



Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace



2021 Annual
Report

COFP
FOUNDATION

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



A message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Year 2021 was a remarkable and unforgettable one for us at COFP Foundation.

Following the devastating aftermath of the global effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and having developed vaccines and other health strategies for surviving and living with the virus, the Foundation witnessed a more deadly virus of misconception which partly disorganized our work in the year under review. We are grateful that through the interventions of the Board of Trustees, Governing Council and particularly, the Founder which led to some restructuring /reorganization processes, our activities and programs have bounced back to normalcy.

Despite the temporary setback, we never lost sight of our vision and mandate at COFP. Instead, our Fellowship Program took a new dimension in 2021 by expanding its scope and horizon to other African countries which has made COFP Fellowship Program, a Pan African event with global solidarity. The programs that we provide range over many activities. We are thrilled with the stories of change that we continually receive from all corners about our programs. This for us, is an evidence that our work is indeed transforming lives and changing communities.

The understanding, cooperation and support of our partners and funders kept us moving. For this and many more, our special thanks go to them all. To our Staff, Board and Council members, permit me to say that like the eagle, we glided through the storm and emerged from it all, stronger, more resilient and better equipped to soar to greater heights as we harnessed every opportunity that came our way to learn, relearn and unlearn. Above all, we thank God that we are making more positive impact for peace and sustainable human development, not just in Nigeria but in the African continent.

Wishing you all and COFP God's blessings this year and the years to come.



Agatha O. Chikelue Sr., DMMM

Executive Director

Chair, Religions for Peace International Women's Coordinating Committee

Who We Are

The COFP is committed to building the processes of peace and social change in Nigeria and Africa. Established in 2010 by John Cardinal Onaiyekan, the Foundation recognizes that most conflicts in Africa are symptoms of deeper structural problems with ethno-religious colouration arising from all manners of exclusion including 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 actors at all levels to engage in discussions for peace and development. We believe in designing and supporting programs that drives local solutions for lasting positive change.





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

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



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

Success Spotlight

170

Local Actors/Fellows trained on dialogue negotiation, conflict resolution and mediation via COFP one-year Fellowship Program

70

Teachers & Caregivers equipped to protect children against abuse and violence

219

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 4TH YEAR

The COFP Fellowship program, has continued to leave a trail of tremendous positive impact since its inception four years ago. In April 2021, the third set of COFP Fellows being Class of 2021 (40 Fellows in total) were graduated and inducted into CANEP Alumni Network of Peacebuilders. Significantly, the previous graduated Fellows from 2018 to 2020 came together to launch COFP Alumni Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP) for the first time. The gathering gave both the old and new members of CANEP the opportunity to meet colleagues and make friends from different sets, share experiences and challenges and identified those of them from the same state, region and religion for future collaboration and networking. They also used this opportunity to elect CANEP leadership and drew up a plan of action to be executed at the regional and national levels if funds are made available.



COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN ITS 4TH YEAR

The new set of COFP Fellows which is the 4th set of the Fellowship Program totaling 60 Nigerians and foreigners started off another one-year Fellowship program (2021/2022) with module one in July 2021. Over 650 applications were received for the program while 91 applications came from foreigners from different parts of Africa and other parts of the world.

Apart from the Nigerian participants who are in the majority, the rest are foreign Fellows from ten African countries: Ghana, Liberia, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo DRC, Cameroon, Kenya, Zambia, Somalia, Morocco & South Africa were selected for the program. The Module One Fellowship program basically took the Fellows through the Module one courses which is on the Fundamentals of religions, discovering common grounds that exists between and among diverse religious groups, respecting differences and using dialogue negotiation as tool for bridging religious and cultural divides.





“Bello sees the Fellowship program as a reflection of what humans can do if they focus more on issues of common humanity and de-emphasize differences in religion, culture, and beliefs. In the COFP Fellowship class, I saw in practice, the narratives that lead to violence, such as the plagiarized thesis Christians and Muslims have about the others' religion, and since there was no formal forum to bring the issues up for discussion it continued to spread like wildfire powered by the harmattan wind. The COFP provided the atmosphere to learn, unlearn and relearn. I am sure the effort will give birth to a more inclusive community where there are mutual understanding, empathy, and love. May our story end with.... “And they lived peacefully ever after”.

