

ABSTRACT

FINAL REPORT ON PEACE BUILDING AND PEACE EDUCATION PROJECT

The fallouts of the 2007 general elections generated serious restiveness and election-related violence, which resulted in loss of lives and property. Aggrieved persons, mainly youths with vested interests in the election and youths contracted by politicians, engaged in violent actions- burning houses, attacking political opponents and their property while in some cases, people were killed by assassins sponsored by politicians.

These politics-induced conflicts, occasioned by electoral victories and defeats, necessitated some urgent steps to douse tension and improve the situation in the nation, especially the South West States of Ondo, Ogun, Osun, Oyo and Lagos.

The Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), through the support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), contracted New Nigeria Foundation (NNF) to design programmes of action with special focus on the re-orientation of youths in the South-West. The target was to get youths in the zone through the programmes of action to embrace civil mechanisms in addressing grievances occasioned by the elections for peace and democracy to thrive.

NNF developed/designed programmes of action targeted at critical interest groups such as students, market women and road transport workers, who are usually the perpetrators and victims of violence. This was with a view to achieving the following objectives:

- Reduce the level of participation of youths in perpetrating violence in Nigeria.
- Build a generation of youths who would tend towards democratic values and nonviolent means of dispute resolution rather than violence.
- Lower tension and create a more conducive atmosphere for constructive dialogue
- Facilitate the process of healing, trust building and reconciliation among the people
- To achieve the right impact in terms of coverage and messages, NNF adopted a multimedia approach, which includes the following media activities:
 - Development, production and distribution of IEC/BCC Materials
 - Production and airing of Radio Jingle
 - Production and airing of Documentary

It was not possible for NNF to do an assessment of the impact of the project, NNF however, ensured that good quality products in form of posters, car stickers, radio jingles and TV documentary, carrying messages designed to effectively propagate peace was delivered to the 6 south western states as proposed. It is believed that this peace campaign in the 6 States achieved a measure of impact in creating awareness about the negative consequences of violence and the desirability of utilizing civil mechanisms in addressing conflicts. Reports and comments from the different States as well as the enthusiasm displayed by target groups such as market women, road transport workers and students during the distribution of IEC materials, affirmed their interest in the project. However, it is necessary to do a follow-up of the project for a bigger and long-lasting positive impact.