



Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP)

2025 ANNUAL
REPORT



COFP
Foundation



ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION



Celebrating 15 Years of Inspiring Change

Message From The Executive Director



2025 was a landmark year for the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace as it marked 15 years of sustained commitment to interreligious dialogue, peacebuilding and social development across Nigeria and beyond. The year created space to reflect on the journey so far, while staying focused on the work that still lies ahead.

During the year, the Foundation strengthened its core program and expanded its reach. The Fellowship Program remained central to this effort, equipping young leaders from Africa with practical skills in conflict prevention/management, dialogue negotiation and community engagement. This impact was visible in the peace projects carried out by Fellows in different communities, addressing real-life issues, from interfaith tensions and farmer-header conflicts, to youth empowerment and social inclusion.

In addition to its training and grassroots interventions, COFP continued to build and sustain strategic partnerships - for example, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Religions Initiative (URI) marked an important step in deepening collaboration for peace and development across the continent. The Foundation also received recognition from the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning for its consistency and impact, further attesting to its role as a trusted actor in the peacebuilding space.

The year also saw targeted interventions in education, child protection and public engagement. Through its Scholarship Scheme, more children gained access to quality education, while initiatives such as the Ending Violence Against Children (EVAC) training equipped caregivers and educators with the tools to better protect vulnerable children. In commemoration of World Children's Day, COFP provided free medical outreach to underserved communities, showing its commitment to child welfare and equitable access to healthcare.

In the area of governance and civic responsibility, the Foundation deployed an election observation mission to monitor the Anambra State gubernatorial election. While the process was largely peaceful and well-coordinated, observations highlighted critical areas for reform, including voter participation, campaign practices and electoral fairness. COFP maintained strategic international engagements, collaboration, influence and leadership visibility by participating physically in global peacebuilding

forums and diplomacy in Kenya, Spain, USA, Portugal, South Africa, Netherlands and many other countries within this period.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the collective effort of many. COFP remains deeply grateful to its partners, donors and collaborators whose support continues to sustain and expand its work. We also acknowledge the dedication of our Fellows, volunteers, staff, and alumni network (CANEP), whose passion and commitment drive the impact we see across communities. To our friends and well-wishers who continue to stand with us, your encouragement and trust remain invaluable.

To consolidate on the above efforts and even more, we urge you not to relent in working with us in the coming year in promoting justice, cohesion and human dignity without which lasting peace cannot be achieved.

Warm regards,

Agatha O. Chikelue Sr., DMMM,

Executive Director, Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP),
Chair, Religions for Peace International Women's
Coordinating Committee (RfP/IWCC)

Celebrating Fifteen Years of COFP'S Existence

In 2025, the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace marked 15 impactful years of advancing peace, justice and development in Africa. Established in 2010 under the able leadership of His Eminence, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, CON, Emeritus Archbishop of Abuja, the Foundation has grown from simply a bold vision into a steady voice for peacebuilding in Nigeria and Africa. This anniversary milestone provided an opportunity not only to celebrate how far we have come, but also to ponder and acknowledge the challenges we have faced and strengthen our commitment to building a more peaceful and inclusive world.

Central to our work is the belief that peace is built daily through people who are willing to listen, lead and act. This belief guides our programs and projects including the COFP Fellowship programs, community and human development projects and climate change interventions, each contributing to building a culture of peaceful coexistence. Over time, we have seen this impact grow, as those we train go on to influence the lives of others within their communities and beyond.

The journey, however, has demanded a great deal of perseverance. Working within Nigeria's dynamic and sometimes challenging context has meant navigating uncertainty and responding to evolving realities. For example, managing limited resources in a highly inflated economy, addressing security concerns and, at times, facing resistance to interfaith engagement have all been part of the terrain. In the ninth year of the Foundation, we also experienced the loss of one of our vibrant staff members, whose passion and dedication left a lasting imprint on our work. These challenges have strengthened our resolve and deepened our commitment to inclusive peacebuilding and development.

