

Voluntary Policing Sector

IMPROVING SERVICE DELIVERY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND MANAGEMENT



J4A JUSTICE FOR ALL NIGERIA
MONITORING IMPACT

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Voluntary Policing Sector

We aim to:

- Support Voluntary Policing Sector (VPS) groups to —
- Improve their services to all community members
- Operate in a manner that is both accountable and respectful of the law
- Work in close coordination with the Nigeria Police Force and other relevant counterparts to make communities more secure

We are working to:

- Enhance the organisational and management capacity of selected voluntary policing groups
- Strengthen their capacity to deliver the services that citizens need and want with due regard to the law
- Improve VPS engagement and accountability with local communities
- Increase the amount of coordination between VPS groups and the Nigeria Police Force and other relevant groups in the local community
- Share examples of good practice with other VPS groups and encourage them to adopt these practices

Why:

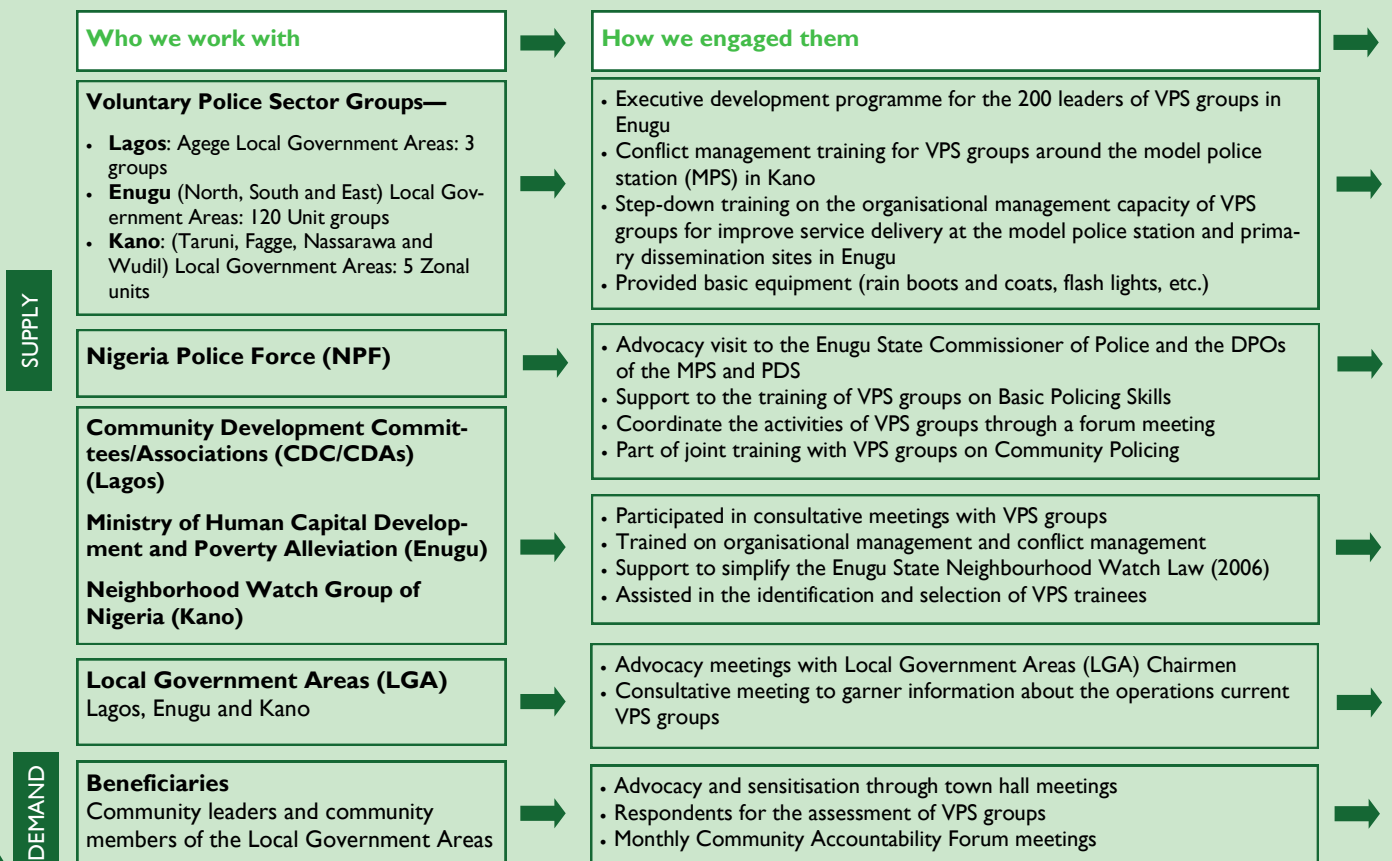
- For many Nigerians, especially the poor, voluntary policing plays a pivotal role in addressing safety and security needs
- Nigerians are increasingly using voluntary policing to fight crime (32% of Nigerians surveyed*)
- Nigerians are more satisfied with services provided by VPS groups (87%), than services provided by the Nigeria Police Force (55%)
- Reasons Nigerians are using VPS: (1) rise in crime, (2) delays in justice system, (3) collusion of the formal police with criminals

