully value each other, work together and achieve a common goal. When we get to this point, there will be true harmony and lasting peace, because what will really matter will be “we did it” and not “I did it.”

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

An Unforgettable Experience

My experience in the fellowship program of the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) can be best described as “wow.” Given that this is my first experience with a Fellowship program, I had expected to be exposed to basic tools for building peace, however what I was eventually exposed was way beyond my expectation.

Biography



SEP
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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Youth Peace Club: Promoting One Humanity in many Cultures.

Project Summary

The Interfaith Peacebuilding workshop was held at Garaku, Kokona LGA of Nasarawa State on 2nd April 2023. The peace project hosted 54 participants and realized its objective of promoting gender equality, fostering human fraternity, and improving the quality of life in the community.

Project Outcome/Impact

The impact of the project has been enormous in the Garaku community: The Youth Peace Club members no longer see themselves as mere members of the community but as key stakeholders in the peace-building efforts. The Schools and Churches where the Youth peace Club (YPC) members were drawn from have invited the convener to do some training for their members on issues of peace.



Priscilla

Nnedinma Agha

Missionary in the Diocese of Maiduguri on Teaching Apostolate, Borno state



Priscilla Nnedinma Agha is from Ebonyi State and works at the National Health Insurance Authority, Abuja. She is a Catholic faithful and obtained a B.Sc. in Mass Communication from Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a critical element of human survival. To be wealthy is to have peace. Peace is simply non-negotiable and must be guarded at all costs. Peace is an acceptance of the next person rather than tolerating them. Peace is equated to justice, equity, fairness, and respect for human dignity. Peace is therefore Love.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

It has been an exciting experience. From the course materials to the profound facilitators, the management and staff of the Foundation to the hospitality (comfortable accommodation and sumptuous meals) and networking with the other Fellows, it has been awesome. My profound gratitude goes to the visioner and initiator of this program for the opportunity to be a beneficiary of the soul-searching and life-changing program. The knowledge gained so far is invaluable.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peace Building and Gender Equity in Kabusa Community in FCT.

Project Summary

This was a 3-day joint project between Priscillia and Perpetua which encompassed a Peacebuilding workshop and skills acquisition/empowerment that lasted from the 26th - 28th of January, 2023 at Kabusa. The peace talk took place 2 days before the skill acquisition training proper and addressed topics on Equity, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and later incorporated the tools of skills and empowerment in order to help 30 women and girls to become self-reliant, build their resolve to manage internal and external conflicts by strengthening their capacity for peace-building and gender equity, including sexual and gender-based violence. The beneficiaries were taught the art of liquid soap and Vaseline production and the highlight of the joint community peace project was the distribution of starter kits to help them begin their own businesses.





Project Outcome/Impact

Through this project, 30 women were successfully trained in the art of Liquid soap and Vaseline production and were given start-up kits, hopefully, the income of 30 households was improved through the vocational training and income-generating activities, in addition to an increased level of awareness on peacebuilding, conflict resolution. Also, 10 men's capacities in peacebuilding/conflict resolution were re-defined as they were taught how to avoid and put an end to sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls (VAWG) and the roles of the youths in peacebuilding in the community. All the participants expressed their gratitude and a commitment to support and sustain the program.



Etong

Fanny Bessem

Founder of Young Women Mediation Network Cameroon (YWMC) and the CoFounder of FALCOH Foundation, Buea, Cameroon.



Etong Fanny Bessem is a Christian from Bonduma Buea, Cameroon. She is the Chief Executive Officer at the Favour Low-Cost Healthcare Foundation (FALCOH) & Founder of Young Women Mediators Network Cameroon (YWMC). She holds a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Buea, Cameroon.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace means sharing, forgiveness, and self-love. According to me, Peace is the feeling that all is right with the world. When everyone around me, family, my friend circle, and my neighbourhood are happy, eager to love, accept and relate with one another.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience with COFP was simply amazing! I learned a lot and I am still aware that there is more to learn from the Fellowship. Although I think that the huge Fellowship materials that we were made to go through for a week is too much and assimilating it all in a week is pretty difficult but upon returning and reading between the lines, I have been able to deliver better in my peace-building work. The feedback from my COFP community peace project has

fuelled my desire to reach more communities and groups.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Interfaith Dialogue, Hate Speech, and Peaceful Co-existence in Southwest Region, Cameroon.



Project Summary

The interfaith peacebuilding workshop involved women, girls, and 100 students. The program was held at Buea, South West Cameroon on 2nd January 2023, and had the objectives of training community women leaders on interfaith, peace education, and peaceful co-existence, in addition to carrying peace education and the negative effects of hate speech to schools. At the end of the peace workshop, 25 community stakeholders were trained to cascade the program learnings.



Project Outcome/Impact

As part of the sustainability plan, 25 community leaders were trained in interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding, which is new learning for them. They plan to continue training their members on interfaith, peaceful co-existence, and the avoidance of hate speech in the community. "Mami Olive, the Quarter Head community leader confessed, "this is great training, at a time like this with division in the community because of the church, tribe, the hate is too much. Let us take this to our men and children, it's time to take a new turn".



Rabiu Mato



Staff of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, IPCR, Abuja

Rabiu Mato is a Muslim from Jigawa State. He works with Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), Abuja. He obtained a BSc in Sociology from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

My Reflection on Peace

To me, Peace is not defined only by the absence of war and conflict, it is also a dynamic concept that needs to be grasped in positive terms, such as the presence of social justice and harmony, the possibility for human beings to fully realize their potential and respect for their right to live with dignity throughout their lives. Even at a very young age, I was aware that my parents made an asserted effort to provide for and expose us to a diverse and peaceful community.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship program gave me an opportunity to interact with different personalities from different religions and cultures in and outside Nigeria, COFP is one of the best platforms for interfaith and interreligious dialogue. In fact, through COFP I have come to understand Christianity better. Thank you COFP.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Poverty and Youth Involvement in Electoral Violence, In Garki 2 Abuja.

Project Summary

The one-day interfaith peacebuilding workshop was held at Garki 2, Abuja on 11th February 2023 with 60 participants in attendance. The main objectives of the project were to promote the presence and the role of young people as positive actors of change in peace, it also enlightened the youths not to be involved in pre and post elections violence.

Project Outcome/Impact

After the workshop, the youths went home eager to apply all they were taught and also expressed willingness to participate in the forthcoming elections peacefully.



Dike

Angela Chinwendu



**Head Teacher, Our Lady's Nursery/
Primary School, Bauchi State**

Dike Angela Chinwendu is a religious member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena from Imo state. She is the Head Teacher of Our Lady's Nursery, and Primary school, in Bauchi State. She holds a PGD in Religious and Moral Education from the National Open University of Nigeria, (NOUN).

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is not necessarily the absence of war. Peace is the ability to be patient with one another, respect the views of others, accepting and appreciate the things that are common to the Christian and Muslim religions. It is being an instrument of social change by treating people with kindness regardless of race, gender orientation, and sexual orientation.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

An Unforgettable Experience

This has been an awesome experience. I am privileged and happy to participate in the Fellowship program. It was a program loaded with rich topics and has impacted me greatly. I understood that dialogue is about co-existing peacefully, being patient with one another, respecting others' views and appreciating the things that are common to the Christian and Muslim religions, and knowing that we are from common humanity and children of the same father. As an ambassador, I am spurred to tread the line of peaceful co-existence and dialogue and to be an instrument of peaceful social change in society.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Women Empowerment Through Skill Acquisition For 20 Young Women and Girls in Anguwan Ngas, Community, Bauchi State.

Project Summary

In a society where people especially, women are busily engaged in one form of trade or another, peace will reign in that society and that is why Angela decided to empower 20 women with different skills. Some of them were taught liquid soap making, cake and pastries production while some that had already learned sewing and hairdressing, apart from the general knowledge and participation in the workshop got empowerment tools, alongside the other participants. For instance, after the training, the participants received starter kits for liquid soap chemicals, frying pans, hair dryers, and sewing machines to enable them to upscale their businesses or start one. The event was held on the 10th & 11th of February 2023 at Fatima Pastoral Centre Hall, Bauchi, Bauchi State. The two-day program which was aimed at impacting lives and helping young women to be self-reliant fully achieved the aim.

Project Impact/Outcome

The project increased the women's productivity and independence as most of them went into production immediately and are making some profit on a daily basis from their businesses. The seamstress and hairdresser that could not afford to purchase sewing machines and dryers, now are their own bosses and are even looking forward to employing other people. Generally, the quality of the lives of the beneficiaries have greatly improved.



Bello

Salahuddeen Mohammad

Staff of the Federal Polytechnic, Kaura, Zamfara state.



Bello Salahuddeen Mohammad is a Muslim from Zamfara State. He works with The Federal Polytechnic, Kaura Namoda, and has a BSc in Mathematics Education from Federal University, Gusau.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a state or period of harmony between different social groups characterized by the absence of violence or conflict behaviours and the freedom from fear or violence. Peace is a continuous process that requires certain skills and attitudes such as patience, tolerance, forgiveness, empathy, and compassion. Ultimately, peace always has to do with personal relationships: a person's relationship with themselves, with God, and with the people around them. A person must be bound, woven, and joined together with themselves with God, and with others to experience peace.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience.

The Fellowship program has strengthened my conviction to dedicate my personal life and professional career to interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding, it has taught me a lot about dedication, patience, and

collaboration. The program has deepened my understanding of the framework of interreligious dialogue, the fundamentals of different religions and the beautiful similarities between them, and basic skills in mediation and conflict analysis. The COFP Fellowship program is amazing. My confidence level has increased so much. May God Almighty bless COFP.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Sensitizing Youths Towards Peaceful 2023 General Election in Zamfara State, Nigeria.

