



# 2022

## Annual Report



**Cardinal Onaiyekan  
Foundation for Peace**

# Celebrating



# COFP

## Fellowship Program

### 2018-2023

*“Attending the COFP Fellowship was one of the most rewarding things I have done in my career. Having the opportunity to have a deep understanding of interfaith and interreligious dialogue as well as fundamentals for co-existence is indeed rewarding. I realized how important it is to broaden my thinking and gain new perspective. At COFP Fellowship program, you are surrounded by brilliant and talented Professors and Fellows. Having the opportunity to exchange knowledge with some of the Fellows was my favorite part of the Fellowship. I felt as though I finally found a way to practice interreligious dialogue as Fellows belong to different faiths and the program was organized in Nigeria where interreligious dialogue is a big issue. I experienced tremendous growth through my interactions with Fellows and lecturers and I learned a lot about myself as a leader and peace advocate. Finally, it was an honor to implement my community project which had a good impact on young peace champions in my community. All these achievements could not have been done without the generous support from the COFP Foundation”.*

**Abdellah Khayya (COFP Fellow - Morocco, Class of 2022).**

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE



The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) has continued to make a huge impact over the years and the year 2022 was no exception as the Foundation accelerated its reach in every single project it embarked on within the year. The barrage of victories attained by the Foundation from inception till date has left me in awe of how a little seed sown yesterday has become a big tree tomorrow when we invest a high sense of diligence and urgency into whatever we set out to do.

2022 annual report like other previous reports offers us the opportunity to reflect on our achievements and challenges and to share success recorded within the year as it guides and shapes our work in the coming year. Our programs continued to grow in scope and reach in 2022. In July 2018, for instance, the Foundation enrolled 35 Pioneer Fellows from across Nigeria to participate in the Fellowship program. With the Fifth Set of the program this year, COFP Fellowship program has built the capacity of 230 people across 15 African Countries. This I would say is absolutely mind-blowing and could only have been possible by the special grace of the Almighty God and the continuous support from our donors and partners.

Even though the year had its unique share of ups and downs, we kept our gaze squarely on the different projects we had planned out to enable us transform the lives of numerous individuals and communities. Today, we're exceedingly delighted by the stories of transformation regarding our initiatives that we continue to hear and receive from all over Africa. These impactful stories inspire us to go above and beyond!

The victories we have recorded in the past years wouldn't have been possible without the help and support of our partners and funders from across the globe. Our vision may have remained a mere wish without the resources you were kind enough to release to us. Thank you and Thank you again! To our entire team at COFP; Board, Council, Management, Staff and Volunteers, it suffices to say that you actually made our achievements happen. Thank you for your commitment and loyalty to the vision and mission of this noble organization. We are hopeful that the years ahead can only be better for us all and for the Foundation as a whole.

Cheers to many more years of fostering peace and development among people of diverse backgrounds.

**Agatha O. Chikelue Sr., DMMM**

Executive Director, COFP Foundation

Chair, Religions for Peace International Women's Coordinating Committee



## Who We Are

The COFP is dedicated to fostering social transformation and peace processes in Nigeria and throughout Africa. The Foundation, which was founded in 2010 by John Cardinal Onaiyekan, acknowledges that the majority of conflicts in Africa are signs of more fundamental structural issues, often colored by ethnic and religious differences, and that these issues can only be adequately addressed by establishing governance systems that are morally and justly balanced. Therefore, COFP works to address these issues by, among other things, promoting ethical leadership and providing a forum for dialogue for peace and development among religious leaders, citizens and political actors at all levels. For lasting positive impact, we design and support initiatives that promote local solutions.