Bello Lateef Adekunle
(COFP Fellows Class of 2021)

COFP FELLOWS LOCALIZING PEACE: STORIES OF SUCCESS:

We are glad that the efforts of the COFP to build, inspire and equip multi-faith leaders and actors to enhance sustainable peace and human development in their communities is continually yielding positive results. The COFP Fellowship program has continued to leave indelible marks of positive social change not only in the Fellows themselves but also in the communities where they live. Enjoy some of the impact-stories recorded from their community peace efforts.



Fr. Gerald Musa's community peace project was on: **Ethno-Religious Conflict and Peace Journalism in Volatile Societies: The Role of Media.** The media training which took place at the Catholic Institute of West Africa (CIWA) Port Harcourt, provided the platform to converse the rising cases of ethno-religious violence in different parts of Nigeria and provided the forum for educating journalists on their crucial responsibilities in situations of conflict. According to Fr Gerald, the workshop was the first of its kind as it identified and engaged

media practitioners of different religious persuasions and ethnic backgrounds on using media to promote peace in Rivers state. He also noted that a group of journalists in Port Harcourt has been demanding that he should organize another media peace workshop in preparation for the up-coming general elections in 2023. (**Fr. Gerald Musa, 2020/2021 COFP Fellow, Rivers state**).

According to **Adejoh Justina** “This one-year COFP Fellowship program was indeed worthwhile. The wide range of courses offered on interreligious dialogue and mediation were thoroughly researched and well delivered. It has helped me as I am more enlightened about Islam and its



practices. Through the instrumentality of Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP), I have been enlightened, empowered, better informed and can engage in meaningful peacebuilding activities”. My new acquired skills gave me the confidence to organize a one-day workshop on “**Promoting Peaceful Coexistence among Students in Secondary Schools in Jalingo, Taraba State**” which brought students from different faiths together to discuss issues of faith and peaceful coexistence in a relaxed and conducive environment. Justina says “Even as I round up this interesting and noble Fellowship program, I will continue to do the little I can in the best way I can, to sow seeds of peace that God has placed in my hands”. (Adejoh Justina, COFP Fellow 2020/2021, Taraba State).



Usman Risikat Bola carried out her peace project titled **Preach Peace, Teach Peace** at the college of Education, Zuba, with over 130 participants. **Risikat** said that the implementation of her peace project in a teacher's training institute is to build the capacity of the teachers in cascading knowledge gained from the workshop to their students.

According to her, the main objective of the workshop is to build the capability to teach and restore peace where there is conflict. She confessed that the Fellowship program has enabled her to gain more knowledge, acquire new ideologies and improve her capacity in sustaining positive change. She is proud to tell all who care to listen that “I made new friends who I see as newly established family, folks cutting across faith affiliates and ethnicities”. (Usman Risikat Bola, COFP Fellow 2020/2021, Abuja).

A community peace project titled: Peaceful Co-Existence among Interfaith Youth in Sabon Gari Community in Kano State was executed by another COFP Fellow - Asake Samaila Joshua. The project brought together fifty (50) interfaith youths and ethnic leaders who learnt skills in tolerance and welcoming diversities for peaceful coexistence. Joshua's peacebuilding efforts in his state of Kano facilitated his re-appointment as the Chairman of the Youth Wing of CAN (YOWICAN).



He was also elected as the Assistant Secretary of Kano State Peace Committee in response to EndSars demands. In his words, “this peace project has brought about friendship amongst young people and their parents because a lot of peacebuilding workshops and seminars has always been for the elderly only”. According to Joshua, “Peace is the bedrock of every society which youth must be part of”. **(Asake Samaila Joshua, 2020/2021 COFP Fellow, Kano State).**



Jidda Ibrahim Mohammed defined peace as calming, a state of tranquility that every human aspires to reach. It is the sanity of the inner mind. With this conviction, he conducted his community peacebuilding project with the title: **Sensitization on Psycho trauma and Reintegration of Ex-Combatant: A Community Perception of Peace Building in Maidugri, Borno state.** Through his project, Mohammed sensitized community stakeholders especially youths on trauma and reintegration of ex-combatants in Maidugri. 40 participants mostly youths were in attendance. Borno state is located in the

