

# Justice For All



## Increasing Access To Justice For The Poor

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State Impact Report  
**Issue 2: Jigawa**

# Introduction

With support from the Justice for All programme and leadership of the Jigawa State Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission (JSLRC), the justice system in Jigawa State has continued to change for the better.

In the last three years, the support provided has improved the mediation skills of traditional rulers and equipped them with better knowledge of human rights as a result of which there has been significant increase in public satisfaction and women's patronage of the traditional justice system. Similar positive changes leading to increase in efficiency and user satisfaction are taking place through the work with Sharia courts, the setting up of model police stations and support to the

Voluntary Policing Structures (VPS).

The Justice system in Jigawa State is emerging as a model of cross sector coordination and improvement in the delivery of justice to the improved satisfaction of members of the public.



Mai Unguwa of Ma'ai updating his mediation record book

# J4A Trained Traditional Rulers Contributing to Peaceful Coexistence in Rural Communities

Abdulaziz Muhammad, the Mai Unguwa (Ward Head) of Ma'ai in Jigawa State is one of the many traditional rulers that has been trained by the Justice for All programme on dispute resolution.

His operation of a dispute resolution mechanism in his community shows that with little support, traditional rulers can contribute much to peaceful coexistence in Nigeria. The Mai Unguwa said that as a result of his improved confidence in resolving disputes, adherence to the principles

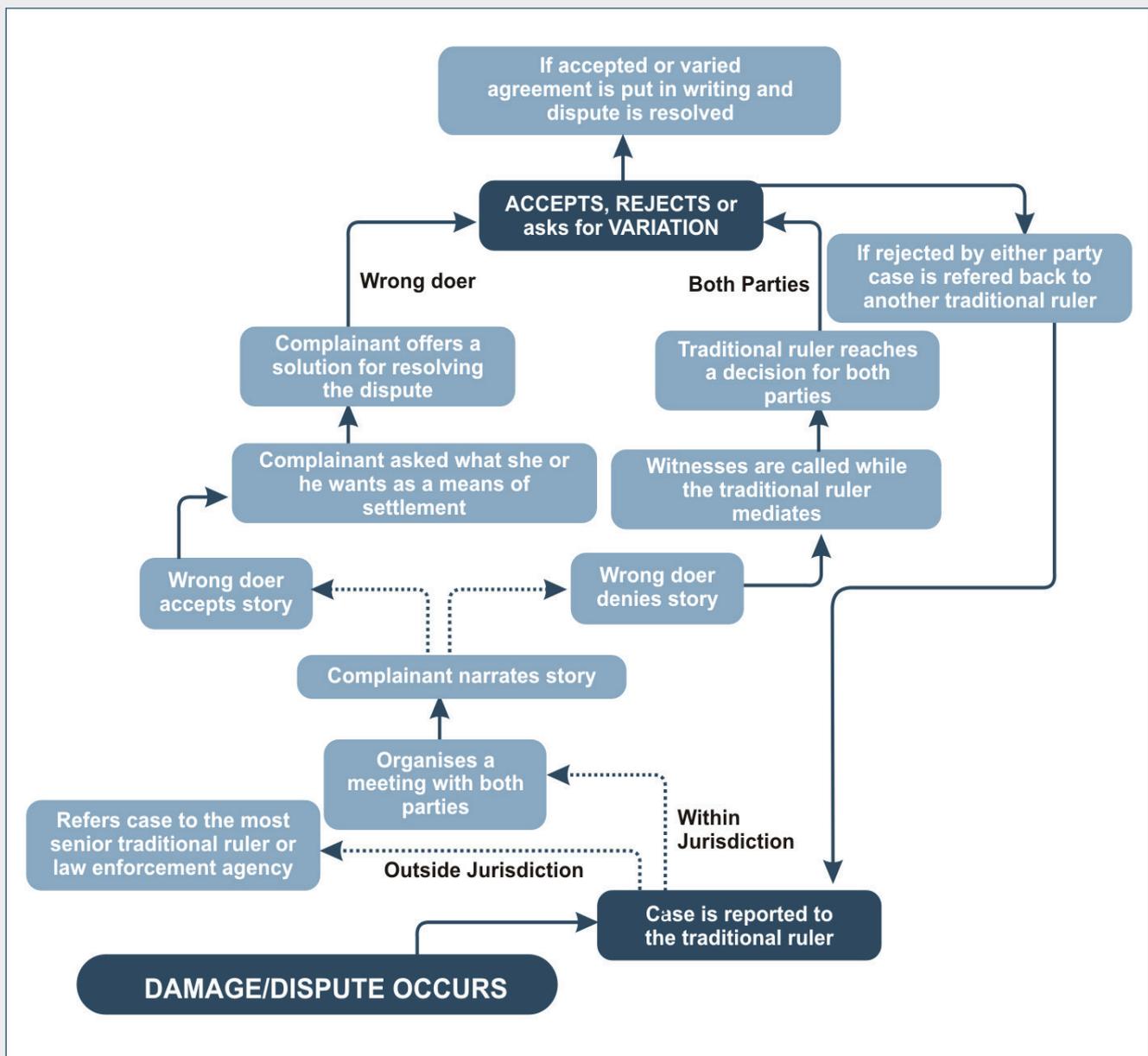
of human rights and efficient record keeping, more cases are being referred to him by other rulers. Most of the disputes he settles are between farmers and nomadic cattle herders who destroy crops and farm lands. Such cases if not handled carefully and fairly can lead to violence.