## Our Vision

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

## Our Mission

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

## Our Goal

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



“We build dialogue that forms the foundation for actionable project at COFP”

## Our 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 programs areas



*“The Fellowship program has really made a tremendous effect in my life. It made me have an entirely different view towards people of other religions. It gave me the opportunity to widen my network internationally. With the support from COFP, I was able to successfully conduct an interfaith dialogue and brainstorming session with Women-led Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) where discussion focused on the roles of women in Peacebuilding and Countering Violence Extremism in Yobe State. I can boldly and confidently say that I am equipped and ready to promote peaceful coexistence, spearhead and participate actively in all peacebuilding activities on interfaith and violent extremism prevention”*

***Mariam Hassan Gambo (COFP Fellow - Nigeria, Class of 2022).***

## Success Spotlight

231

Local Actor/Fellows trained on dialogue negotiation, conflict resolution and mediation via one-year Fellowship program

104

Teachers and Caregivers equipped to protect children against abuse and violence

267

IDPs and destitute children received scholarships to access basic education

517

Internally displaced & rural poor women benefited from our vocational skills training & were supported with starter packs to enable them set-up their own business

143

Youths counselled, treated, empowered and supported to live healthier, non-violent and drug free life

1,070

Youths participated in 42 matches during soccer for peace competitions

4,576

Less privileged families received free medical services

Over 77.2

Million individuals reached through our Covid-19 Interventions

Over 5,126

Benefited from our WASH Projects





## BUILDING COMMON GROUNDS FOR PEACE

Common action for peace is the hallmark of COFP Foundation. It is needed and crucial for strengthening diversities, respecting differences, building the capacities of faith leaders and their communities in interfaith dialogue for peace, just and harmonious societies..







## COFP Fellowship Program in Its 5<sup>th</sup> Year

COFP Foundation kicked off the year 2022 with the second module of its 4<sup>th</sup> Fellowship program. The module as usual lasted for one-week in January 2022, with 60 selected Fellows from different parts of the African Continent. It was such a joy to witness Fellows from different foreign countries like; South Africa, Morocco, Liberia, Ghana, Cameroon, Central African Republic and others, all in attendance. Fellows were equipped to recognize and understand conflict causes, in order to transform conflicts based on our context. The third module of the Fellowship program ran from May 15 to May 23 2022, after which they were graduated and inducted into the COFP Alumni Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP). CANEP was established as a peace hub to ensure that Fellows interact with each other and continue their peace work in their respective communities after graduation. However, considering the international participation of COFP Fellows across the African continent in this year's Fellowship, COFP Alumni Network of peacebuilders (CANEP) is now to be known as COFP Africa Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP).

*“The Fellowship program at COFP has equipped me with the skills on peace, conflict/conflict management and resolution as well as writing up a research project and applying for the research funds. The skills I acquired were demonstrated and enhanced in the success of a mini project I drafted and was sponsored by COFP. I am working on publishing in a scholarly journal what I learned from the people who participated in this research. The COFP Fellowship has not only opened a new research window for me but also allowed me to give back to my Johannesburg community. As I write this, I have a number of people who registered on google to attend the next interreligious conversation”*

*Dr. Clementine Nishimwe (COFP Fellow – South Africa, Class of 2022)*

## COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN ITS 5TH YEAR

The new set of COFP Fellows which is the 5<sup>th</sup> set of the Fellowship was unique because, the fifth Year Anniversary of COFP Fellowship Program commenced with this set. Thus, 63 Nigerians and foreigners started the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the one-year Fellowship program (2022/2023) with module one in July 2022. The main focus of the Module One Fellowship Program was to guide Fellows through courses, which had been carefully selected in collaboration with experts in the field. This first module courses were very instrumental in helping Fellows understand and appreciate the Fundamentals and Tenets of different religions, get rid of misconceptions and apprehensions concerning other faiths and open up for dialogue and personal interactions as an avenue for rebuilding trust and enhancing common ground for peace.





*“Sincerely, it has been a wonderful experience for me, journeying closely with members from diverse denominations and religions. Thanks to the quality time spent at the different modules. The program has broadened my horizon on issues of inter-faith, giving me an opportunity to study in depth and understand the fundamentals of different religions and the beautiful similarities amongst them. I am grateful for knowledge gained; acquaintances made as well as the whole formation in its entirety. The world definitely needs more of this to stop the avoidable violent conflicts that abound. A very big thank you to the organizers, COFP is truly making the world a better place”*

***Chrisvic Ebhodaghe (COFP Fellow - Nigeria, Class of 2022).***

## Fellowship Program Success Stories: COFP Peace Ambassadors Localizing Peace

The COFP's painstaking efforts to train, motivate, and empower interreligious leaders and activists to promote lasting peace and human development in their communities are consistently producing fruitful outcomes and we're so pleased to know. Through the COFP Fellowship program, both the Fellows and the communities in which they live have benefited from long-lasting social transformation. Here are a few heartwarming success stories from their individual community peace projects.