Going forward, our goal remains to strengthen existing structures and invest even more intentionally in people. We are driven by the vision of a new generation of leaders who are thoughtful, inspired and equipped to navigate complexity with wisdom and integrity. These are the individuals who will carry forward the work of building bridges, fostering understanding and shaping communities where peace is not just a dream, but a lived reality.

Marking 15 years in 2025 was, above all, a moment of gratitude first and foremost to God Almighty for whatever we are today and will be tomorrow. To our partners, supporters, funders, friends and the many individuals who have journeyed with us, thank you for trusting us and believing in the work we do.

Who We Are

The COFP is committed to driving social transformation and peace processes in Nigeria and across Africa. Established in 2010 by John Cardinal Onaiyekan, the Foundation recognizes that many conflicts in Africa stem from deep-rooted structural issues, often exacerbated by ethnic, religious, political, economic and gender divides. To effectively tackle these challenges, COFP advocates for governance systems that prioritize moral and just principles. In pursuit of its mission, COFP focuses on promoting ethical leadership and facilitating dialogues for peace and development among religious leaders, citizens, and political stakeholders at all levels. By emphasizing the importance of local solutions, the Foundation aims to create sustainable and meaningful change in communities.

“The Fellowship has made me more aware, more compassionate and more intentional in how I relate with people from different religious and cultural backgrounds. Through the training and interactions, I have developed a deeper understanding of other faiths and learned to engage with greater respect and acceptance. I have also built meaningful relationships across divides, strengthening my commitment to peaceful coexistence and positioning me as an active peacebuilder in my community.”

Bamaiyi Pwaveno Huladeino (Plateau, Nigeria, Class of 2025)





My experience at the COFP Fellowship has been profoundly impactful. The carefully selected resource persons and the depth of the themes explored significantly strengthened my understanding of interfaith relations. As a Christian, I came to realize that many misconceptions about Islam are not rooted in its teachings but in the actions of a few individuals. I now see more clearly that we are first children of God before any religious identity, and this realization has opened up new possibilities for collaboration, mutual respect and stronger relationships across faith lines.”

Andrew Danjuma Dewan (Plateau Nigeria, Class of 2025)

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



“Participating in the COFP Fellowship Program was a transformative journey that greatly enhanced my capacity in peacebuilding and interfaith dialogue. Engaging with Fellows from across Africa broadened my perspective and deepened my appreciation for cultural and religious diversity. Beyond the learning, the Fellowship emphasized practical application, empowering me to implement peace initiatives that promote inclusive and harmonious societies.”

Valentine Chanda (Zambia, Class of 2025)

Success Spotlight

329

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

187

Teachers and Caregivers equipped to protect children against abuse and violence

408

IDPs and destitute children received scholarships to access basic education

2,094

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

Youth counselled, treated, empowered and supported to live healthier, non-violence and drug free life

1,340

Youth participated in 52 matches during soccer for peace

4,660

Less privileged families received free medical services

Over 77.2

Million individuals reached through our Covid-19 Intervention

Over 5,126

Benefited from our WASH Projects

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



BUILDING COMMON GROUND FOR PEACE

Common action for peace is the hallmark of COFP Foundation. It is needed and crucial for strengthening diversities, upholding fundamental rights, respecting differences, fostering justice, building capacity of actors in bridging resilient, inclusive and harmonious communities.



“My experience in the COFP Fellowship Program has been both exciting and transformative. It has given me a clearer understanding of what peacebuilding truly entails and introduced me to practical concepts and strategies for promoting peace at different levels of society.”

Ogunmola Muhammed
(Ondo Nigeria, Class of 2025)



COFP International Fellowship 8th Year

More than ever, the world is experiencing a decline in peaceful coexistence, with increasing reports of wars and natural disasters all over the globe. Society's contribution to peacebuilding continues to decline or yield low result, thereby emphasizing an urgent need for reorientation. In light of this, COFP Fellowship Program has become an essential annual event. In 2025, the Foundation entered its eighth year of the International Fellowship Program, a remarkable feat for the organization and for the many individuals who continue to benefit from its impact.