Northeast of Nigeria and is notorious for Boko Haram terrorists' activities. Notable landmarks of the project were the formation of youth peace club and community response network in two separate communities in Maidugri. **(Jidda Ibrahim Mohammed, 2021/2022 COFP Fellow, Maidugri, Borno state).**

Through **Ishaq Amatullateef Damilola's** peace project which focused on **Sensitization of Youths on Inter- Religious Harmony Towards Achieving Sustainable Peaceful Society and Prevention of Violence** she provided free medical services to the community of Ajegunle in Lagos state. The beneficiaries to her project expressed their unreserved appreciation to the Foundation and call on the government to be more responsive to their plight. **(Ishaq Amatullateef Damilola, 2020/2021 COFP Fellow Lagos state).**



In the spirit of teamwork and collaboration which is an attribute of COFP Fellowship program, **Sr. Onyeansi Veronica together with Hajiya Isyaku, Aisha Tukur** carried out a joint peace project titled: **Building Interfaith Relationship in Conflict Prone Community of Igabi LGA, Kaduna state.** During the said workshop, the fifty-two (52) women and interfaith leaders in attendance were educated on conflict prevention, management, early- warning and early-response. Some participants to the workshop who could not hide their feelings in excitement shared their thoughts as follows: **Hauwa Idris** “I have come to understand that both Christianity and Islamic religions preach love and peaceful coexistence. We are tired of violence and we should make efforts to live in peace”. In the words of **Sarah Sunday**, “We should start the peace talk from our homes. Our children need to be taught the truth. We all know the truth but we hide it for our selfish interest”. The landmark of this project was the establishment of **an interfaith forum** for Igabi LGA at the end of the workshop with two leaders - Muslim and Christian women elected to continue coordinating the activities of the new interfaith forum. **(Sr. Onyeansi Veronica & Hajiya Isyaku, Aisha, 2020/2021 COFP Fellows, Kaduna State).**

