

Farewell From J4A



This is the last issue of the Justice for All (J4A) programme Newsletter. The programme will come to a close in May 2017 and this marks the end of a long association between the British Council and DFID working in the justice, security and anti-corruption sector in Nigeria.

Since 2011 the J4A programme has been active at the federal level and in the states of Lagos, Enugu, Kaduna, Kano and Jigawa. The four components of our work have made a major impression on the sector over this period and over the pages of the newsletter we briefly recap the headline achievements of each component.

Even though a decision has been made to no longer work through an integrated programme like J4A, it is worth noting that virtually all the work carried out by the programme will be continued in one form or another by other funding streams and still delivered by the J4A team.

The overall approach taken by the J4A team has been firmly established and entrenched in Nigerian government approaches to justice sector reform. This can be seen in the work of the Vice-President's Rule of Law office; the work undertaken by the MoJ under the HAGF; the work of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Anti-Corruption (PAC-AC); and the work of the National Prosecution Coordinating Commission (NPCC). A number of other bodies that have been created under J4A will continue into the future and will drive specific elements of the J4A supported reform process. These include the National Network of JSRTs; the National Network of Multi-Door Courthouses; the National Network of Sexual Assault Referral Centres; and the National Network of Citizens Mediation Centres.

The J4A programme team have worked hard over the past six years to play their part in the reform and development of the security, justice and anti-corruption sectors in Nigeria. It has not always been easy or straight forward but as a team we are proud of what has been achieved. We are also grateful for the support we have received from a wide range of Nigerian organisations (governmental and non-governmental, formal and informal) and from the numerous Nigerian citizens that we have interacted with over this period.

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Lagos State Neighbourhood Watch Agency Adopts J4A-Supported Training Modules

In an attempt to adopt a holistic approach to security and safety, the J4A programme supported both the formal and informal policing sector. This support, which includes capacity building in the areas of human rights, basic policing skills and other interventions, contributed to positive changes in behaviors and attitudes of their members and citizens towards voluntary policing groups (VPS) in Lagos State and other J4A focal states.

Following this success, the Neighborhood Watch Agency Board, that was set up by Lagos State adopted the training module introduced by the J4A programme. An advocacy visit to the Hon. Commissioner for Local Government and Community affairs, Hon. Muslim Folami was used to showcase activities, milestones and achievements of both the J4A programme and CLEEN Foundation in supporting the sector. The Commissioner was presented with a copy of the J4A **'How To Guides'** for training VPS; starting NPF/VPS Coordination Meetings; and setting up Community Accountability Forums (CAF). Another advocacy visit to the Board of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency (NSA), chaired by Rtd. AIG Israel Ajao was used to handover the "Step-Down Training Manual", "How to Guides" and guidelines for the operation of Neighbourhood Watch in Lagos State.



Visit to the Lagos State Commissioner for Local Government, Jan 9, 2017

The Board Chairman expressed his happiness and appreciated the J4A programme for its timely visit, which coincided with the first meeting of the Board. The board thanked J4A for all it had been doing in the state and for the documents, which according to the Chairman are a valuable roadmap for the Board.

This advocacy visit was immediately followed up with the delivery of a 2-day VPS 'Training of Trainers' and a 1-day NPF/VPS Joint workshop.

Did You Know That:

- ◆ *J4A has worked in seven states (including the FCT) with an estimated population of 44.8million to influence changes in policing delivery and community engagement with the introduction of community based policing through the establishment of "modern police stations"(MPS).*
- ◆ *J4A worked with 12 pilot Modern Police Stations (MPS) introducing a total of 177 interventions, which led to 645 further replications by the NPF across the seven states. This included the replication of a variety of accountability and coordination forums, Human Rights Approaches and Conflict Resolution.*
- ◆ *The programme has engaged with more than 100 police divisions; 4,882 NPF officers have been trained; 2,935 officers were trained on Basic Policing Skills, Human Rights and Community Policing; 320 Crime Branch and Family Support Unit (FSU) officers received training in Investigative Skills, including interviewing, taking statements and crime scene examination; 210 officers received more specialised training on a "victim centred approach" to dealing with cases of Gender and Sexual Based Violence (GSBV) and Child Abuse.*
- ◆ *J4A states have recorded an increase in the proportion of citizens who in an independent survey, said they were satisfied with the performance of the police (up from 40% in 2011 to 59% in 2016 - a relative increase of nearly 50%).*
- ◆ *A total of 776 Voluntary Policing Sector (VPS) leaders have successfully completed the VPS executive development and leadership programme and more than 1000 operatives have been trained in basic Human Rights and Conflict Management skills.*
- ◆ *The programme assisted the police and voluntary policing sector to set up 154 (community-focused) coordination and joint problem solving mechanisms. Between August 2013 and March 2016, these groups successfully dealt with 648 community safety issues*
- ◆ *J4A assisted the establishment of the NPF Complaints Response Unit (CRU). During the 2016 calendar year, the CRU received a total of 3187 complaints and resolved 2658 of them.*