According to sister **Utaji Maria**, “All the knowledge and skills acquired from the COFP Fellowship program conflict management has equipped her to step out boldly and become a peace ambassador and a promoter of peace'. Her project focused on, **providing livelihood for the less privileged and physically challenged in her community** which she accomplished through skills acquisition programs and empowerment for women. The project which was held in Gipalma Mubi, Adamawa State lasted for 2 days with a total number of 30 beneficiaries (women and girls). The beneficiaries were empowered by training and also, they received some cash to enable them start some form of petty trading. The participants could not withhold their joy at the end of the workshop. For instance, a widow whose husband was murdered, leaving her with 6 children to cater for was able to set up a small fresh vegetable business and makes a daily income from it to help sustain and train her children through the seed grant that she received from Sister Maria.

*(Sr. Utaji Maria, COFP Fellow 2021/2022, Plateau)*



**Rebecca Tarpeh-Major's** peace project was focused on **Enhancing the relationship between Christians and Muslims using dialogue to promote peace, national healing and reconciliation in Palala, Liberia**. Rebecca who is the first Liberian to attend the COFP Fellowship program said the program has been of great help especially in dealing with the constant interreligious conflicts in her community; the Muslims do not allow the Christians to marry their daughters and the Christians have refused to sell their lands to Muslims. The project however, has promoted forgiveness and regular meeting of Christians and Muslims in the community, they now fetch water from the same source, eat together and live in peace. This project according to Rebecca gave rise to the establishment of a sub-office of the Women of Faith in the project community, which enables community dwellers, especially women to have regular interaction, and effectively support each other.

*(Rebecca Tarpeh-Major A, COFP Fellow 2021/2022, Liberia)*



**Fr. Roland Arrey Ako**, the first Cameroonian to attend the COFP Fellowship program, had this to say: “Besides the beautiful lectures and experiences of the facilitators, I have greatly benefited and have been enriched by the life experiences of Fellows from different parts of the Continent. My perception and analysis of situations are more acute and balanced now. Fr. Roland's project centered on *Promoting a Culture of Peace and Conflict Management Through the Involvement of Women and Youths in Mamfe*. The reality of his 50 participants aligned with his as he noted that participants were able to understand the need to play a role in peacebuilding and conflict management process after the project. Women and youths were also empowered to contribute their quota in the peacebuilding process. Above all, testimonies from the participants during the course of the project indicated that their eyes were opened to the realities that they previously ignored and undermined in their personal and societal relationships. (*Roland Ako Arrey, COFP Fellow 2021/2022, Mamfe, Cameroon*).

**Shaljaba David Buba's** impactful project on *Promoting Safe Space for Security and Inter-Religious Relationships in Askira/Uba* in Borno State had 160 participants as against the 100 he initially invited.

Borno State has been bedeviled by insurgency for more than a decade and Shaljaba's community peace project came as a ray of hope on the horizon. His project attracted almost all the Traditional Rulers in the area since it related to the safety of lives and property and brought Muslims and Christians in the communities together to brainstorm on how best to stop the insurgency. The people of Askira Uba were overwhelmed with gratitude for such a rare opportunity to sit with scholars and traditional rulers to brainstorm on ways out of the insurgency that had plagued their area and sown seeds of fear and discord in their communities. In Shaljaba's words, “The Traditional rulers were most impressed and asked for more peace workshops in order to continue to enlighten the populace on the need for coexistence.” (*Retired Brigadier General Shaljaba David Buba, COFP Fellow 2021/2022 Maiduguri, Borno State*).



Upon the execution of **Suwaibatu Yakubu's** peace project on *the Importance of Peace and Interreligious Dialogue between Women and Youth in the Kasoa Community* for 50 participants, she has this to say: “After educating my community on the importance of living peacefully, we have not recorded any clash between the Muslims and Christians over the last two months. Moreover, with the little token given to participants, some of the women have set up petty trading on their own and I am grateful to COFP for the opportunity given to me to also impact positively on the lives of others”. Kasoa community had always been known for rancor, especially among the Muslim and Christian womenfolk and so it came as such a big relief to the community that these women now have good relationships among one another as a result of the peace project that also gave the women reasons to get busy with their hands through their newly established trade thereby reducing the abuses, they threw at one another. (*Suwaibatu Yakubu, 2021/2022 COFP Fellow, Cape Coast, Ghana*).