Induction and Graduation of the Class of 2024/2025 COFP Fellows

As the impact of the Fellowship continues to grow, the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) celebrated the graduation of the 7th cohort on May 17, 2025, at Ajuji Greenwich Hotel, Abuja, following the completion of their third and final module. This concluding module brought together a dynamic group of forty-seven (47) Fellows, representing different parts of Nigeria and several African nations, including Ghana, Ethiopia, Zambia, Liberia and Cameroon.

The third module of this Fellowship provided a platform for Fellows to acquire knowledge, practical skills and network with like-minded individuals committed to peace and conflict resolution. Following the CANEP Induction Ceremony was the graduation ceremony of all 47 COFP Fellows on Saturday, 17th May 2025. Fellows were awarded with a certificate in Interreligious dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation from the prestigious Nile and Veritas Universities, in collaboration with the COFP Foundation. The Rex Award was presented to Sister Akande Martins from Nigeria for her exceptional work during her 2025 peace project.



2025/2026 Fellowship Program Commences

Having passed through a rigorous selection process, another set of 35 exceptional Fellows, were selected from 2,023 individuals who applied for the 2025/2026 COFP Fellowship program. In July 2025, the first module of the 8th annual and 5th International Peace Fellowship began. Module One focused on the foundational training of Islam and Christianity, emphasizing shared values and the significance of interreligious dialogue in promoting peaceful co-existence. Module Two equipped Fellows with practical skills in conflict analysis, peacebuilding and individual project design operation. Fellows returned to their communities to design and apply peace systems, rephrasing literacy into action.



COFP Fellows Shaping A Peaceful Africa: Highlights of their Success Stories

Learning is definitely incomplete without opportunities to apply knowledge from the classroom. This principle underpins the annual peace projects undertaken by COFP Fellows after their second module. Supported by a seed grant from the Foundation during the Fellowship year, the Fellows implemented peace initiatives in various communities, promoting a culture of peace. The 2024/2025 set executed their peace projects between December 2024 and February 2025. Here are some remarkable reports from their work:



Working in a health facility and encountering people of diverse faith and cultural backgrounds, Hameedat a consultant Obstetrician Gynecologist faced the challenge of balancing medical ethics alongside faith ideologies. Having participated in the COFP Fellowship program, Hameedat decided to equip the nurses graduating from the nursing school where she works at Sacred Heart Hospital, Lantoro, Ogun state, with peacebuilding skills so as to enable them deliver health care without any religious, tribal or racial biases. Twenty nursing students chosen from eighty-nine participants were inaugurated as the Foundation members of the Peace Club in the college at the end of her workshop.

Hameedat Opeyemi Abdussalam
COFP Fellow Class of 2025, Ogun State

The impact of COFP Fellowship Program was felt at far away Kamale, Northern Region of Ghana, on 13th February, 2025, when Chief Seidu Zakaria carried out an interfaith discussion workshop between faith leaders and civil society about the implications of Human Trafficking and modern-day slavery, with a focus on facilitating a shared commitment to prevent their escalation. The engagement led to improved awareness and acknowledgment of issues surrounding migration, human trafficking and modern-day slavery, with about 34 participants in attendance.

Seidu Zakaria Doli-Wura Abdul-Malik
COFP Fellow Class of 2025, Accra Ghana



Martina identified a need in the FCT community where she resides in the area of skill acquisition and empowerment, where about 20 people were equipped with vocational training and starter kits on 8th January 2025. Following the project, beneficiaries immediately put the items to use and the initiative has since become a success story. One of the beneficiaries who received a wheelbarrow could not hide his joy, as he is now a proud owner and no longer needs to rent one for his trade. In total, 50 participants gained a better understanding of the importance of dialogue in a diverse setting of different religions, cultures, ethnicities and tribal groups. They also came to see peace as a vital tool for family and community development.

Akande Martina Taiwo
COFP Fellow Class of 2025, FCT Abuja



Using the experience of his humble background as a Liberian, Lawyer and a human rights officer at the United Nations in Addis Ababa and having known how difficult it is to build positive peace, Fetol decided to carry out his peace project at Bahir Dar, Amhara region of Ethiopia on 11th March, 2025. The platform provided 20 participants cutting across men and women of both Christian and Muslim faiths opportunity to address misconceptions, prejudices and stereotypes surrounding religious and cultural diversities. Exploring the root cause of their conflicts enable them developed inclusive strategies for peacebuilding by laying a solid groundwork for ongoing and future peacebuilding initiatives in the region. Their enthusiasm and commitment signal a bright future for peace in their communities.