**Study about poor peoples' perceptions and priorities on safety, security and informal policing in four states: Benue, Enugu, Ekiti and Jigawa (CLEEN, 2002)*

How:

- Mapping of VPS groups in selected communities
- Training in management, crime prevention and reporting, human rights and gender sensitivity
- Procedures and codes to mainstream the principle of gender aware behaviour towards women and encourage the participation of women as members of VPS groups
- A complaints system that allows for tracking of cases and accountability
- Coordination forums between the police, VPS groups and other community groups

How we are achieving impact - Lagos, Enugu and Kano



Getting Results

Facts and Figures

Number of VPS members trained

| Location | No. of persons trained |
|----------|------------------------|
| Lagos | 128 |
| Enugu | 105 |
| Kano | 400 |

Statistics: Complaints at the Community Accountability Forum meetings in Lagos

| Status of complaints | No. of complaints |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Received | 51 |
| Resolved | 38 |
| Under investigation | 11 |
| Unresolved | 2 |

Spotlight on Gender

- Women actively participating in VPS forums and freely expressing their concerns
- A women's forum created to improve response to gender based violence by VPS groups and the communities they serve

Making headlines

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“Agege volunteer policing sector honours Isokoko DPO, others at first anniversary”
The Grass Root (Vol. 1. No.17)

“Ilupeju gets tough on security, aims to make citizens feel safer in their community”
Ilupeju Today Newspaper (March 2013)

Highlights to date

- Community Accountability Forum Meeting held monthly at Agege Local Government Area and is being replicated at Enugu voluntary policing sector sites
- Step-down training in organisational management completed in Enugu and ongoing in Kano
- Proposal developed to produce a simplified Enugu state Neighbourhood Watch law
- Sharing of best practice with other VPS groups in Lagos

What they experienced/learned

- Improved knowledge on financial and organisational management systems
- Better understanding of the role and relationship between the VPS and Police
- Clarity about the roles and responsibilities within VPS groups and the importance of leadership
- Better policing skills to enhance their operations
- Awareness of human rights issues

- Better understanding of activities and objectives of the programme
- Experience sharing with VPS representatives
- A more efficient way of coordinating a joint NPF/VPS Community Policing in Enugu State

- Improved understanding of the organisation and management of VPS groups
- Better understanding of the need to have functional complaint system

- Better understanding and appreciation of VPS services to the communities

- Better understanding of the VPS and its services

What they have done as a result

- Review of policy documents: Code of conduct, constitution, strategic plan and rules and regulation
- Created a contact database for VPS members

- Identify the need to simplify the Neighbourhood Watch Law in Enugu
- Improved relationship between the VPS groups and the Nigeria Police, through coordination forum meetings