Project Summary

As the general election approaches, the importance of free and nonviolent elections cannot be over-emphasized in Nigerian society. That is why Bello on 18th February 2023, convened 72 youths of Kaura Namoda in Zamfara State with the intent to enhance their skills and understanding of ways to prevent electoral violence and promote active participation in the electoral process on the one hand, and on the other to promote peaceful interreligious coexistence and interpersonal relationships among them.





Project Outcome/Impact

Eventually, as a result of this workshop, the participants became fully aware of the dangers of electoral violence. They saw reasons and the need to embrace peace and avoid all forms of violence during the forthcoming 2023 general elections, they even understood what roles they needed to play in order to prevent electoral violence. This community peace project improved interreligious dialogue as youths from different faiths and backgrounds sat together and brainstormed on ways of promoting peaceful interreligious coexistence and interpersonal relationships in their community. Some of the youths that were interviewed at the end of the workshop, confessed that it was the first of its kind in Zamfara State.

Attah

Rosalyn Jipkat

Secretary of WOWICAN, Plateau state and
a Registered Nurse with University of Jos Health



Attah Rosalyn Kipkat is a Christian from Plateau State. She is the Secretary of the Women's Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN), Plateau State. She works with the University of Jos Health services as a Registered Nurse.

My Reflection on Peace

To me, Peace is a state of understanding and harmony.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship program has been a thrilling journey that broadened my knowledge and deepened my understanding of fostering peaceful coexistence in my local community. It equipped me with the necessary tools to promote harmony in diverse multicultural and multi-religious environments. This experience has significantly influenced my outlook and perception of group dynamics in different economic and social strata settings within my community and beyond. Moreover, the program provided an avenue for networking, and, the opportunity to create friendships with other leaders across Africa. Overall, this Fellowship program experience has been empowering and has positioned me to be an advocate for peaceful relations in my immediate community and beyond.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Interfaith Peacebuilding Peace Coexistence: Before during & after the 2023 General Elections.

Project Summary

Rosalyn's interfaith Peacebuilding community peace project was held at Gwafan, Jos Plateau State on 16th February 2023 for 59 participants. The goals of the workshop were to raise awareness of the importance of peace, conflict resolution, and non-violent communication among youths in the Gwafan community, promote social cohesion and inter-ethnic understanding among them, in addition, to strengthen the capacity of local organizations and community leaders on conflict resolution and also empower the Gwafan youths to become agents of peace and tolerance in their community.

Project Outcome/Impact

The 1-day peace enlightenment project for youths in the Gwafan community was a success. The program was welcomed by the participants who expressed their satisfaction with its timeliness and relevance. They described it as the first time in the community when community members were brought together to discuss issues of peace. The project was attended by Mandy Dachi, the youth leader of the community, who spoke on behalf of the participants. According to him, the program had a significant impact on the youths, who have now seen the light and are determined to put into practice what they have learned.



Tako Rakiya

**Universal Basic Education Board Teacher,
Niger state.**



Tako Rakiya is a Tijjania Muslim from Niger State. She holds a Bachelor's in Economics Education from the University of Abuja. She is a professional Class Room teacher working at the Niger State Universal Basic Education Board.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace represents the solid foundation upon which the life of a man is built. The existence of peace is 'sine qua non' to Godly living and development of human society. Both the Qur'an and Holy Bible teach and encourage the adherents to embrace peace: "Do not follow in the footsteps of Satan. He is an outright enemy to you" (Qur'an 2:208); "Blessed are the peacemakers..."(Matthew 5:10). Peace, which does not imply the complete absence of war or conflict, is attained by genuine dialogue, reconciliation, mediation, arbitration, forgiveness, love, understanding, tolerance, and accommodation.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience.

My experience at the COFP Fellowship Program so far has been a tremendous and worthy one. COFP is no doubt, God-sent and my participation in the Fellowship Program is by the divine

mercy of God. The Program has changed my life for good. My participation in Modules One & Two has largely changed my perception and further deepened my knowledge of both Islamic and Christian Religions.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Capacity Building Workshop on Peaceful Coexistence and Dangers of Drug Abuse & Electoral Violence in Our Society at Chegnabyi Community, Minna, Niger State.

Project Summary

Chegnabyi Community is a multi-ethnic-religious setting. The people have been living together in peace and harmony for a long time. However, due to the expansion of the Community as a result of the influx of people of diverse backgrounds amplified by banditry activities, there have been calls on the need to continue to live together and spread the gospel of peace to further deepen the existing understanding and promoting peaceful coexistence and harmonious relationship amongst the various religious and ethnic groups in the project community. Rakiya's peace project was a welcome development for the 100 participants at her 1-day workshop held on the 28th of January, 2023. The main objectives of sensitizing the youths especially, on the dangers of drug abuse, and avoiding instances of electoral-related violent crises in the community were fully realized.



Project Outcome/Impact

The Project was successfully carried out with impressive attendance by all the target audience and stakeholders in the community. The Project Implementation enhanced the knowledge of the participants in cooperating, collaborating, and building mutual trust and understanding among the various groups in the community. The peace project further promoted the unity and commitment of the community members to work for peace and shun all forms of discrimination, hatred, and communal and politically motivated tensions for the forthcoming general elections. The youths, who were involved in drug abuse and criminal activities, confessed and swore not to indulge in such acts, henceforth. The elders and parents in the community resolved to take it upon themselves to provide effective parenting and guidance to their children.



Iliya

Ibrahim Tsigah

Parish Priest of St. Anthony's Catholic Church
Talata Mafara, Zamfara State



Iliya Ibrahim Tsigah is a Catholic Priest of the Catholic Diocese of Sokoto and hails from Katsina State. He is currently the parish priest of St. Anthony's Catholic Church Talata Mafara Zamfara State. He holds Bachelor's degrees in Theology and Philosophy.

My Reflection on Peace

Having been schooled by the COFP Foundation I have come to know that there is no substitute for peace among the followers of the two religions of Islam and Christianity. Peace means progress and development. Where this peace is absent, nothing can be achieved. Therefore, peace to me is the bedrock of human existence and society at large.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The experience was totally unexpected but it was a positive one. In fact, it should not be called a program but a School because all we did during the Fellowship program was purely academics with the view to put it into practice before and after graduation. All I can say is that I have been impacted so much so that I am a better Christian and priest than I was. And that my horizon has widened about other religions, especially the Islamic religion.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title:

The Basis for Inter-Religious Dialogue in Nigeria (A Case Study of Mobilizing Muslim and Christian Leaders For Peaceful Co-Existence In Zamfara State).

Project Summary

Fr. Iliyah invited 35 participants from the Islamic and Christian religions to his 1-day interfaith workshop at Gusau North LGA on the 23rd of January, 2023. The aim was to enhance peaceful co-existence between Muslims and Christians in the State and to make them understand that we all are one family under God as such there is no need for constant misunderstandings about the ways and the adherents of the two religions.

Project Outcome/Impact

The project achieved its aim and objectives because in the end the participants were enlightened on the standards and views and values of each religion and the need for peaceful coexistence between the followers of these two religions.

Sheriff Mohammeded Sow

**Executive Director, Think Positive,
Liberia Inc.**



Mohammed Sow Sheriff is a Muslim from Liberia. He is the Executive Director of the NGO, Think Positive Liberia. He has a B.Sc. in Education.

My Reflection on Peace

My reflection on Peace is that peace is not only the absence of war and tranquillity but peace is the product of justice and equality. Peace begins with oneself and should be extended to others. Intra and interpersonal peace help to foster long-lasting peace between people in a community.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

COFP has helped me to gain self-motivation and resilience driven-skills that enable me to autonomously accomplish the activities presented under the Fellowship work plan. It has paired me with Open-minded and curious individuals like me who are tenacious enough to engage in peer discussions on topics that are beyond their areas of expertise. I believe that the COFP Fellowship program is truly a life-changing experience for me because it is ultimately helping me to get the

opportunity to meet and network with professors, mentors, and students with unique experiences from across Africa.

The COFP program has provided me with an exceptional opportunity to explore different career options and talents most especially in Interreligious Dialogue, conflict transformation, and Peacebuilding. It also gave me the perfect platform to express ideas on building peace amongst people of different faiths and learn more about different countries, and their cultures, and gradually build a huge networking group.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Building A Resilient Youth Against Electoral Violence in Liberia Ahead of the October 2023 Elections.

Project Summary

It is easier to start a war than to end it. Liberia has its sad history of this reality and Sheriff refreshed it in the minds of his 50 Youth participants at his 2 -day interfaith workshop and 1-day football and kickball match held from the 14th-16th of February 2023 at Monrovia. The interfaith football and kickball matches brought the Muslim and Christian Youth boys and girls together before the peace workshop where they learned first-hand from one of the Longest serving Catholic priests in Liberia, Rev. Fr. Garri of the dangers and devastating effects and outcome of the war. A visit to the Mass graveside of the war victims for site cleaning drove home the lesson that the youths must not allow themselves to be deployed for destruction in the country, especially during the election period, rather, they should endeavor to be instruments of humility, service, duty, love, courage, perseverance, honesty, peace, and love for country, sharing and standing for the truth and playing roles in sustaining peace and counter electoral violence.



Project Outcome/Impact

This Interfaith peace project was full of lessons for all 50 participants. They learned first-hand about the devastating effects of war, how to prevent electoral violence, and coexist as people of God despite their different religions and faiths. Above all, they understood the undeniable need to rather embrace peace than anarchy.



Gani Mary Swamlong



Teacher, Women Vocational Training Centre, Jalingo, Taraba state.

Gani Mary Swamlong is a member of the congregation of the Sisters of the Infant Jesus Plateau State. Presently, she teaches at the Women's Vocational Training Centre, Jalingo, Taraba state. She obtained an NCE in Social Studies/Music from the College of Education, Pankshin, Plateau State.