Intensified Replication of Sexual Assault Referral Centres Across Nigeria

The near absence of medical and counselling support for the survivors of rape and other forms of sexual violence and the low level of successful prosecution and conviction of perpetrators informed the establishment of the first ever Sexual Assault Referral Centres in Nigeria in Lagos (The Mirabel Centre) and Enugu States (Tamar SARC). Following the successes recorded by the two centres in providing an integrated approach to dealing with sexual violence and advocacy work carried out by SARC Network Conferences, the number of functional SARCs in Nigeria has increased to 10.

In addition to the Mirabel and Tamar Centres, SARCs are now providing medical and counselling services to survivors in Niger, Jigawa, Kano, Akwa Ibom, Kaduna and Yobe States. Two other SARCs in Lagos were also established by the Eight Foundation and the Women at Risk International Foundation. Since the inception of the SARC initiative, more than 2,800 women, girls and boys have received assistance from all of the centres combined.

Over 200 medical and counselling professionals have been provided with specialised training and have been deployed in the various SARCs across the country. An additional 45 SARC personnel will be trained in March 2017 by Nigerian trainers, who co-facilitated the last training exercise with trainers from St. Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Manchester, United Kingdom.

Did You Know That:

- ◆ *J4A supported the establishment of two Sexual Assault Referral Centres in Lagos and Enugu. By the end of 2016, they had helped more than 2700 clients. 75% of the clients were under 18 years old and 34% were under the age of 11. By programme end there will have been up to 11 SARCs established with the programme's assistance. 240 medical and counselling staff have been trained by the programme to work in the SARCs and provide essential services to victims of sexual violence*
- ◆ *A Network and coalitions of SARCs have been developed to sustain and advance interventions developed by the programme*
- ◆ *The work with SARCs have been adopted by other donors and will be taken forward by the programmes replacing by J4A*



Nigerian Lower Courts Providing Prompt Access to Justice for Poor People

The J4A programme has supported the 'lower courts' in three states in Nigeria to engage more effectively with citizens' needs and improve their efficiency. Between 2012 and 2016, the average time taken to dispose of cases in the pilot courts reduced by an average of 29% and citizen's satisfaction improved markedly.

In Nigeria, the most commonly used formal justice delivery mechanisms are the Magistrates, Area, Sharia and Customary Courts (widely known as the 'lower courts'). However, these courts are plagued with inefficiency, notorious for their poor service and in the eyes of most users lack any drive to improve. For instance, in 2011, it took an average 593 days (about 20 months) to complete a case in the Magistrates Courts in Kaduna State. This results in denied access to efficient and speedy justice for the poor and disadvantaged sections of society that form the majority of court users. The inability of the courts to deal with cases often leads to citizens taking justice into their own hands.

J4A's interventions in the lower courts focused on improving services within the court, which has led to the efficient disposal of cases (29% reduction in average times in 5 years) and increased user confidence in the courts. A 2016 independent survey found that satisfaction with the courts had increased by an average of 5% points in 4 years. Forty per cent of respondents thought the performance of the courts has improved in the past year compared to seven per cent who thought it had worsened.

Judicial authorities in all three states have acknowledged the impact of the work in the pilot courts and taken steps to institutionalise the systems and replicate them across the court network in the states, providing additional resources and staff to ensure they continue to function.

CASE STUDY

Mr and Mrs Mike Egbonu filed a land case at Enugu East Magistrates Court in September 2016. They are pleased that the matter is already nearing conclusion, which is contrary to their expectations of long delays. In the course of the proceedings, they learnt that the Magistrates are being assessed by a mechanism put in place with the support of the Justice for All Programme which does not give room for undue delays and frequent adjournments. They took time to come to the J4A office in Enugu to applaud the programme for the transformation of the courts.

