



# COFP

Fellowship Program

# 2024

## YEARBOOK

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**COFP**

Fellowship Program

CLASS OF  
**2024**

2023/2024 COFP Fellowship Program  
Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation & Mediation

**Publisher:**

Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP)  
Abuja Nigeria  
COFP, 2024


First Published 2019

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**Printed in Nigeria by:** Jeremore Multimedia Ltd.  
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 Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace

 (COFP) Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace





## FOREWORD

**T**he aspiration to create a peaceful, inclusive, and progressive continent resonates deeply with every African, especially given the prevalence of violent conflicts in Africa with ethnoreligious, communal, and political roots. Consequently, fostering peace in deeply divided societies like Africa presents a formidable challenge that we must courageously embrace. Managing communal conflicts to ensure safety and human development demands significant efforts, not only from the government but also from the citizens.

The meeting between Pope Francis and Grand Sheikh Ahmad Al Tayeb of Al Azhar, and the subsequent joint statements on human fraternity, as well as the establishment of a joint council for this purpose, offer hope that we can overcome the challenges posed by our diversities and forge a more resilient society that upholds and defends the rights of every individual.

Over the past six years, the COFP Foundation has embarked on this journey by providing a platform for religious leaders and peace advocates to engage in promoting peace and security through our annual COFP Fellowship Program. This program acknowledges the vital contributions of individuals from all cultures, religions, and beliefs, with a focus on establishing common ground for peace through a shared understanding of universal values. Given the recognition by the United Nations of the need to collaborate with faith communities in fostering sustainable peace, African governments must actively engage and mobilize civil society actors, faith-based groups, and traditional institutions to advance peace and security for human development.

I extend heartfelt congratulations to the Sixth Set of COFP Fellows for their commitment and dedication throughout the one-year Fellowship program. Through the Fellowship Program in Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation, and Mediation, these 46 COFP Fellows, who convened from various parts of Nigeria and Africa, are now equipped and prepared for the challenges ahead. They have been empowered, fortified, and positioned to engage in meaningful interfaith, intercultural, and peacebuilding initiatives that will pave the way for development and peaceful societies across Africa. They have also recognized the power of interfaith collaboration in combating violent extremism in the name of religion, and can now be recognized as peacebuilders.

Therefore, as peacebuilders, I urge them to utilize their newfound knowledge, skills, talents, and networks for the collective good and peace in Africa. Although much remains to be done, we must take the first step. Challenges and hurdles will arise, but remember that you have the capacity to overcome them with divine assistance. Your primary duty now is to embark on the mission of fostering a culture of peace and harmony wherever you are. We also welcome the COFP Alumni Fellows (CANEP Africa) who are present to witness the graduation of their successors and to mentor them for the significant task of community building ahead.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Conrad Hilton Foundation (CHF), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), GHR Foundation, 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 have enabled us to sustain this life-changing program thus far. We continue to rely on your individual, organizational, and governmental partnerships for the program's continuation.

Let us remember that while we can progress quickly alone, but together, we can achieve much more.

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 &  
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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## ABOUT COFP FOUNDATION



**T**he Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to providing a platform for fostering and strengthening peace and social change in Nigeria and Africa as a whole.

Founded in 2010 by John Cardinal Onaiyekan, one of Nigeria's esteemed faith leaders and a staunch advocate for religious tolerance and inclusivity, the Foundation acknowledges that many conflicts in Africa, despite their ethno-religious nature, stem from deeper structural issues related to various forms of exclusion—be it religious, ethnic, political, economic, or gender-based. These issues can only be effectively addressed through governance structures that are both ethical and just.

COFP's approach to tackling these challenges includes promoting ethical leadership and providing a forum for faith leaders, citizens, and political leaders at all levels to engage in discussions on peace and development. The Foundation also assists conflict parties by equipping them with essential skills for peacebuilding, conflict management, and transformation within their communities.

Grounded in the principles of inclusive dialogue and the common good, in accordance with the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church, COFP draws inspiration from the *Nostra Aetate* Declaration of the Second Vatican Council on Interreligious Dialogue and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 16 on peacebuilding. The Foundation also leverages decades of experience in addressing social injustice, fostering interreligious dialogue, and promoting collaboration for peace and the resilience of all people.

COFP is committed to engaging with all sectors of society, particularly marginalized groups such as women, youth, children, and others on the fringes, recognizing that peace is a prerequisite for transformative development that requires the involvement of all. The Foundation's core programs include Interreligious Dialogue, Peace Education, Governance/Leadership Ethos and Development, Community Engagement, and networking with similar organizations, 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



Fostering peace in environments plagued by ethnic strife, poor governance, terrorism, and insecurity is both a personal commitment and a shared responsibility involving organizational efforts and governmental actions. The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) has been actively engaging faith leaders and community actors throughout Africa to build inclusive societies that promote peace.

It is evident that government initiatives alone cannot achieve lasting peace without the involvement of civil society, faith-based, and community-based organizations. Therefore, our priority remains joining forces with these actors to increase citizen participation, strengthen community resilience, ensure security, and counter hate speech, mistrust, and stereotypes. Building commitment to lasting peace and development has always been the cornerstone of our peacebuilding efforts.

Since its establishment in 2018, the COFP Fellowship program has provided a safe space for addressing contemporary challenges, particularly violent extremism, by fostering relationships amidst complex dynamics. This has inspired us to persist in our efforts to enhance interfaith relations, empower communities, and cultivate a culture of peace.

The COFP Fellowship program has become a permanent fixture due to its unique role in training, preparing, equipping, empowering, encouraging, and engaging leaders and actors to actively participate in their communities, advancing reconciliation and peace. In 2021, the program expanded its scope to other African countries, making it a Pan-African program with global solidarity.

The journey to the 2023/2024 COFP Fellowship Program, now in its 6th year with the Class of 2024, began in July 2023 with 50 Fellows, predominantly from Nigeria, along with 7 Fellows from other African countries. These Fellows represent various Christian and

Muslim sects/denominations within Nigeria and Africa, emphasizing the program's inclusivity. Through a tailored, intensive, and participatory one-year Fellowship Program, Fellows completed the required 150 credit hours of study at the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace and executed individual community peace projects in their respective states and countries.

Today, May 4th, 2023, they will be awarded Certificates in "Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation, and Mediation" by COFP Foundation through Veritas University of Nigeria (VUNA) and Nile University of Nigeria (NUN). The graduation ceremony will also mark their induction into the COFP Africa Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP), enabling Fellows from across the continent to continue their interaction, cross-cultural learning, joint peacebuilding interventions, and experience sharing.

We are confident that the training in Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation, and Mediation has prepared our Fellows to become Peace Ambassadors, with expectations for them to play significant roles in addressing today's conflicts. As they embark on this journey, we hope this initiative will contribute to religious harmony, peaceful coexistence, and community development, translating dialogue into practical actions, which embodies the essence of being a COFP Fellow.

In conclusion, we honour our late colleague, Rex-Cyprain Aniah, who tragically passed away in a car accident five years ago while supervising Fellows' peace projects. Rex, your memory lives on, and we are comforted knowing that the noble cause for which you gave your life continues to thrive. We trust that you rest in peace with the Lord, the ultimate rewarder of every good deed and the source of eternal peace.

Welcome once-again and God bless you.

**Agatha Chikelue Sr. DMMM**

Executive Director  
April 20th, 2024.



# The COFP Fellowship Program Modules

## How It Works

**C**OFP 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.







# Sadiya Sheikh Abdullah

Financial Secretary  
Youth Wing, Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria  
(FOMWAN), Niger State

**A**bdullah Sadiya is a Muslim from Niger state. She obtained a BSc in Information and Media Technology from Federal University of Technology, (FUT), Minna and MBA from Roxbourg Institute of Social Entrepreneurship (RISE). Aside other functions she is engaged in, Sadiya is a certified Entrepreneurship trainer and Coach and Executive Director of Passcard Consulting Limited.

## My Reflection on Peace

The COFP Fellowship Program provided me with a unique opportunity to delve into the intricacies of interfaith dialogue, broadening my knowledge of Christianity and refining my skills in fostering meaningful conversations between individuals of different religious backgrounds. With this, I believe we can contribute to building bridges of understanding and empathy, fostering a world where diverse communities coexist harmoniously.



**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

Engaging in the COFP Fellowship Program has been both insightful and fulfilling making a significant milestone in my professional journey. Before embarking on the COFP Fellowship Program, my understanding of Christianity and the art of dialogue was limited. However, the comprehensive COFP Course Modules equipped me with fundamental knowledge about Christianity and honed my skills in effective interfaith discussions.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Building sustainable, Peaceful and Tolerant Generation through School Clubs.

**Project Summary:**

It is a common knowledge that inculcating good manners and morals in young people will help them when they grow. With this idea in mind, Sadiya's peace project focused on schools with the aim of establishing peace Clubs in such schools tagged Unity in Diversity (UID) Club. It took place on 5th February, 2024 at Minna with 198 students participating. The event which lasted for three days was executed in three different secondary schools.





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

There was increased awareness and understanding as the students gained insights into the outstanding values present in both Islam and Christianity. It also brought out the students potential to foster positive peace and relations with the school community and beyond. It also led to active student engagement as demonstrated in the election of pioneer executives (ExcOs) for the Unity in Diversity (UID) clubs.

Sadiya Sheikh Abdullah





Abah Anthony John

Manager  
News and Current Affairs, Catholic Television of Nigeria (CTV), Abuja

**A**nthony John is a Catholic from Benue State. He is the Manager of News and Current Affairs at Catholic Television (CTV). He holds a BSc in Mass Communication from Benue State University, Makurdi.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace, to me, is a dynamic equilibrium where individuals, communities, and nations coexist harmoniously, nurtured by empathy, justice, and understanding. It transcends the absence of conflict to encompass a state of collective well-being, where differences are celebrated and resolved through dialogue rather than violence.



### **COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience**

Attending the COFP Fellowship program has expanded my understanding of Dialogue, Peaceful Co-existence, and Meditation. Upon completing the first and second modules, my perception of Muslims underwent a positive transformation.

Previously, I viewed Muslims as a violent group, but after learning about the principles and basics of Islam, I realize that extremism stems from ignorance and a lack of knowledge about the Islamic faith. My single story of associating Muslims with terrorism has now changed; I now perceive them through a lens of shared humanity. The Fellowship has made me a better Christian and taught me to demonstrate love towards all men.

### **MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Youth for Peace Interfaith Football Competition in Durumi 2 Garki, Abuja Nigeria.

#### **Project Summary:**

Tony, recognizing a need in his community, chose to execute his project through the Soccer for Peace Football competition held over a 2-day period from the 27th to the 28th of January, 2024, at Durumi Community, Garki 2, Abuja.

The participating Youth teams represented both the Muslim and Christian communities. In total, the competition featured 75 players and 6 Coaches who supervised the matches. The primary goal of the tournament was to foster inclusivity, cooperation, and help the Youth in honing conflict resolution abilities. Following the competition, all team members were awarded medals and embraced a sense of camaraderie, transcending their diverse religious backgrounds.



Abah Anthony John



**Project Outcome/Impact:**

Tony says that as a result of the peace project he implemented in his community, the youth, both Christians and Muslims, now have increased interaction with each other compared to before the soccer for peace initiative. Following up with them, they expressed a desire for more programs like this and recommended making the Football for Peace competition an annual event. They also proposed holding the tournament during Sallah and Christmas celebrations. Through this community peace project, the youths in Durumi have developed a mutual understanding of each other regardless of their religious differences, fostering friendships among them.





# Demohey Fatima

Pastor, Shalom Embassy Ministries International  
Lusaka, Zambia and Chief Librarian, Lusaka City Council

**D**emohey Fatima is a Pentecostal Christian from Lusaka, Zambia. She is a Pastor with Shalom Embassy Ministries International. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Library and Information Science and Public Administration from University of Zambia. In addition, she also holds an Associate Degree of Arts in Theological Studies from Miami International Seminary in the United States of America.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

With the new knowledge from the Fellowship Program, I would personally define peace as a situation where individuals and various groupings are able to coexist in harmony overlooking their differences. These differences could be religious, ethnic, tribal, family, political affiliation, place of residence etc.



**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The Program broke down religious, ethnic, tribal and social divides in Lusaka community. The people learnt about how peace can be an agent of development. One of the listeners called Fatima to tell her that the program changed her mind set about Islam and promised to relate better with Muslims. She also promised to employ a Muslim in the school where she is the proprietress.



**COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience.**

The Fellowship Program has impacted me immensely. I am now a better spiritual leader and counsellor, and I understand more the importance of coexistence with all God's creatures and living in harmony with all of them. I also understand Islamic religion better

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Inter-faith Radio Program on the Role of Peace in Development in Lusaka, Zambia and surrounding areas.

**Project Summary:**

Fatima organized an Inter-faith Radio Program in Lusaka on 3rd February, 2024 where two million people listened to the program. It was aimed at creating awareness for two million listeners including adult, youth, civic leaders, religious leaders and children. The awareness was on the evils of conflict and how it affects development in all areas. The Program was aired for three days.



Demohey Fatima







Ajegena Akumbugu Emmanuel

Priest of the Catholic Diocese of Lafia  
Nasarawa state, Deputy Editor, Catholic Voice Newspaper and Principal,  
St Rose Lima College Keffi

**A**jegena Akumbugu Emmanuel is a Catholic Priest of the Catholic Diocese of Lafia, from Nasarawa State. He studied Philosophy and Sacred Theology and obtained his B.Phil. & B. Sth. from Pontifical Urban University, Rome. He currently works as the Deputy Editor of Catholic Voice News Paper, the Principal of St. Rose of Lima College Keffi, and a curate at St. Peter's Catholic Church Keffi.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace is an orphan, meaning that it is seeking to be adopted by Parents and we all are barren and in need of the comfort of Peace. Let us all give it a chance so that it can "Rule our World". Peace is a universal Culture; which means that it is a way of life that can be accepted by all. Though in Peace there may be misunderstanding, we could kindly erect a table of dialogue for warring parties.



### **COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience**

I am overwhelmed by the impact of the Program and the study, as it eliminates biases built on prejudices and has given me the impetus to be a bridge builder. It has given me the opportunity to network with other Fellows across Africa and has built my capacity in Conflict mediation and Peacebuilding.

### **MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Using Football as a tool to strengthen Peace, Reconciliation, and Social cohesion in Keffi, Nasarawa State.

### **Project Summary:**

Father Emmanuel carried out his community peace project through a radio talk and football match. He was a guest at Maloney FM on the 2nd of February 2024, where he demystified the misconceptions about some parts of the holy texts in the Bible and Quran which are often misconstrued and used to create tension and religious conflicts by some religious teachers. On the 9th of February, 2024, the football match between Muslim and Christian Youths, comprising of 40 active participants took place. The whole aim was to create platforms for encouraging peaceful encounters, and social contracts, building friendships across religious divides, and providing a sense of identity and belonging which will create opportunities for dialogue and healing, as a means to eradicate the root causes of conflict in the community.



Ajegena Akumbugu Emmanuel





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

There was a profound expression of joy on the faces of the players and spectators, there was a collective sense of pride, belonging, and accomplishment and the youths looked forward to similar engagements in the future, on the other hand, listeners of the radio program called in, and expressed their happiness and gratitude about the knowledge they gained through the program and requested that it be aired weekly or at least bi-monthly.





Isah Abdurashheed Zubairu

Project Officer/ Component Lead of Governance and Peacebuilding,  
Catholic Relief Services, (CRS), Sokoto State

**A**bdurashheed Isah is a Muslim from Sokoto state. He studied Computer Science from Kebbi State University of Science & Technology, Aliero. He has worked as the Program Manager of Rural Women and Youth Development and now works with Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace to me is not merely an absence of conflict, but the presence of harmony, understanding and mutual respect among individuals and communities. It is a state where people coexist peacefully embracing diversity and celebrating the richness of different cultures, beliefs and perspective.

**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

Participating in COFP Fellowship Program has significantly impacted my personal and professional growth. It has broadened my perspective, deepened my expertise in specific areas and facilitated connections with likeminded individuals.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**  
Project Title: Bridging Faith: Exploring Common Grounds between Christianity and Islam through workshops and Radio Talk shows.

**Project Summary:**  
Isah organized a Radio Talk Show on 17th January, 2024 at Sokoto. While 30 persons participated in the workshop two million viewers viewed/listened to the radio Program and television program. The Radio program was aired for two days. The workshop was focused on increasing understanding and respect for religious system and institutions among the people. It was also to enhance shared values across different religious traditions.



Isah Abdulrasheed Zubairu





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

It was a unique experience to gather people from Islam and Christian faiths in a Muslim dominated area like Sokoto. This opened the eyes of the people to the need to live in peace with one another. A ground work has been laid down for continuous peaceful coexistence among Sokoto communities.





National Coordinator, Arigatou International/GNRC and  
Pastor Elim Nyali Fellowship, Mombasa Kenya.

Mary Jepkembai Bowen

**B**owen Maria is an ordained pastor with Elim Nyali Fellowship from Kenya. She holds a Master's degree in Religious Studies from Kenya Methodist University. She is the coordinator of Arigatou International/GNRC and a member of Mombasa Country Action Plan as well as Mombasa County Pastors Fellowship where she is in charge of the women pastors.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace is a cornerstone of progress, the catalyst for change and the ultimate aspiration of humanity. Pursue peace with all people and holiness without which no one will see God.



**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

It has been a very exciting journey interacting with students from Africa with diverse views and perspectives. The COFP Fellowship Program has impacted in me an in-depth understanding of dialogue and peacebuilding in interreligious and intercultural contexts while appreciating the dynamics of conflicts in Africa. I hope to develop policies for social change and peaceful coexistence in conjunction with conflict analysis and intervention.

Leaders, 10 Bishops and pastors, 10 Ustadhs (Islamic Religious Leaders), 10 teachers, 15 Women Peace Actors, 20 youths, 5 security personnel, 10 primary school children and 50 secondary school students at Mnazi moja Nyali, Mombasa, Kenya for two days. It was held on 10th February, 2024. The participants became equipped with skills on the causes, risks and mitigation of violent extremism.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT:**  
**Project Title:** A Dialogue on Peaceful Coexistence in a Pluralistic Society.

**Project Summary:**  
In order to dialogue on issues affecting youth, women, teachers, religious leaders and citizens, Maria gathered together 130 participants including 20 Religious



Mary Jepkemboi Bowen







**Project Outcome/Impact:**

After the project, a platform was created for participants to come together to exchange ideas and insights from time to time. Participants' ability was enhanced to detect early signs and behavioral changes in children and youth. For sustainability, the project will continue to move to different institutions every three months to ensure continuous monitoring of their progress.



# Adam Abdulrahman

Researcher & Trainer, Da'wah Institute, (DIN)  
Islamic Education Trust, Minna, Niger State

**A**dam Abdulrahman is a Sunni Muslim from Niger State. He is a Researcher & Trainer at Da'wah Institute (DIN), Islamic Education Trust, Minna. He studied Biological Sciences at the Federal University of Technology, Minna, and equally holds a Higher Diploma in Islamic Law.

## My Reflection on Peace

Through my COFP Fellowship Program experience, my concept of peace has evolved significantly. Peace, to me, now signifies a profound understanding of interconnectedness, empathy, and active engagement in fostering harmony within diverse communities. It transcends the mere absence of conflict, embodying mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation among individuals and groups, irrespective of differences.



**Project Summary:**

Abdulrahman organized a one-day interfaith peacebuilding workshop in Minna, the capital of Niger State, on February 6th, 2024, attended by 40 students. The workshop aimed to promote understanding, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence between Muslim and Christian students. Participants learned about common misconceptions, stereotypes, and biases related to religious diversity, and acquired skills to address religious-based conflicts peacefully. The workshop also focused on cultivating interfaith understanding and respect, establishing support systems for students facing religious discrimination, and creating platforms for shared experiences and collaborative activities.

**COFP Fellowship Program:**

**An Unforgettable Experience**

The Fellowship Program has profoundly impacted me, shaping my perspective, enhancing my understanding of diversity, and equipping me with essential skills for fostering harmony and resolving conflicts. Through the program, I have cultivated a greater sense of tolerance and acceptance towards people from different backgrounds, appreciating the richness of diversity and the value of inclusivity in community-building. Engaging with individuals from various religious traditions has deepened my understanding of their beliefs and practices, fostering mutual respect and empathy across religious divides. I have also gained practical skills in conflict management, communication, and mediation, which are crucial for promoting constructive dialogue and reconciliation in diverse settings.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Harmony In Diversity: Bridging Faiths for Peaceful Coexistence & Fostering Peaceful Coexistence Among Students





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

This project led to increased opportunities for Muslims and Christians to engage in open and respectful interfaith dialogue leading to a greater understanding of each other's beliefs, practices, and religious values, thereby addressing and mitigating existing tensions and conflicts between Muslims and Christians. This in turn, led to the promotion of empathy, tolerance, harmony, and cooperation and the dispelling of misinformation, prejudices, and stereotypes and effectively fostered a sense of unity among members of both faiths in the community.



Ebiloma Ejura Akubo

Vocation Directress and Novice Mistress,  
Congregation of the Augustinian Sisters of the Mercy of Jesus,  
Kogi State and a Health Practitioner

Ejura Ebiloma is a community health practitioner and a Catholic religious of the congregation of the Augustinian Sisters of the Mercy of Jesus from Kogi State. She is the Vocation Directress and Novice Mistress of the Congregation.

**My Reflection on Peace.**

Peace is to be positive and to be rid of any negative feelings and emotions.



### COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship experience has been all-encompassing for me. It taught me respect for people of other religions, the art of communication, conflict management, de-escalation, and resolution. Equally, it emphasized the importance of living in harmony with others regardless of their religious beliefs. Inspired by the hummingbird, I learned that even small efforts can make a significant impact on peacebuilding in my community and beyond.

### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

**Project Title:** Eradication of Thuggery Through Economic Empowerment of the Youth in Ejule Ofu Local Government.

#### Project Summary:

Sister Ejura's intervention spanned 2 days at Ejule, Ofu Local Government, Kogi State on the 25th and 26th of January 2024. Its aim particularly was to greatly reduce the activities of thuggery in the community thereby engendering peace, better livelihood, and improved education of the youths in Ejule Ofu community. This project was accessed by 30 participants out of which 16 were empowered with different



Ebiloma Ejura Akubo





tools and starter kits after the program. Some got poultry birds, Goats, and sewing machines while others were enrolled to acquire hairdressing, barbing, and computer skills, which all the beneficiaries have eagerly accessed with high hopes of becoming versatile in these skill areas of enterprise, which hopefully will start paying their bills soon.

**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The project has led to a positive behavioural change among the youth, ultimately leading to a sustainable reduction in the unemployment rate in the community, lower poverty levels, and increased awareness of the risks of crime and violence among young people. Many of them are now focused on growing their businesses or developing their skills at training centres, keeping their idle minds occupied in a positive way.





Panden Peter Emmanuel

Lecturer, Federal College of Education, Pankshin, Plateau State

**P**eter Emmanuel, is from Mwaghvua, Mangu LGA of Plateau State. He is a devout Christian and a member of the Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN). He lectures at the Federal College of Education, Pankshin, and holds a Master's in Conflict, Security, and Development Studies from the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace in my understanding is the strategic creation of a conducive platform, commodity, and atmosphere that enables lives to run productively or function without any obstacle to survival. It is a deliberate human product that has to be conceived, built, and nurtured to full utilization. Therefore, peace is essential for all in society. It that has to be fought for and protected by all means!





**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship stood out as a very unique opportunity for me. I have been thoroughly refreshed in my mind and rebuilt in my body by the training, and I am ready to ensure peace in my workplace and society as a whole.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**  
**Project Title:** Cross-Cultural Dialogue as Panacea to Interethnic Rivalry Among Youths

**Project Summary:**  
Plateau State in the North Central region of Nigeria has consistently witnessed different levels of communal clashes and rivalry over the years, some of which have sacked whole villages, and led to loss of lives and property. In an effort to mitigate the menace in his community, Peter organized a workshop at the Federal College of Education, Pankshin in Plateau State, for 90 participants to Provide them with comprehensive understanding of the historical, socio-economic, and political factors contributing to inter-ethnic rivalry in the State, facilitate open discussions and interactive sessions to gather community perspectives on the root causes and impact of inter-ethnic rivalry, and practically guide the participants in developing actionable community-based initiatives that promote economic empowerment, social cohesion, and unity.



Panden Peter Emmanuel



**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The workshop took place during a tense period following a violent clash in Plateau State. It had a significant impact on participants, fostering a sense of unity based on shared history, economics, and politics rather than ethnic rivalry. The planting of "Oneness Faith Trees" promoted environmental sustainability and strengthened relationships among youths, regardless of religion or ethnicity. Many participants experienced their first interaction and meal with someone from a different background. Student leaders expressed gratitude for the opportunity to discuss peace collectively and pledged to advocate for dialogue and peace in their communities.