My Reflection on Peace

The word peace in itself is unique. This is because, in pronouncing the word, if one pays attention to the way the body reacts and responds then we all ought to advocate for peace which gives great value. In turn, we will become a people of great value, because inner safe space, and calmness all of which are prizes of peace are beyond measure. Many people are wounded and broken and are in search of healing, as such, peace is of great value to us. Truly, without peace, we cannot succeed in whatever we are looking for.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience with the Fellowship program has been a good one. I saw it as a privilege to meet people from different parts of the African countries, faiths, and

cultures as we shared our thoughts with our unique stories which I am looking forward to using to improve the lives of many, especially among the community members where I work as I hope to build a community where everyone can be accepted and respected despite our differences. I also learned through the facilitators of the Fellowship program that 80% of what each community suffers is because their leaders have failed in their responsibilities and the Followers too failed to live up to theirs. I appreciate the efforts of the COFP team and say, thanks a million to the COFP for the great work thus far. God bless you.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Youth and Women Vocational Empowerment in Mayo Dassa Jalingo Taraba State.

Project Summary

Development is a gradual process that starts with a passion to improve the lives of the people based especially on their needs and this, Sr. Mary did in her community through her peace project which she implemented from the 25th -28th of January,2023 at Mayo Dassa Jalingo Taraba State. Through her youth and women vocational empowerment program, she taught her 22 participants skills in event Management, Farming, and Cosmetology, and empowered them depending on their needs with either improved seedlings of Spinach, Okro, flower seeds, fertilizers, or Sewing machines or Chemicals for the production of Liquid Soap, Shampoo and Vaseline and equally bought equipment for event decoration, all done to alleviate the rate of unemployment, make the youths and women self-reliant and independent, foster and develop increased learning and development opportunities and ultimately, improve the quality of life in the community in particular and also the larger society.





Project Outcome/Impact

The Project has highly made a positive impact on the community, especially on the participants. One of the beneficiaries of the program expressed her gratitude to God and to the Foundation for this rare opportunity given to the less privileged in their community which has enabled them to gain a means of sustenance and improved livelihood through the skills they acquired from the empowerment workshop. Also, in a conversation with another beneficiary, she confessed that this was the first time she had ever benefited from such a program and she was quite glad that she was able to learn a few things in cosmetology like the production of liquid soap, shampoo, and Vaseline. She appreciated the effort of the Foundation in ensuring that the less privileged and poor also have a handiwork that will sustain them and promised to replicate the kind gesture in her family and also extend it to the larger society in her little way too.

Ariwa Okechukwu

Head of Programs CONNAK Foundation,
Umuahia, Abia state



Ariwa Okechukwu is a Christian from Umuahia, Abia State. He is the Program officer of CONNAK Foundation, Umuahia, Abia state. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Education from Enugu State University of Science and Technology, (ESUT).

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a dynamic concept that needs to be grasped in positive terms, such as the presence of social justice and harmony, and the possibility for human beings to fully realize their potential and gain the respect of their right to live with dignity throughout their lives.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My Experience with the COFP Fellowship has widened my knowledge of how to foster peace, harmony, and transformative development through social justice, dialogue, and resilience building in my society. The program has also equipped me with the needed skills for advocating and building a culture of peace in my community.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peace Education Reform in Umuahia, Abia State.

Project Summary

This project was implemented over 5 days at Umuahia in Abia State from the 21st-25th of January 2023. The workshop focused on Peace Education for Teachers, Students, Men, Women, and Youth Leaders. A total of 45 Senior Secondary School Teachers and Stakeholders in the Education Management Board and 137 Students from 2 different Secondary Schools participated in the workshop, in addition to 18 Community Leaders and 107 community members invited from the neighbouring communities of Ndioru Oboro and Eluma respectively. The goal of this Peace Education Reform intervention was to expand and improve Secondary School Students, Teachers, and community leaders' knowledge of the importance of peaceful living and avoidance of war, irrespective of different cultural and religious backgrounds, by providing teachers with opportunities to refresh their Peace Education teaching skills to encourage multidisciplinary teaching to make teaching more participatory, enjoyable, and qualitatively superior.

Project Outcome/Impact

After the training for the Teachers, each of them volunteered to go to their various schools to form and champion peace clubs which they agreed will indeed help to reduce the high rate of cultism among Secondary School Students in Abia State and will also be instrumental in fighting the high rate of violence among Students, Teachers, and the community members.



Saadatu Hashim

Executive Director, Concerned Mothers Association, Kano & also the Former President of FOMWAN Kano state.



Saadatu Hashim is an indigene of Kano State. She is a development worker and the Executive Director, Concerned Mothers Association Kano (CMAK) an NGO with a focus on interfaith peacebuilding, Gender-Based Violence, Girl-Child, and Almajiri education. She holds a Master's in Industrial Design from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Saadatu is the former FOMWAN Amirah of the state and also The Women Committee Chairperson of Darul Andalus that works in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy for the women IDPs in the North East.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace symbolizes my religion. It is the symbol of good character; it is the tranquillity that keeps people together where there is a total absence of conflict or violence. It gives way to development, a good educational system, and better health care. Peace boosts the economy and expands economic activities. Where there is no peace, there is no peace of mind, and poverty strikes.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

I have been attending programs since the year 2000 with lots of certifications but none comes close to the COFP Fellowship program in terms of organization, conduct, and system of imparting knowledge on peace and project management. I have been writing proposals but I understand proposal writing better in the COFP Fellowship program. The liberty of interaction with people from other faiths, tribes, and countries has expanded my horizon. I can now interact with other Fellows from different African Countries and states in Nigeria, ask questions, get information on what peacekeeping is like in other places, and even replicate good project initiatives by myself. The selection of capable Facilitators made the program unique in terms of imparting knowledge logically.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: High-Level Interfaith Town Hall Meeting.

Project Summary

Sadatu held the 1-day interfaith high-level discussion in her community on the 19th of January, 2023 for 56 participants. In the course of the discussions, the participants were encouraged to always strive for Peace among themselves and the other members of the different ethnic communities in the State and also to pro-actively work towards a peaceful election in the forthcoming general elections. Consequently, 5 youth groups were formed to continue networking for peace in the State. The purpose of this project was to conduct constructive discussion towards peacebuilding and the formation of 5 interfaith youth groups.





Project Outcome/Impact

According to Sadatu, this project brought Key stakeholders and community members together in one forum to discuss peace, and it worked. The intention of forming five (5) interfaith youth groups in five communities was also achieved. Also, five (5) NGOs were networked as a result of this project. Representatives of the Igbo and Yoruba communities in Kano confessed that they have indeed learned something new about peace from this project. Interestingly, this project came at a good time - that is, before the forthcoming 2023 general elections, and I am in the process of holding a town hall meeting for young Federal House of Assembly Aspirants from Kano State to further enjoin them to keep the peace before, during and after elections, this in collaboration with the already formed 5 Interfaith Youth Groups and CMAK. The representatives of Kano Emirate and the district head of Dala LGA have also spoken about their roles in sensitizing their people about the importance of Keeping peace in and around Kano and the importance of PVC collection which they said their community members adhered to.

Chukwudolue Pauline

Administrator, St. Bernard Health Center, Akanga, Nasarawa state



Chukwudolue Pauline is a religious from the Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd and hails from Ozubulu in Anambra State. She resides and works in Lafia, Nasarawa state. She is the Administrator of St Bernard Health Center Akanga, Nasarawa State, and a Member Lafia diocese Health Commission. She holds HND in Community Health from Bingham University Teaching Hospital Jos.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace for me is a stress-free community where there is harmony between people or groups, it is striving to live in harmony with your neighbour and the proper management of conflicts. In a peaceful environment, war and violence are absent. Where there is peace, there is rest and people live together in harmony irrespective of race, tribe, or religion. In the Holy Scriptures, God enjoins us to “live in peace with one another in unity and one accord through the bond of peace” (Eph 4:3).

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Indeed, The Fellowship program expanded my knowledge of the Islamic religion which I thought was a religion of war. In the course of the Fellowship program, I come to understand that Islam speaks of peace and Christianity speaks of peace as well. All we need to do as faithful people is to understand one another and live in peaceful co-existence. We all are of the Abrahamic generation.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Interreligious Dialogue, Skill Acquisition and Empowerment of Women in Akanga Community, Nasarawa State.

Project Summary

Akanga is a rural community in Nasarawa State and many of these rural women lack some rudimentary skills that can help them generate more income for their families. Sr. Pauline bridged this gap through her community peace Project on dialogue, Skill acquisition, and Empowerment. She organized a 2-day skill and empowerment workshop on the 19th & 21st of January 2023, to equip these women with basic skills in the production of Soda and liquid soaps, chin-chin, and donuts. After the two days of training 28 of the 60 participants were equipped with starter kits for liquid soap, and confectioneries to enable them to start their new businesses.

Project Outcome/Impact

Today, in the Akanga community the impacts of the project continue to expand. Now these rural women are independent economically, happy, and more valued by their husbands. This has drastically reduced incidences of gender-based violence in the community. There is an inflow of more income to their families and the women have more confidence in themselves, all thanks to the COFP Foundation.