## Fellowship Program Success Stories: COFP Peace Ambassadors Localizing Peace Contd.

Following the implementation of *Ishak Ali-Baba's* community peace project on *Peacebuilding Program to Prevent Incessant Communal & Politically Motivated Violence & Conflict in Kpacita, Niger State* for 100 participants. The 5 warring villages that make up the Kpacita community resolved to henceforth live peacefully with one another. Also, the inter-youth peace forum which was made up of youths from the same villages and had been dormant for years was finally revived and the youths re-strategized to hold their meetings and early warning functions more frequently while some of the youths who engaged in drug abuse and other harmful substance addiction showed a great deal of remorse and resolved to stop the harmful practice. A committee of community Peace Ambassadors and an Advisory of the Council of Elders was inaugurated during the program for sustaining the positive impacts of the project, all the Stakeholders resolved to live together in peace after many long years of hostilities among them. At last, part of Ishaq's reflections that peace refers to a harmonious condition, or stable state of mind became a reality in his Kpacita Community.

*(Ishaak, Ali-Baba, 2021/2022 COFP Fellow, Niger State).*

*Angela Ekwutosi* displayed her love for children when she convened 70 of them from Kadokuchi FCT, Abuja for a 1-day peace education summit tagged *Children in Peacebuilding and Conflict Management: Panacea for Peaceful Co-existence*. The community peace project brought two neighboring communities together as the Children were drawn from Kadokuchi and Jayi. At the end of the Summit, the Children understood that conflict is a part of everyday life, which can be resolved without violence. They learned that listening to the other person in a conflict situation will help them to avoid the danger of a single story, understand and resolve their problems amicably and help people going through conflicts resolve their differences. Each child was willing to be part of the peace club established for their various communities. They left for their different homes with the conviction that their faiths should not be a reason for conflict rather, they should see themselves as one, united people irrespective of their religious differences.

*(Angela Ekwutosi Odunukwe, 2021/2022 COFP Fellow, FCT, Abuja).*



The first Zambian participant of the COFP fellowship program has five-star testimonies regarding the impact of the Fellowship program in his life as well as his community where he implemented the peace project. According to **Rev. Emmanuel Chikoya** “My personal experience is like that of a blind person whose sight has been restored. The Fellowship program has provided me with well-structured training in the area of peacebuilding and conflict resolution.” Hence, his peace project focused on **Equipping Youths to Become Agents of Peace** in Lusaka community of Zambia. His community project focused on bringing peace among the inter-political parties in his country which he titled: **Heal Zambia Youth Football Tournament**. This helped in cementing relationships among the young people from different political parties and became a medium for the enhancement of peaceful co-existence, enabling youths to lobby for empowerment and employment from the government irrespective of whether they belonged to the ruling or opposition party. This in turn resulted in tangible capacity building and empowerment programs to help youths find a means of livelihood and to become agents of peace. (**Rev. Emmanuel Chikoya, COFP Fellow, 2021/2022, Lusaka Zambia**).

By the time **Ahmad Tijjani's** peace project on **Religious Tolerance for Community Development** came to an end there was a noticeable difference in the project community. Some of his 78 participants of Badawa community where the peace project was implemented voiced out their fears about the Christian and Islamic religions and came to a more insightful understanding of some of the concerns about mode of worship, dressing and marriage. One of the Muslim Participants confessed “This is the first time in my life seating and discussing with Christians under the same roof”. (**Adam Ahmad Tijjani, COFP Fellow, 2021/2022, Kano State**).