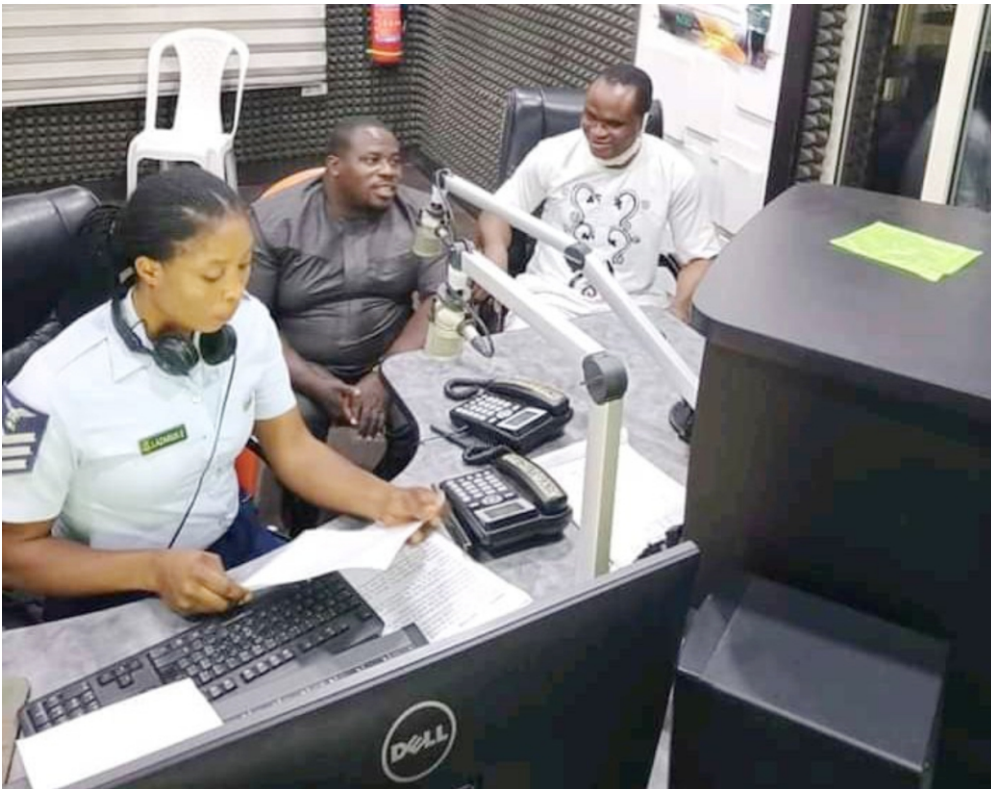


Hauwa Bata whose project was on **Peaceful Coexistence among Students in Maiduguri** acknowledged that “The project helped to expose people's hunger for peace in the state. It created an avenue for people to open up, understand their differences and learn to respect each other. Amazingly, the project impacted positively on the students, so much so that within a week, other schools started calling me for similar peace seminars for their students. Even the Commissioner for Education in the state who was present

during the above workshop requested that I should organize similar workshop for all the students in the school and also extend same to other schools in the LGAs”. **(Hauwa Bata COFP Fellow, 2020/2021, Borno State).**

INTEGRATING SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

Ethical 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.



“Good governance, peace & development are complementary; each flows from the other and strengthens the other”
COFP Foundation

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES VOICING THEIR CONCERNS THROUGH RADIO PROGRAM

COFP believes in ability in disability which is the reason why we have continuously sponsored a radio program on Armed Forces Radio, 107.7 FM on the topic: Caring Heart Talk Show. This program is anchored by People Living With Disabilities (PLWDs) with the aim of advancing their rights as well as providing a platform where they can share their experiences/challenges and together find solution to their problem.

The Caring Heart Talk Show which run from May – August 2021 through the financial support from the Foundation produced fourteen (14) episodes with 70% audience growth. The growth was monitored based on calls coming in from outside Abuja. The audience engagement of the radio program was rated 75% based on the number of new callers within the period. The organizer of the above program, Gbenga Adeusi (visually impaired) attested that the Caring Heart Talk Show has given him and his team the opportunity to reach out to more PLWDs, receive support from the public and has use this medium to promote peace education within their community.



NIGERIA WOMEN DEMANDS GOVERNANCE THAT ENSURES INTEGRITY & SECURITY

The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) in collaboration with Lux Terra Leadership Foundation with support from the MacArthur Foundation held a 3-day workshop on March 23 – 25, 2021. The theme of the workshop was **“The Role of Women and Women Organizations in Promoting Integrity and Security in Nigeria”**. The overall goal of the workshop is to promote good governance and security in Nigeria, realizing that the increasing wave of insecurity in the country today is as a result of poor governance. It is common knowledge that women and girls are particularly endangered and vulnerable on the account of security problem. They bear the brunt of insecurity and violent extremism more as they have been kidnapped, raped, battered, subjected to sexual slavery and sometimes, used as suicide bombers. Most painfully, very few women have the privilege of participating in politics actively just because, they are unable to meet up with the stringent demands of being in Nigeria politics.





Hence, the workshop provided the platform for building women's potentials and confidence on the vital roles that they can play in ensuring security and transforming communities positively by actively engaging in politics and governance despite its challenges. The workshop was attended by sixty-eight (68) key leaders and representatives of twelve (12) Faith-Based Women Organizations from across the nation among other dignitaries. With the Communique that was issued at the end of the workshop, women with one voice called on the government at all levels to be more responsive, proactive, transparent, accountable and above all, to see them as partners in bringing lasting solution to the country's challenging problems.



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.



Providing Youths with A Healthy Life Style Devoid of Drug and Substance Abuse



The youth is the life-seed of every nation. Unfortunately, most of our youths have found themselves at the mercy of illicit drugs/substances, due to some factors such as broken homes, grief and depression, unemployment, poverty, frustration, experimentation, and peer pressure. Under the influence of drugs/substance, these young Nigerians indulge in so many antisocial behaviors which many of them regret later in life. Interestingly, most of these youths are struggling to overcome these debilitating habits and behaviors that has posed a grave danger to their life, health and means of livelihood. Here, the COFP readily step in to do their beat in helping them overcome these habits, lean new life skills and are meaningfully empowered to live more quality life.