Fetol Mccintosh Siakor
COFP Fellow Class of 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Stories of Success Contd.



Hauwa held a one-day peace advocacy program on religious tolerance and the empowerment of vulnerable participants on homemade farming in Birnin Kebbi. The project was implemented to promote peace among citizens by encouraging unity and highlighting that support can come from anywhere, as long as people show patience and understanding toward one another. The pressing needs of vulnerable women in the community were also addressed, with sack-based potato farming introduced as an alternative due to limited access to farmlands caused by insecurity. There were 50 participants in the one-day event.

Aliyu Hauwa Musa

COFP Fellow Class of 2025, Kebbi State

In Calabar, Nigeria, Essien implemented his peace project on 13th February 2025, reaching over 80 participants, including 18 Local Government Vice Chairmen, 18 Special Advisers on Peace and Security, 18 Departmental Security Officers, representatives of peace and conflict management stakeholders from Cross River State, and civil society organizations. This initiative was necessary, as these individuals and organizations work closely with the people and represent them in governance, making them well positioned to champion conflict prevention and social justice in their communities. Participants gained practical knowledge on managing conflict at the local level and with strong commitment to carryout local peacebuilding action plans developed during their workshop.

Ukorebi Essien

COFP Fellow Class of 2025, Cross-River State



Stories of Success Contd.

To foster peace and civic engagement in Katsina State, Yohanna conducted an interfaith peacebuilding workshop for 60 participants on 13th February 2025. Through strategic discussions, interactive sessions and collaboration among religious groups, community members, women's organizations and youth leaders, the project contributed to positive social change, promoting a culture of peace, tolerance and active citizenship. Participants also demonstrated a clear commitment to carrying out peace initiatives. The objectives of the project, which included promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and encouraging constructive conversations among diverse groups, were achieved.

Luka Yohanna

COFP Fellow Class of 2025, Katsina State



Concerned about the increase in violent clashes in the Ketti community of the FCT, which have led to loss of lives, including that of a former chief, as well as the destruction of farmland, Ijeoma Ann organized a dialogue forum. The forum brought together Fulani herders and the Ketti farming community to air their grievances and seek a peaceful resolution. This effort fostered understanding and peaceful coexistence among the communities with the formation of peace and reconciliation committee bridging the gap between the community and law enforcement agency.

Ijeoma Ann Nwoke

COFP Fellow Class of 2025, FCT Abuja

Visit of Delegation From Germany Catholic Bishops' Conference

The year began on a strong note for the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) with the visit of a distinguished delegation from the German Catholic Bishops' Conference to our headquarters in Abuja, on January 11, 2025. The high-level delegation was led by the Catholic Bishop of Augsburg, Most Rev. Dr. Bertram Johannes Meier and included Ulrich Poner, Dr. Tobit Loevenich, Secretary to the Conference and Ulrich Bobrugv. They were warmly received by the Executive Director of COFP, Rev. Sr. Agatha Chikelue, DMMM, alongside her team: the Deputy Director, Rev. Fr. Boniface Neibo; Nicholas Dike, Program Officer; and Tope Bello, Communications Officer.

The visit featured a robust discussion on the state of Nigeria and the African continent, with particular emphasis on the efforts of various stakeholders to address prevailing challenges. This provided an opportunity for COFP to elaborate on its interventions aimed at promoting peace and fostering transformative development across Africa. Both parties acknowledged the importance of collaboration and explored potential avenues for strategic partnership to sustain and scale up the impact of ongoing initiatives. As a further gesture that enriched the significance of the visit, the delegation paid a courtesy call on His Eminence, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, at his residence.





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 voice to the table for creative exchanges is one of the ways we provide creative solutions, new approaches best practices and effective governance.



