

# Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace

**(COFP)**

*Uniting people of different faiths for peace through dialogue*



**COFP**  
*2017 Annual Report*



“ Achieving Peace by  
Walking & Working  
the Talk

”

## **ABOUT US**

COFP Foundation is a non-governmental & not for profit organization that creates the platform for building and strengthening the processes of peace and social change in Nigeria and Africa at large. Established in 2010 by John Cardinal Onaiyekan, the Foundation recognizes that most conflicts in Africa (despite their ethno-religious colorations) are symptoms of deeper structural problems arising from all manners of exclusion- religious, ethnic, political, economic, gendered- that can only be adequately resolved through governance structures that are both ethical and just. COFP therefore strives to address these challenges by, among other things, promoting ethical leadership, offering a space for faith leaders, citizens and political leaders at all levels to engage in discussions for peace and development. The Foundation provides conflict parties with critical skills for peacebuilding, conflict management and transformation within their communities by bringing people together to build a better and safer world.

### **VISION**

A peaceful, cohesive and inclusive society that upholds  
dignity of human person, good governance  
and rejects all forms of violence

### **MISSION**

Fostering lasting peace, harmony and  
transformative development through social justice,  
dialogue and resilience building

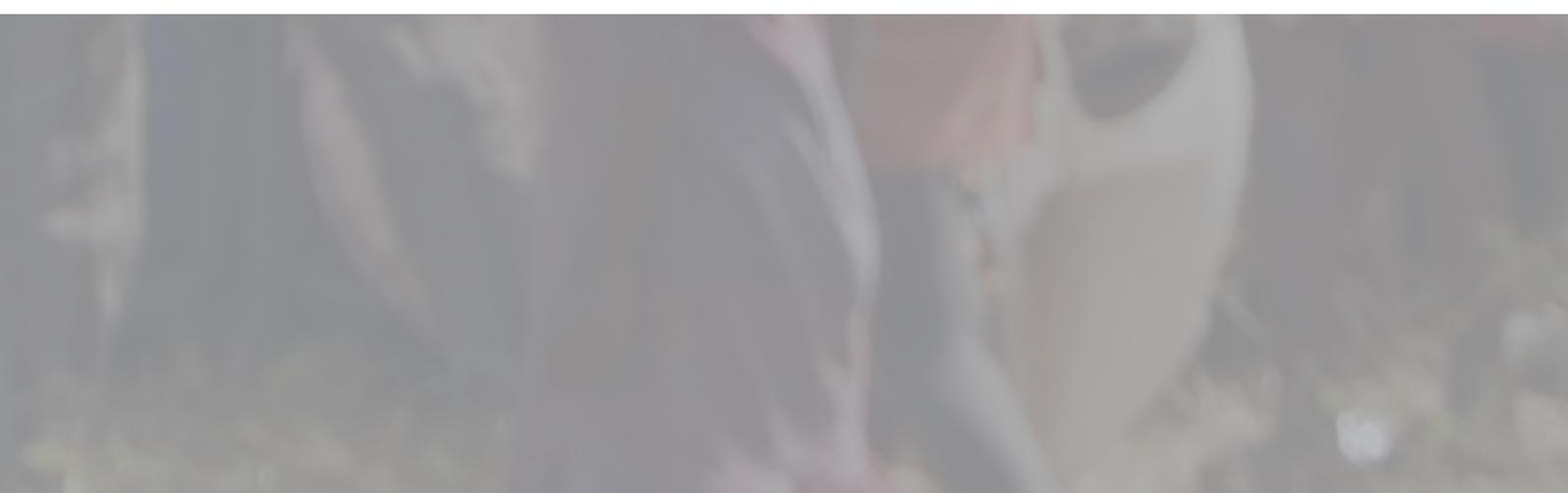
## **COFP THEMATIC PROGRAM**

Rather than focusing all our energy on the barriers, we concentrate in creating more sustainable communities, opportunities and potential that brings the change that we want to see through our three main thematic areas:

1. Build Common Grounds for Peace
2. Integrating Social Change through Ethical Governance
3. Sustaining Peace for Development



## **Objectives of COFP Foundation**

- Mobilize and equip local religious groups as actors in peace building.
  - Promote inclusive and effective governance for social change
  - Build coalition and community resilience against violent extremism by providing safe space and opportunities for addressing the root causes and drivers of extremism.
  - Empower women and youth to play greater roles in reshaping society for good
  - Promote interpersonal relationships through encounter & common actions
  - Equip interfaith women and youth with skills in intra and interreligious dialogue.
  - Advance multi stakeholder partnership, alliances and networking for peace and development
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## **Message from the Executive Director**

It is with great pleasure and gratitude to God Almighty that I present the 2017 report of COFP.

In today's polarized world where corruption, bad governance, armed conflict, extremism and terrorism have escalated, destroying the fabric of society and jeopardizing human security and development, we at COFP Foundation are passionate about building bridges across divides. A lot of progress has been recorded with the support of our local and international partners in tackling issues of social injustice and peace in the country. Our focus in 2017 has been on our key three Thematic Areas guided by our understanding of the need for sustainable peace through ethical governance and interfaith cooperation.

We believe that lasting peace is possible when people are empowered to take care of their basic needs, when there is inclusive & democratic government and when religion become tools for advancing cooperation and human dignity.

Despite our high demanded services, adequate funding for our work remains a challenge especially when we are aware that support to our work can go a long way in bridging communities. But we are not deterred because the goodwill and support of our Founder & partners are central towards achieving our goals and this is why we will always remain very grateful to them.

We are inspired to work harder together towards ending violence and building a prosperous, peaceful future in Nigeria through our programs and projects.

## Empowering Destitute Women & Girls in IDP Camps & Poor Communities

With women representing about 49% of the entire Nigerian population as well as their proven invaluable contribution to nation building and sustainable development, women empowerment has always been reckoned as a firm basis for this sustainable development. This is because women are arguably key managers of resources and powerful agents of change. Moreover, women are more vulnerable during violent conflicts, environmental degradation, climate change and other forms of conflicts. This is loudly evident in Nigeria where women have got their fair share of poverty blow, even made worse by the great evil of the Boko Haram insurgency that have destroyed countless lives and properties, left many Nigerians displaced, orphaned children and widowed a lot of women. The unfortunate scenario places greater burden of care-giving and the entire family responsibilities on the woman who struggles through very low capacity and thin resources to meet emerging challenges. And as a result, many women rely on handouts from the NGOs with little support from the Nigerian government for a living, and these are often neither sufficient nor sustainable.

In our assessment with the displaced women in host communities and camps, Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) gathered that the women are in grave need of sustainable interventions in form of capacity building on skills acquisition to enable them establish petty trade that would boost their household income in order to provide basic livelihood for themselves and their families. With this orientation, COFP designed a capacity building intervention that trained the women on certain skills and provided starter packages to assist them establish.



It is in the light of the above that Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) whose primary objective is to advance the SDGs by eradicating or at least reduce poverty to the barest minimum so that these group of women would become economically independent through the empowerment programs and in partnership with other organizations like Religions for Peace, Nigerian Women of Faith Network (NWFN), etc empowered 80 women in the Durumi IDP camp FCT Abuja from February to March 2017. 45 destitute women were empowered in Lagos State in May, 2017 while another 100 displaced women in Jalingo host community in Taraba State were empowered in September 2017.

Thus a total of 225 IDP and rural poor women received vocational skills acquisition training in various communities and states in Nigeria in the following skills: pastries/bakery, Jewelry/bead-making and industrial production (soap making, disinfectant, air-freshener, etc). The overall aim of the program was to help the destitute women become self-reliant.

## Objectives of the Training

1. To empower poor displaced women to become independent economically
2. Enhance peace by reducing poverty and GBV
3. To create awareness and bring attention to the needs and plight of the Nigerian women and children especially those within zones of conflict and violence.