**Dahiru Usman** said he had no idea what inter-religious dialogue was about until he attended the COFP Fellowship program. Now, he can discuss conflict issues and find better ways of mitigating conflicts. His community peace project was aimed at **developing a common understanding of conflict, violence and Peace, to expose participants to a range of techniques that can help turn conflict resolution into a participatory and high impact learning experience**. Through the peace project, the participants who were drawn from six L.G.As of Gombe State were able to identify the remote causes of conflict in their communities. All the issues concerning the problems were analyzed by the participants with suggested solutions. The community leaders appreciated the initiative as it came from a neutral and credible source- Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace. They promised to maintain peace and establish good relationships in their various Local Governments.

(**Dahiru Usman Abubakar, COFP Fellow 2021/2022, Gombe**)

## INTEGRATING SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

**E**thical leadership and good governance is a precondition for sustainable economy, social development, peace and security. Bringing together neglected perspectives and voices to the table for creative exchanges is one of the ways we provide creative solutions, new approaches, best practices and effective governance.





## ENGAGING PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES ON RADIO PROGRAM FOR PEACE

With the tireless support of the COFP Foundation, People living with disabilities (PLWD) are given the chance to host a program on the subject: Caring Heart Talk show on Armed Forces Radio 107.7 FM, Abuja. The goal of the radio program is to give persons with disabilities a voice, to develop laws and policies that protect their rights such as the implementation of the Discrimination against People with Disability Act, 2018, and other enabling laws. Justice, equity, and peace will all be achieved in this way. COFP works with people with disabilities to lessen the level of marginalization, exclusion, and underemployment they experience.

Between May 1 and July 31, 2022, the Caring Heart Talk show produced 15 episodes. From 75% audience engagement in 2021 to 90% engagement in 2022, implying that more individuals tuned in to the program and more people with disabilities learned about it. According to the organizer of this program, Gbenga Adeusi (a visually impaired man), the program has allowed him and his team to connect with more PLWDs and encourage peace education among them. Public support has also been given to them by the general populace. Also, the radio show has made them to sensitize the public on the importance of including PLWD in the electoral process and other aspects of societal life. Following the consistency of their radio show and a courteous visit to INEC by the team, persons with disabilities were handed braille ballot papers, accessible polling units, written instructions for the deaf, and magnifying glasses for the albino to aid them during the Ekiti and Osun state elections in 2022.



## NIGERIA WOMEN APPEALS FOR POSITIVE PEACE & GOOD GOVERNANCE

In collaboration with the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP), the Nigeria Women of Faith Network Religions for Peace held a one-day workshop on May 22nd, 2022 in Abuja Nigeria on the Concept of Positive Peace as an Imperative for Good Governance. The workshop brought together 30 key women leaders from multi-religious and cultural backgrounds in Nigeria to rob minds together on the way forward amidst terror, insecurity and poor governance that stares the country in the face.

The Executive Director of Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) and the Chair of the Nigeria Women of Network, Sr. Agatha Chikelue – DMMM welcomed the participants who were made up of 12 Muslims and 18 Christians from eleven states including FCT Abuja. In her opening remarks, she reminded the participants that the reason for inviting them is to discuss on practical ways of harnessing their potentials in order to work together for peace and above all, to speak with one voice on common issues affecting Nigerians. She noted that unity is strength and when forces are joined together, it makes a lot of difference. She further emphasized that without the women, our communities, churches, mosques and families are incomplete because women do not only fill the gaps but brings positive vibes and impacts to the community.

The Facilitator of the workshop, Elder Amb. Mrs. Justina Ngwobia explored on the concepts of positive and negative peace and reminded the participants that the abilities, strengths and powers that they possess as women is crucial in transforming the world. She told them to be courageous and determined in doing the right thing at all times in order to achieve the desired positive change for true peace in country.





# SUSTAINING PEACE FOR DEVELOPMENT

It is common wisdom that sustainable development can only be achieved when there is peace. COFP devise new ways of advancing peace by empowering the poor particularly, women and girls living in refugee/IDP camps through poverty alleviation programs.



## COFP GRADUATES AND EMPOWERS ANOTHER SET OF YOLDA

It's alarming how more than 7 million people across the world suffer from abuse and misuse of drugs. According to gateway Foundation, at least one in four deaths result from the misuse of drugs. Accidents, injuries and domestic violence are other consequences that could also arise from misuse of drugs and other substance Here in Nigeria, the issue of drug abuse has become a public health concern as a study conducted by Abubakar Ibrahim Jatau, Abubakar Sha'aban and Mohammed Mustapha revealed that one in seven persons (aged 15-64 years) have used drugs and also that one in five individuals who have used drugs in the past year is suffering from a drug related disorder. Drug abuse has also led to social vices like theft, burglary, sex work, mental health and shoplifting.