Sumaye Fadimatu Hamza

National Vice President,  
Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) and a  
Retired Permanent Secretary of Plateau state civil service

**H**amza Sumaye Fadimatu is a Muslim from Plateau state. She holds a Doctorate degree from University of London and have served as Permanent Secretary in Plateau state Civil Service. She is currently the Deputy National Amirah (President) of FOMWAN.

### My Reflection on Peace

The Fellowship Program has given me a wider perspective of peace. It starts with oneself as you cannot give what you don't have. Peace also has to do with family where the home is a home and not just a house. It must be where all members are happy and contributing to the welfare and comfort of others.



new strategies in networking and mediation.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT:**

**Project Title:** Catch them Young: Children in Peacebuilding.

**Project Summary:**

The project which took place at Dadin Kowa and Hwoishe in Plateau state trained 20 teachers in Yedi and Obasanjo Model schools on how to inculcate peace in children. The children were also taught peace songs, rhymes and there was quiz competition. 150 children participated in the project, out of which 120 children participated in the peace song/Rhymes. All the four schools participated with 100% attendance. The children were crowned as Peace Ambassadors which was very inspiring to them.

**COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience**

The Fellowship Program has impacted me very positively. It has given me an entirely new experience in the area of respect for the faith of others. Indeed, the Fellowship Program has given me the opportunity to share my experiences with people from within and outside Nigeria which ordinarily I wouldn't have done. I have also developed



Sumaye Fadimatu Hamza





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The participating schools agreed to establish Peace Clubs in their schools so as to continue the peace process. The program got the approval of Religious and Traditional Leaders which is a value addition to the initiative. Also, the Plateau state government through the Director General, Plateau state Peacebuilding Agency indicated interest to carry forward the activity by replicating in other zones and schools.





Timothy Paul Daret

Program Manager  
Hygiene Promotion and Community Engagement,  
Catholic Relief Services, (CRS), Borno State

**D**aret Timothy Paul is a Christian and a member of the COCIN church from Plateau State. He is the Program Manager of Hygiene Promotion and Community Engagement at the Catholic Relief Services (CRS). He holds a Ph.D. in Public Health from International University, Bamenda, Cameroon.

### My Reflection on Peace

I dare to say that peace is not just a destination, it's a way of being. It is important to embrace the small moments of tranquillity in our lives and remember that every act of kindness contributes to a more peaceful world. Together, we can cultivate a global community rooted in compassion and understanding.



**COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM:  
AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE**

My experience with the COFP Fellowship Program has been nothing short of transformative, empowering me to become an agent of change and a champion for peace. From classroom to community, this journey has reaffirmed my belief in the power of grassroots activism and the resilience of the human spirit in overcoming even the most formidable challenges.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Youth and Conflict: Interfaith Challenges and Opportunities for Peaceful Co-Existence in Muna Community Jere LGA, Maiduguri, Borno State.

**Project Summary:**

Timothy carried out his community peace project on the 7th and 8th of February, 2024 at Jere L.G.A of Borno State for 65 participants. The goal of the workshop was to empower the youth as a catalyst for positive change, by fostering interfaith understanding and contributing to a sustained peaceful co-existence in the community. Timothy aimed to achieve this by building the participants' capacity on different faith beliefs and practices through the provision of effective communication and negotiation tools, and encouraging open and respectful interfaith dialogue on religious diversities to practical skills for resolving interfaith conflicts thereby empowering the youths to take an active role in promoting peace in the community by being advocates for interfaith

Timothy Paul Daret



understanding, fostering empathy among them towards people with faith beliefs divergent from theirs, with an eye to foster a culture of tolerance and acceptance of diverse faith beliefs.

**Project Outcome/Impact:**

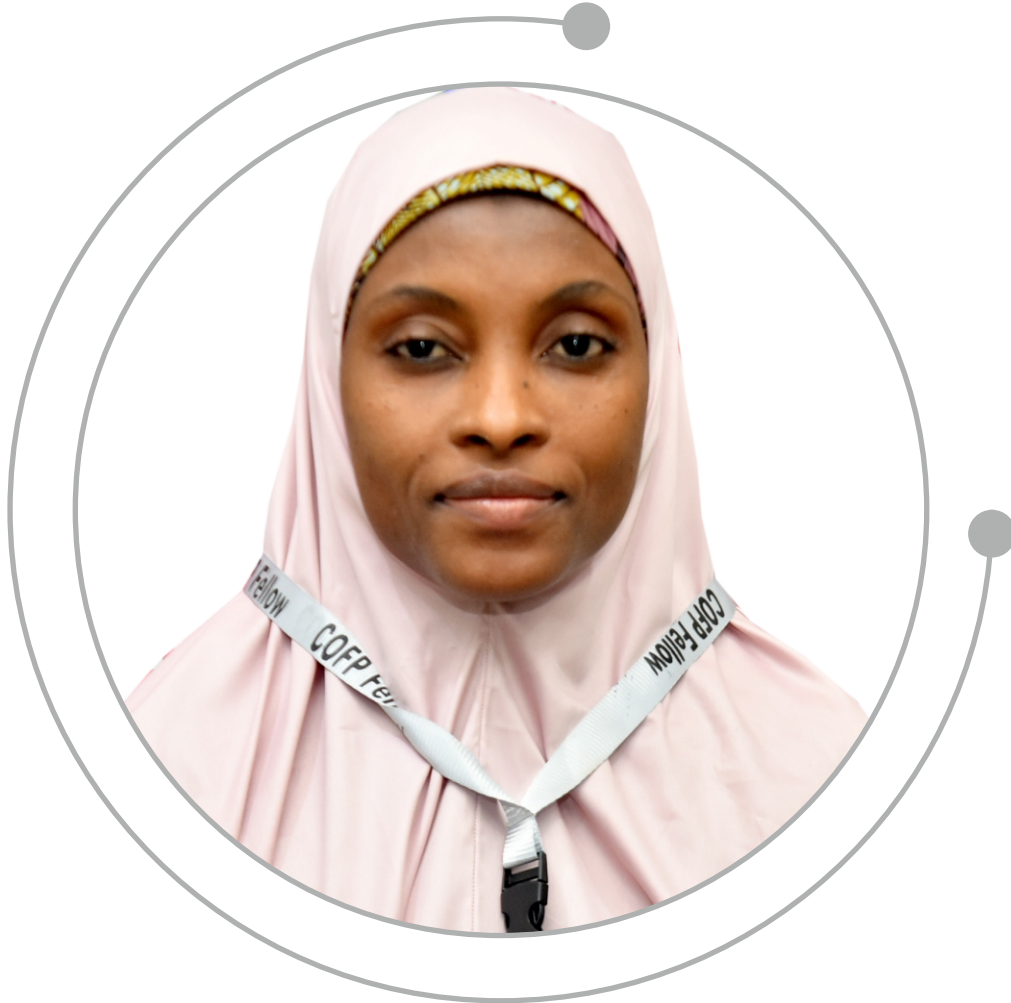
Through this community project, the participants gained a deeper understanding of different faiths, and practices, which has the potential to reduce misconceptions and stereotypes. The workshop inspired and empowered youths to take an active role in promoting peace within their communities. By providing them with the necessary tools and knowledge, the workshop has mobilized a new generation of peacebuilders who can advocate for interfaith understanding and reconciliation. Importantly, through the impacts of Tim's project, an international NGO, CRS has approved a project of about 5,000 USD for Timothy to execute in 3 other community of Borno state.



Timothy Paul Daret







# Fadimatu Bello

Capacity Building Officer  
Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Zamfara State

**M**uhammed Fadimatu Bello is a Muslim from Zamfara State. She holds PGD in Education from National Teachers Institute (NTI), Kaduna. She is a Capacity Building Officer, FOMWAN, Kaura Namoda, Zamfara state.

### My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a profound state of harmony, free from conflict and disturbance. It fosters wellbeing, cooperation and the potential for positive growth. Striving for peace is a shared responsibility to create a world where understanding and compassion prevail. So, peace is everyone's business.



**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience.

Being part of this one-year Fellowship Program has highly exposed me to public interest and what it takes to co-exists in various diversities. It has encouraged me to dedicate my personal and professional life to interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Insecurity: Creating the Human Conditions for Overcoming Trauma, Hatred and Fear in Northern Part of Zamfara state.

**Project Summary:**

The one-day sensitization program attracted 60 participants including women and youth from different backgrounds on January 6, 2024 at Kaura Namoda, Zamfara state. The major goal of the project is to promote understanding, building community resilience, peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The workshop which was based on psychological trauma recovery was aimed at raising awareness, fostering understanding within the community and peaceful co-existence.



**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The participants became fully aware of strategies and initiatives that promote unity, trust and collaboration within the community. They have seen the reason and need to building strong social ties to withstand the challenges posed by insecurity.



Vincent Diyong

Priest of the Catholic Diocese of Shendam Plateau state,  
Diocesan Director of Dialogue and Ecumenism and a Lecturer at  
St Augustine Major Seminary, Jos

**D**iyong Vincent is a Catholic Priest of the Diocese of Shendam, Plateau state. He studied Philosophy and Theology at St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary, Makurdi, Benue state and St. Augustine Major Seminary, Jos, Plateau and holds Masters in Biblical Theology from CIWA. He is currently a lecturer at St. Augustine Major seminary, and the Director of Dialogue and Ecumenism in his Diocese.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace is the presence of order which leads to justice, tranquility and wellbeing. Peace is the ability to live harmoniously for mutual development and justice.

### COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship Program has profoundly impacted me by providing an opportunity to engage with passionate individuals from both Christian and Muslim backgrounds, united in their pursuit of acquiring essential skills for fostering interreligious dialogue and peace within their communities. The genuine passion and sincerity exhibited by the facilitators in impacting knowledge and skills to the Fellows have made this experience incredibly exciting and enriching for me.

### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

**Project Title:** Hate speech as the Bane of Religious Harmony and Peacebuilding

#### Project Summary:

On the 17th day of February, 2024, Diyong Vincent collaborated with the Shendam Diocese Interreligious Dialogue Commission to host one hundred (100) participants including religious leaders from Plateau Southern Senatorial district in a one-day symposium geared towards promoting peaceful coexistence and interreligious harmony among adherents of different faiths in Shendam.



Vincent Diyong





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

After the program, the participants made a resolution to sustain the symposium by alternating the program between their communities. The Local Government Chairman also made a commitment to support the program financially.



# Emmanuel Anthonia Tumba

Principal, Infant Jesus Sisters' School, Kona, Jalingo, Taraba State

**E**mmanuel Anthonia is a religious sister of the Infant Jesus from Jalingo Taraba state and hails from Bazza, Michika Local Government of Adamawa state. She holds a B. Ed in Adult Education and Community Service. She is the Principal of Infant Jesus School, Kona, Jalingo and a social worker.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

I see peace as an important tool for the betterment of mankind and each of us need peace for the world to move forward. And with my experience of peace, I see peace as a source of development. I see peace as love and with peace the world will be free.

### COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience.

This program has impacted positively on me as a person because it has made me to love peace more and have changed my perception on how I view the world with regard to peaceful co-existence. I can proudly say that I am a lover of peace and ambassador of peace through my experience with COFP Fellowship Program.

#### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

**Project Title:** Conflict Management Seminar and Empowerment of Women and

Youth in Kona Community.

#### Project Summary:

The Skill Acquisition/ Empowerment Program was held in Kona, Jalingo on 20th January, 2024. The objectives of the project include reducing level of poverty among women and youth of Kona; improving their livelihood; enhancing their economic development and reducing conflict in the community. 30 participants participated in the program out of which 16 beneficiaries were empowered in the art of caring for sheep, sewing and machines were distributed to those learning how to sew.



Emmanuel Anthonia Tumba





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The project had a significant impact on the community by bringing Muslims and Christians together. They were delighted by the empowerment and lessons they received. Many have shared how the program transformed their views on the other faith, leading them to embrace love and peace.





# Eje Daniel Agu

Vice Chairman, Youth Wing, Christian Association of Nigeria (YOWICAN), Rivers State

**E**jeh Daniel Agu is a Catholic from Cross Rivers State and a resident of Kano State. He is the Vice Chairman of the Youth Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (YOWICAN), Kano State Chapter. He holds a HND in Accounting from Kano State Polytechnic, Kano.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace begins with me. As the common saying goes; "You cannot give what you don't have!" Peace is the absence of violence and the embrace of unity amongst people from different ethnicities, tribes, religions, countries, organizations, etc. Peace is being able to grow and thrive and be who I am, no matter the environment, circle, or space I find myself. Peace is accepting of various religious practices or the lack thereof.



