

# Justice for All: Making a difference

## Enhancing cross-sector co-ordination, planning and joint working

**Name:**  
Musa Imam

**Profile:**  
Executive Secretary, Justice Sector Reform Commission (JSLRC)

**The story so far:**  
J4A's support to the Jigawa State JSLRC has received many positive testimonies from various stakeholders in the criminal justice system in the state. It has been revealed that the prisons are no longer seen simply as an incarceration ground but as a correctional facility for offenders. It has also been said that the skills centres have gone a long way in improving the perception of prison facilities in the state and that inmates are now benefiting from the training.

In an interview with Musa Imam, the Executive Secretary for the JSLRC he said, 'The workshop to sensitise the state legislators was one of the most successful strategies we adopted in engaging our key stakeholders. It has indeed yielded result as our proposed bills to amend the penal codes and CPC has received quick hearings. We have been assured of their passage by the State House of Assembly in due course.'

**What happens next?**  
J4A will continue to assist and monitor developments in Jigawa State.

**'The skills centres have gone a long way in improving the perceptions of prison facilities in the state.'**



**Name:**  
Honourable Adamu Ahmed Sarawa

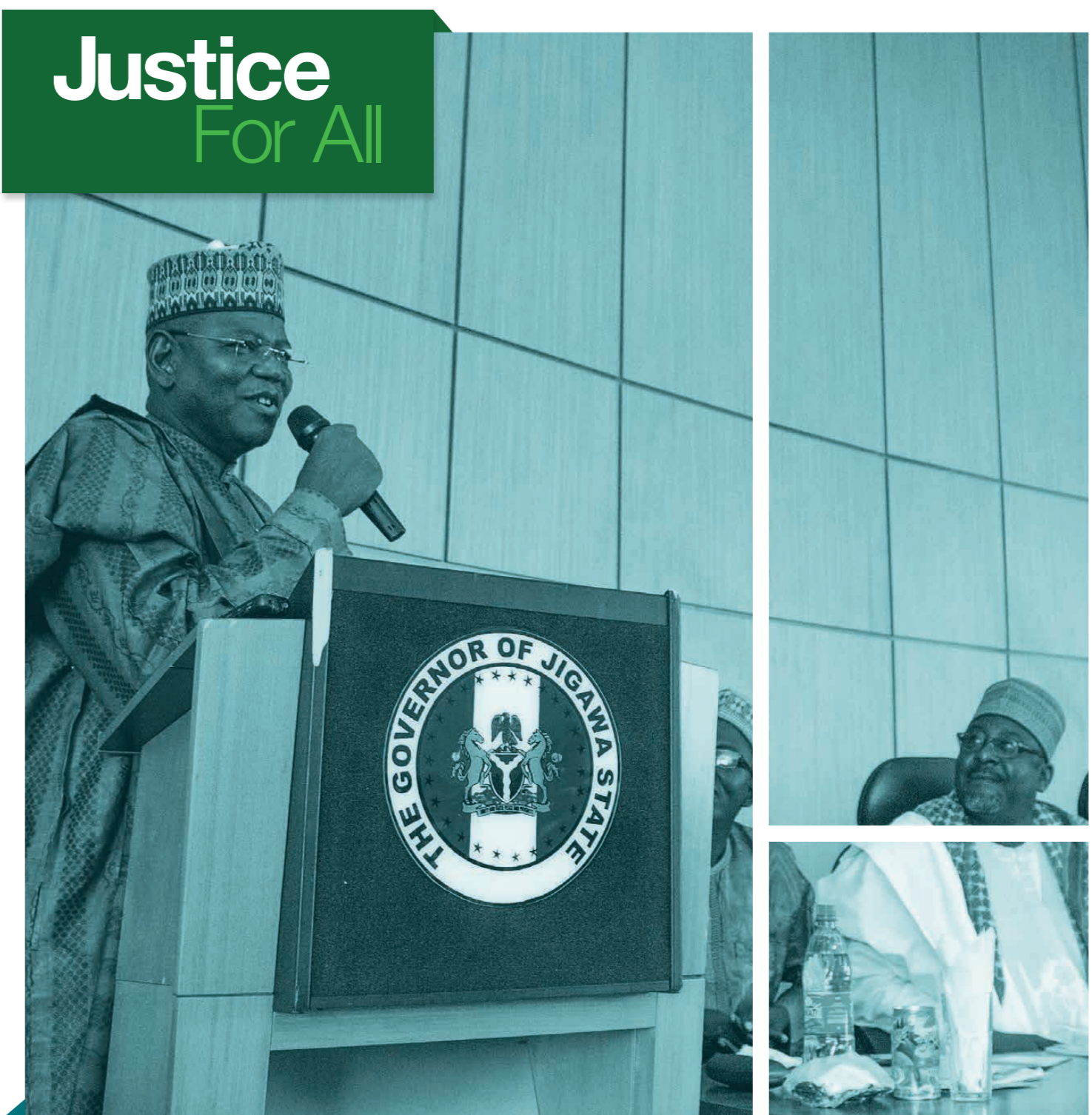
**Profile:**  
Honourable Speaker of the Jigawa State House of Assembly