He resolved 185 disputes between July 2013 and September 2014, an average of 12.3 cases per month.

**“The Traditional Justice Sector programme is good for the maintenance of law and order, peace and security.”**

Hon. Justice Tijjani Abubakar OFR, Chairman, Jigawa State Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission

Below is a process map of the dispute resolution steps he follows:



## Increased Satisfaction and Trust with the Services of Traditional Rulers in Jigawa State

The J4A programme's support to the traditional justice system covers strengthening capacity, competence and skills in mediation; increasing knowledge in human rights; improving oversight and strengthening record keeping. The enhanced capacity of the traditional rulers has led to an improvement in the services they provide.

This has in turn increased the level of user trust in the traditional justice system and increased satisfaction with its performance. A survey conducted in mid-2014 showed that trust had increased and more people were happy to use the services of the traditional rulers. In 2014, 89% of people were satisfied with the services traditional rulers in Jigawa state provided, compared to 77% in 2013. It is also worthy of note that 29% of all the cases taken to traditional rulers in Jigawa State were brought by women.

### Respondents that 'completely' or 'mostly' trust the traditional justice system

		2012	2013	2014
Trust in traditional justice systems in Jigawa State	All	52%	69%	78%
	Male	50%	71%	70%
	Female	54%	68%	84%

J4A Survey, 2012-2014

## *Sulhu Scribe* Providing Data for the State Government to Address Social Problems

### Using Mediation Data to Address Social Problems

Part of the support to the Dutse Emirate Council is the development of a record keeping system (RKS) and an electronic data base known as the *Sulhu Scribe*. It is used to provide accurate data on the type and nature of disputes in communities.

This data is then used to make informed decisions concerning policies and actions by government agencies, the Emirate Council and other relevant community organisations based on the evidence. The Dutse Emirate Council

is now using the results of the analysis from the data collated from the RKS for policy decisions. For instance, the one year data findings from the *Sulhu Scribe* showed a high number of family and marital disputes in pilot and non-pilot locations. Based on this information from the *Sulhu Scribe*, the Dutse Emirate Council has engaged religious leaders (Imams/Ulama), community leaders and government, to address these emerging trends in the disputes highlighted by the *Sulhu Scribe*, through sermons in mosques. The relatively low utilization of the services of the traditional rulers by women has also been placed on the agenda of the Dutse Emirate Council.

“ We noticed from the RKS data an increase in the number of divorce cases and we immediately alerted the Emir, who instructed Islamic preachers and Imams to include the issues of rampant divorces in their sermons last Ramadan (Muslim Holy Month).”

Alhaji Jamilu Basiru, Turaki,  
District Head of Dutse

## Jigawa State Government Replicating J4A Training Initiative

With the extension of the J4A training to more traditional rulers by the Jigawa State Government, more people in the state are now benefitting from quality justice services from traditional rulers.