*“Wherever I see Truth, I follow it
Wherever I see Peace, I pursue it
Wherever I see Justice, I insist on it”*

Onaiykean

Amplifying Voices for Peace Through Strategic Global Engagements

In addition to its grassroots peacebuilding engagements within Nigeria, the leadership of the Foundation actively contributed to global dialogue and advocacy platforms where critical issues of justice, interfaith/intercultural collaboration, peace and development were addressed. The Founder, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, the Executive Director, Sr. Agatha and the Deputy Director, Rev. Fr. Boniface Neibo, represented the Foundation at several high-level international engagements during the reporting period. Notably, the Foundation participated in the Interfaith Harmony Week convened in Addis Ababa from May 12–15, 2025. The event, themed “Africa's Faith Communities: Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union Agenda 2063, and Africa's 2025 G20 Process,” provided a strategic platform for advancing the role of faith actors in sustainable development across the continent. The leadership also took part in key convenings organized by African Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace (ACRL-RfP), including the Strategic Plan Retreat/Annual Review Meeting and the 5th General Assembly held in January and June 2025 under the theme “Faith in Action: Advancing Peace, Justice, and Resilience in Times of Crisis in Africa.” These engagements strengthened collaboration among religious leaders and communities and enhanced collective responses to emerging challenges across Africa.



Furthermore, the Deputy Director Rev. Fr. Boniface Neibo, represented the Foundation at the G20 Interfaith Forum held in from August 10-15, 2025, at the Westin, Cape Town, South Africa, where he served as Lead Moderator of the third plenary session alongside Dr. Martin Miller. Under the theme “Ubuntu in Action: Focus on Vulnerable Communities,” inspired by South Africa's G20 Presidency priorities of solidarity, equality and sustainability engaging experts from different continents while emphasizing interfaith collaboration, Faith and Public Policy, youth inclusion, ethical leadership and locally driven peacebuilding strategies. The Forum brought together global faith leaders, policymakers, and civil society actors to promote ethical solutions to global challenges.



“Since the inception of Boko Haram in Northeast, I have participated in various programs aimed at building my capacity for peace in my community but COFP Fellowship program stands out as the most impactful, equipping me with extensive knowledge and skills in mediation, conflict resolution, management and transformation”

Muhammad Aliyu
(Yobe Nigeria, Class of 2025)



In her capacity as an International Advisory Committee member of Mensen met een Missie, Sr. Agatha participated in a strategic meeting held in the Hague, Netherlands from September 19–27, 2025. The meeting provided an opportunity to contribute to global strategic direction and partnerships in faith-based peacebuilding initiatives. Additionally, she participated in the Religions for Peace RfP Annual Review and Planning Meeting held in New York City, USA from November 30 to December 3, 2025. This engagement facilitated reflection on global peacebuilding efforts and alignment of strategic priorities among international partners. As the first Fellow of the KAICIID International Fellows Program, Sr. Agatha participated in the global celebration marking the 10th Anniversary of the Fellowship in Lisbon, Portugal from December 8–11, 2025.

COFP's participation in all the above-mentioned fora and more, reinforced its commitment to advancing global cooperation through faith-based diplomacy, resilient communities, social justice and inclusive peace globally.

MoU Signing and Partnership Formalization Event with the URI

In order to sustain and scale its impact, the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) continues to seek meaningful partnerships and collaborations with like-minded organizations, spirited individuals and government agencies to fully pursue the course of its mission. On Tuesday, May 13, 2025, the Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Religions Initiative (URI) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during Interfaith Harmony Week, a forum that brought together different religions with the intention of seeking common ground for peace and development in Africa.

The United Religions Initiative (URI) is a global grassroots interfaith network with over 1,100 member groups and organizations, known as Cooperation Circles, spread across the world. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the United Religions Initiative (URI) and the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) marked the beginning of a collaborative journey for justice, peace and development in Africa and beyond during this crucial event.



National Budget and Economic Planning Lauds COFP's Consistent Impact

As part of the final assessment for COFP Foundation's registration and certification by the Department of International Cooperation, Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, a delegation visited the Foundation on 24th June 2025. This followed an earlier interview and document submission in 2024 at the Ministry's headquarters in Abuja. During the visit, and after learning more about the activities of the Foundation, the team expressed satisfaction and commended the Foundation's efforts. The Executive Director, Rev. Sr. Agatha Chikelue thanked the team and reaffirmed COFP's commitment to its vision and mission, presenting them with a book authored by the Founder, along with other publications showcasing the Foundation's work. The organization further issued their certification to the Foundation few weeks after their visit.