**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship program has profoundly impacted me on a personal level, allowing me to realize my dream of empowering the youth in my community and fostering self-reliance among them. One significant transformation has been my perception of Islam, which I previously viewed as volatile. Now, I feel comfortable living among Muslims without fear. Armed with the knowledge gained from this program and my determination to make a positive difference, I am confident that violent conflict and extremism will become obsolete in my community.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Inter-Religious Dialogue for Combating Drug Abuse and Thuggery Among Youths in Sabon-Gari Fagge LGA, Kano State.

**Project Summary:**

Many Youths in Sabon Gari, Kano State are unemployed and lack basic skills that will readily help them make a living to mitigate all the negative impact the state of joblessness brings. Hence, Daniel organized a 1-day peace project to build their capacity through skill acquisition in Network marketing, Information Technology, Sales of Data and airtime and subsequently empowered 6 of them with some cash token, to enable them start a trade. Some women also got some cash token to engage in local wheat drink (kunu) production. Hence, his objectives which included reduced crime rate in the community, bringing youths of different religions together to understand the importance of co-existing as a major tool for peacebuilding in any community were accomplished with the interventions.

Ejeh Daniel Agu





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The project had an immediate positive impact on both the beneficiaries and the community. Almost immediately the beneficiaries reached out to some of their friends and in turn gave them some training on how they could also make use of their smartphones to be self-reliant through the

sales of data for different mobile networks. One of the beneficiaries is currently making a living by utilizing his smartphone profitably in the sales of data within the community and also engaging other youths on what he had learned from the training. In addition, all 4 women that got cash tokens are thriving in the “Kunu” business.



Oladejo-Alghazal, Shakirat Modupe

Assistant General Secretary  
Lajna Imaillah, Nigeria & Principal Nursing Officer, Directorate of Health Services,  
Federal University of Agriculture, Ogun state

**O**ladejo-Alghazal Shakirat is a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat of Nigeria from Oyo state. She is the Assistant General Secretary of Lajna Imaillah Nigeria. Shakirat is a registered nurse who holds a Bachelor of Nursing Science degree from Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State. She works as a Principal Nursing Officer at the Directorate of Health Services, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

To me, peace involves consciously respecting the rights, values, and beliefs of other people or groups while exercising one's rights or practicing one's culture or belief. This will promote love, mutual respect, and harmony in the society.

### COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship program has greatly impacted me positively. I now have a broader knowledge of interreligious peace, dialogue, and conflict resolution. The lessons learned have sharpened my skills and better equipped me as a peace ambassador. I appreciate the COFP and the entire management for this opportunity. It was a worthwhile experience.

#### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

Project Title: Educating Children and Youth on Peacebuilding: Strategy for Mitigating

Religious and Ethnic Crisis in Abeokuta, Southwest Nigeria.

#### Project Summary:

This timely 1-day peacebuilding workshop was implemented at Abeokuta, The Ogun State capital on the 24th of January, 2024 for 100 participants as a means to empower the youths to become ambassadors of peace through sensitization on active involvement in community service projects that promote unity and to utilize media platforms to disseminate messages of unity, and peaceful co-existence by countering negative narratives which contribute to religious and ethnic tensions.



**Project Outcome/Impact:**

Indeed, beyond the 100 participants at the peace workshop, the academic community, religious groups, and the general public benefitted from the peace message of Shakirat's community peace project. Several Media houses, both print and electronic widely disseminated the program through their different channels. The Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta also published it in their weekly bulletin to ensure the youths in the academic community were partakers of the peace message. Many of the participants expressed their willingness and ready commitment to embrace the culture of peace, and are now willing to actively participate in peacebuilding programs within and outside the community.





Emmanuel C Yakubu

Principal Producer, Program Department  
Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Niger State

**Y**akubu Emmanuel is an ECWA Christian from Niger State. He is a Principal Producer in the programs department at the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN). He obtained a B. Ed in Business Education from the Usman Dan Fodio University, Sokoto.

### My Reflection on Peace

As a result of my participation in the COFP Fellowship, now, I can define peace as a state of harmony, calmness, and freedom from conflicts or violence. It involves the absence of hostility, tension, and war, fostering understanding, cooperation, and respect among individuals and communities.





**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

The training provided by the COFP Foundation through the Fellowship program has equipped me with essential skills in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and mediation. These skills are valuable not only in my personal life but also in my professional and community life. Now, I have developed a better understanding of the importance of dialogue and collaboration in resolving conflicts and building a peaceful society, I have been empowered to initiate and carry out projects focused on healthy political rivalry and equally have established relationships, collaborations, and opportunities to network and connect with like-minded individuals and organizations working towards peace and dialogue.



**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

Project Title: Healthy Political Rivalry for Community Development, Conflicts and Mediation Mechanisms.

**Project Summary:**

Emmanuel organized a one-day community peace project in Sabon Wuse, Tafa Local Government Area of Niger State on February 6th, 2023. The project was targeted at educating 100 participants on





the importance of healthy political 'rivalry' for community development, highlighting the negative impacts of unhealthy political competition. It also focused on enhancing participants' conflict resolution and mediation skills while promoting inclusive politics to foster cooperation and positive relationships among political actors. Ultimately, the goal was to improve public perception of politics by promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical behaviour.

**Project Outcome/Impact:**

After the project completion, the participants gained more awareness and knowledge about healthy political rivalry and got a better understanding of the importance of healthy competition within a political context, rather than negative tactics and personal attacks. They learned different mediation skills that can be deployed during elections to manage and resolve political conflicts in the community.





# Idris Abdulwahab

Coordinator, Rasulul Aazam Foundation (RAAF), Kaduna state

Idris Abdulwahab is a Shiite Muslim from Kaduna state. He holds PGD in Business Administration and Management from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria. He works with Rasulul Aazam Foundation Nigeria (RAAF) Kaduna state.

### **My Reflection on Peace.**

Peace is the mother of all progress and development in every nation of the world. Without peace it would be difficult to experience progress and development in the society.

**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience.

The COFP Fellowship Program is an experience I will always cherish. It provided me with valuable insights into Christianity, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, peace management, and interfaith education.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** One Day Interreligious Dialogue on Hate speech in Kawo Community.

**Project Summary:**

The one-day program on Interreligious Dialogue was organized for the purpose of building confidence and trust in the minds of young people, religious leaders and women. It was held on 13th January, 2024 at Kawo, Kaduna and 50 people benefited. The village head called for the community leaders and stakeholders who attended the program and emphasized on the need to continue the program in other communities.

**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The project was successfully completed and highly educational. It highlighted the significance of peacebuilding, fostering mutual understanding of different religions, and uniting to create a harmonious community.

The village Head and other community leaders have committed to regularly organizing such programs.



Idris Abdulwahab





# Fidelia GOWON

Novice Mistress, Congregation of the Infant Jesus, Plateau State

**F**idelia Gowon is a catholic religious Sister of the Congregation of the Infant Jesus Sisters. She is the Novice Directress of the Congregation and currently working in Dong, Jos-North LGA of Plateau state. She is a trained formator and facilitator, and holds a Diploma in English and French as well as in theology.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Any situation of unease is conflict itself. The acceptance of oneself, and being in harmony with all created beings; their giftedness and flaws and one's acknowledgement of others as created by God and deserving of equal regard, irrespective of ethnic, religious and political biases, is peace at its finest.

### **COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience**

My experience is quite unforgettable. I have not had such an encounter before where Muslim leaders and their Christian counterparts interact objectively and sincerely. I went to the Fellowship Program with an open mind, though having certain reservations. My experience with my Muslim Fellows as well as people from different ethnic backgrounds and nationalities has brought me to a deeper knowledge and conviction of the commonly shared treasures, we all have a common humanity, having a lot to learn from the faiths and practices of one another.

### **MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT Project Title: Interreligious Dialogue and**

Peaceful Co-existence: Overcoming Social and Religious Barriers in Bukuru Community of Plateau State.

**Project Summary:**  
The skill acquisition project took place at Bukuru, Jos on 8th February, 2024. Out of 45 participants, 18 persons were given grants to establish their own businesses. Beneficiaries were trained in the art of Livestock Farming, chin-chin making, making of Masa and liquid soap. Two of the beneficiaries received sewing machines and enrolled in a six-months sewing training. The program was organized to equip participants with skills that would enable them have sustainable sources of income and empowering them with some equipment for implementing the acquired skill.



Fidelia Gowon



**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The participants have become gainfully self-employed, having a better disposition towards accepting people of other faith and ethnic groups, and a firm resolve to shun violence and substance abuse, while striving towards building a unified and peaceful community.





Hima Kadri

National Coordinator  
Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC), Dosso, Niger Republic.

**H**ima Kadri is a Muslim from Niger Republic. He obtained Master's degree in Socio-Emotional Learning and Psycho-Socio Support in the Republic of Niger. He is currently head of girls' education IESG Niamey, Niger. He is also the Coordinator of Global Network of Religious for Children (GNRC) Niger, Country Director Equity International Initiative Niger and the Coordinator, Partnership for Education Niger.

### My Reflection on Peace

For me, peace is accepting others as they are. It is an exercise, not just a word; it is a way of living. Peace is when you tolerate, analyze, and learn from each situation. Peace is when we prioritize humanity above all else.



### **COFP Fellowship Program:** An Unforgettable Experience

It is a transformative program that has brought me love from all. I believe there are no bad religions, only bad religious followers. I have become a positive change agent, promoting and embodying peace. I have had the pleasure of meeting incredible Fellows and establishing a strong network.

### **MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT** **Project Title:** Socio Emotional Learning and Psycho-socio Support

### **Project Summary:**

In an effort to address the plight of numerous students who left their villages, overrun by terrorists, and sought refuge in the town of Torodi Niger, Hima took action on January 8, 2024. They provided training for 50 teachers and school administrators on Socio-Emotional Learning and Psycho-Social Support. The project was geared towards retaining these children within the educational system, ensuring they don't quite due to inadequate assistance.



**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The project has brought significant changes to the community. The entire community is now aware of the causes and solutions to the issues at hand. Teachers and administrators have also received training on Socio-Emotional Learning and Psycho-Social Support, and are actively implementing it. Students are assisting in caring for their displaced peers.





# Florence Obed Dada

National Treasurer  
Women Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN),  
Trustee Nigerian Women of Faith Network and Magdala Unity Foundation

**D**ada Obed Florence is an ECWA Christian from Niger State. She is the National Treasurer of the Women Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN), a Trustee at Magdala Unity Foundation and Nigerian Women of Faith Network respectively. She obtained a Master's degree in Christian Education from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria.

### My Reflection on Peace

To me, peace means living in harmony with everyone, regardless of their beliefs, background, or culture. It's like the heartbeat of progress! if it's missing, everything stalls. To achieve peace, I believe in simply getting along with others. When you strive for peace, you find a serene balance within yourself. It's like a cozy blanket that wraps around your soul. True peace starts from within and spreads its warmth outward to touch others.



**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

My time in the COFP Fellowship has been truly incredible! I joined not long after losing my husband, and being part of this community has been a source of solace. The Fellows, now dear friends, have been a constant source of support during this challenging time. Through this Fellowship, I've formed meaningful connections with individuals from diverse backgrounds, including Muslims and Christians, who feel like family to me now. Moreover, this experience has deepened my perception of peace as a collaborative endeavour, one that thrives on mutual understanding and respect.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Interfaith Skills Acquisition and Empowerment of Women in Tunga-Sauka Community of Minna, Niger State.

**Project Summary:**

This community peace project empowered 30 women entrepreneurs in Tunga Sauka, Minna, over two days in January 2024. Through intensive skill acquisition training in Liquid Soap and Shower Gel production, participants received start-up chemicals to kickstart their businesses. Additionally, they gained vital financial literacy skills, learning about saving, budgeting, and investing. The project also emphasized the women's role as agents of social change through advocacy and community sensitization efforts. Overall, the initiative aimed to foster long-term financial security and contribute to community development.



Florence Obed Dada





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

Florence's project gave the Sauka women all the reasons they needed to believe in themselves. The joy and excitement on their faces said it all as the program provided an avenue for the women from the major faith religions in the community to interact and so facilitated integration, thereby encouraging peaceful coexistence among these women, which could translate to the society at large since women are vanguards for change. Additionally, the beneficiaries were equipped with relevant practical skills for self-reliance which they have already put into practice through various small-scale businesses, an indicator that they are wholly determined and committed to sustaining the new knowledge they have acquired.