By June 2014, the state government through the Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission had trained about 1350 traditional rulers and community leaders in the 27 LGAs (covering the five emirate councils) in the state using the manuals developed by the J4A programme on record keeping and dispute resolution.

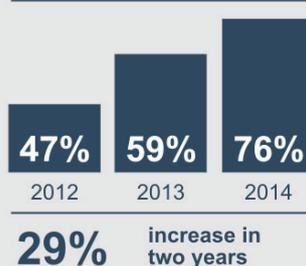
These traditional rulers are currently using their skills and knowledge in their various communities. The impact of the intervention therefore, transcends the original 41 pilot locations of the programme. By the end of September 2014 a total of 179 Traditional Rulers were using the Record Keeping System.

## Jigawa State Judiciary Sustains Reforms in Lower Courts

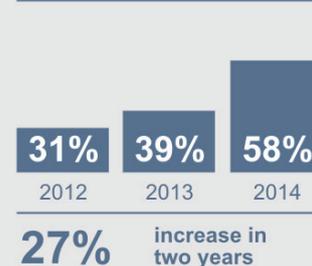
The Jigawa State judiciary has adopted a number of instruments that were supported by the J4A programme. These instruments were designed to address the core issues of accountability, performance, and the quick dispensation of justice in the lower courts in the state. The adoption of the instruments is helping to entrench and ensure the sustainability of the reform initiatives implemented by the state judiciary. The legal instruments which have now been adopted include the policies on inspections for the Magistrates and Sharia Courts, a practice direction which provides for time standards, directives on adjournments, records/case management by Sharia Courts, and a legal notice on warrant of jurisdiction which defines the territorial jurisdiction of the Sharia Courts in Jigawa State.

### Impact in the Justice Sector in Jigawa State

Satisfaction with the Performance of Justice Sector Agencies



% of Respondents that believe Citizens have better Access to Justice



J4A Survey, 2012-2014

## Jigawa State Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission Enabling a Crime Free Society

### Jigawa State Re-integrating Ex-Convicts into Society

A Jigawa State Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission (JSLRC) initiative aimed at helping to reintegrate former inmates into society is also assisting to reduce the re-offending rate in the state. The JSLRC-led project that began in 2013 saw the revival of skills acquisition centres for inmates in three prisons in Jigawa State. The centres were equipped by the JSLRC to provide training to inmates in tailoring, carpentry and electrical skills. By April 2014 a total of 52 inmates had benefitted in Gumel and Hadejia prisons and the Kafin-Hausa reform school.

Inmates not only acquire technical skills but are also able to sell their products and use the proceeds to buy essentials such as working materials to make more things or they receive the proceeds on their release.

According to the officer in charge of Gumel Prison, none of those trained had been returned on further charges since their release. He added that *"giving skills convicts an opportunity to develop skills helps in maintaining peace and order within the prisons and gives hope to the inmates that they can go back to being*

*normal citizens after their release"*.

The Nigerian Prisons Service, Deputy Controller of Prisons (Admin) said, "Re-offending has reduced to next to nothing in the recent past" adding that the skills centres are an important part of this. The JSLRC are currently engaging with the Ministry for Economic Empowerment on the possibility of providing 'seed money' to trained inmates on their release to enable them to start a business. The JSLRC is a Justice Sector Reform Team supported by the Justice for All programme.

## Improved Satisfaction with the Services of the Model Police Station in Jigawa State

As part of the intervention to establish a Model Police Station (MPS) in Jigawa State the Justice for All programme is supporting the training and mentoring of NPF officers in the areas of child protection, sexual/gender based violence (CP, S/GBV), custody procedures, intelligence-led policing and the implementation of a Community Safety Partnership.