Makanjuola Hussain

**Executive Director, Muslim Peace Network,
Kaduna State**



Makanjuola Hussain is a Muslim from Osun State. He works as the Executive Director of the Muslim Peace Network, Kaduna State. He holds a Master's degree in Islamic Studies from Kaduna State University.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is my passion and I absolutely believe in it! I would say that, peace is the restoration of relationships, establishment of justice, and the creation of just social systems that serve the needs of the whole population, in Islam peace means justice and without justice, we cannot find peace.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Participating in the 2022/2023 COFP Fellowship program was a great experience for me as it availed me the opportunity to meet colleagues and make friends from different States, share experiences and challenges and identify some of the Fellows from my State, region, and religion for future collaboration and networking. This program made me discover common grounds that exist between and among diverse religious groups, it taught me to

respect the differences and use dialogue-negotiation as a tool for bridging religious and cultural divides, the COFP Fellowship program has continued to leave indelible marks of positive social change in me and my community where I live.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Community Initiative to Promote Peace (CIPP): Training of Arabic and Islamic School Teachers on How to Prevent Extremism in Our Schools in Kaduna State.

Project Summary

The project was a 1-day peacebuilding and sensitization workshop, held on the 12th of January, 2023 at Mold Treasury Academy, Kaduna North L.G.A, Kaduna State. On that day, 25 Arabic Teachers were enlightened on the need to avoid extremism and radicalism in discharging their religious duties, especially while teaching their students. The workshop goal was to set up a mechanism in the Arabic and Islamic schools in the community, to reduce the menace of radicalism and prevent violent extremism. Equally, the workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of Arabic and Islamic teachers to correctly interpret texts and forestall radicalization, counter the narratives of extremist groups at the rural level and promote core moral values and promote Islamic teachings that support peaceful co-existence with other world views and faiths.



Project Outcome/Impact

As a result of this workshop, there is increased understanding about the importance of peaceful co-existence within the community, a conflict resolution and dialogue mechanism was developed and is sustained, in addition to increased awareness on strategies for resisting violent extremism, and inclusive approach in relationships within the Islamic faith tradition and other faiths too.

Odunaiya

Adesola Olajumoke

French Translator at the Apostolic Church Headquarters in Lagos and the former state secretary of WOWICAN in Katsina state.

Odunaiya Adesola Olajumoke is a Christian from Osun State. She was the National Financial Secretary of CPFN Women Wing, (a unit under WOWICAN), Katsina State, and a B. Ed holder in (French Education) from the University of Lagos.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a situation of tranquillity where law and order are maintained and allowed amongst people in a given location or community. It is a situation enhanced by tolerance and justice. It gives no room for prejudice and segregation among people of different social classes, cultures, and religions. It promotes the development and economic advancement of every given community.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

My experience with COFP has been so positive in terms of creating, allowing, and enhancing peace in our communities. My knowledge about peace through COFP has gone broadened. I have got to realize that no religion, culture, or sect is superior to the other and that it is better “to wage

peace than wage war”. I have also realized that the only way by which peace could be achieved is by tolerating, accepting, and appreciating other people no matter the level of differences.



Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Youth and Women Skill Acquisition and Empowerment Program in Ayetoro-Gbede LGA, Kogi State.

Project Summary

The skill acquisition and empowerment project which took place at Ayetoro-Gbede, Kogi State, spanned a period of 1 month, starting from the 2nd -28th of January 2023. The 50 participants were trained on five skill sets of making cakes, confectioneries, event decoration, turbanators, and fascinators. The Project aimed to empower youth and women for financial strength by reducing gender-based violence in marriages caused by too much dependence of women on their husbands; creating self-esteem in people especially women in our communities, and reducing social vices in youths in our communities.

Project Outcome/Impact

This project brought together Christians, Muslims, the elites, and the less privileged in the community that have been living apart, thereby promoting peace in the community. The program has equally provided a means of livelihood for the participants who now help sustain their families from the income they make through their new business.



Juma

Fatuma Kamene

Founder and Director of Engage Jamii Initiatives, Nairobi, Kenya.



Juma Fatuma Kamene is a Sunni Muslim from Kenya. She is the Founder of “Engage Jamii Initiatives”; a community-based organization that focuses on connecting women with their children in Nairobi. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Social Sciences from the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace means an absence of chaos, destruction, and animosity. Peace brings out the best in many and peace leads to happiness and development. Peace is paramount for the betterment of any society. Peace can be found when we have honest discussions and tolerance. Peace is understanding one another and respecting diversity.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

Being part of the COFP Fellowship program in mid-2022, has enabled me learn a lot. I gathered more content on religious affairs while engaging people of different faiths I met at the program. I also gained confidence while discussing religious matters since I was empowered at the Fellowship to

understand what our religious differences can lead to when not well articulated. I have learned to respect and advocate for respect for religious diversity and religious understanding, (People perish due to lack of knowledge). I am now more knowledgeable to create platforms for interfaith dialogue forums without fear. I look forward to working with more religious leaders from different religious affiliations for the betterment of humanity. I am grateful to Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) for this wonderful experience and exposure.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Community Religious Leaders Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peaceful Co-Existence and Religious Understanding in Nairobi, Kenya.

Project Summary

The 1-day interfaith workshop for 45 Communal Leaders in Nairobi was implemented on the 15th of February, 2023. Some of the objectives of the project were to provide conducive communal platforms for religious understanding (Dialogue) and to bring humanity together as people of different faiths to encourage Mutual understanding of religious scriptures and also empower religious leaders to see the dangers of terrorism and join efforts in countering violent extremism and finally, empower youths in advocating for tolerance and communal unity.



Project Outcome/Impact

After this project workshop, Community religious leaders that participated agreed to share the information garnered from this program with their followers and other leaders. They noted their Individual responsibility to read and understand the scriptures and avoid misinterpretation or spread of wrong information. Equally, they agreed to pay visits to the religious places of worship of one another, hopefully, they may understand how they worship there, which they see as a measure to end religious misconceptions. They also advocated more involvement of the youths in interfaith debate forums, more involvement of community members in matters and decisions concerning religion and places of worship, and more exposure, awareness, and sensitization on respecting different religions, especially on social media.



Ededem

Enene Oku

Clergy with the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, Cross Rivers state



Ededem Enene Oku is from Creek Town in Odukpani L.G. A of Cross River State. A Clergy of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria (PCN) and a member of Grassroots Ecumenical Promoters of Nigeria, who has served his Church for 21 years, he works in the Interfaith Department of the Church.

My Reflection on Peace

The word "Peace" does not imply that there may be no misunderstanding or conflict, but amid conflict or misunderstanding there is a maximum control measure that prevents a fight, and rather ends conflicts at a gradual or instant resolution. Again, peace means the ability to tolerate everyone in an environment by adjusting all the time to accommodate others.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience at the COFP Fellowship program has been wonderful, it enabled me to meet and interact with people of different faiths, and also have more understanding and studies about our Muslim brethren. The Fellowship program has taught me to see and always take a Muslim faithful as myself. it's been so wonderful.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: 1-Day Seminar on Peaceful Co-Existence Among Christian and Muslim Youths & Violence-Free Elections in Uyo.

Project Summary

Ededem held his interfaith peacebuilding workshop in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State on the 28th of January 2023 for the Youths in his community. During the workshop, the 61 youths were made to realize that they are the flagbearers of peace in their community, and as such a lot is expected of them. By this intervention, Ededem aimed to see and have a peaceful Akwa Ibom State where Christians and Muslims can live, work, and do things together in peace without fighting or killing one another in any part of the community in particular or anywhere else in Nigeria.

Project Outcome/Impact

This project changed the mentality of both Christians and Muslims in my community. Moreso, for the first time, the Muslim participants were allowed to observe their Zuhr (2 O'clock) prayer inside the Christian chapel where the workshop was held. On their part, The Christians were surprised that the Muslims will accept to say their prayers in the chapel at all, while the Imam that led the prayers expressed his thanks and amazement at the gesture to the church and agreed that indeed the quest for peace in the community by the convener was without pretence or bias.



Salamatu Ibrahim Njira

Former National Amerah of Muslim Sisters
Organization of Nigeria and Deputy Medical Lab
Scientist at the Kano State Contributory Healthcare Agency.



Salamatu Ibrahim Njira is a Muslim from Kano State. She obtained a BSc in Biochemistry from ABU Zaria and also specialized in Chemical Pathology. She is the Deputy Medical Lab Scientist at the Kano State Contributory Healthcare Agency.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace means life to me; it is the root of my religion Islam. Islam means Salam which is the Arabic word for peace. It means civilization and development to me.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience with COFP is fantastic and memorable. It availed me the chance to broaden my horizon on peacebuilding and also gave me an opportunity to network on peacebuilding with people from different countries. I am really grateful for the opportunity.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Interreligious Dialogue: The Role of Mothers in Violence- Free Election.

Project Summary

The one-day program was held at Fagge, Kano State on the 21st of January, 2023, and attracted 75 all-female participants. It was an interfaith peacebuilding workshop to foster peaceful coexistence among the Muslims and Christians in the community. It also sensitized the women on the need to train their children and wards on Peaceful Coexistence to have a violence-free election in the State.

Project Outcome/Impact

The breakthrough that my project made was having Muslim and Christian women together which had never happened before now and brought about a mutual relationship and removed suspicion. The participants left happily and were yearning for more of this Interfaith dialogue workshop. They left with promises that they will pass this message to their neighbours and assurances to work towards violence-free elections in the State.



Ezugwu

Priscilla Nnedinso

Missionary in the Diocese of Maiduguri on Teaching Apostolate, Borno state



Ezugwu Priscilla Nnedinso is a sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ, Nigeria. She hails from Enugu State and works as a missionary in the Teaching Apostolate at the Diocese of Maiduguri.

My Reflection on Peace

When we talk of peace, what comes to my mind is tranquillity, calm, order, serenity, and normalcy. It is value, development, justice, and respect for the rights of others. It is a value that everybody longs for because it is the right relationship between God and humans and humans with one another. Peace is the charge of the moral law which demands that we should live as brothers and sisters, the lovers of peace defend life. To obtain peace, one should encourage dialogue, reconciliation, and forgiveness which is the best channel that runs toward peace. When there is no peace, disorder, violence, war, insecurity, abnormalities, injustice and underdevelopment arise. Peace is the ground rock of holiness. To seek peace, one has to be a man or woman of peace.