COFP knows well that in order to achieve peace in the society, an enabling environment must be created free from substance abuse/addiction. Hence, one strategic project embarked on yearly basis by the Foundation to curb the menace of drug and substance abuse is the program tagged "Youth Living Above Drug/Substance Abuse & Addiction" (YOLDA). This is because, peace cannot reign in a chaotic situation marked with unemployment, drug and substance abuse and other ills being perpetrated in the society. The YOLDA program helps the youth overcome the effect of drug abuse and helps them learn new skills that empower them to earn a living. It is a one-year program that assembles youth from Abuja suburb towns of Nyanya, Mararaba and its environs. The 35 beneficiaries of YOLDA which is in its 4th year having gone through a period of Counselling, Medical test/screening, treatment, care, vocational skills acquisition and empowerment, graduated on the 16th day of July, 2022.

Dr. Mrs. Francisca Ene who represented the COFP Governing Council gave a presentation on "How to Multiply Your Talent, Your Business and Build your Character". She advised the beneficiaries to prioritize God in all they do. Work tools such as Sewing machines, Smart Phones, Laptops, Saloon kits, Generator, Aluminum cutting machine, Hair Clippers, enrollment in a Driving school, payment of school fees, among others were provided to the beneficiaries to aid them in setting up their various trades in order to become self-sufficient and be able to provide for their daily needs. The Foundation is convinced that the support and empowerment given to the YOLDA beneficiaries will go a long way to distract them from activities that will lure them into drug and substance consumption.



## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN WORKSHOP (EVAC)

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In our society today, the frequency with which children are harmed and molested is worrisome. The media occasionally informs us of incidents involving child abuse, including rape and child defilement. Unfortunately, some of these crimes are committed by those who have been entrusted with the care of these kids, such as parents, teachers, and family members. However, most of these occurrences go unreported, and others are covered up out of concern for victimization and stigmatization. Since government alone cannot sustain the fight against this menace, COFP Foundation is committed to lending its support in tackling this evil ravaging the society by organizing EVAC workshop annually to train and educate selected teachers and caregivers from both private and public schools to sensitize them on the need to give adequate protection to children. They are also exposed to the various legislations on Child abuse such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a child, 1989 and Nigeria Child's Right Act, 2003.

This year's EVAC workshop was held on September 29, 2022 at Edidas Hotel, Abuja in partnership with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Person (NAPTIP). Participants were from primary and Junior Secondary schools within the FCT. The Executive Director, Rev. Sr. Agatha Chikelue, the representative from the NAPTIP, Mr. Gabriel Onyali and other members of the Foundation spoke extensively and called on the participants to be child ambassadors by doing all it takes to protect the children entrusted to their care.



Uniting people of different faiths for peace through dialogue



## CELEBRATING WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY VIA CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS

Special gifts are worth celebrating and that's exactly what children are! They are “special gifts.” Universal children's Day was first inaugurated by a United Nations' resolution in 1954 and is celebrated on the 20th day of November each year. It was established to change how society sees and treats children and to enhance their welfare. It is a day set aside to promote and protect children's rights, which are fundamental human rights and not different or special rights. A child is a human being, who has the right to be treated as one and who deserves to be celebrated as such.

It is within this framework that the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) celebrated the 2022 Universal Children's Day with over 200 pupils of Science Primary School, Kuje, Abuja on Thursday 17th November, 2022. Understanding the devastating effects of the climate change in different parts of the country within the year, the Foundation marked the day by sensitizing and creating awareness on the need to checkmate the impact of the climate change by planting more trees. Sr. Agatha Chikelue emphasized that the idea for the tree planting project was apt and timely as world leaders came together at the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Egypt within the same time frame. This conference aimed at spurring world leaders to push towards achieving a zero-carbon future for all and save the world from imminent collapse.