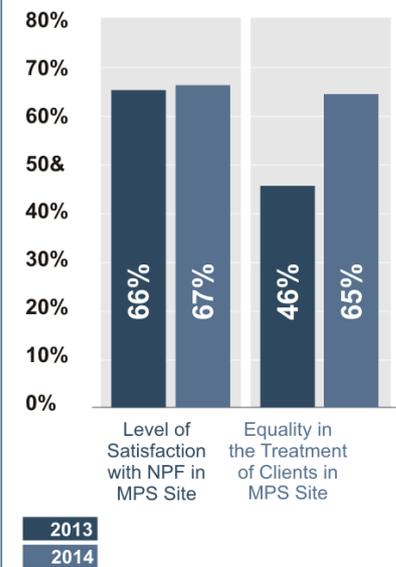
Police officers in the division have adopted the new models and changed their attitudes towards policing and service delivery. It was revealed that community members are now treated with respect and this has improved the relationship between the police and members of the public. As a result of the increase in confidence in the police there was a 31% increase in crimes reported in the first 9 months of 2014. Community members are now collaborating and providing the police with information that is used to curb

crime and maintain peace and order. The police are also disseminating and sharing information from these training sessions with other stakeholders in the criminal justice system especially the Jigawa State Law Reform Commission (JSLRC) in order to foster cooperation.

**“I have to commend J4A for the MPS project and for encouraging the police to collaborate with stakeholders... the negative public perception of the police has changed. The behaviour and attitude of police officers could be rated as commendable”.**

CSP Ibrahim D. Wudil

Level of Satisfaction and Equality in the Treatment of Clients by NPF in MPS Sites



J4A Survey, 2013-2014

## Voluntary Policing Sector in Jigawa

### Voluntary Policing in Jigawa State Contributes to Improving Security in the State

The J4A programme has been providing support to the Jigawa State Voluntary Policing Group (JSVPG). Training courses such as organizational management, human rights, basic policing skills and conflict management were designed specifically to suit the problems and issues faced by the group

The support was targeted at improving service delivery to citizens and respect for human rights in the discharge of their duties.

As a result of this intervention there has been better collaboration in Jigawa State between the JSVPG and the NPF Dutse Division leading to a reduction in crimes. Members of the JSVPG have revealed that they are more confident and better equipped with tools and information to carry out their duties.

The Dutse Divisional Officer, Superintendent of Police Abdullahi, revealed that the police and the VPS benefitted immensely from the training. He said, *“Prior to the J4A supported training we discharged our duties separately but after this training we have seen the merits and benefits of collective and intensive cooperation in the line of duty.”*

A survey conducted by J4A in Jigawa State, in 2014 found that 93% of respondents think that VPS service has improved and 80% of respondents believe that the VPS have become more accountable to the public.

**“The way these VPS boys are going about discharging their duties you will think they are the police. They are so courteous and specialized.”**

The Permanent Secretary Special Services Directorate, Dutse, Jigawa State



Members of the JSVPG in a training workshop

**The level of satisfaction with VPS increased from 82% in 2013 to 89% in 2014.**

### Jigawa State Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission Leading Reforms

The Jigawa State Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission (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 thirteen 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.

### Jigawa State Legislators Focus on Reforming Criminal Justice and Gender Based Violence Laws

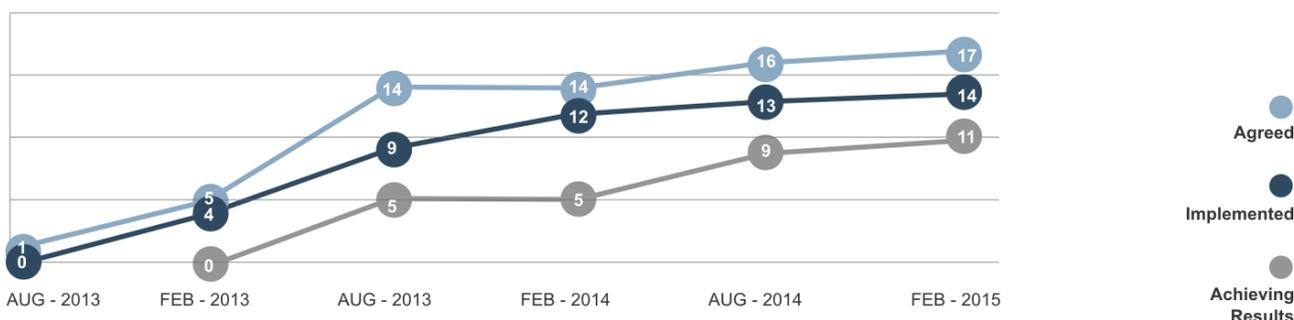
The JSLRC organised a two day workshop in August 2014 for legislators from the Jigawa State House of Assembly, the main focus of which was to discuss law reform in the area of criminal justice. The JSLRC had carried out research into two key problem areas affecting the state, namely the slow and inefficient 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 Bills (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.