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

The COFP Foundation in its effort to create a peaceful, drug-addiction/substance abuse free society, organizes a program for youths tagged “Youths Living Above Drug and Substance Abuse/Addiction (YOLDA)”. The program which is now in its third-year assists beneficiaries; particularly, young people who are engaged in one form of drug/substance abuse or another to get out of them through a Drug Prevention, Treatment and Care program, (DPTC). This methodical program incorporates counselling, medical screening and testing, treatment and care, vocational skills acquisition and empowerment. YOLDA is a one-year program targeting young people from Abuja suburb towns of Nyanya, Mararaba and its environs.





We are ever happy with the success stories from the beneficiaries of our YOLDA program because, a good number of them are now engaged in various rewarding jobs which they learnt through the skill acquisition package of YOLDA, while others have testified that they have been able to quit drugs, overcome peer pressure and equally control their urge for drugs and other harmful substances that led them to regrettable actions.

SAVE THE CHILD SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE

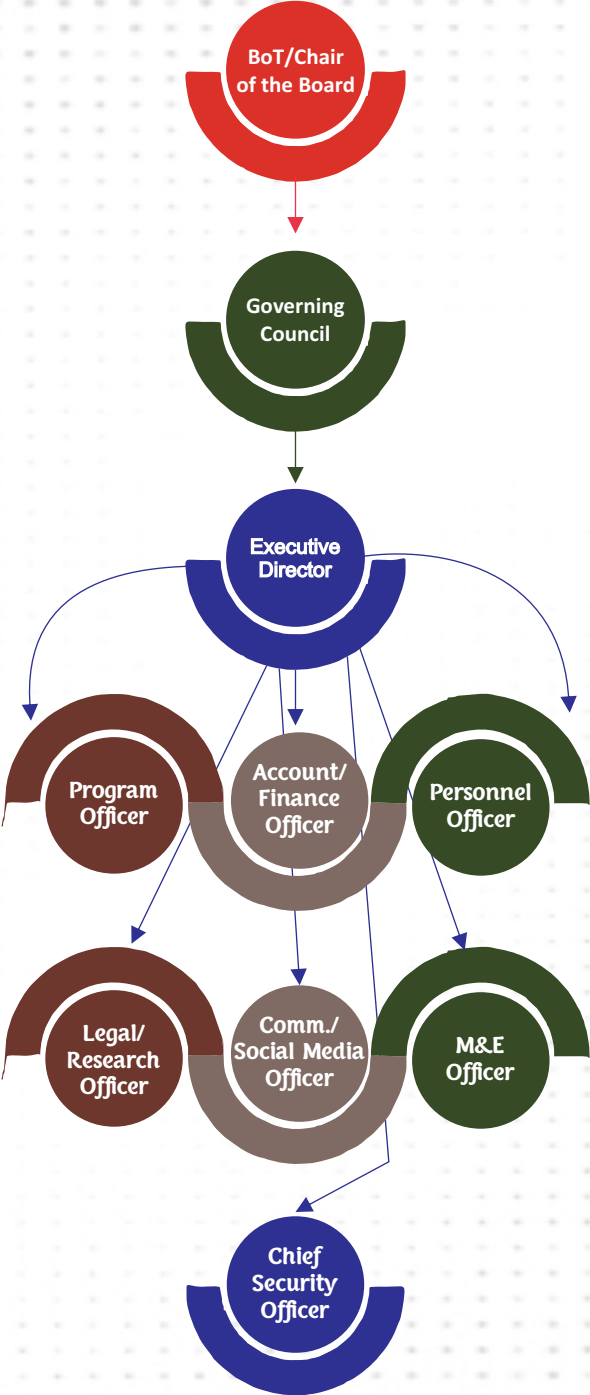


The economic crunch in Nigeria has persistently made it more difficult or impossible for poor Nigerian children to have their basic right to education which is the reason why some indigent pupils/students drop out of school. In line with our vision and mission, the Foundation has continued to lend support through her **Scholarship Program** for destitute children which gives educational opportunities to children from indigent backgrounds. This initiative is geared towards fulfilling the dreams, aspirations and rights of most indigent children to acquire quality primary & Secondary School education, for according to Benjamin Franklin, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest”.