Voices for Inclusion and Dignity for PWDs

The Caring Heart Radio Program, sponsored by the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP), has continued to serve as a very important advocacy platform promoting the rights and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Airing weekly on Armed Forces Radio (107.7FM), the program sustained its core objectives of raising awareness, amplifying the voices of PWDs, and strengthening engagement between PWD communities and relevant government institutions. During the reporting period (May to November 2025), a total of 32 episodes were broadcast over 28 weeks, reflecting the program's consistency and growing reach.

Throughout the quarter, the program focused on increasing awareness of the Disability Rights Act and encouraging peaceful advocacy as a means for PWDs to demand their rights. Key engagements included a studio session with Jake Epelle of the Albino Foundation, who provided insights into the progress and challenges surrounding the implementation of the Act. Follow-up advocacy visits to the National Disability Commission also revealed increased institutional commitment, with Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) demonstrating greater awareness of the Act and an emphasis on inclusive policies, employment opportunities and accessibility in public and private infrastructure.

The program also recorded notable impact through audience engagement and feedback. Testimonies from listeners highlighted increased awareness, behavioral change and inspiration to initiate advocacy and community-based interventions. With an 85% growth in audience reach and 83.5% engagement rate, the program continues to strengthen public understanding of disability inclusion while promoting peaceful coexistence.

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





Gubernatorial Election Observation Mission in Anambra State

To support credible democratic processes and promote peaceful elections, Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace deployed a short-term election observation mission for the November 8, 2025, off-cycle gubernatorial election in Anambra State. Observations were conducted across selected polling units in Awka South LGA, where COFP engaged with electoral officials, security personnel, party agents and voters.

The election was generally peaceful and well-organized. INEC officials arrived early and voting commenced on schedule with all necessary materials available. The BVAS technology functioned effectively in most cases, enhancing transparency and voter confidence. Sorting, counting and result collation were conducted openly, with party agents present and results promptly uploaded in most polling units. However, the pre-election environment was marked by heightened political tension, with campaigns largely focused on personal attacks rather than issue-based engagement. Reports of vote buying were widespread, occurring both before and during the election. In addition, high campaign-related costs, such as signage fees, created barriers for smaller parties, limiting competitive fairness. Voter turnout remained low at about 21 percent.





NAME OF CANDIDATE	NUMBER OF VOTES
...	...
...	...
...	...

CANDIDATE	VOTES
...	...
...	...
...	...

CANDIDATE	VOTES
...	...
...	...
...	...

Overall, while the process was peaceful and procedurally sound, concerns around vote buying, low participation and uneven campaign conditions underscore the need for continued reforms. COFP remains committed to strengthening electoral integrity, promoting civic participation and building public confidence in Nigeria's democratic processes.

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.



Expanding Access for More Underprivileged Children through Scholarship

Because every child deserves a chance to learn, COFP believes that access to quality education is not a privilege but a fundamental human right. In a country where promises of “free education” are often limited by conditions such as “when practicable,” many children, especially those from low-income families, are left without the opportunity to attend school. Through the COFP Scholarship Scheme, however, this gap is being bridged, restoring hope and supporting the dreams of children who would otherwise be excluded due to financial constraints. By covering school fees and essential needs, such as school uniforms and other levies, the program eases the burden on struggling parents while encouraging young learners to dream bigger, reach their full potential, and give back to society.

So far, 361 children across primary and secondary schools have benefited from this life-changing initiative in three states and the FCT. Most recently, 45 new pupils were enrolled in the program, reflecting a steady and genuine commitment to transforming lives through education. These are not just numbers; they represent real stories of hope and resilience. Each child supported is a step toward a brighter future, not only for themselves but also for their families, their communities and the nation at large.