Florence Obed Dada





# Franklin Osita Okafor

Superior General  
Congregation of the Holy Family Fathers and Brothers of the Youth,  
Okija, Anambra State

**F**ranklin Osita Okafor is a Catholic Priest and the Superior General of the Congregation of the Holy Family Fathers and Brothers of the Youth, Anambra state, Nigeria. He is from Anambra state and studied Philosophy and theology at St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary, Makurdi and Blessed Iwene Michael Tansi Major Seminary, Onitsha. Anambra state.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

With this program, I am convinced more than ever that what unites us is greater than what divides us. Peace is possible, and sincere effort towards brokering peace among the two religions will go a long way to foster peaceful co-existence.

### COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

This is a wonderful and enlightening program. I sincerely thank the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace for creating this impactful and eye-opening program. I encourage others who can to be part of this history of fostering peace especially in our religious divided Nation.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**  
**Project Title:** Interreligious Dialogue for Peaceful and Sustainable Coexistence in Okija Community.

**Project Summary:**  
Determined to promote peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims in Okija community through peaceful dialogue and interfaith understanding, Franklin gathered 70 participants on 24th February, 2024 for an interfaith workshop. It was agreed that a monthly meeting be held between the two religions at the end of the workshop.





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The workshop led to mutual understanding and religious tolerance between Christians and Muslims. It also facilitated common interest between the two religions to meet often to discuss how to live together without violence. During the event, the Imam of Okija Central Mosque promised to inform his brothers and sisters about the fruit of the workshop and promised that they will attend in large number whenever they are invited again.





Zarah Yusuf Ahmad

Founder and Executive Director  
Portrait of Lake Chad Initiative, Damaturu, Yobe State

Zarah Ahmad Yusuf is a Muslim from Yobe state. She is a veterinarian by profession and specializes in disease control from animal to human. She obtained Master's degree in Veterinary Epidemiology from Ahmadu Bello University, (ABU), Zaria. She is the founder and Executive Director of Portrait of Lake Child Initiative, an NGO concerned with children living across Lake Chad region of Africa.

### My Reflection on Peace

With the new knowledge I have gained from COFP Fellowship Program, I wish to be an ambassador of peace in my community, I plan to continue in organizing peace talks and creating dialogue sessions on inter-religious and peacebuilding.

### COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP fellowship program has impacted me a lot, it has increased my knowledge on inter-religious dialogue fosters understanding, tolerance, and empathy among diverse faith traditions, especially the Abrahamic religions and promoting peaceful coexistence.



**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Fostering Religious Tolerance and Peacebuilding among secondary school students in Damaturu, Yobe state.

**Project Summary:**

Zarah executed her peace project on 24th January, 2024 at Damaturu. It was a two-day program with 50 participants/beneficiaries. The project aimed at educating students on culture and religion and to establish interreligious clubs in schools across the state.

**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The knowledge, attitudes, and practices of children and school teachers towards religious tolerance and peacebuilding have significantly improved. Mutual respect has been fostered through the establishment of teachers' capacity in teaching religious tolerance.



Zarah Yusuf Ahmad





# Helen Ada Godwin

Counsellor  
Augustinian Sisters of the Mercy of Jesus, Plateau State

**H**elen Ada Godwin, a member of the Religious of the Canonesses Regular Hospitallers of the Mercy of Jesus of the order of St. Augustine, hails from Benue State. Currently serving in the Maiduguri diocese, she is the Sister-in-Charge at the Shuwa Health Centre and Maternity, overseeing operations on behalf of her congregation. With a background in Pharmacy from the University of Jos, Plateau State, Helen brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her vital role in providing healthcare services to the community.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace is a panacea for sustainable development and harmony. Dialogue is essential, as there's no substitute for peace, which must be pursued relentlessly. In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, peace means being an instrument of love, forgiveness, faith, hope, light, and joy. Reflecting on this prayer inspires us to care for one another and our world, fostering a peaceful society through love and compassion.



### COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship Program has broadened my understanding of Islam and equipped me with skills in dialogue and peace education. It's been a journey of continuous learning, covering conflict concepts, types, actors, and consequences. This knowledge gained has inspired me to actively promote inter-religious dialogue in my work, fostering peaceful coexistence among diverse faith communities.

### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

Project Title: The Role of Religious Leaders in Community: Peaceful Co-Existence in Shuwa Community.

**Project Summary:** Helen, through her community peace project in Shuwa, Madagali L.G.A. of Adamawa State, held from January 23rd to 24th, 2024, empowered 19 out of 40 participants. The project focused on promoting peaceful coexistence through inter-religious dialogue to prevent violence in the community. Beneficiaries received training in various skills, including pastry making, sewing, knitting, and agricultural practices. Each participant received starter kits tailored to their needs, such as sewing machines, industrial knitting equipment, and agricultural supplies such as fertilizers, weed chemicals and poultry equipment. The project aimed to address diverse needs and foster inclusive empowerment.



Helen Ada Godwin



### Project Outcome/Impact:

This project brought most community and religious stakeholders of the community together, at the end of which all of them; participants and beneficiaries applauded the noble gesture of the COFP in their community for such a rare opportunity to come together and brainstorm for possible solutions to the challenging problems of violence in the community irrespective of their different religious affiliations. The beneficiaries formed a peace forum that will meet once every month to further address their concerns as a group.



Helen Ada Godwin





Gofwen wika Gofwen

Deputy Director  
News and Current Affairs, Plateau State Radio Television Corporation/Media for  
Social Change and Development (MSCD)

**G**ofwen Wika is a Catholic from Plateau State. He is a Deputy Director, of the News and Current Affairs Department of the Plateau State Radio and Television Corporation/Media for Social Change and Development (MSCD) and a Fellow of the Institute of Information Management. Wika earned a Master's degree in Mass Communication from the National Open University of Nigeria, (NOUN).

### My Reflection on Peace

I view peace as a state of mind that is characterized by absence of violence, conflict, and disturbance. It is indeed a situation of calm, tranquillity, and freedom from stress and anxiety.



**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

My participation in the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) can be described as a "transformative journey" that has changed my perception of the word "peace." It has equally reshaped my knowledge and ignited my passion for the promotion of interreligious dialogue as a panacea for engendering peaceful communal living.

**My Community Peace Project**  
Project Title: Galvanizing Media support for interreligious dialogue in Plateau State.

**Project Summary:**  
Wika's impactful 1-day community peace project was implemented on the 25th of January, 2024 at Jos Plateau State for 40 participants. Among its objectives were to empower media professionals to play critical roles in promoting interreligious dialogue and fostering a culture of peaceful co-existence in the project community, provide participants with the needed tools and techniques for responsible and unbiased news reporting and programming, and generate actionable ideas that sustain media support for interreligious dialogue.



**Project Outcome/Impact:**

Following the implementation of this Peace project, there has been a rise in media coverage and content development of interreligious dialogue initiatives and success stories, showcasing positive narratives. In addition, Religious Affairs desks have been set up at the Newsrooms and media organizations involved in the program. The project has also fostered stronger partnerships between religious leaders and the media within the community.





Gloria Okoye

Head Teacher  
Immaculate Heart Nursery and Primary School, Shendam, Plateau state

**O**koye Gloria is a Catholic Nun of the Dominican sisters of St. Catherine of Siena from Anambra state. She obtained Master's in Education from University of Lagos. She works as a Mentor, Instructor and Trainer at Immaculate Heart Nursery and Primary School, Shendam, Plateau state. Her Philosophy of life is "grow and help others to grow".

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace starts from every individual. I have to be convinced within myself that I need peace so that the fruit of this peace can be shared with others. I cannot give what I don't have. Let us embrace lasting peace through effective communication, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management. Peace is one of the highest treasures we need for us to exist.



### **COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience**

My experience at COFP Fellowship Program has been superb. This program helped me to understand the realities of other African countries in terms of violence. Currently, I have decided to move round schools to educate children on the need for peaceful coexistence and that all of us are from one Father and do not need to fight one another.

### **MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

Project Title: Interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop, Skill Acquisition and Empowerment of Women in Peasant Farming Community of Tengzet of Plateau state.

### **Project Summary:**

The two-days empowerment and skill acquisition interfaith peacebuilding workshop were held on 27th January, 2024 at Tengzet, Shendam LGA of Plateau state. There were twenty (20) beneficiaries and seventy-four (74) participants. The event was targeted at encouraging women to go back to the farm by providing them with yam seedlings, grains of rice and fertilizers. Twenty persons were trained how to make liquid soap and three of them were empowered afterward. The workshop also educated women on the consequences of violent conflict.



Gloria Okoye





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

Many of the recipients are now prepared and eager to cultivate due to the yam seedlings, rice grains, and fertilizers they received. They have also pledged to support others in the future. One recipient mentioned she had never experienced anything like this before.



Gloria Okoye





Iwuoha Joseph Ikechukwu

Pastor, Dunamis International Christian Church, Owerri Imo State

Iwuoha Joseph Ikechukwu is a Pentecostal Christian from Ihitte Uboma, Imo State. He is a Pastor of the Dunamis International Christian Church. He holds an MSc. in Information Technology from the Federal University of Technology, Owerri.

### My Reflection On Peace

Peace is a responsibility to all and must be given adequate attention. Peace can be attained when a balanced understanding is in place.

### COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience

My experience in the COFP Fellowship program has been a wonderful one. Participating in this fellowship has brought out a lot of potential I didn't know I had, it changed my mentality and orientation about life, and has given me a balanced understanding of human perception.

✉ [joeiwuoha@gmail.com](mailto:joeiwuoha@gmail.com)



peacebuilding initiatives in the community aim to sustain the program's gains, with community members calling for an extension of the peace project

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

Project Title: Interreligious Dialogue and Empowerment of Teachers and Students in Owerri Municipal Council, Imo State.

**Project Summary:**

The Owerri Municipal Council was the chosen location for Joseph's 1-day peacebuilding and empowerment community peace project that was held on the 13th day of February 2024 for 85 participants, it had the objective of improving peaceful co-existence among students and teachers and also to improve the income of the teachers.

**Project Outcome/Impact:**

After the project's completion, participating schools showed noticeable improvement in religious tolerance. Additionally, the six beneficiaries who received recharge card starter kits experienced increased income and expressed gratitude to COFP for their support. Furthermore, ongoing





Nanafatima I. Yesufu

Confidential Secretary  
Nigeria Interreligious Council (NIREC)

**Y**esufu Nana Fatima is a Sunni Muslim from Edo State. She is a confidential Secretary at the Nigeria Interreligious Council. She holds a PGD in Conflict, Peace, and Strategic Studies.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Personally, I see peace as kindness, empathy, and tolerance towards others, and by extension gratitude to our God for our daily blessings



### COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship program has impacted me greatly as I have learned from my other peace Fellows from other parts of the world what is attainable in different cultures and how some of these views and experiences are sometimes relatable. It has further strengthened my commitment to peace works in our society.



Nanafatima I. Yesufu





### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

**Project Title:** Interactive Day of Interfaith Harmony: Building Cultures of Peace in our Schools.

#### Project Summary:

The peace workshop was carried out on the 14th of February 2024 at Government Secondary School, Kubwa, Abuja for 60 participants. Some of its objectives were to support youths' visions of peacebuilding, create safe spaces for teachers and

students to engage in the dialogue process, and embrace tolerance and harmony.

#### Project Outcome/Impact:

As a result of this Project, the School is now a safe community with more awareness of interfaith cooperation among teachers and students believing that there is a meaningful way of resolving conflicts through dialogue, mediation, and more importantly respect for people of other religious faiths.



Nanafatima I. Yesufu





Mercy Ukachukwu

Assistant Secretary  
Women Wing of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria,  
Niger State and Pastor, Shepard's Heart Encounter Gospel Center, Minna Niger state

**U**kachukwu Mercy Onyioza is a Pentecostal Christian who reside in Minna Niger state. She holds NCE from Niger state College of Education, Minna. She is a resident pastor at Shepherd's Heart Encounter Gospel Centre, Minna. She is the proprietress of Royal Excellence School, Minna, and is a certified Christian Leader from Christian Leadership Training School, Bida, Niger state. Ukachuckwu Mercy is the current Assistant State Secretary of the Women Wing of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN). Niger state.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace begins with oneself. When one has inward peace, it in turn affects the way we relate with one another. Peace is also very essential for the development and progress of any society. Where there is peace, love, harmony, understanding, unity and tolerance, conflict will give way.