## COFP'S Medical Outreach in Wassa and Yimitu IDP Camps

In January 2017, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), in its update report on the Nigerian situation, reported that they are 1,770,444 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria, (UNHCR 2017 regional Update-The Nigerian situation) comprised mainly of people from the North East and North Central regions, with high concentration in the states of Adamawa, Yobe and Borno. The drivers of this displacement are mainly the Boko Haram insurgency, the Herdsmen attacks and community clashes, with the Boko Haram insurgency accounting for over 90% of the reason of displacement. These displaced persons are forced to flee their communities and settle elsewhere for safety. Some of them settle in IDP camps while others move into host communities.



Generally, these IDPs, whether in camps or host communities, suffer untellable dehumanizing situations including different levels of abuse, rights violation and lack of access to basic livelihood needs, and the concentration of these burdens are more on the women and children, who are most vulnerable and often are widows and orphans. Though the government and other national and international humanitarian agencies has done quite a lot to support the IDP situation, these interventions are hardly sufficient and sustainable, hence, the need for more fitting and sustainable intervention.

In an effort to response to the above problem in Nigeria, Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP), in collaboration with Global Network of Religion for Children (GNRC)/Arigatou

International and in commemoration of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child (UNDRC), carried out free medical outreach in Wassa and Yimitu IDP camps in the FCT Abuja Nigeria on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017, respectively. The purpose of the outreach program was to provide adequate medical attention to the displaced children living in various camps, as well as to provide psychosocial support for the vulnerable children and their families.

The free medical outreach were carried out by a team of 8 medical professionals, a total number of 400 children (152 in Wassa and 248 in Yimitu) suffering from one sickness and disease or the other with little or no access to adequate medical services in the camps/host community. Most parents living in these communities relied on self-medication through herbal concoctions while others, amidst very scarce resources, depended on unreliable prescriptions of the quack owners of tiny



illegal medical stores within the communities. The team conducted tests and treatments in malaria, typhoid, scabies, cough, deworming, and general basic medical examination. Children with severe and complicated health issues were supported to access more adequate medical services in the hospitals. The team also counsel the parents of the children on basic health issues for their well being and that of their children, and the need to follow the prescription of treatments as recommended for their children. Children were provided refreshment as part of the exercise. COFP also provided recreational facilities that enabled the children to interact and recreate. For instance, play stages comprising of bouncing castle, princess funcity and balloon maze were provided for their fun.

## Providing Access to Education for Displaced Children in IDP Camp

Education is not only power but the right of every child. It then becomes a big problem when children are denied access to education because their parents or guardian cannot afford to enroll them in school. This is the case with Yimitu community where over 200 IDP children living in Yimitu host community Abuja could not go to school for over six months because their learning center was deteriorated & in a deplorable state. Understanding the importance of getting these children back to school, the COFP took the initiative and responsibility of renovating the school structures in the camp. The Foundation also hired more teaching staff for the learning center, paid the teachers monthly allowances as well as provides the teachers with teaching aids to ensure decent learning.



## **COFP Participating in Iftar Dinner**

Participating in the breaking of the Ramadan Fasting annually has become one of the key activities of COFP Foundation. As an organization with the mandate of promoting peace through interfaith dialogue, partaking in Iftar dinner/s is another avenue through which COFP build common grounds for peace. Thus, in June, 2017, a delegation led by His Eminence John Cardinal Onaiyekan along with the COFP Staff joined the Apo legislative Quarters Mosque (Zone E) to break the Ramadan fasting with Muslim brothers and sisters. Talks/reflections were given by Cardinal John, the Imam of the Mosque-AlhajiNuru Khalid and a host of others on the significance of Ramadan and peace. The Foundation presented bags of rice to enable the Mosque feed more poor hungry people within their vicinity.