COFP Fellowship Program:
An Unforgettable Experience.

Biography

My experience in the COFP fellowship program is a great one indeed. I just see myself as a privileged one. The program has changed my mind-set about the Muslim people and it proved instrumental in helping me build a strong relationship with Muslims and even my fellow Christians as well. It has helped me to acquire great skills for peacebuilding and dialogue. It has helped me to understand myself and others more deeply. The program offered me the opportunity to understand my religion more and how I can live and relate peacefully with people of other religions.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title:

Promoting Religious Tolerance Among the Muslim and Christian Male Youth Ages of 14-25 Years in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council of Borno State.

Project Summary

The peace project which commenced from the 12th - 14th of January, 2023 was an avenue to build the capacity and empower the 15 male Youths of both the Christian and Islamic faith that were invited to participate in the program. After the football match between the participants which served as a prelude to the training, the Skill acquisition on Tie & dye, Vaseline, Liquid Soap production, and shoe making kicked off. At the end of the training, all the participants got starter kits on all the skills they were trained on, i.e., a shoe-making machine and chemicals for the Production of liquid soap and Vaseline to help them establish their businesses. All these were done to promote religious tolerance and drastically reduce the level of idleness and poverty in the lives of these Youth participants while building their capacity to earn a living by themselves.





Project Outcome/Impact.

This Project brought a great change in the entire community. The beneficiaries got emotional and confessed that this gesture has reaffirmed their belief in God and miracles. The next day, most of them started supply of their liquid soap and vaseline products in the local market and different shops within their neighbourhood, while others made some tie and dye cloths and slippers which they sampled and sold. Today some of them have rented shops in their neighbourhood and the local market where they happily carry out their business and generally life is getting better for them, all thanks to the kindness of the COFP.



Abdullahi Maigari

Assistant Director and the Assistant Zonal Inspector at the Katsina State Universal Basic Education Board.



Maigari Abdulahi is a Sunni Muslim from Katsina State. He is an assistant Director and the Assistant Zonal Inspector at the Katsina State Universal Basic Education Board. He holds a B-Ed (in Woodwork Technology) from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace for me means freedom from disturbance, it means tranquillity. Peace means being free from persecution due to one's religious beliefs, nationality, race, ethnicity, and political affiliation, it is freedom from violence, negative peer pressure, and partnership. Peace is being able to grow and thrive in keeping with your identity. Peace is freedom from binary concepts and thinking.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship Program provided me with the opportunity to explore the root causes of war and investigate the relationships between human nature, culture, religion, and war. And I learned how training on violent conflicts, dialogue negotiation, mediation, and extremism, possibly creates common

grounds for dialogue that builds a non-violent approach and commitment to addressing the issue of social injustice. Through the seed grant I got from COFP to implement a peace project in my community, I was able to apply my experience and skills learned to particular issues and challenges in my community and demonstrated how peace actors can play an integral role in promoting peace, reconciliation, and community resilience in the society.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Building and Supporting Sustainable Peace in Katsina Among Youths in Katsina Communities.

Project Summary

Katsina State is among the Northern States that has its unfortunate share of banditry in Nigeria. Many communities live in fear of the bandits and of one another as they do not know whom to trust. The 2-day interfaith workshop organized by Abdullahi in Makurda community from the 23rd-24th of January 2023 was to address the issue of mistrust and violence in the community to connect people of different religions, restore peace, prevent violent conflicts, and give a sense of belonging to the different groups in the State.

This project brought an increased peace awareness among the participants and the different faith groups in my community and also an improved understanding of the usefulness of dialogue between the community and interfaith groups leading to an overall increased understanding of peacebuilding and its gains for the whole community.

Project Outcome/Impact

This project brought an increased peace awareness among the participants and the different faith groups in my community and also an improved understanding of the usefulness of dialogue between the community and interfaith groups leading to an overall increased understanding of peacebuilding and its gains for the whole community.



Igweshi Augustine

Executive Director, Center for Peace Advocacy and Sustainable Development (CEPASD).



Igweshi Augustine is an Anglican Christian from Enugu State. He is the Executive Director of the Center for Peace Advocacy and Sustainable Development (CEPASD), a non-governmental organization in Abuja. He holds a B.Sc. in Geology from Ebonyi State University, Abakiliki.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace has more to do with having inner peace with oneself. In my recent peacebuilding facilitation sessions, I have seen the need to start teaching peace from the thorough observation of self. Self-awareness and reflection are critical aspects of peace. However, understanding the self has been one of the major ways to transform attitudes and behaviors to build peace. Also, for me, peace means getting to point A from point B, that is, working and performing my duties without experiencing any form of violence and discrimination.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

My experience at the COFP Fellowship program has been significant and impactful to me and the work I do in peacebuilding. Before coming in for the

Fellowship program I did not really know much about interfaith and mediation but with the various modules, teachings, facilitations, and learning, I have learned, unlearned, and relearned and acquired knowledge on interfaith and mediation. The practical approach to the facilitation of the modules makes it easy to assimilate.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Reduction in the Incidences of Electoral Violence and Promotion of Peaceful Coexistence in Nyanya Community, FCT, Abuja.

Project Summary

Nigerian elections over the years have been characterized by violence. The people, especially the youth require orientation on the need for peaceful and violence-free elections. Having this in mind, Augustine got 70 youths at Nyanya FCT to participate in a 1-day workshop on interfaith/electoral violence prevention on 9th February 2023. The workshop aimed at reducing incidences of electoral violence and promoting peaceful coexistence among the people.





Project Outcome/Impact

The youths that participated gained knowledge and more understanding of the gains of peaceful elections and peaceful coexistence. They improved their knowledge and gained an understanding of electoral violence prevention. Hopefully, the Christian clergy and Imam will transfer the knowledge gained to their congregation and build peace among them.

Nkenglefac Jethro

Hospital Administrator and Health
Counsellor, Cameroon.



Nkenglefac Jethro hails from the South West Region of Cameroon. She is a Catholic Nun in the congregation of the Tertiary Sisters of St Francis for 21 years now and currently, working as a hospital Administrator and health counsellor in Cameroon. She obtained a Higher Graduate Diploma in Business Management from Cambridge International College.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is and will always remain for me a mission and a passion. Just as air is crucial to the body for existence and livelihood, so is peace to human relationships, to life, to love, and to the future, at all levels. The call for peace is forever and it is a task for all, the high and the lowly, those alive and even the unborn. Peace is my passion and my mission in this world.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

Participating in the COFP Fellowship program has been a very fulfilling moment for me. It taught me many things, most of which are understanding other religions, gaining skills to fulfil my

mission of peace, and allowing me to meet with people from different parts of the world who have the same drive. Moreover, it has empowered me at all levels. The success of my community project which is a required fulfilment of the course process of the program gave me an inner push and so much confidence that I pledged to continue to "Do Something". The daring attitude of Cardinal Onaiyekan to have initiated this, is highly commendable I must say.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Women-Led Community-Driven Actions for Peaceful Co-Existence Between Host Community and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) In Mayodarle, Adamawa Region, Cameroon.

Project Summary

Sr. Jethro gratefully grabbed the opportunity offered by the COFP community peace projects to broker peace in her Mayodarle, Adamawa Region of Cameroon community which is divided along ethnic lines, different religious factions and the influx of internally displaced persons who escaped danger from their original homes to settle in her community and in a bid to survive took to farming, which in itself was causing a lot of misunderstanding between them and the original settlers. As such the whole community was hanging on a thin thread of peace.

Through her 2-day skill acquisition and empowerment workshop from the 22nd- 23rd of January 2023, where she invited 31 women to take part in the activities, she taught them to co-exist peacefully through Gardening, Farming, baking, and conflict and mediation techniques. In the end, 16 of them were empowered with start-up farming & gardening tools, and improved seedlings of Cocoyam, and corn; 13 others received baking materials which include Flour, and oil with some tools and 2 young IDP girls among the participants received sewing machines, all that in addition to little start-up capital to help them upscale their new business. Her aim to train these women to co-exist peacefully, engage them in a valuable business, and combat hate speech through their women's social groups in the community was achieved.



Project Outcome/Impact

For the first time, women of different faiths found themselves sitting together under one roof to receive information and training from the civil authorities and their religious and local leaders. One of the participants shared that after training on the first day, she spent the whole night reflecting on the reality that exists within her neighbourhood and her family of different faiths and religious adherents. she promised to go back and call for a meeting to reconcile all and to share what she had learned.

One of the IDPs, a young girl who ran for safety from the Northwest region of Cameroon which has been in crisis since 2016, burst into tears when she received a sewing machine. She had just graduated as a seamstress when one day she was forced to escape with her life from her native home to Mayodarle. She had been wondering what would become of her life now, so far away from home. So, receiving the sewing machine was such an unbelievable miracle that she couldn't contain her tears and joy. She thanked the COFP Fellowship program funders and team and dedicated her life to God, for she said..."God still answers prayers".



Jibril Idris

Teacher, Rasulul A'azam Foundation
Kaduna state, Nigeria.