Did You Know That:

- ◆ *J4A worked with 26 pilot Magistrates, Sharia and Customary Courts in 3 states. The average time taken to dispose of cases in these 26 courts reduced by 29% over the course of the programme. This equates to a saving of over 900,000 days in court time.*
- ◆ *Since 2012, nearly 1,400 Traditional Rulers in two states have been trained on Human Rights and Record Keeping. It is estimated that over 400,000 citizens will have benefited from the traditional rulers' enhanced knowledge in that period.*
- ◆ *Since the programme began J4A has been supporting the work of the Lagos State Citizens Mediation Centres. In that time the Centres have dealt with over 150,000 cases and settled over 86,000. The savings for the state and citizens compared to if these cases had gone through the court system is nearly 4.9 Billion Naira*
- ◆ *J4A worked with the Lagos Fast Track Court for almost two years. In this period 215 cases were disposed of, each on average 292 days quicker than before the support began.*

Federal Government Launches the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and the Justice Sector Reform Policy

The Federal Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the Kano State Government marked the International Anti-Corruption Day in Kano with the presentation of three publications that were supported by J4A to reinvigorate and properly guide the government's anti-corruption and justice sector reform efforts. These include the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS), the Justice Sector Reform Policy (JSRP) and the National Action Plan for the new Open Government Partnership initiative.

The public presentation of the NACS and the JSRP marks important milestones in J4A's support to justice and anti-corruption reform in Nigeria as these provide the critical framework for the sustained achievement of J4A's goal of improving access to justice and security for all Nigerians. The development of the NACS spanned the life of the J4A programme, starting in 2011 with the setting up of the Inter-agency Task Team (IATT), by the then Minister of Justice to facilitate the development of an anti-corruption strategy for Nigeria. This was in response to the recommendation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

The IATT, which comprised of 21 MDAs with overlapping and related mandates for corruption control, submitted the initial draft of the NACS to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice in 2013 with support from UNODC. Thereafter, J4A supported the FMOJ through series of stakeholder reviews of the document, culminating in its eventual presentation as a national strategy in December 2016.



Did You Know That:

- ◆ J4A supported the EFCC and ICPC to investigate, prosecute and recover the assets of corrupt persons. By the end of March 2016, assets valued at over 210 Billion Naira had been recovered by the agencies.
- ◆ The EFCC, ICPC and CCB now have strategic plans, facilitated by the programme, to direct their longer term work
- ◆ Over 700 anti-corruption agency operatives have been trained by the programme in investigative and prosecutorial skills, including the 80 members of the National Prosecutorial Team
- ◆ Reformed Anti-Corruption Technical Units (ACTUs) of MDAs are now more independent, reducing corruption vulnerabilities in MDAs. 427 MDAs now have functional ACTUs compared with an initial 275 in 2013.
- ◆ Inter-agency cooperation and exchange of intelligence has been improved as the NFIU shares intelligence securely with all anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies.
- ◆ Civil society groups and coalitions have been supported to increase oversight of the anti-corruption agencies and the government's work on anti-corruption

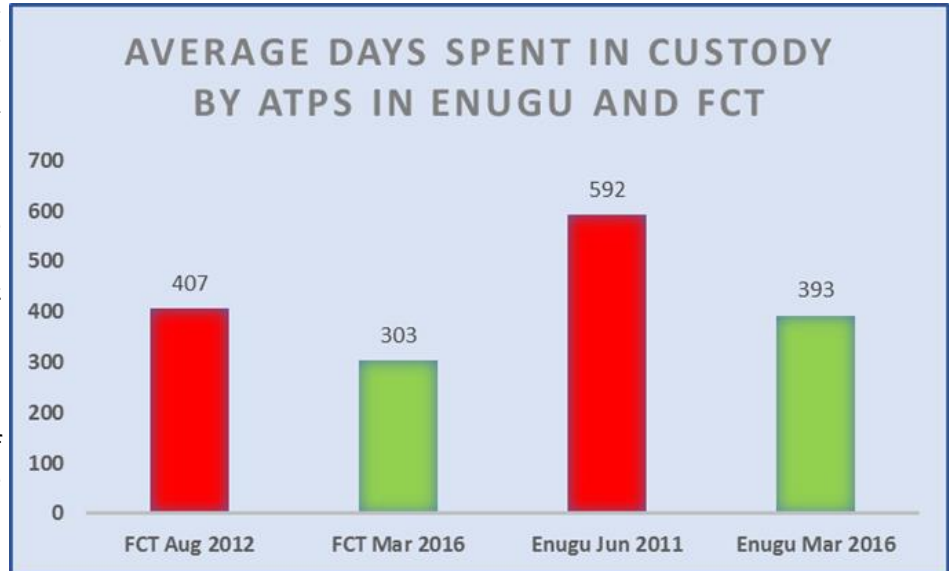
Speeding Up Criminal Justice Intervention