### **Objectives of the Visit**

1. To enhance religious freedom and tolerance
2. Discourage hate speech among leaders and preachers of different faith
3. Promote dignity and common humanity



## Mainstreaming women in peace building

Although the inclusion of women in peace building processes has gained international recognition, sustainable peace may still be impossible without fully mainstreaming women into processes. To position women as peace builders, their skill needs to be enhanced. On the 18th – 20th of September 2017, the COFP Foundation in collaboration with Religions for Peace convened a high level meeting for the senior religious women leaders from different faith organizations and ethnic groups in Nigeria under the Nigerian Women of Faith Network platform. During this meeting, the Board members of the Women of Faith were formed.

Key issues bothering on the Nigerian woman and the country at large were discussed during the meeting. One of the patrons of the organization, Cardinal John Onaiyekan the Metropolitan Catholic Archbishop of Abuja who was present during the meeting encouraged women to join forces irrespective of religious and ethnic differences to ensure peace and harmony in the country and to avoid all forms of discrimination and unnecessary stereotypes. The overall purpose of the meeting was to build cohesion and bridges for peace and to further the rights of women, girls, youth and children in the country.



## Statement of Financial Position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

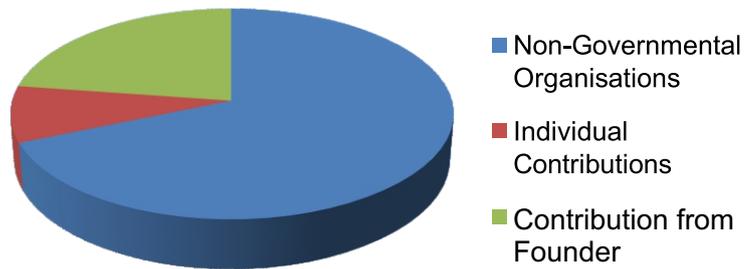
	N	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b><u>Non-Current Assets</u></b>		
Property Plant & Equipment	10,492,500	29,146
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>		
Inventories	450,000	1,250
Receivables	7,367	20
Cash & Cash Equivalent	<u>20,988,000</u>	<u>58,300</u>
	<u>21,445,367</u>	<u>59,570</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>31,937,867</b>	<b>88,716</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b><u>Current Liabilities</u></b>		
Payables	55,087	153
Restricted Funds	10,553,280	29,315
Accumulated Funds	<u>21,329,500</u>	<u>59,248</u>
	<u>31,882,780</u>	<u>88,564</u>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Funds</b>	<b>31,937,867</b>	<b>88,716</b>

# FUNDS

## SOURCES OF FUNDS

**Total: N47,552,000**

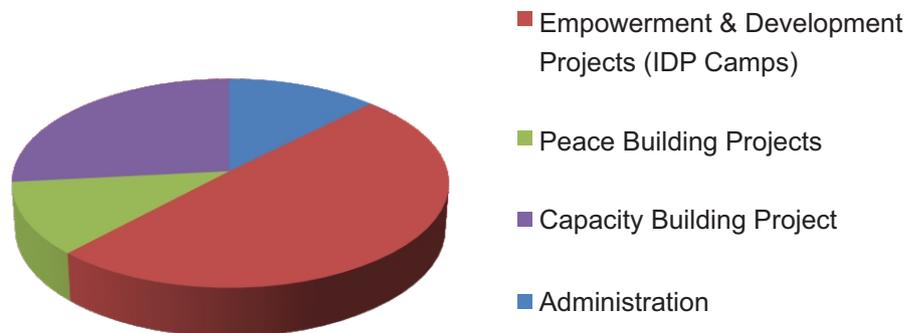
### Sources of Funds



## USES OF FUNDS

**TOTAL: N20,389,633**

### Uses of Funds



RECEPTION

## *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



**Contact:**

**Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP Foundation)**

Block B Rivers Court, Gaduwa Estate, Durumi.

P.O Box 18941, Garki Area 10 Abuja-Nigeria

☎ +234 802 244 3542, +234 703 187 9336

✉ [cofpfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:cofpfoundation@gmail.com), [Info@cofpfoundation.org](mailto:Info@cofpfoundation.org)

🌐 [www.cofpfoundation.org](http://www.cofpfoundation.org)