- Participated in the distribution of operational equipment to VPS groups
- Involved in the inauguration of NPF /VPS Coordination forum
- Supported the process of simplifying the Neighbourhood Watch Law
- Provided a venue for meetings and trainings

- Improved relationship with VPS groups
- Monthly security meeting with VPS groups

What they said

“This programme has helped to change our perception from Vigilante to Neighbourhood watch.” Ukwuani Ikechukwu, Chairman Ugwuagor Neighbourhood watch, Abakpa

“This workshop has now put a face to the police officers in our area, and we can now work together to solve the security problems in our communities.” Chief Joseph Abonyi, President General Awkunanaw Central Neighbourhood Watch

“Commitment, accountability, respect, trust and transparency is what this programme has thought me as a police officer in relating with the Neighbourhood watch groups and members of the community I serve.” Uramah Chinedu, Divisional Intelligence Unit, Central Police Station, Enugu

“The crime rate in my area has reduced tremendously as a direct impact of the training for voluntary policing groups.” Mr Toyin Balogun, Chairman Community Development Committee

Improved VPS service delivery, management and accountability

Justice for All: Making a difference

Improving services of the Voluntary Policing Sector



“ We acquired skills in the area of intelligence gathering for the police.”

Name: Salamatu Muhd Hotoro

Profile: Member of Vigilante Group of Nigeria and a voluntary policing sector (VPS) group in Kano. She participated in trainings for VPS groups organised by the Justice for All programme.

The story so far:

For many Nigerians, especially the poor, voluntary policing plays a pivotal role in addressing safety and security needs. The role of voluntary policing groups is to protect communities. Their work has grown over the years to complement the work of the Nigeria Police in ensuring the safety and security of the citizens. The groups are registered in some states as community development associations, neighbourhood watch groups, while some are registered with a national body known as Vigilante Group of Nigeria.

Justice for All is working with selected VPS groups in Lagos, Enugu and Kano. The programme in partnership with a local non-governmental organization, the CLEEN foundation, has provided training for these groups on organizational management, human rights, basic policing skills, service delivery, gender issues, crime scene management and conflict management. In addition, some of these groups has received basic operational equipment (rain boots, rain coats, torch lights etc.) to aid their duties.

Salamatu participated in the J4A trainings. She said, “We acquired skills in the area of intelligence gathering for the police. We were taught new techniques on handling criminal matters in the communities and evidence gathering/presentation for court proceedings.”

What happens next?

In addition to the VPS trainings, Justice For All worked to with the community to create *Community Accountability Forums* to monitor the activities of the VPS groups. These Forums are comprised of VPS groups, traditional leaders, community based organisations, representatives of religious organisations, and women and youth organisations, and meet regularly to combat safety and security issues in their communities.



“ Enugu is one of the safest states in Nigeria as a result of the J4A contribution in building the capacity of Neighbourhood Watch members.”

Name: Honourable Godwin Ogenyi

Profile: Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Human Capital Development and Poverty Reduction—the supervising ministry of the VPS groups in Enugu State.

The story so far:

The Ministry of Human Capital Development and Poverty Reduction of the Enugu State Government is mandated to oversee and regulate the activities of the Neighbourhood Watch, which are voluntary policing sector groups (VPS) in the State. Justice for All is working with selected VPS groups in Enugu North, South and East Local Government areas through a collaboration with the supervising ministry.

Honourable Godwin Ogenyi stated, “Enugu is one of the safest states in Nigeria as a result of the J4A contribution in building the capacity of Neighbourhood Watch members to improve their services to community members in a manner that is both accountable and respectful of the law.

What happens next?

As a result of an agreement between the Police Commissioner and the Commissioner of the Ministry supervising the VPS groups, plans are being developed to simplify the law establishing the Neighbourhood Watch in Enugu State, through the technical assistance of the Justice for All programme. A public awareness programme is being designed to disseminate information about the new simplified law and other key products that were developed with J4A support.