Jibril Idris is a Shia Muslim from Kaduna State. He is a teacher with Rasulula'Azam Foundation, and a deputy Imam in Tudun Nupawa, a community in Kaduna. He holds a B.Ed. in Educational Technology from the Federal University of Technology, Minna. Presently, he is the Zonal Provost and an Assistant Superintendent at Nigeria Immigration Service Zonal Headquarters, Kaduna.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is the ability to have self-control emotionally and to react calmly and pleasantly in unpleasant circumstances that lead to provocation, harassment, contempt, castigation, and humiliation amongst others. Similarly, peace can be referred to as the capacity to overcome the deceptive and negative forces of arrogance, pride, selfishness, greed, and egotistical attitude, rather, substitute them with humility, contentment, compassion, empathy, love, and admissibility. Once the former (negative qualities) are eradicated and the latter (positive qualities) are established, one has succeeded in building sustainable peace in his domain. There is a saying that "peace begins with me". Once the term peace and its importance are

understood by everyone, it becomes easier to actualize and maintain.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace has transformed and rehabilitated my thought and sharpened my perception and foresight. Before my attendance in the Fellowship program, I had a different mindset on so many issues concerning other religions. In the course of this program, I learned a lot on the Tenets of Christianity, it has widened my knowledge and exposed me to things I could not have known if I wasn't given the chance to be among the

Biography

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2022/2023 Fellows. I was also equipped with the strategies and processes to be adopted while intervening in conflict management and transformation. I was made to understand that crises are inevitable but can be managed properly to a bearable level such that it appears non-existent. I have learned the importance of applying dialogue to solve critical issues as against the use of weapons. In the end, I was able to deduce that, peace is constructive while violence is destructive.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: 1-Day Sensitization Program on Re-orientation of Youths on the Importance of Violence- Free Elections for Sustainable Peace and Development in Tudun Nupawa, community of Kaduna State.

Project Summary

Jibril's Project was a 1-day interactive sensitization workshop held on the 14th of January, 2023 at Tudun Nupawa community in Kaduna, for a target audience of 50 youth participants. During the interactive session, the causes and dangers of election violence and how to mitigate them, especially in the forthcoming general elections in the state were addressed. As part of the project objectives, the convener created an awareness among the different youth and faith groups on the need for faith-based organizations to continually play reformatory roles among their members and task them on the need for a peaceful co-existence among the different religious groups in the community.



Project Outcome/Impact

As a result of this project, the Tudun Nupawa Youth Organization teamed up and committed to working with other stakeholders in the community to develop a strategy for re-orienting young people across different societal strata on the consequences of post-election violence. Equally, the party officials, community, religious, youth leaders, and other relevant stakeholders who were highly overwhelmed after listening to the lectures delivered by the resource person and the short interactive session on causes of election violence and their possible solutions all pledged to work towards a violence-free electoral process in the community. Most of the participants requested that this workshop be replicated in other communities in the state.



Okoliko

Hannah Ojochide

Headmistress, St. Monica Catholic Nursery and Primary School, Imo, Ilesha, Oshogbo, Osun state and a counselor in her congregation.



Okoliko Hannah Ojochide is a religious of the congregation of Daughters of the Holy Spirit, Nigerian Province from Kogi State. She holds a BSc in Public Administration from Veritas University, Abuja. She is the Headmistress of St. Monica Catholic Nursery and Primary School, Imo, Ilesha, Oshogbo, Osun state. She is also a Counsellor in her congregation.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a state of harmony among people of different races, cultures, religions, ideologies, and, social classes, which can only be achieved when people respect one another despite their differences. It is for this reason that our Lord Jesus Christ is called "The Prince of Peace" (Cf. Isaiah 9:6), for He was born to gather people from different nations to become one people in his kingdom. Without peace, we cannot sustain human existence on earth, we are first human before becoming a member of any religion, therefore, the human relationship must come first and be respected by everyone, as the holy Quran says: " because everyone is created by God Almighty, the Maker of all, humans must treat one another with full honour, respect, and loving-kindness" (Quran 17:70)

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience.

I give thanks to Almighty God for granting me the opportunity to experience the COFP Fellowship program. The program has improved my relationship with people of different religions other than mine. It has strengthened my view of a new Nigeria and the possibility of a better Nigeria where there is harmony between people of different religions and more people are brought out of poverty through the opportunity of empowerment funds.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Community Initiative for Peace Building and Human Empowerment in Ilesha East Local Government Area, Osun State.

Project Summary

Sr. Hannah's community peace project which encompassed Interfaith peacebuilding, skill acquisition, and empowerment program held at Imo Ilesha, Osun State from the 23rd -27th of January, 2023. Over 400 people benefitted from the interfaith peacebuilding held on different days and venues, for Students and Teachers in the School, the Ilesha Imo community members, and leaders and farmers in the community town hall. Also, 26 persons were direct beneficiaries of the empowerment tools for either confectioneries production, sewing machine for Fashion designers, or cash tokens for the farmers. The objective of the project was to promote peaceful coexistence among people of different religions living in Imo Ilesha community, empower those in need of a means for self-sustenance and also advocate for peace in the forthcoming general elections.



Project Outcome/Impact

The project was a success as it achieved the aim of peacebuilding and human empowerment in Ilesha East, Imo community and we are immensely grateful to God for that. The program started on Monday, 23rd of January 2023 with a sensitization talk on peaceful elections and peaceful coexistence among people of different religions. On Thursday, 26th of January 2023, there was a talk on the promotion of Agriculture in Ilesha East at the Imo Community Hall with a population of about 40 people. On Friday, 27th of January 2023, was the grand finale and empowerment program, the event was graced by the Oba of Imo Ilesha, an Imam, a CAN member, a representative of the Superior of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, and a Catholic representative.



Adam Muhammad Gaddafi

Farmers-Herders Initiative for Peace and Development Africa Volunteer



Adam Muhammad Gaddafi is an Izala Muslim from Plateau State. He volunteers with Farmers-Herders Initiative for peace and development in Africa, Jos. He holds (BTech) in Chemical Engineering from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is the absence and management of war and violence.

COFP Foundation Program: An Unforgettable Experience.

The experiences acquired from COFP Fellowship program are beyond my expectations seriously. Few among them are my exposure to Christians and Christianity. In fact, I learned so many things that improved my vision in interfaith relationship and peacebuilding

Biography



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My Community Peace Project.

Project Title: Creating Awareness of the importance of Youth Participation in Peacebuilding.

Project Summary

Gaddafi organized his peace project at his community, Dian, Bachit District, Riyom LGA Plateau State on 2nd March 2023. His community has been riddled with crises for decades now and the Fulanis and their Berom neighbors live in total suspicion of one another and the slightest misunderstanding most likely ends in violence. In a bid to contribute to peace efforts in the area, he organized the 1-day event which attracted 82 participants of which 67 are Fulani youths and 15 were community Stakeholders. The project aimed at creating awareness and reorienting the Fulani youths in engaging themselves and taking responsibility for building peace in their community that is gradually recovering from the negative impact of conflict and violence.

Project Outcome/Impact

The teeming Fulani youths were mentored, trained, and acquainted with knowledge towards becoming peace actors in their community amidst the post-conflict period. They left after the project workshop, full of renewed vigour to put into practice what they learned from the program.



Igwe

Caroline Adaku

Head of School (Administrator) of Dominican Nursery and Primary School, Lagos state and Promoter for Justice and Integrated Commission (JPIC), West African zone



Igwe Caroline Adaku Is a Dominican Sister of St. Catherine of Siena, Italy, Rome. She is from Anambra State and holds the office of the Promoter for Justice and Integrated Commission (JPIC), West African zone of the Dominican Sisters Africa (DSA). She is currently the Administrator of Dominican Nursery and Primary School, Lagos, and has a Master's in Educational Guidance and Counselling from the University of Lagos.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace for me is a state of tranquillity and calmness. It is a state of maintaining calm and serenity in the face of confusion and tension. It can be seen as being in harmony with God, oneself, others, and nature (environment). Peace is the ability to let go of the hurts received (even when you are right) to accommodate, tolerate and allow the other person his/her space. Peace is self-sacrificing (one's ego) and self-giving.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

My experience has been awesome and mind-blowing. I have come to understand the true reality of conflict

mediation and its processes. Before this experience, I have always believed a one-sided story regarding the continuous religious crises in the Northern part of Nigeria, as a result, I have always had a problem relating freely with persons of Islamic religious beliefs, but now my reality in that regard has changed, and my dislike has been transformed to love as I have come to realize that the other person involved in the crises is a soul that needs to be conquered with love.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Inter-Religious Dialogue, Skill Acquisition and Women Empowerment: A Channel for Building Lasting Peace and Human Development.

Project Summary

Sr. Caroline implemented her community peace project on interfaith peacebuilding, skill acquisition, and empowerment in Shendam Local Government Area of Plateau state on the 3rd & 4th of February, 2023. It was a 2-day interfaith training and workshop, for a target audience of some of the widowed and young women in the community, numbering 75 people of which 22 were to be empowered with starter kits after the skill acquisition training, however, the number of participants exceeded the estimated seventy-five (75) to over 100 persons (both male and female) cutting across the two major religions of Christianity and Islam. Despite the influx of persons, all the participants were trained in the production of snacks like chin-chin, puffs, buns and air fresheners, and liquid soaps. At the end of the training, 22 persons in dire need were empowered with items ranging from sewing machines, litres of Vegetable oil, half bags of flour, frying pans, etc., 25 litres of liquid soap worth of chemicals, bowls, and kegs for their soap storage. Indeed, the purpose of organizing the workshop which was to educate the people on the importance of peacebuilding and peaceful coexistence through dialogue, skill acquisition, and empowerment was all realized.

Project Outcome/Impact

For the entire Nubian community, this project was a life-saver. Interestingly, more Muslims than Christians showed up at the event even though it was held on Christian grounds and was organized by a Christian. In fact, most of them expressed their amazement after listening to the lectures and discovered that Muslims and Christians shared a lot in common, for many of them it was the very first time they heard that in their lives. The participants were very appreciative and requested that the program be repeated as they affirmed its positive impact on the entire community. Most of the beneficiaries have since put their starter kits to good use and are making some money for themselves and their families. Their lives are better and they are very grateful to the COFP for giving them hope and reasons to live better meaningful lives.