**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

It has been a privilege and an amazing experience for me at COFP Program. I have

been enlightened, educated and empowered with much knowledge on peacebuilding, dialogue, conflict management, mediation skills and how to communicate effectively with people of other faith.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop on the Role of Women in Peacebuilding.

**Project Summary:**

The Peacebuilding workshop was held at the Conference Hall of Bosso LGA, Niger state on 20th January, 2024. The one-day program was aimed at encouraging and educating peacebuilding dialogue among women groups and leaders of different faiths. 50 people participated.





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The participants were happy and promised to go back and educate their women on the role of peacebuilding. Also, the Vice Chairman of the Host LGA promised to organize the program in various wards and communities within the LGA at least quarterly.



John Roy Omanje

Director  
Checkmate Global Merchants, Nairobi Kenya

**O**manje Roy is a Christian from Nairobi Kenya. He earned a BA in Social Science from Catholic University of East Africa. He runs a construction company with interests on Roads, Buildings and Water Engineering works.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace is a state of tranquility, order, and security free from disturbances and their effects. It also entails harmony and friendship within society, existing in unity with its people.



**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

COFP has made me personally to unlearn previous misconceptions about certain aspects of the Muslim religion and also made me appreciate even more some of their values. COFP has given me an additional voice and platform through which I can make my contribution towards making the society a better place.

**Project Summary:**

The one-day Interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop took place on February 10, 2024, in Kibera Slums Nairobi. It aimed to address interfaith suspicions and misunderstandings, focusing on conflict resolution, management, and transformation. The workshop also aimed to lay a solid foundation for preventing future outbreaks of violence. A total of 36 participants benefited from the workshop.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Interreligious, Inter Ethnic Dialogue Towards Sustainable Peaceful Development Coexistence.





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The workshop was able to address some of the underlying causes of conflicts within the community, spur socio-economic growth with lasting durable peaceful environment. Reconciliation of adversaries, achievement of peace, joy and inner happiness were all recorded during and after the workshop.





Nassanga Florence Aliraba Musoke

Chairperson  
Interfaith Women of Uganda and Board member,  
Country's FBO Coordination Team

**N**assanga Florence is a Catholic social worker from Uganda. She holds a Master's in Human Resource Management and works with Kasana Luweero Diocese. Florence is also the Chairperson of Interfaith Women of Uganda and a Board member of her Country's Coordination of (FBO) in Uganda.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace is the corner stone of human prosperity and wellbeing. Achieving peace requires commitment to justice, equality and the resolution of disputes through non-violent means.

It is a collective endeavor that requires continuous effort, empathy and willingness to bridge differences. Ultimately, peace empowers societies to thrive and individuals to fulfil their potentials.



among people of different religious backgrounds which has improved my understanding of different religions. I have equally learnt to manage conflicts and mediation programs as they help in building trust, reducing tension and promoting peaceful resolutions to conflicts rooted in religious or cultural differences.

### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

Project Title: Harmony Unveiled- Fostering Peace and Conflict Resolution among Interfaith Women, Youth and Cultural Leaders through Dialogue.

### Project Summary:

Florence gathered 60 women from different faiths at Pope John Paul II Pastoral Center Hall, Kasana Luweero Diocese, Uganda on 15th February, 2024 for a constructive dialogue aimed at enhancing conflict resolution skills among the participants and to promote peaceful coexistence in the community. The participants were also empowered with tools for community building and resilience against divisive influences during the one-day program.



### COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

So far, the Fellowship Program has involved me in conversations and interactions





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

Florence observed a great improvement in the way women of various faiths interacted at the end of the program. The participants also established a supportive network for continued collaboration and communication.





# Rabi Yusuf

National Women Coordinator  
Joint National Association of Persons with Disability (JONAPWD),  
Kano State and Executive Director, Gender and Disability Inclusion Advocacy Center (GADIAC)

**R**abi Yusuf Gezawa is a Muslim from Kano state. She holds Master's Degree in Conflict and Security Studies from Bayero University, (BUK), Kano. She is a retiree from the Kano state Hospital Management Board, and a recipient of a national award "MON" (Member of the Order of Nigeria). She is the current national women coordinator of Joint National Association of Persons with Disability (JONAPWD) and also the Executive Director, Gender and Disability Inclusion Advocacy Center (GADIAC).

### **My Reflection on Peace.**

Peace is living in harmony with people irrespective of their tribe, religion and ethnicity. It is the absence of conflict, violence and war and having harmonious coexistence. Peace is having ability to tolerate and be patient with one another.

### COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Through the Fellowship Program, I have learned about Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. The program has also taught me techniques for mitigating violence and fundraising.

### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

**Project Title:** Mitigating Religious Conflict Through Inter-Faith Peacebuilding.

### Project Summary:

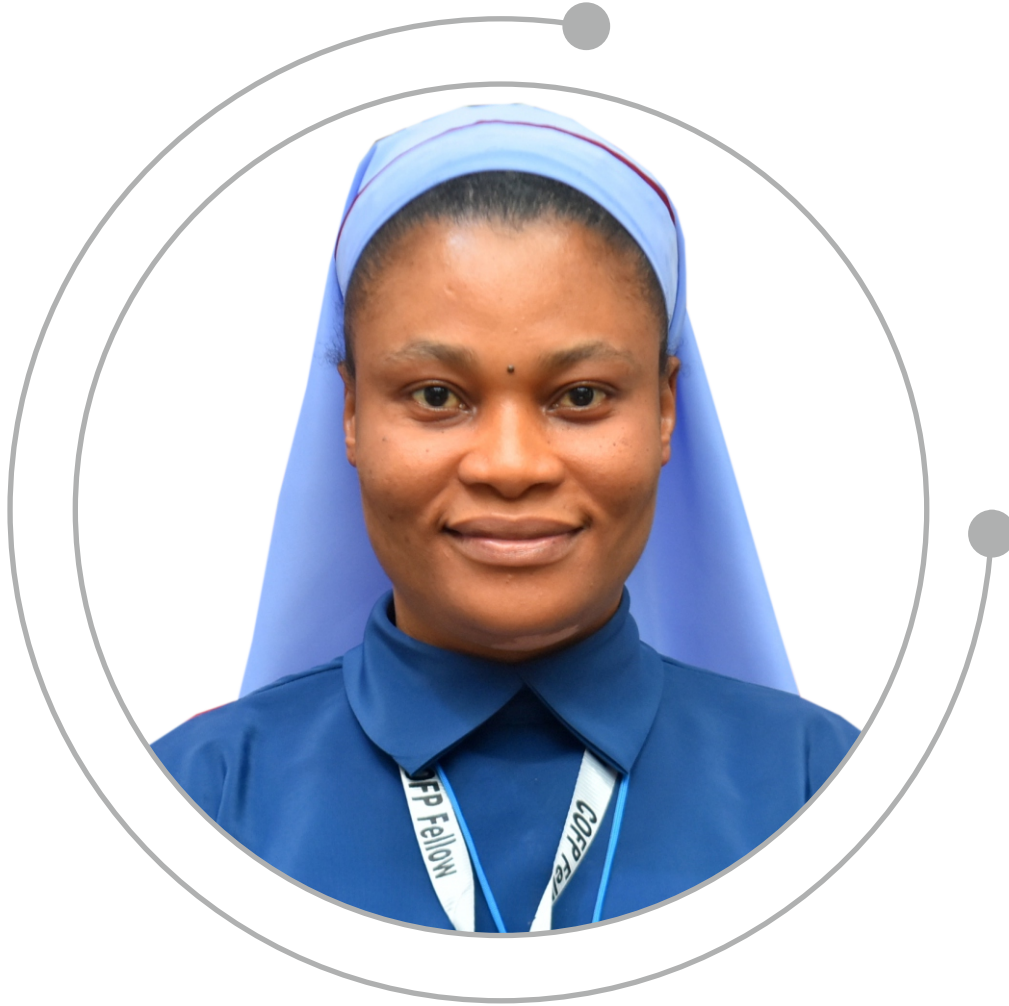
In order to have a peaceful society where peace and tranquility thrive and to address Knowledge Attitude Practices (KAP) gaps in our community, Gezawa gathered 117 participants at Naibawa community, Kumbotso LGA, Kano state. It was a three-day workshop held on 29th January, 2024 to enhance dialogue among the people and to build the capacity of the community stakeholders to be agents of peace. There was a media sensitization at Arewa and Pyramid Radio. Also, an hour live program on Abubakar Rimi Television (ART) and Arewa Radio.





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

There was an increase in the knowledge of Christianity and Islam among the people in the community and the neighbouring communities. The government through the Ministry of Women Affairs promised to empower women, children and people living with disability. Also, the Traditional Rulers present promised to organize a similar program in their communities. It also led to the improvement of the economic status of the community due to peaceful coexistence.



Nnaji Lucy Onyinyechukwu

Special Needs Tutor, SASCON International School, Abuja

**S**ister Nnaji Lucy is a religious Sister from the congregation of Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd, Abakaliki Diocese in Ebonyi State, Nigeria. She holds a BSc in Biochemistry and currently works at Sascon International School, Abuja as a Special Students tutor.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace for me is a priceless gift that cannot be bought with any amount of money or position. Peace is a state of tranquillity, calmness, stress-free and perfect coexistence of people in harmony. Peace is everyone's desire but very few people are ready to pay the price of peacebuilding for myself, I have made up my mind to be a Peace ambassador and to cultivate peace any place I find myself because peace is a priceless virtue to cultivate.



The program has influenced me so much. So far, I have learned what peace is all about and how I can spread this peace wherever I find myself. I have unlearned the negative impressions I had concerning other religions and I have learned from this program that every religion is unique and none is better than the other. It has been a

wonderful experience.

### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

**Project Title:** Peace Building Seminar, Skill Acquisition and Empowerment of Women and Youth in the Gishiri Community of FCT.

#### Project Summary:

Gishiri, a small community located between Maitama and Mabushi in Abuja, recently faced demolition, resulting in many residents losing their homes and livelihoods, plunging them into poverty, hunger, and severe hardship. Following a comprehensive Needs Assessment, Sr. Lucy decided to launch a community peace project focused on skill acquisition and empowerment on January 25th and 26th, 2024, to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable members of the community. The primary targets of this initiative were the youth and women, aiming to restore their self-esteem through empowerment and provide them with a sense of hope for a better future. Participants received training in various skills, including the production of liquid soap and pastries. They were also given starter kits and a local oven to kickstart their businesses.



Nnaji Lucy Onyinyechukwu





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

Sister Lucy's peace project was like a ray of hope for the community. People there felt it was a true blessing, bringing them much-needed relief. Many women expressed their happiness and gratitude for being chosen as beneficiaries of the project. The chief of the Gishiri community and other important people thanked the organization for its support. They encouraged the beneficiaries to seize the opportunity, work hard on their new businesses, and live harmoniously with their neighbours.



Odukoya Oluwakemi Kene

Research Assistant, Nile University of Nigeria, (NUN)

Odukoya Oluwakemi Kene is a catholic from Ogun State. She holds MSc in Conflict, Peace and Strategic Studies from Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja. She is a private researcher and has successfully carried out humanitarian projects under the Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa, SEEDS -Togo and a personal project called, "Anuluwapo Childrens project-keeping hope alive in children".

### **My Reflection on Peace.**

This one year of Fellowship with the COFP, has broadened my perspective on peace. Initially, I would define peace as the absence of war but presently, I see peace as the ability to co-exist whether there is war or not. Thanks to the program, I have become conscious of the concept of individual perception. I now understand that to achieve sustainable peace, it is important to respect people's perception of life even though I may not agree with it.



### COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship Program gave me the platform to re-evaluate and re-educate myself as an individual. Though, I come from a liberal background, I still had reservations particularly in the area of religious practices in Islamic religion. However, the Fellowship program has succeeded in annihilating that bias that existed in me. I can confidently say that the Fellowship program did not only expose me to religious tolerance but also presented me with a forum to explore the teachings through interactions with my fellow classmates and has also enabled me to establish a bond with many.

### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

**Project Title:** Mitigating non-collaboration in interfaith relations among religious institutions and schools with over two decades of coexistence within Kubwa village Community.

#### Project Summary:

Kemi's peace project was executed on 25th January, 2024 at GSS Kubwa FCT. Two schools participated in the project with 50 participants. The activities include football match, quiz competition and training workshop which featured talks, group discussion and other interactions. The workshop aimed at providing a comprehensive examination of the foundational tenets of Islam and Christianity and to involve students in interfaith endeavours.