As part of J4A's strategy for improving access to justice for all Nigerians, the programme has succeeded in reducing the average number of days spent by prisoners in custody. These prisoners include those who have been in prison custody for over 20 years due to different inefficiencies and weaknesses within the criminal justice system.

The support to speeding up criminal justice project ran for nearly five years in Enugu and for three and a half years in FCT. In that time, Enugu State achieved a 34% reduction in the average time in custody by ATPs (over 200 days less per ATP) and FCT achieved a 26% reduction (over 100 days less per ATP).

The chart below sets out the average days spent in custody from the beginning of the pilot interventions to the conclusion in March 2016.

In addition to the reduction in average days, the proportion of ATPs that had spent more than one year in custody decreased in Enugu from 51% to 33%, and in FCT from 31% to 27%



The data is drawn from the NPS Case Management Systems that were set up as part of the intervention in each state, demonstrating how sometimes simply the availability of the information can influence behaviour.

“... Enugu achieved a 34% reduction in the average time in custody by ATPs (over 200 days less per ATP) and FCT achieved a 26% reduction (over 100 days less per ATP)”.

Did You Know That:

- ◆ J4A helped to introduce Case Management Systems and a Clearing House scheme in Enugu and FCT to speed up the criminal justice process. Over the course of the programme the average time Awaiting Trial Persons spent in custody was reduced by 30% across the two pilot states.
- ◆ When the programme commenced, there were just three functioning Justice Sector Reform Teams (JSRTs) in the country. At the time of writing, J4A has facilitated the establishment of an additional 20, bringing the total number of JSRTs operating in Nigeria to 23.
- ◆ By the end of November 2016, JSRTs had implemented nearly 180 projects in their states, 121 of which are achieving the desired outcomes.
- ◆ The Programme played a key role in the passage of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJ) and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) at the federal level. J4A has supported the implementation of the ACJ Law in Lagos and Anambra states while advocacy for domestication in other states has been carried out through the JSRT Network Conference. J4A has supported the passage and popularisation of the ACJ Law in Enugu State, while Kaduna, Delta and Plateau are making progress towards the passage of the law.
- ◆ Networks and coalitions have been developed to sustain and advance interventions developed by the programme; for example, the Network of JSRTs; the Network of SARCs; the Network of Multi-Door Courthouses

Continuous Improvement of FSUs in Addressing Issues of Sexual and Gender Based Violence