Khalid

Mohammed Yusuf Abaker



logistics Radio Operator with
Medecins Sans Frontiers, Darfur, Sudan.

Khalid Mohammed Yusuf Abaker is a Tarikhath Tijanniya Muslim from Sudan. He is the logistics Radio Operator with Medecins Sans Frontiers, Darfur, Sudan. He holds HND in Post-Harvest Processing, Handling, and Storage Technology and Management from Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri, Nigeria.

My Reflection on peace

Peace is life. No peace, no life, so it means peace is a complete way of life, we are all praying for peace in our country and world in general.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship program made me understand that COFP Foundation is committed to building the processes of peace and interfaith dialogue and social change in Nigeria and Africa.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Advocating for Sustainable Peaceful Co-existence and Social Harmonization.

Biography



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Project Summary

The one-day project was held at West Darfur El-genaina Sudan on 16th February 2023 for 25 participants. The aims were to create a strong attractive peaceful environment for all the affected tribes and particularly the (Arab and Masalit tribes) living in the IDP Camp as a result of the tension and conflict that made them run from their homes, also it was to give room for them to realize that God created us to live together and share the available resource and service in acceptance of one another irrespective of tribe or religion.

Project Outcome/Impact

From the beginning, we opened the door of visitations to the participants in their communities so as to show them love and change their uninformed beliefs. This gesture has yielded great results through improved interpersonal relationships with the participants. We also created improved channels of communication through the WhatsApp social media platform to help them have more frequent contact and communication with one another and this has so far yielded very positive results as seen in the improved relationships among them.



Layode

Emmanuel Atedola

Philosophy lecturer at the University of Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria

SEP



Layode Emmanuel Atedola is a Christian from Oyo State. He is a lecturer of Philosophy at the University of Ibadan and holds a Master's in Philosophy from the same University.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace, for me implies a wholesome healthy, and balanced lifestyle, perspectives, and dealings with other people within my community, both far and near. It comes to you fundamentally by being yourself, understanding your place within the scheme of things, and ensuring that you do your part well in order to create an equilibrium.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

At the COFP Fellowship Program, I had a very unique experience, in the final analysis, humanity is one irrespective of seeming differences in tribe/ethnicity, religion, language, colors/race, and other things which may be mere preferences.

Biography



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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: The Imperatives of Indigenes/Settlers Peaceful Co-Existence for Sustainable Development.

Project Summary

The 1-day sensitization program which was held on 9th February 2023 at Onipe Village, Ibadan was aimed at educating Onipe residents, including both indigenes and settlers on the exigencies of peaceful coexistence.

Project Outcome/Impact

It enlarged the horizon and understanding of the participants to the need for peaceful co-existence in the community by expatiating on the concept of citizenship in Nigeria; the Fatherhood of God to all humankind and the brotherhood of humans to humans.



Nwosu Caroline Ijenea

Regional Secretary, Daughters of Mary
Mother of Mercy Congregation Abuja.



Nwosu Caroline Ijenea is from Anambra State and a religious Sister of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy Congregation, DMMM. She works in Karu, Abuja & holds a B.Ed. in Education/Religion from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN). Currently, she is studying at the Institute Du Formators (IFF) – Jos in Plateau state.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a virtue, a gift from God. It is the absence of an unhappy situation. Peace is a state of tranquillity, calmness; freedom from war or violence between individuals or groups. Peace exists when individuals or groups give themselves serenity of mind, love for one another, and love for their society. Peace is real when there is internal peace of mind or soul. Both individuals and the world need peace – (internal and external peace) for the good of the individuals and the growth of the nations.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

COFP Fellowship program exposed me to teachings that equipped me with the skills to understand different religions of the world – Christianity, Islam,

Judaism, and African Traditional Religions, and their similarities and differences. The concept of Comparative religion enabled me to vividly identify that all the religions have a common ground – all exist because of God, all worship one God, and have one end – eternal life with God. Furthermore, I learned the causes of conflict and violence among individuals in society and ways to eradicate it.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peace Education, Skill Acquisition, and Empowerment of Young Women and Girls of Sheria Community in Bassa LGA of Kogi State.

Project Summary

The unfortunate tribal war in Sheria community of Bassa left a trail of loss, bitterness, and widowhood. Many of these young girls and widows have no job or skillsto help them fend for their young families, as such Sr. Caroline's peace project was a lifesaver to the 20 participants in her skill acquisition and empowerment program. The 3-day workshop, skill acquisition, and empowerment program were held at Sheria, in Bassa LGA of Kogi State from the 27th -29th December, 2022. The beneficiaries were trained in fashion design/sewing, baking, confectioneries, cultural wool wears, and liquid soap production. After the training, Sr. Caroline empowered them with starter kits for liquid soap production, sewing machines, ovens, and cloth knitting machines for others. The goal of the project was to mitigate the impact of the tribal war and reduce poverty among young widows and young girls in the Sheria community.



Project Outcome/Impact

When the participants gathered for the program, they were seated in two clusters – Christian and Muslim groups. However, after the teachings on peace education which exposed them to the common ground of all humanity, there were deep smiles, joy and happiness among the participants which resulted in friendly interaction, and reunion among them. The skills and empowerment given to the women enabled them to establish their own businesses and cater for the basic needs of their families and it equally helped the young girls to be emotionally strong and economically independent. Finally, through Sr Carline's project, the participants learnt to live harmoniously with their neighbours. This benevolent act from the COFP has solved a great problem of reducing the high rate of sexual immorality, unwanted pregnancy, diseases associated with that lifestyle, and untimely death among young widows and young girls in the project community.



Binanchi

Aliyu Balarebe

PRO of Jamaatu Nasurul Islam (JNI)
Sokoto state, Nigeria



Binanchi Aliyu Balarebe is a Sunni Muslim from Sokoto State. He is the PRO of Jama'atu Nasurul Islam (JNI) Sokoto. He holds a BSc (Ed) in Biology from Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

My Reflection on Peace

Personally, I see peace as everything as nothing is possible without peace. Islam as a religion means Peace and it propagates peace among its adherents and the adherents of other religions especially the Christians and the Jews. Peace is a prerequisite for any society's development, progress, and prosperity. I believe building and sustaining it, is a worthy endeavour to pursue by any sensible individual of any society and religion.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience with the COFP Fellowship program is amazing as I met with seasoned and experienced facilitators who drilled us on understanding the different religions, and techniques of interreligious dialogue, conflict transformation, and mediation. I also got the opportunity to

share with other African Fellows their experiences, values, and challenges of building peace among people of different faiths. I can say without an iota of doubt that the Fellowship program has equipped me with a lot of skills and knowledge on peace advocacy, project management, and fund-raising skills to run successful projects. I appreciate the opportunity given to us by the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace to be part of this noble course. I also look forward to graduation and enrolment into the CANEP.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Training of Muslim and Christian Undergraduate Students of Tertiary Institutions in Sokoto on the Effective Use of Social Media Platforms to Promote Peaceful Co-Existence Among Different Faith Adherents in the State.

Project Summary

This project was a 1-week interfaith workshop that started on the 10th of January, 2023, it hosted 50 Muslim and Christian undergraduate youth participants from some Tertiary institutions in Sokoto State. Ultimately the workshop aimed to educate the participants on the ethics of proper use of social media platforms. The workshop also helped increase positive engagement between Muslim and Christian youths on information sharing and effective communication when using different social media and creating one community of informed youths to appreciate one another's interests, religion, ethnicity, and political affiliation.





Project Outcome/Impact

Through this project, the participants gained knowledge and skills on proper ways of using social media platforms. There was also a positive engagement outcome on good ethics of communication and information sharing among youths of different faiths, ethnicity, interest, and political affiliation, thereby, promoting one strong group with a common voice and understanding.



Mary Mbukpa

Project Coordinator,
Plan International, Abuja,



Mary Mbukpa is a Christian from Cross River state, Nigeria. She is the Project Coordinator, Plan International Abuja Nigeria and Health Development Specialist. Mary obtained an Honorary Doctorate degree in Philosophy from Ashland University, Ohio, USA.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is living together in harmony with self and others, walking the talk about "Do to others what you wish they do to you", accommodating, adjusting and accepting others in their diversities and when conflict arise, finding balance for a win-win situation.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The opportunity to deepen and strengthen my knowledge and skills in Peacebuilding, Interfaith and Interreligious and Conflict Resolution was exciting, meeting with other COFP Fellows. The support from COFP to the community, peace and empowerment project was the high point as this aligns with my aspiration to work towards sustainable peace and empowerment of vulnerable targets.

Biography

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Role of Religious and Community Stakeholders in Conflict Resolution and Support for Skill Acquisition and Empowerment of Youth and Women in Nyaghasang Community in Calabar.





Project Summary

The Peace project took place on 7th and 8th of April, 2023 in Calabar, Cross River state. The seminar was on the role of religious and community stakeholders in conflict resolution on day one. Day two was on skill acquisition where beneficiaries learnt how to make pastries such as (meat pie, popcorn and burns). A total of 46 participants benefited including 35 females and 10 males.

Project Outcome/Impact

Participants were able to get themselves engaged thereby avoiding idleness as they were given starter packs to start off a business.



Abubakar Alhaji Saleh

Staff of the University of Maiduguri and the Inter Action-Initiative for Community Development (CBO) Maiduguri.



Saleh Abubakar Alhaji is a Muslim from Yobe State. He works with the University of Maiduguri Nigeria, and Inter Action-Initiative for Community Development (CBO) Maiduguri. He obtained M.Sc. in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Maiduguri.

My Reflection on Peace.