**The story so far:**  
At a two day workshop, members of the Jigawa State House of Assembly thanked the J4A programme for supporting such initiatives and promised to speed up the passage of the bills being reviewed.

In an interview with the Honourable Speaker he said, 'This is the first time since we became legislators that an agency of the government has brought all of us together to sensitise us on the mandate, functions, issues and challenges they are dealing with. I assure you that we will do everything possible to pass the recommended bills to improve justice sector reform in Jigawa State.'

**What happens next?**  
J4A will support the review of the recommended bills, advocate and monitor the progress at which the bill is passed into law.

**'We will do everything possible to pass the recommended bills.'**



## Impact Report: Cross-sector co-ordination – spotlight on Jigawa State

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Our impact reports capture the positive changes brought about by our activities. We publish a series of impact reports every six months.

For more information visit: [www.j4a-nigeria.org](http://www.j4a-nigeria.org)

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# Enhancing co-ordination, planning and joint working in the justice sector

Cross-sector co-ordination, planning and joint working in the justice sector is not commonplace and where it does occur is largely ad hoc and unstructured. A more structured approach to co-ordination and joint working has the potential to make a significant impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of individual justice sector processes and the sector as a whole.

The Justice for All programme supports selected co-ordination groups, at both state and federal level, to lead the reform process. We also support groups formed around specific issues such as violence against women and legislative advocacy.

This impact report spotlights the work that has been undertaken in Jigawa State.



## Cross-sector co-ordination

### Jigawa State Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission (JSLRC) promotes the rehabilitation of prisoners

J4A has supported the JSLRC to implement a project in partnership with the Nigerian Prison Service to promote the reintegration of prison inmates and convicted juveniles back into society through mentoring and skills acquisition.

The JSLRC funded the establishment of skills development centres in two prisons in the state and in a reformatory school. The centres deliver training to inmates in three trades: tailoring, welding and carpentry. In the six months the project has been running, **41 inmates have been trained**. The scheme gives inmates the opportunity to sell the items produced, and the money realised is ploughed back into the programme.

The JSLRC also partnered with the Jigawa State Council of Ulama, to deliver a mentoring programme targeting incarcerated youths. The purpose of the mentoring is to encourage the youths to become law-abiding and productive members of society on release from prison and turn away from a life of crime.

The JSLRC organised training for those who would provide the mentoring support, to ensure consistency and quality of topics to be covered, and then funded two mentoring visits a month to each of the two prisons in the state.

**‘The success of the project can be measured in the hope for a brighter future devoid of crime that we have put in the minds of the beneficiaries. Through the scheme they have acquired some skills to fall back on so as to keep off crimes after they have served their terms. We’ve contacted the Ministry for Economic**

**Empowerment and requested them to further support the centres so as to ensure sustainability of the project.’**

Justice Tijani Abubakar (Rtd),  
Chairman, Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission

### Jigawa State Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission leading reforms

The Jigawa State JSLRC is leading the way in justice reform in the state and showing the way for reform teams around the country. In the past two years, the JSLRC has implemented **13 different initiatives**, nine of which are already achieving the desired results and changing the way that justice is delivered and experienced in the state.