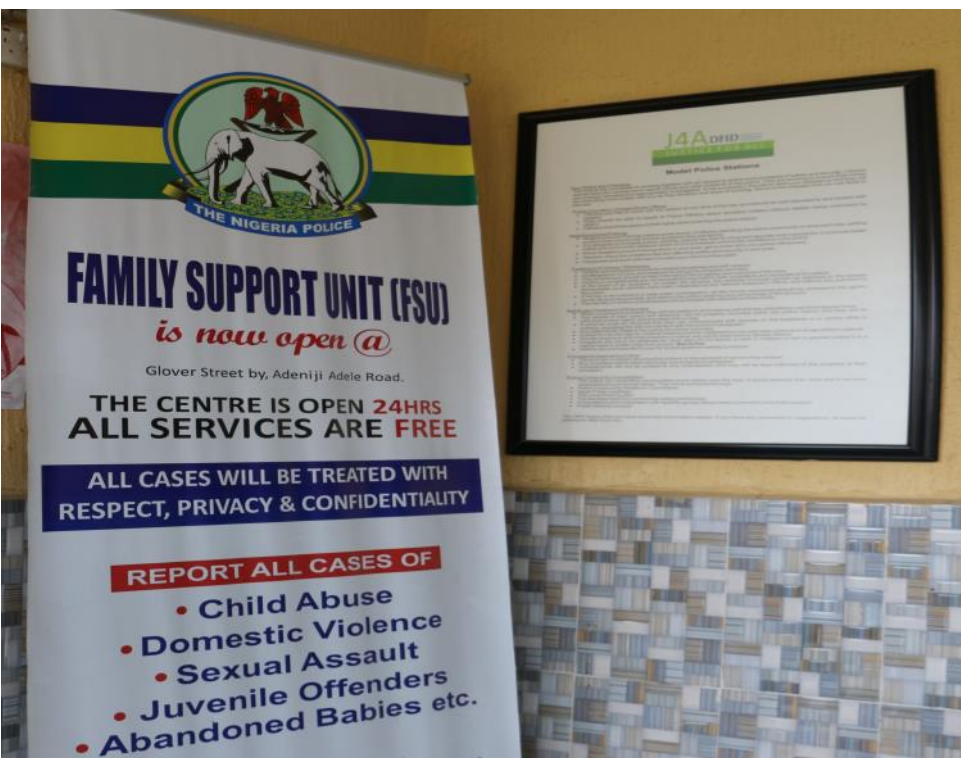
The partnership between the NPF and the J4A programme has helped to establish and strengthen the work of Juveniles, Women and Children Units (JWCs) in different Police Commands across Nigeria. Findings prior to J4A showed that the units which are responsible for handling issues of women and children, were not very functional and at times non-existent in some areas or manned by untrained personnel.

As a result of these problems, the programme assisted with the reinvigoration of the unit by establishing a Family Support Unit (FSU) to help JWCs.

Isokoko Police Division in Lagos State was the first model pilot for this intervention and recorded quick success that made the division a single point of referral for cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Lagos State Command from 2011.

Following its success, the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command mandated all J4A trained police officers trained as trainers, to cascade the training to all personnel working in the JWCs across Lagos State. The training has been delivered to 11 Police Area commands out of the 13 Police Area Commands in Lagos, with over 200 personnel trained.

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Data from the Mirabel Sexual Assault Referral Assault Center in Lagos State reveals great improvement in the way victims of sexual violence are being treated by the Police. Statistics show that police stations with FSUs have referred a total of 143 persons since inception, while 1514 persons have been referred from police stations with no FSUs.

This high number of referrals from police station with no FSUs could be attributed to the wider training JWC officers have received and also the engagement and sensitization of the officers in FSU stations with the non-FSU stations.

The Mirabel Centre Manager Mrs. Juliet Olufumuyiwa Rufai said, **“80% of the referrals to the Mirabel Center are by the Police and victims have been saying**

that the police treat them very well when they make their complaints”

Presently, Lagos State Commands with FSU centers has increased from 3 to 9 police divisions.

Did You Know That:

- ◆ J4A has helped the police to establish Family Support Units (FSU), also known as Juvenile, Women and Children’s Units (JWCUs) in 82 Police Stations. Between July 2013 and March 2016, these Units dealt with over 1,750 cases, resolving over 1200 of them and working closely with SARCs in their jurisdictions

ICPC Board Approves J4A-Supported Annual MDAs Ethics and Compliance Scorecard



Following the successful pilot of the Ethics and Integrity Scorecard in 20 MDAs, the Executive Board of the ICPC has approved the roll out of the J4A supported Annual Ethics and Compliance Index across all MDAs. J4A programme provided the technical support and training necessary for the design and implementation of the scorecard.

The Ethics and Integrity Scorecard assesses the strength or weakness of MDAs management culture and structure; its financial management systems and its administrative systems. When fully operational, it will enable the ICPC, working with a team of independent assessors to evaluate the levels of corruption vulnerabilities in different MDAs. This is then benchmarked against pre-determined scoring templates and then published to show the comparative performance of various MDAs. It will therefore engender positive competition for increased transparency and accountability in public enterprises.

At the launch event, a senior member of the Board openly declared that “the MDA Ethics and Compliance Scorecard is the right instrument to curb corruption in the public service. The instrument has come at the right time. ICPC has to be commended for developing such an instrument”. The management of ICPC has further approved the implementation of the Scorecard in 80 additional MDAs.

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