Tackling Violence and Abuse Against Children

The rising cases of child abuse, including rape, molestation, neglect and emotional violence, has increasingly been a serious concern in our communities. Some of these cases of abuse often involve trusted caregivers, and many cases remain unreported as a result of fear, stigma, or silence. In response to this, the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) hosted EVAC-Ending Violence Against Children, designed to equip teachers and caregivers from public, private, mission and faith-based institutions with practical skills to protect children and uphold their rights. Participants also learned about important legal frameworks, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and Nigeria's Child Rights Act (2003).

The EVAC training, held in partnership with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), took place on 16 October 2025 in Abuja and brought together over twenty educators from different institutions. Speakers reminded participants of the shared moral and professional responsibility to protect children, highlighted NAPTIP's role in tackling abuse and trafficking and emphasized our collective commitment to child protection. Overall, the sessions reflected COFP's continued efforts to create safer communities for children, one caregiver and one child at a time.





2025 World Children's Day: “My Day, My Right,”

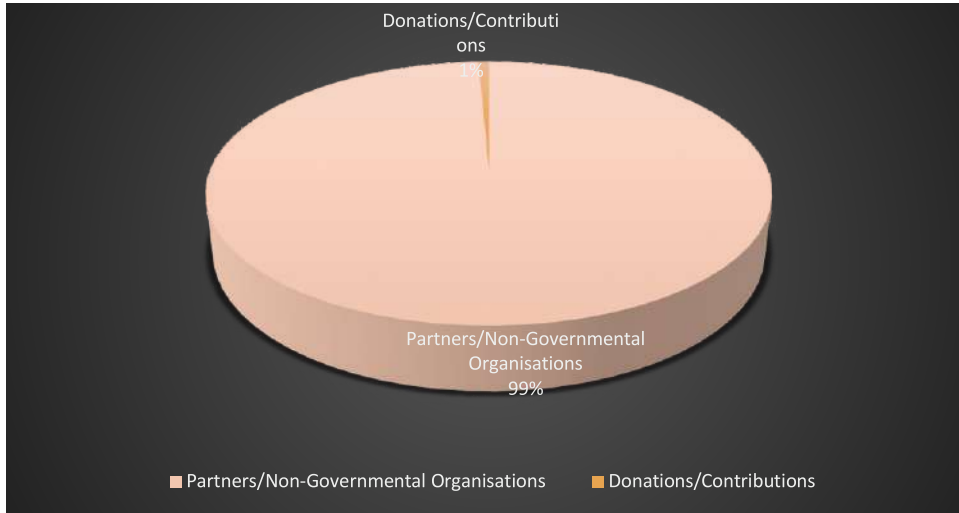
In commemoration of World Children's Day on 20th November, the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) organized a free medical outreach for children in underserved communities in the Lugbe axis of the FCT. Guided by this year's theme, “My Day, My Right,” the initiative emphasized children's rights, wellbeing and access to healthcare.

Over 200 children from Tudun Wada, Peace Village, Angwan Tiv, A & G, and Zhidu received free medical care at the Peace Village field. Chief Nuhu Dauda, the Mai Angwa, welcomed the COFP team and thanked them for choosing his community. COFP's Executive Director, Rev. Sr. Agatha Chikelue, DMMM, addressed children and parents, explaining the outreach's purpose and ensuring orderly participation, while the medical team of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and lab scientist delivered quality care. Parents expressed gratitude, noting visible relief among their children. The outreach also highlighted the need for well-equipped Primary Health Care Centers and adequate staffing to ensure sustained access to medical services within the communities. COFP remains committed to advancing child welfare and equitable healthcare for vulnerable populations.





Sources of Fund	Amount in NGN
Partners/Non-Governmental Organizations	314,200,000
Donations/Contributions	2,250,000
Total	316,450,000



USES OF FUNDS	Amount in NGN
Community Development Project	4,634,450
Conflict Transformation/Peacebuilding Project	230,343,789
Education Project	1,333,950
Administration	59,835,325
Total	296,147,514



OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION GOES TO OUR DONORS

Conrad Hilton Foundation, the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and other numerous partners.



COFP Strategic Plan

2026-2030

Read more @ www.cofpfoundation.org



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