This has been made possible by the commitment of the Jigawa State Government with support from the J4A programme. What stands out in Jigawa is the way the reform team is leading the way on what it wants to achieve, only relying on external assistance when it cannot be done

from within. Critical in this is the vision demonstrated by the government in providing funding from the state budget to implement initiatives thus making them more sustainable. Examples of the progress achieved by Jigawa are set out in the top right box.

### Other highlights on successes

#### Association of Multi-door Courthouses multiplying its membership

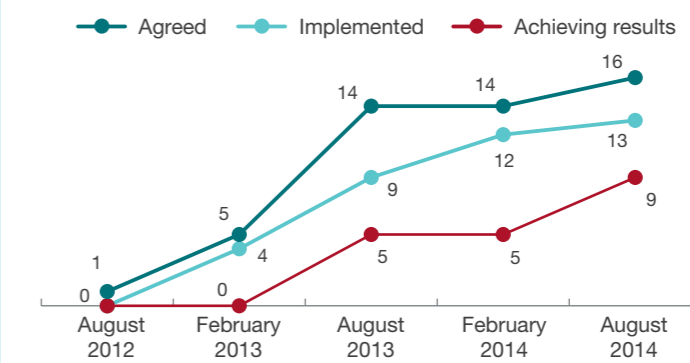
The creation of the Association of Multi-Door Courthouses of Nigeria, with the support of the Justice for All programme, has provided an opportunity to promote and co-ordinate alternative dispute resolution across Nigeria.

As a result of these successes, new states have since replicated the Multi-Door Courthouse initiative and have subscribed to become members of the association.

In the past year since its establishment, the association has grown from three to 13 members.

## Getting results

Jigawa Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission – Initiatives Implemented



### Spotlight on gender

- Three JSRTs have embarked on a learning visit to the existing Sexual Assault Referral Centers with a view to conducting advocacy for replication in their states.
- Jigawa State has started reviewing its laws on gender-based violence.
- Kano JSRT and Coalition Against Rape and Violence (CARAV) are implementing a sensitization campaign on rape.

### Highlights

- As a result of advocacy and a study visit undertaken by the Jigawa State Justice and Law Reform Commission, the state government has designated a facility to house the sexual assault referral centre.
- The Jigawa State government has nominated a doctor to head its proposed sexual assault referral centre.
- Akwa Ibom State has established a new Justice Sector Reform Team (JSRT) following their participation as an observer state at the J4A-supported JRT conference held in Lagos State in May 2013.
- Kaduna JSRT has appointed a police liaison officer at the State Ministry of Justice to assist the co-ordination of activities and exchange of information between the police and the ministry.

## Jigawa State legislators focus on reforming criminal justice and gender-based violence laws

### Jigawa State legislators focus on reforming criminal justice and gender-based violence laws

The JSLRC organised a two-day workshop in August for legislators from the Jigawa State House of Assembly, the main focus of which was to discuss law reform in the area of criminal justice. The JSLRC had carried out research into two key problem areas affecting the state, namely the slow and inefficient administration of criminal justice and the issue of rising cases of rape and other forms of sexual assault.

The JSLRC invited speakers with experience of working on similar reforms in other states, including a member of

the Katsina State House of Assembly, Mr Rabi’u Idris Funtua, who had sponsored a bill on rape and sexual harassment and also Chinonye Obiagwu, who has worked on the development of the Administration of Criminal Justice Bill, which passed into law in Lagos, Anambra and Ekiti and also on a federal bill that is currently pending before the National Assembly.

The JSLRC then presented a number of amendments that had been identified, which could help address some of the weaknesses in the current legal frameworks that can contribute to delays or other problems that cause poor delivery of justice. For example, in the area of administration of criminal

justice, suggested amendments primarily related to improving administration of processes relating to arrest, bail, fair hearings and compensation.

As a result of the workshop, **two bills were prepared and submitted** to the State House of Assembly immediately after the workshop. The first was a bill entitled Penal Codes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2014, which will amend the penal codes and Sharia penal codes. The second bill was the Criminal Procedure Code (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill, which was submitted to the State House of Assembly after the workshop.