Peace can be a state of harmony or the absence of hostility. It can also be a non-violent way of life. Peace often depicts the cessation of violent conflict, a state of quiet or tranquillity, or an absence of disturbance or agitation. Peace can also describe a relationship between any people characterized by respect, justice, and goodwill. The word peace is from the Hebrew Word “Shalom”, the Arabic word “Salaam”, the Yoruba word “alaafia” and the Igbo word “Udo” all signify many things which human beings desire such as safety, welfare, prosperity, and security, fortune, and friendliness. Peace means a lack of conflict (such as war) and freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups. It can also be seen as freedom from persecution due to a person's nationality, immigration status, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, or religious belief (or lack thereof).

Biography

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience.

This program has widened my knowledge and understanding of other faiths. Before now, I see them as a threat, especially Christianity but with this program that I have undergone with the COFP, I have seen that Christians are not a threat nor an enemy but one family. No doubt this program is fantastic, may God Almighty reward our father the founder of this project, His Eminence Cardinal John Onaiyekan, and the entire COFP crew. Also, our Sister Agatha Chikelue for her encouragement, tolerance, and patience.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Inter-faith Dialogue: The Role of Youth in the 2023 General Election in Gwange Community Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria.

Project Summary

Saleh carried out his 1-day Interfaith Peacebuilding workshop for 45 participants in Maiduguri, Borno State on 30th January 2023, aimed at enhancing interfaith dialogue and the role of youths in the 2023 Nigeria General Election in Gwange Community. The participants were encouraged to embrace dialogue in resolving any conflict that may arise in the community and accept people of other faiths and work towards a peaceful and violence-free election in the State.



Project Outcome/ Impact

Saleh observed that among the gains of the peace project was a positive attitudinal change in his local community of Gwange. As a result, people of his community now enjoy peace and harmony because the project helped his community to learn the appropriate measures to prevent violence and extremism through restorative justice processes. The training which was related to the restorative justice concept enhanced a better understanding of inter-religion, and dialogue among the youths and the community in general. It built mutual understanding, cooperation, and respect among the community members and also made them realize that people of other faiths have the right to practice their faith freely without fear and anxiety in Gwange.



Mbehimi-Bob Stanislas Héritier

Project officer of Focal Point/GenDem
at the International Republic Institute (IRI)
Bangui, Central African Republic



Mbehimi-Bob Stanislas Héritier is a Christian from the Central African Republic. He is the founding President of Centrafricaine du Recyclage des Déchets (ACARD), He works as the Project officer of Focal Point/GenDem at the International Republican Institute (IRI), Bob has a degree in Economics & a Master's in Engineering and Project Management from the University of Bangui, CAR.

My Reflection on Peace

My country is going through a turbulent time where violence is a daily occurrence, so I am much more concerned about peace issues because without peace nothing can be done and nothing can be done about development. In addition to that, it is necessary to educate the new generation on the questions of peace so that they can take responsibility for this country including Africa in general.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Through this fellowship, I understood a lot of things about Christianity and Islam; the Jihad, inter-religious conflict, mediation, and dialogue. This acquired

knowledge allowed me to develop a great capacity in leadership, then through a small project financed by COFP allowed me to reach 177 young people on the dangers of hate speech, and the importance of living together in peace and harmony.

Biography



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**COFP
Fellows
CLASS OF
2023**

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Combating Hate Speech in Our Schools and Universities Towards Peace and Development in the Central African Republic.

Project Summary

This Peace Education project was a week-long workshop that started on the 19th of February, 2023 at Bangui. The objectives were to sensitize at least 200 young people: girls and boys on how to stop hate speech and speak for peace and reduce the rate of communal violence among the people of my community.

Project Outcome/Impact

The project has made a lot of impact because of the relevance of the theme which was appreciated by the participants who wished that it could be done again on a large scale. For example, in one of the private universities, the undergraduates have asked that this be organized as a conference in the coming weeks because peace is a concern of all Central African citizens.



Francis Ishmael Sesay

Project coordinator at Seeking Answers Against Poverty (SAAP), Freetown, Sierra Leone.



Francis Ishmael Sesay is a Christian from Freetown, Sierra Leone. He has a Ph.D in Ecumenism & Dialogue from Saint Thomas Aquinas University, Italy & Masters in Arabic & Islamic Studies from PISAI, Cairo-Egypt. Presently, Francis works as the Project Coordinator at Seeking Answers Against Poverty (SAAP), Sierra Leone.

MY REFLECTION ON PEACE

In a social sense peace is commonly used to signify lack of conflict, violence and war. The determination of the human society to coexist and live in harmony with oneself and his neighbors. To me personally, peace means a stress-free state of mind, security and calmness that comes when there is no fighting or war. Everything

coexisting in a perfect harmony and freedom. To me peace is the greatest need for the existence of humanity.

Biography



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MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE COFP FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Cardinal Onayekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) is a leading dialogue and peace mediation organization in Africa founded by one of the Catholic Church's most illustrious Son. The Foundation has a holistic and integral approach to peace and mediation for conflict resolution in Africa. The African continent is riddled with conflicts from Cabo Delgado in Mozambique to the Sahel; from the Gulf of Guinea to the Horn of Africa. The COFP took upon itself the glorious challenge of teaching Africans to live in peace with one another. The conflicts vary from one context to the other; but COFP believes that we can only mediate after a thorough process of conflict analysis. That peace is an ongoing process that demands a collaborative effort of all sectors involved. Respect for the other, desire to learn from and about the other can bring about understanding. The belief that humanity must be our uniting force and not allow ourselves to be divided by our different creeds and faith convictions is the hallmark of the Fellowship program.

Outcome of the Fellowship

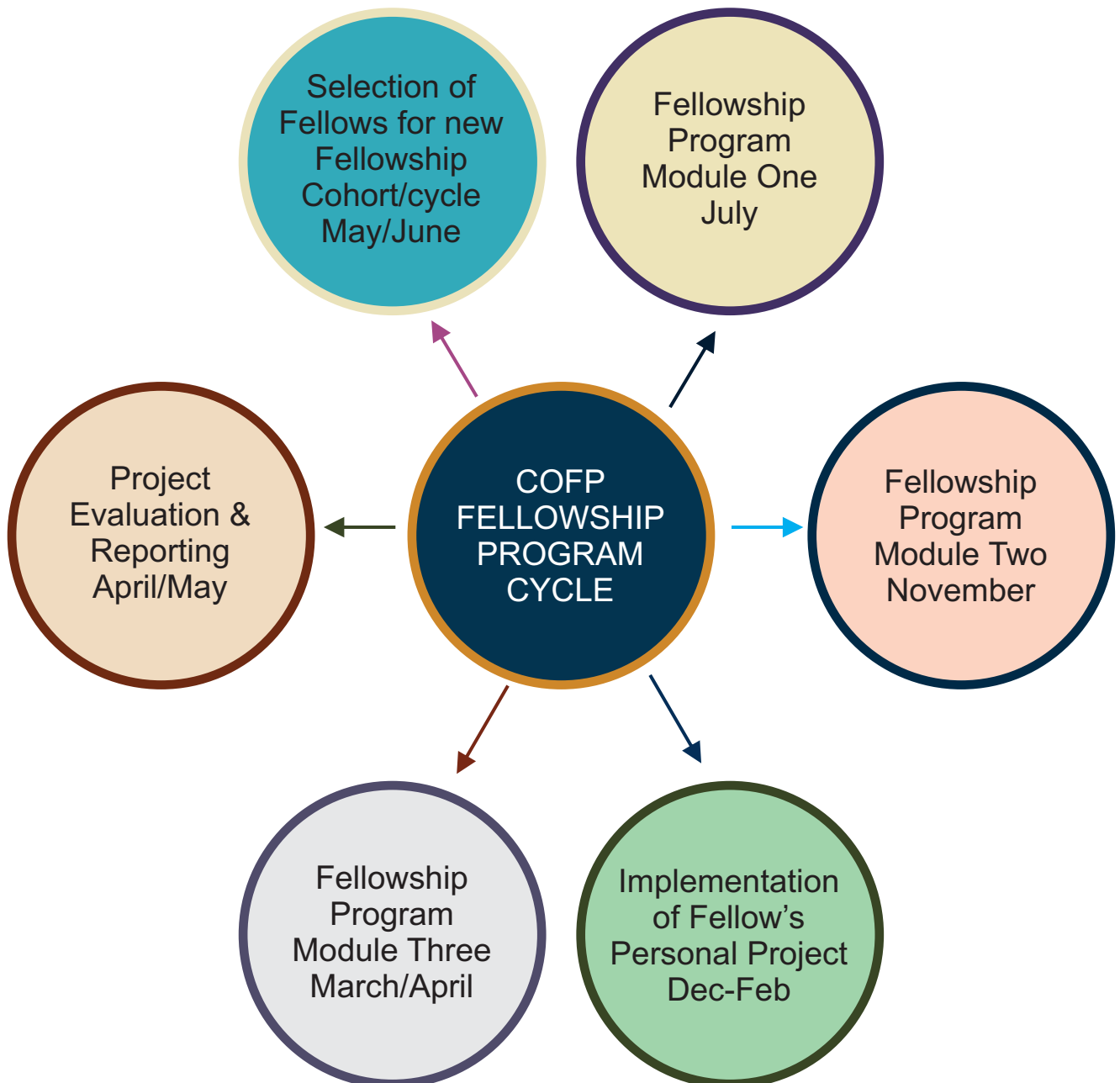
Francis affirmed that the COFP Fellowship program has enabled him to make a positive impact in his country Sierra Leone. Through the rich experiences he acquired from the program, his knowledge has been increased and he is now exposed to new learning and opportunities for impactful peacebuilding actions in his country.



COFP FELLOWS



COFP Fellowship Program Cycle



*Peace means effectively
managing and
transforming conflict and
structures that promotes
violence for nonviolence
social change, coexistence
and development ”*

COFP



*“ There was never a good
war or a bad peace ”*

Benjamin Franklin





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