### Project Outcome/Impact:

Before the execution of my project, the community where the project was executed had never experienced an interreligious collaboration. After the project, many teachers narrated the impact of the project on them and said it was an eyeopener towards religious tolerance. The principals of both schools promised that they will further create a religious tolerance day in the schools where parents will be invited so as to ensure that the message of religious tolerance spreads to the homes.



Odukoya Oluwakemi Kene





Timta Luka. Musa

Reverend in-charge  
Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, Borno State and Vice Chairman,  
Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kano State Chapter

**T**imta Musa hails from Bornu State Nigeria. He is an ordained Pastor of the church of the Brethren and Vice Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kano State Chapter. He oversees church branches in the North Western part of Nigeria and serves as Co-chair of the Monitoring & Evaluation Committee of the Kano State Anti-Corruption and Strategy Commission. Timta holds a Master's degree in Historical Theology from the Theological College of Northern Nigeria, University of Jos.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

I view Peace as an invaluable treasure that is essential for maintaining harmony and tranquillity in our world. It must be cherished, safeguarded, and advocated for by all individuals. The global community yearns for peace now more than any other time in history.

### **COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience**

The COFP Fellowship Program has been a transformative experience for me, enhancing my capacity in peace and peacebuilding beyond expectations. It has enriched my life significantly, influencing my perception of critical issues, relationships, and my role as a pastor and leader in society. This program has made me a better person, providing opportunities to positively impact my world.

#### **MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

Project Title: Hate Speech as a Trigger for

Conflict in the Sabon Gari Area of Kano State, Nigeria: Causes, Effects, and Mitigation Strategies.

#### **Summary:**

Timta's project, held on the 9th of January, 2024, in Faggae L.G.A of Kano State, aimed to educate 102 participants, including Imams and pastors, on hate speech's causes and effects. The program focused on mitigating hate speech, preventing conflicts, and empowering faith leaders to promote peace in the Sabon Gari Community. The goal was to create a more inclusive and harmonious environment regardless of individuals' religious beliefs.



Timta Luka. Musa





**Project Impact/Outcome:**

The community peace project brought together Muslim and Christian leaders, who engaged in dialogue led by a Pastor and an Imam. They recognized that hate speech was a tool used to disrupt peace. This realization motivated them to spread this message and plan more programs in the future. COFP Fellows in Kano State were inspired by the event and committed to regularly convening to support peace initiatives. Media coverage helped spread the message, leading more people to pledge their commitment to creating a peaceful Kano State.



Timta Luka. Musa





# Orji Ruth-Athony Udeh

Teacher, St. Maria Goretti Secondary School, Imo State

**R**uth-Anthony Orji, a devoted Catholic Sister of the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Mercy (DMMM) congregation hails from Ebonyi State and serves as a Catholic doctrine instructor at St. Maria Goretti Girls Secondary School in Umudike, Umuahia.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

To me, peace embodies the understanding and alignment within myself, despite the perpetual conflicts that may arise within. By fostering this inner peace, I become capable of extending it to others.

**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Journey

Gratitude fills my heart for the enriching experience I've had as a member of the COFP Fellowship. This program has significantly broadened my understanding of religion, particularly highlighting the shared heritage among adherents of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as Abrahamic people. Through this Fellowship, I've come to appreciate the common origins and shared beliefs in the afterlife judgment among these diverse faiths.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Peaceful Dialogue and Empowerment of Youth and Women of Umudioka in Orlu, Imo State of Nigeria

**Project Summary:**

This was a skill acquisition program held on the 20th of January, 2024, in Umudioka community, Imo State, Nigeria, aimed to enhance peace and security while empowering destitute youth and women. Participants acquired skills in producing household bleach, liquid soap, and air fresheners. Additionally, some received sewing machines, bakery, and pastry production materials to start their businesses, fostering self-reliance and economic independence.



**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The Community Peace Project empowered youth and women to embrace peaceful coexistence irrespective of gender, faith, or culture. Their positive transformation inspired them to spread the message of harmony within their community. A pastor and members of the Daughters of Mary

Mother of Mercy congregation eagerly anticipate becoming COFP Fellows. This initiative serves as a beacon of hope, fostering peace and understanding. It demonstrates the power of grassroots empowerment in promoting lasting societal change.







Isa Umar Al-Musawi

Public Relations Officer 1,  
Muslim Council of Adamawa State

**A**l-Musawi Isa Umar is a Shi'a Muslim from Adamawa State. He is a public Relations Officer at the International Human Rights Movement (IHRM), Adamawa State Office & and also the Public Relations Officer 1 of the Muslim Council of Adamawa State, Gombi. He holds a Master's degree and is currently a Ph.D. student in Hausa Culture at Taraba State University, Jalingo.

### **My Reflection on Peace.**

I believe peace is a state of harmony characterized by the absence of conflict, violence, and hostility. It is not only the absence of warfare but also the presence of social justice, equality, and mutual respect among individuals and communities. Peace manifests itself in various forms, including inner tranquillity, interpersonal relationships based on empathy and understanding, and the peaceful coexistence of diverse cultures, religions, and ideologies.



**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP fellowship program has been a transformative journey that has deepened my sense of purpose and commitment to making a difference. As a participant in the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) fellowship program, I have been deeply impacted and the program has provided me with invaluable opportunities for growth and learning. Through interactions with mentors, peers, and experts in the field, I have gained new perspectives, and honed my skills in various areas. Engaging in discussions and collaborative projects with individuals from different backgrounds has broadened my understanding of global issues and also enriched my appreciation of cultural differences.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Interreligious Dialogue for Peaceful Coexistence and Development among Farmers and Herders in Gombi, Adamawa State, Nigeria.

**Project Summary:**

The 1-day project took place on January 29, 2024, in Gombi, Adamawa State, involving 70 participants. Its aim was to help participants identify the root causes of conflicts between farmers and herders, examine historical, economic, and social factors contributing to the tension between these groups, as well as cultural and religious sensitivities influencing the conflicts. The goal was to explore ways to address these issues through dialogue, propose resolution mechanisms for equitable resource distribution, and foster mutual cohesion and tolerance in the community.

Isa Umar Al-Musawi



**Project Outcome/Impact:**

Umar's project successfully reduced inter-communal tensions between farmers and herders, fostering a more harmonious relationship. The practical skills taught on using dialogical tools to address disputes peacefully led to fewer conflicts and violence. This resulted in improved economic benefits like cooperative farming and diversified income streams, reducing poverty and enhancing livelihoods. The intervention also enhanced social cohesion, unity, and recognition of marginalized groups like women and youth. This promoted inclusivity, unity, improved governance, educational programs, positive community collaboration, cultural identity, and heritage.



Isa Umar Al-Musawi





Ndeng Akongnwi Ayumbi

Coordinator, Justice and Peace Commission  
Kumba Catholic Diocese, Cameroon

Sister Ndeng Akongnwi Ayumbi is a Catholic religious of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. She is a Cameroonian born in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Presently, she is the Coordinator of the Justice and Peace Commission, Diocese of Kumba. She holds a Bachelor's in Sociology and Anthropology and a Diploma in Women and Gender Studies and has lots of experience working with vulnerable girls, Prisoners, and the less privileged in society.

### My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a state of living and being together in harmony, respecting and accepting one another regardless of race, tribe, religion, sex, and age. It also involves assisting each other in becoming better individuals for the advancement of society.



**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

Presently, I appreciate other people more and look beyond our differences. This program has also equipped me with leadership skills in mediation and dialogue which I need each day at my place of work. As an individual, I now try to be at peace with myself to radiate that peace to others because I cannot give what I do not have. Thanks to the COFP Fellowship program.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**  
Project Title: Empowering Women for Sustainable Peace and Development: The Inter-Faith Dimension - At Fiango, Kumba.

**Project Summary:**  
Sister Ndeng's Skills Acquisition & Empowerment program lasted for 3 -days on the 13th, and 16th and then the grand finale on the 17th of January,2024 at Fiango, Kumba South, West region, Cameroon, and catered to the needs of 45 women who got empowered with livelihood skills in Yogurt, varied pastries, natural juice, detergents production, and cookery. Its noble aim was to promote social cohesion, equip inter-faith women with economic skills as a means to build resilience amongst them and foster peace and development in the community through a boost in their economic statuses.

Ndeng Akongnwi Ayumbi





**Project Outcome/Impact:**

Already, the benefits of this peace initiative have been evident within the community, particularly among the recipients. As part of the initiative, 45 women representing both the Islamic and Christian faiths have recognized that what binds them outweighs their religious differences. As such, they are prepared to collaborate to improve their

financial circumstances. Some of these women are already leveraging the skills they have gained. For example, two widows among them have combined their resources to launch a shared Yogurt venture. This endeavour is already generating income, significantly improving their own lives and those of their families.



Yitkyim Leah Datong

Senior Assistant Registrar,  
Plateau State University, Bokokos

**Y**itkyim Leah is a Christian from Plateau state. She holds LLB and LLM from the university of Jos. She is the senior Assistant Registrar of Plateau State University, Bokokos. Yitkyim also works as the head of Council Affairs Unit of the University. She is a Gender Rights Activist with dedication to the feminist movement.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

I have learnt from the Fellowship Program that there is a longing for peace and a global call for action but without the root cause of the problem being tackled, long lasting peace will continue to be a struggle for mankind. Therefore, peace to me is not a mere absence of conflict, but the discovery of harmony within the depth of our humanity. Peace is an intentional journey of compassion and empathy.

### COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience at the Fellowship Program has been transformative and empowering. It has also been comprehensive and engaging. The experience has been holistic and I am most grateful for the network I have built which will forever be a social support system for me as I continue to promote peace in my community.

#### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

Project Title: The Firefly Effect- Gender Based Empowerment and Peacebuilding Workshop.

### Project Summary:

Leah carried out a two-day Empowerment and Peacebuilding workshop at Jos on the 12th of January 2024 for 70 beneficiaries. The program's objective was to bring about gender inclusive peacebuilding through financial independence. It was also aimed at empowering participants as agents of change. Leah also received support for this project from an international organization called Organization for Peacebuilding and Social Justice (PSJ).



Yitkyim Leah Datong







**Project Outcome/Impact:**

The project brought together young women from different ethnic groups and religion to learn about gender-based empowerment and peacebuilding through financial independence. A WhatsApp group was formed and they have also been able to form a unity front to work together for peace.





Agnes Takpobuno Umudo

Pastoral Assistant  
Holy Family Catholic Church, Badagri, Lagos

**A**gnes Umudo is a Catholic religious sister and missionary of the Sisters of Our Lady of Apostle (OLA) congregation from Delta State. She earned a B.Sc. in Physics Education from Delta State University, Abraka. Currently, she is involved in social and pastoral activities at Holy Family Catholic Church in Ajara, Badagry, Lagos State.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace is more than just a concept; it is a way of life. It embodies the essence of justice, tranquillity, serenity, and love. It thrives in the harmony of right relationships with both God and humanity, resonating deeply within oneself. Peace is closely related to justice, for true peace cannot exist without it. Its value is immeasurable, surpassing any material wealth.



focus on what brings us together, like love and respect, while rejecting what divides us. It proves that religious tolerance starts with each of us.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Inter-Religious Dialogue/Empowerment of Women and Youth in Ajara-Badagry, Lagos, Nigeria.

**Project Summary:** This skill acquisition and empowerment program took place intermittently over 6 days from January 5th to January 20th, 2024. The program culminated in Ajara Badagry and focused on 18 participants aiming to enhance their capacity for self-employment, elevate their living standards by increasing household income, and provide for their families. The participants were equipped with skills in mat and bead-making, pastries, household cleaners, and disinfectant production. The objective of the project was for the participants to become employers, generating more job opportunities in the community and reducing crime rates.

**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship has empowered and deepened my understanding of peace and unity across religions. It has shown me that we're all connected as humans and should



Agnes Takpobuno Umudo





### Project Outcome/Impac

Agnes' beneficiaries attested that her community peace project was the first of its kind in the community. It captured the attention of the community, showing them the potential for people of different religions and cultures to collaborate and coexist harmoniously. Community members were impressed that even a visually impaired woman was included, receiving a young female pig to assist her family in breeding, while a couple who had lost hope were given pumpkin pods to rejuvenate their farming business. The beneficiaries, as well as the entire community, recognized that there are individuals who genuinely care about their well-being. The impact of this project is still a topic of discussion throughout the community.