The tree planting exercise was first demonstrated by the Executive Director and some selected pupils were asked to plant 180 trees round the school compound with a commitment to always water them. In a Goodwill message by the HOD, Education Services, Kuje Area Council, he stated that tree planting preserves our environment and that before a tree is cut down, five trees should be planted.







**“At COFP, our programs are designed to move people & communities from exclusion and competition to inclusion & collaboration”**





## EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FOR LESS PRIVILEGED CHILDREN

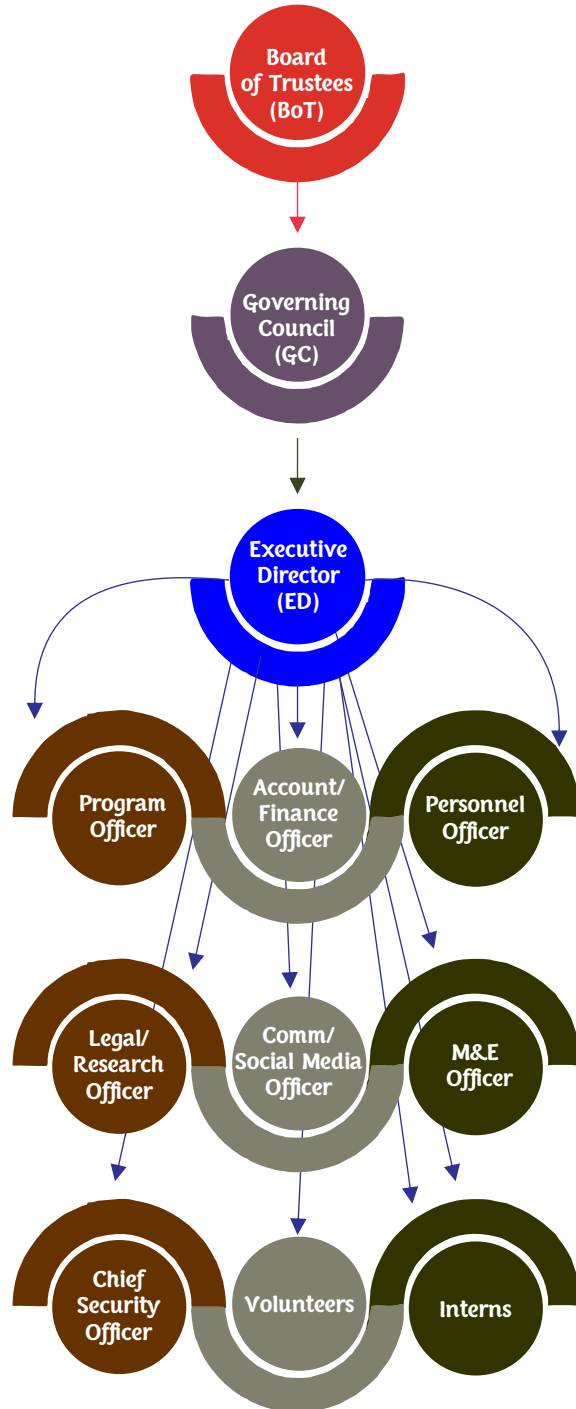
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**B**enjamin Franklin once said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." It is apparent that education is of great value and every child has a right to receive free education from primary school to junior secondary level, as stated in Part 11, Section 15 of the Child's Right Act of 2003. Yet, despite the fact that education up to the junior secondary level should be free, children are nonetheless required to pay various fees, some of which they are unable to pay. Sadly, some people believe that children being educated is a privilege rather than a right. This false image must be dispelled, and steps should be taken to enforce the Child's Right Act's provisions and urge those States that have not yet done so to do so.