Jigawa Justice Sector and Law Reform Commission - Initiatives Implemented



### Highlights of Achievements in Jigawa State

- The Justice for All programme donated support materials to the Jigawa State Voluntary Policing Group (JSVPG) which included raincoats, rain boots, touch lights, whistles and arm bands
- A total of 140 JSVPG members were trained on human rights, organizational management, basic policing skills and conflict management
- 127 of 212 (60%) non-pilot traditional rulers are using record keeping systems
- 33 of 41 (80%) pilot traditional rulers now using record keeping systems

- Over 80 imams were trained on human rights and ADR
- As at September 2014, the average time to dispose of cases in the pilot courts has reduced by 10%
- Time it takes to dispose of cases in the Sharia Courts has reduced from 9 days on average in 2013 to 8 days in 2014
- An Information desk has been established in 2 courts to support court users with information; respond to inquiries; and provide other assistance to them
- The existing oversight bodies in the judiciary were rationalized to avoid duplication and to guarantee maximum effectiveness
- Legal Instruments have been adopted to entrench reforms in the judiciary  
Spotlight on Gender
- Level of satisfaction of women with the performance of traditional justice system in Jigawa State increased from 64% in 2011 to 94% in 2014  
30% of 338 cases handled by the pi-
- lot traditional rulers were initiated by women. Of the cases initiated by women, 90% were resolved
- 32% of 818 cases handled by the non-pilot traditional rulers were initiated by women. Of the cases initiated by women, 98% were resolved

### Making the Headlines

“DFID trains Vigilantes in Jigawa State” The Vigilante Quarterly Magazine, Oct-Dec. 2014

## Success Story

### NAME:

Auwalu Musa

**PROFILE:** Auwalu is a former convict who is now a tailor in Jigawa State. He served nine years in prison.

### THE STORY SO FAR:

Auwalu Musa served nine years in Gumel prison for theft. Whilst there he was able to learn the skill of tailoring at a skills acquisition centre. This resonated with him as his father had been a tailor but Auwalu had not followed the same path.

On his release from prison, Auwalu initially worked as a farm labourer to earn the money to purchase a sewing machine. Once he had made that purchase he was quickly able to establish himself as a competent tailor in his village and he now makes a good living from tailoring. Auwalu appreciated the help provided to him by the NPS as he feels that his life now has meaning. Without his skills as a tailor he may have ended up back in

prison. He said:

“I am a better person now, people that used to keep their distance from me now embrace me.”

Auwalu has stayed in touch with the staff and other inmates at Gumel prison and sometimes contracts them to carry out embroidery work on some of his products as he does not have an embroidery machine of his own.

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Justice for All programme will continue to provide support to the criminal justice system in Jigawa State.

### NAME:

Superintendent Abdullahi Idris Danladi, Dutse, Jigawa

**PROFILE:** Divisional Police Officer in charge of the Model Police Station

### THE STORY SO FAR:

Justice for All is supporting the establishment of a Model Police

Station (MPS) in Jigawa State. The DPO in partnership with the NPF Delivery team has been active in introducing new policing models in the areas of custody procedures, community safety partnerships, juvenile welfare centre and the district intelligence unit. The DPO's natural enthusiasm has encouraged all the officers in the Division to adopt the changes.

Abdullahi said:

“J4A have had a positive impact on me and my officers at Dutse MPS. The knowledge acquired has changed our attitudes towards policing and service delivery.”

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Justice for All programme will continue to support the Model Police Station in Dutse and start replication at NPF Stations within the state.

Our impact reports capture the positive changes brought about by our activities.

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

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