Agnes Takpobuno Umudo





Rosemary Uzonna Ifechidere

Lecturer  
Federal Government College, Keffi, Nasarawa state

Uzonna Rosemary Ngozi is from Anambra State and a Catholic religious from the congregation of Sisters of the Compassionate Heart of Christ. She works at the Federal Government College, Keffi, and obtained a B. A (Ed) in English Language from Nasarawa State University, Keffi.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

In my opinion, peace is the ability to embrace diversity, understand and respect others' way of life regardless of differences in tribe or religion. It entails open dialogue to resolve misunderstandings and empathetic listening to avoid the narrative of a single story. Ultimately, it's about treating others with the same kindness and respect we desire for ourselves.

### COFP Fellowship Program:

**An Unforgettable Experience**  
My experience in the COFP Fellowship program so far has been wonderful. It allowed me to understand what peace is all about, how to embrace and initiate peace in my immediate environment and community at large, and how to dialogue and value other people despite their tribe and religion. It allowed me to understand the danger of a single story and the need to listen to all sides before concluding. I'm grateful to God for the opportunity to be part of this Program. long live COFP.

### My Community Peace Project

**Project Title:** Interreligious Dialogue and Empowerment of Women & Youth in Keffi Nasarawa State.

### Project Summary:

Sixteen (16) women and youth in Angwalambu, Keffi L.G.A, Nasarawa State, were deeply impacted by Sister Rosemary's two-day community peace project which held on January 12th and 13th, 2024. The initiative provided them with capacity-building skills and empowerment tools, fostering economic growth and self-reliance. Training sessions included soda soap and petroleum jelly production, pastry making, after which they were given starter-kits, and two individuals received sewing machines. The project had a major objective of boosting self-confidence, mitigating gender-based violence, and promoting independence.



Rosemary Uzonna Ifechidere



### Project Outcome/Impact:

The beneficiaries were overwhelmed with joy and gratitude because they were able to improve their skills and do better. Now, most of them can support themselves and their families by selling what they make, and they can solve their everyday problems more easily.



Rosemary Uzonna Ifechidere





Aisha Muhammad Yakasai

Peace and Conflict Resolution Desk Officer,  
Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Kano State

**M**uhammed Aisha Yakasai is a Muslim from kano state. She obtained a B Ed in Adult Education and Community Development from Bayero University (BUK) Kano. She is a staff of Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, Kano state Command as Gender Desk officer.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace is a freedom from violence, from peers, family, strangers and the state. Peace is being able to grow and to thrive and be who you are. Peace is accepting of various religious practices.

### **COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience**

My experience at COFP Fellowship Program is tremendous. It built my capacity and boosted my moral that I can now go to my community and advocate for peace. We need peace within ourselves, communities and states.

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## MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

**Project Title:** Mitigating Gender Based Violence on Women and Girls.

### Project Summary:

The one-day program on gender Based Violence/Trauma Healing was held in Kano on 6th January, 2024 for 42 participants. The project intended to reinforce and increase support services available to victims through different institutions and to prevent violence against women and girls in Danagundi community.

### Project Outcome/Impact:

After the program, the women that participated were extremely happy and they also suggested for more sensitization and awareness campaign from the Foundation for the community. After the program, I received many calls from the community members and the state. I was also invited to attend a Radio Program the following week because of the project that was executed.



Aisha Muhammad Yakasai





Administrator, Sancta Maria Health Clinic and Maternity,  
Takum, Taraba State

Loveline Ziseng Nyetatem

Loveline Ziseng Nyetalem is a religious member of the congregation of the Tertiary sisters of St. Francis. A Cameroonian by nationality but works as a missionary in Takum Local Government Area in Taraba state in the Catholic Diocese of Wukari. She holds a Diploma in State Registered Nursing and is also an Administrator at the Holy Family Catholic Clinic in Takum.

### My Reflection on Peace

When we talk of peace, what comes to my mind is calmness, tranquility, serenity and normalcy. Peace is what everybody longs for. Peace is also stress free and to have this peace, we should encourage dialogue, reconciliation and forgiveness which is the only channel towards peace.

### COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience.

My experience at the Fellowship program has been awesome! I am privileged and extremely happy to participate in the Fellowship program. The topics treated have been very rich and I'm now acquainted

with the tenets of the other religion. The skills I acquired have influenced the way I live in my community for good.

### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

Project Title: Building skills for Peace and Economic Empowerment for the Internally displaced persons/ Refugees in Takum Community.



Loveline Ziseng Nyetatem





**Project Summary:**

Sister Loveline organized a two-day project for 30 participants on 4th zJanuary, 2024 at Takum, Taraba state. The project trained and empowered 20 beneficiaries on small seed sewing, chin-chin making, farming and poultry to enable them start a business on their own. All of these was done to help them live in peace and avoid violence.

**Project outcome/impact:**

The project brought them much joy and a deep sense of gratitude to God and the organization. One beneficiary shared how war had negatively impacted her family, but thanks to COFP's intervention, they were able to find a source of livelihood.

Loveline Ziseng Nyetatem





Sureya Ali Roble

Founder and Director  
Advocacy for Women in Peace and Security- Africa (AWAPSA), Kenya

**R**oble Sureya is the Founder of Advocacy for Women in Peace and Security- Africa (AWAPSA) Kenya, an organization that works on women's peace and security agenda. She holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from Regent Business School, South Africa.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

I describe peace as having the ability to know myself, my virtues and limitations as well as knowing others as well.

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## COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship Program has given me a great opportunity to understand my religion even better and to have an open mind from different scholars' perspective and not to judge based on my own opinion. The program has also opened up my understanding of the other Abrahamic religions, where we think alike and where we differ.

### MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

**Project Title:** Dialogue on Peaceful Coexistence in Pluralistic Society

#### Project Summary:

The two days interfaith peacebuilding workshop took place on 10th February, 2024 at Nyali Constituency, Mombasa County Province Kenya with 130 participants. The program aimed at increasing the awareness and knowledge of participants about the risks and causes of violent extremism among school children and to increase the capacity of teachers and faith leaders on addressing such violence.



Sureya Ali Roble



**Project Outcome/Impact:**

At the end of the workshop, a dialogue forum platform was created for participants to come together to share their thoughts, interact and exchange insights based on their expertise and experience. The award to the peace actors was well appreciated.



Sureya Ali Roble





Zonal Imam, NASFAT (Nasrul-Lahi-L- Faith Society),  
Akure Branch

Ibrahim Olalekan Shodehinde

**S**hodehinde Olalekan is a Muslim from Ondo State. He holds Master's in Educational Planning and Administration from National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN). He is the Zonal Imam of NASFAT in Ondo state. He is a notable public speaker and on-air personality.

### **My Reflection on Peace**

Peace to me is to be free from conflict with my creator, my fellow humans and the environment.





**COFP Fellowship Program:**  
An Unforgettable Experience.

Indeed, words cannot capture my experience as I can conveniently claim that I am a new born peace ambassador and peace lover. The Fellowship Program has changed my perception on what interfaith relationship should be and more importantly, how to look at people of the other faith.

**MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**  
Project Title: Empowering religious and community leaders as gate keepers' champions towards addressing interreligious conflicts, peacebuilding and conflict management.



**Project Summary:**

In order to foster harmonious interfaith relationship and social cohesion between Muslims and Christians in Ondo state, Shodehinde gathered 72 participants from the Islamic and Christian faiths for a one-day symposium on 25th January, 2024 at Akure, the state capital. Participants were trained on how to tackle interreligious conflict and promote peace in their communities.

**Project Outcome/Impact:**

Due to the knowledge gained from the training, participants agreed to replicate the same training in their various communities. They also resolved to see one another as one despite religious differences.





Grace Imaji Ushie

Head, Academic Affairs  
Veritas University of Nigeria, Abuja

Ushie Grace is a religious sister with the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus. She holds a Master's degree in Mass Communication from the National Open University of Nigeria. With experience in teaching, social work, and administration, she currently serves as the Head of the Academic Affairs Unit at Veritas University of Nigeria Abuja.

### My Reflection on Peace

Basically, the COFP Fellowship Program has helped me overcome biases I held against the Islamic religion and its adherents. Interacting with individuals from diverse faiths, tribes, and nations has taught me how to promote peace by actively fostering harmonious coexistence among people, regardless of their religious, tribal, or ethnic backgrounds.



### **COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience**

The program has shown me the urgent need of our era: promoting peaceful coexistence among individuals of diverse faiths, beliefs, and backgrounds, ultimately striving for global peace. I have learned how to embrace others in all aspects of life, fostering harmony and understanding among my colleagues and neighbors.

### **MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT**

**Project Title:** Inter-Faith Dialogue and Peacebuilding

**Project Summary:** Grace empowered 17 beneficiaries on March 9, 2024, in Gwagwalda, teaching them soap making and pastry skills. Additionally, a disabled cobbler received assistance in the form of a shoe filling machine to support his trade. Three other beneficiaries also received two goats each for livestock farming. The recipients expressed heartfelt gratitude for the empowerment, acknowledging its significant economic impact.

Grace Imaji Ushie



**Project Outcome/Impact:**

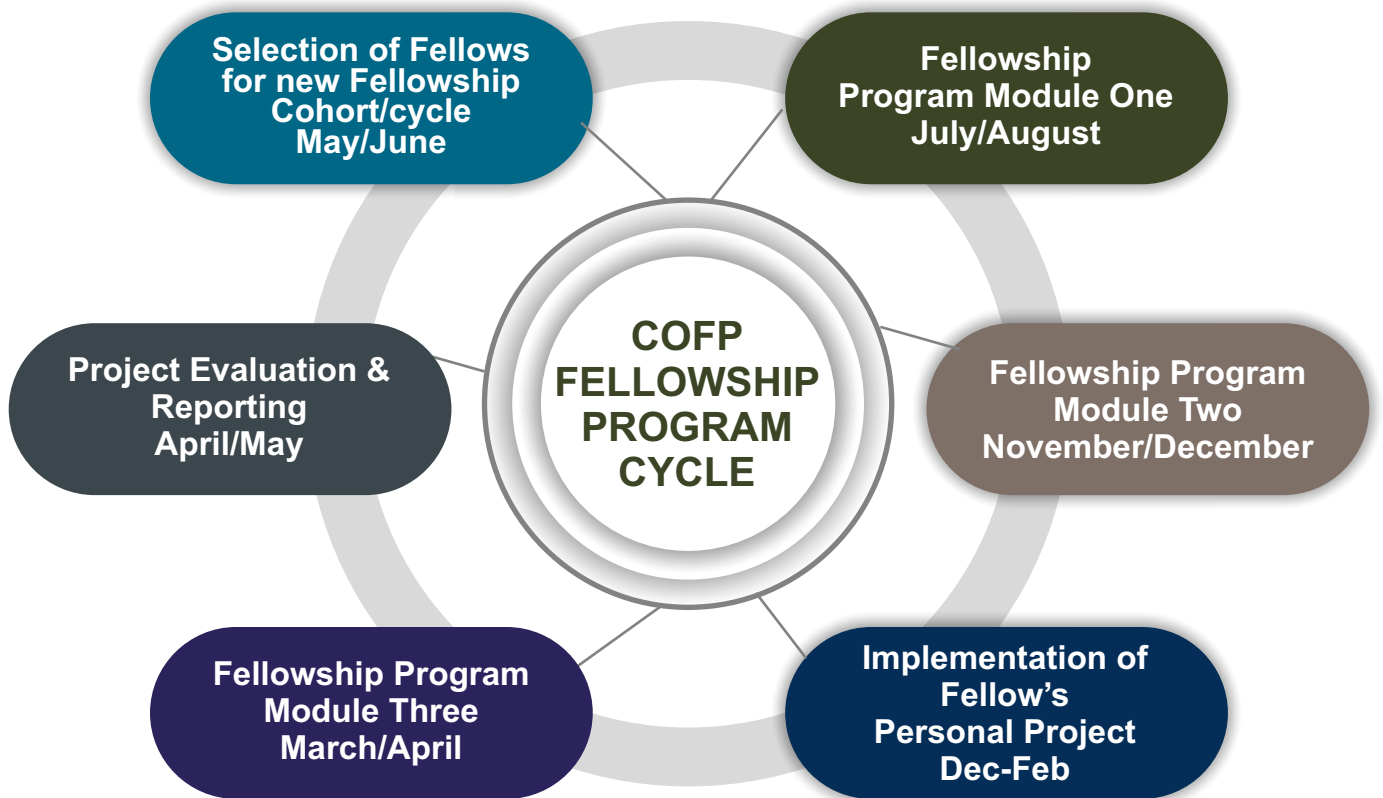
The beneficiaries were able to start businesses of their own. They did not hide the high level of abject poverty in their families and communities due to lack of funds and expressed joy that the empowerment will go a long way to assist them.



Grace Imaji Ushie



## ***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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