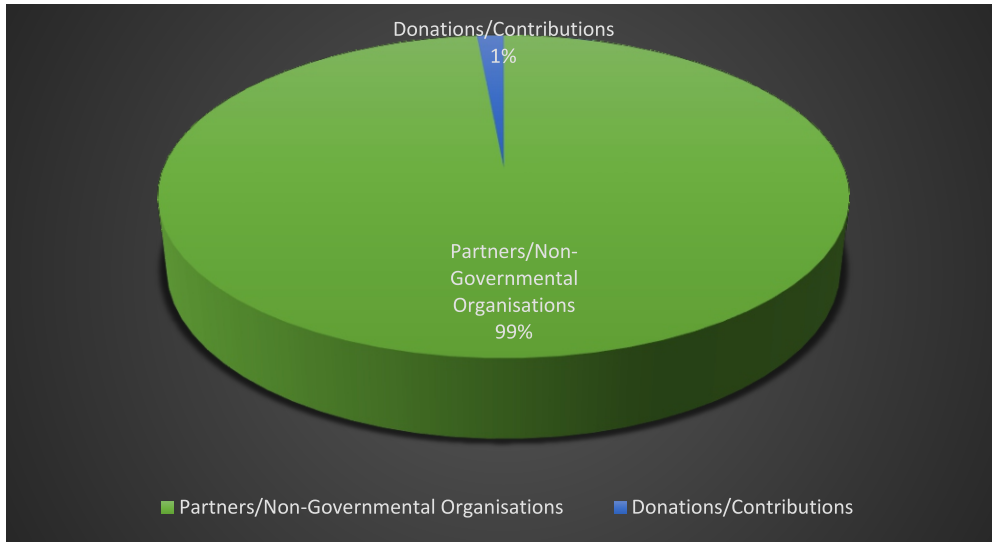
As such, the COFP Foundation has been able to provide financial assistance to some families who are unable to pay for their children's school fees in order to protect the rights of these children. For the first, second, and third terms of the 2021–2022 academic year, 54 students from 12 different primary schools had their tuition paid for by COFP. It should be noted that several of the students have been receiving scholarships for a number of years, and that maintaining strong academic standing is a requirement for renewal of this scholarship.



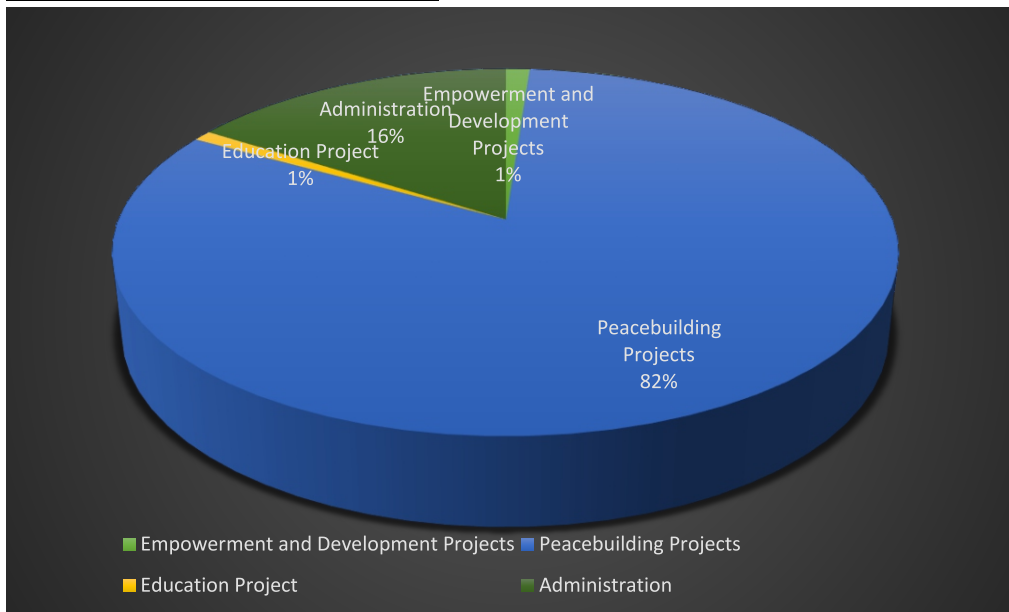
# COFP Functional MAP



<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>
<b>TOTAL: N297,529, 279</b>



<b>USES OF FUNDS</b>
<b>TOTAL: N294,129,363</b>



**OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION GOES TO OUR DONORS**  
 GHR Foundation, the Conrad Hilton Foundation, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Mensen met een missie (MM) and other numerous partners.

## **COFP 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



# **COFP Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

Read more @ [www.cofpfoundation.org](http://www.cofpfoundation.org)



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