Meanwhile, for the beneficiaries, an outstanding performance in their previous academic session is the criterion for a renewal of their scholarship package. To this end, 59 pupils & students in 12 schools within rural poor communities in FCT Abuja benefited from the scholarship program of the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP). As part of its efforts to mitigate the menace of unemployment in the country, the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP), has for the past four years paid salaries/allowances of teachers in **Yemiti Internally Displaced Host Community School**, so that indigent and internally displaced children can continue to learn and be in a school environment.

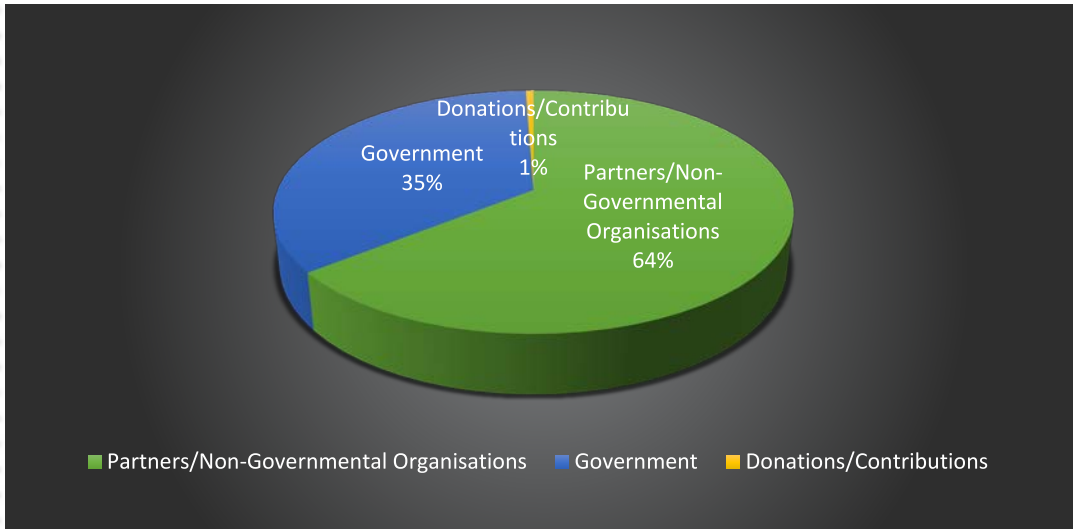


COFP Functional MAP



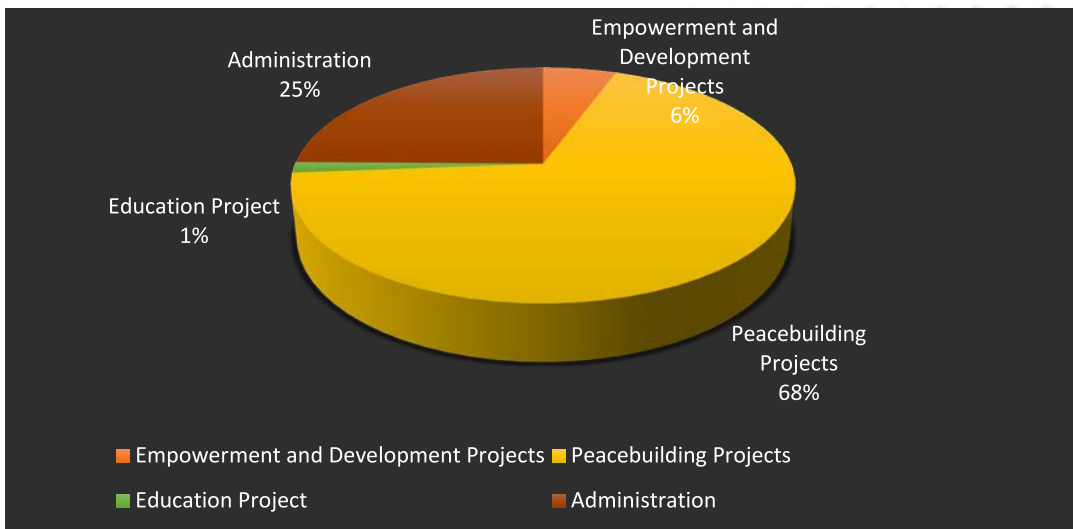
SOURCES OF FUNDS

TOTAL: N253,657,401



USES OF FUNDS

TOTAL: N243,589,245





COFP Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Ready more @ www.cofpfoundation.org



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